

A Most Attractive School: The Lowell Elementary School, 1939-1979

By Jon Axline, MA

Introduction

Paris Gibson, with railroad magnate James J. Hill's backing, formed the Great Falls Water Power and Townsite Company in 1884 and platted a new town at near the Great Falls of the Missouri River in north central Montana. The arrival of the Montana Central and the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railroads in 1887 ensured the permanence of the settlement, which incorporated in 1888. By 1890, Great Falls claimed a population of nearly 4,000 individuals. The townsite company built a hydroelectric dam at Black Eagle Falls in 1890. The presence of that facility caused the Boston and Montana Consolidated Copper & Silver Mining Company to build a smelter on the north side of the river to utilize the electricity produced by the dam. By the end of the first decade of the twentieth century, other dams along the Missouri at Great Falls produced electricity for local users as well as the Milwaukee Road Railroad and the mines, mills, and smelters in Butte and Anaconda. Great Falls' industrial and transportation prominence made the city an economic powerhouse in the state by World War I. The city continued to grow and expand through much of the twentieth with its economy based on power production, the smelter, Malmstrom Air Force Base after 1945, and the city's position as a regional trade center.¹

The Electric City experienced steady growth through much of the twentieth century. The Anaconda Copper Company, which acquired the smelter in 1901, the hydroelectric facilities, the railroads, Malmstrom Air Force Base, and the city's significance as a regional trade center made Great Falls the largest city in Montana by 1960. The city is also located at the hub of Interstate 15 and US Highways 87 and 89, and Montana 200.

The first school opened in Great Falls in 1884 in a log cabin near the intersection of Third Avenue South and 5th Street. At that time, Great Falls was located in Chouteau County and designated part of School District #9. The territorial legislature created Cascade County in 1887 and Great Falls incorporated in 1888. Concurrent with the incorporation was the creation of School District #1 and the employment of Samuel Largent as the first Superintendent of Schools. Whittier School was the first public school to be built under the auspices of the new county in 1888.²

By 1894, Great Falls boasted seven public schools within its city limits. For nearly a century, Great Falls suffered chronic overcrowding in its public school system. The city's steady growth through the twentieth century, caused by such factors as the expansion of the Anaconda Copper Mining Company's expansion of its facilities in

¹ *Montana Place Names from Alzada to Zortman: A Montana Historical Society Guide*, (Helena: Montana Historical Society Press, 2009), 112-113; Don Spritzer, *Roadside History of Montana*, (Missoula: Mountain Press Publishing Company, 1999), 274-278.

² *Portrait of Progress: Great Falls Diamond Jubilee, 1884-1959*, (Great Falls: The Diamond Jubilee, Inc., 1959), 106; Regina R. Larson and Viola William Stahlecker, "History Highlights of School District #1, Great Falls, Montana, 1888-1988," (unpublished manuscript), 1-2; *Montana Place Names*, 40-41.

Black Eagle, the construction of the hydroelectric dams along the river, and the establishment and expansion of what would become Malmstrom Air Force Base during and after World War II, all contributed to the overcrowding. School development during the 1910s and 1920s remained steady, but slowed considerably during the Great Depression – except in 1939 (see below).³

The post-World War II national economic boom had a significant impact on Great Falls, primarily in the expansion of Malmstrom AFB. In 1946, the school district initiated a program of long-range planning for its educational system. From 1951 to 1958, five new schools were built in the city, including three elementary schools and two middle schools. From 1950 to 1956, additions were built onto seven of the city's public schools (including Lowell Elementary School) "in each case almost doubling their capacity." By 1960, Great Falls had 14,000 students enrolled in 18 elementary schools, three middle schools, and one senior high (CM Russell was constructed in 1966). The district employed 560 teachers. The number of students peaked between 1966 and 1984 with 20,000 students (including those at the parochial schools). By 2009, the number of students had dropped to 11,000 students. The decline in the number of students was based on the passing of the baby boomer years (1945-1964), the closure of the reduction works in Black Eagle in 1972, and the change in mission at Malmstrom. Some schools, as a result, were closed or, like Lowell, repurposed.⁴

The First and Second Lowell Schools (1896-1939)

Built in 1886 and named for famed poet, abolitionist and Harvard professor James Russell Lowell, the first Lowell school was located at 33rd Street North and Third Avenue North. Located well outside the urban core of Great Falls, the school served the children of the Boston Heights and Great Falls additions. The school burned to the ground in January 1906. Shortly thereafter, the school board authorized the construction of a new Lowell school two blocks southwest of the first institution's site. Completed in September 1906, the substantial two-story brick building initially had a student body of 117 pupils. The school board sold the old school to Great Falls truck driver Charles L. Brown in 1944 for \$10,000. He converted the building to apartments. The second Lowell school building still stands, but is currently vacant.⁵

The Third Lowell School (1939-1979)

By the end of the 1930s, it had become clear to the school board that the second Lowell School had put its best years behind it. Consequently, in June 1938, the board began plans to construct a new Lowell School about three blocks to the north at 31st Street North and Fifth Avenue North. The board felt that the old Lowell School was beyond rehabilitation and it was better to provide the school district with "a modern institution with suitable facilities for study, recreation, and safety." The board tapped into grant

³ *Portrait of Progress*, 107.

⁴ *Ibid*, 107; Great Falls Chamber of Commerce, *Great Falls, Montana: Montana's Largest City*, (Great Falls: Chamber of Commerce, 1960), 6; Richard Ecke, *Great Falls Memories: A Photo Album, 1940-1980*, vol. II (Battle Ground, WA: The Pediment Group, Inc., 2009), 63; Larson and Stahlecker, "History Highway of School District #1," p. 19.

⁵ Larson and Stahlecker, "History Highlights of School District #1," p. 32; "New Edifice Will Replace School Here," *The Great Falls Tribune*, December 5, 1938.

money from the federal Public Works Administration (PWA) to help fund the construction of a new Lowell School.⁶ Formed in 1933 as part of the National Industrial Recovery Act, the PWA obtained \$3.3 billion to provide grants to the states for public works projects such as streets, bridges, dams, hospitals, and schools. Applications for PWA money underwent intense scrutiny by the agency to ensure that the proposed project satisfied the public need with a minimal amount of corruption and politics involved. By 1939, the PWA had spent over \$6 billion on public works projects throughout the United States. In Montana from 1933 until the program was disbanded in 1944, the PWA helped fund over hundreds of construction projects in the state, including the massive Fort Peck Dam in northeastern Montana.⁷

With PWA funds secured, the school board hired long-time architect Johannes Van Teylingen to design the new building. Born in Rotterdam, The Netherlands in November 1891, Van Teylingen received his education at the Royal Academy in Harlem. He immigrated to the United States in June 1910 and had arrived in Great Falls by 1915. From 1918 to 1934, he partnered with George Bird in the architectural firm of Bird and Van Teylingen. He also worked with W. R. Mowery and George Shanley before establishing Van Teylingen, Knight and Van Teylingen (1949-1956) with his son, Arie, and Kenneth K. Knight. Johannes “gained fame as an internationally recognized chess player” and served in the US Army Corps of Engineers during World War II. He was also the vice president of the American Institute of Architects (1951-1952) and president of the Montana chapter of the AIA. Van Teylingen passed away in November 1956.⁸

Van Teylingen was a prolific architect with his work well represented in north central and south western Montana. In Great Falls, he designed the civic center (1940), the Masonic Temple, and the Great Falls High School (1930). Indeed, Van Teylingen was especially adept at designing schools. During his 42-year career in Great Falls, he designed the Emerson, Whittier (1939), Washington, Roosevelt, Largent, and Southeast Elementary schools along with the Lowell school. His work is also represented in the Receiving Hospital at Warm Springs State Hospital, administration building at Northern Montana College in Havre, and several buildings on the Montana State University campus in Bozeman.⁹

The Great Falls School Board announced the sale of \$170,000 in bonds to fund several projects in the Electric City in mid-August 1938; the bond passed the following month.

⁶ Concurrent with the Lowell School, the Great Falls School Board also made plans to construct a new Whittier School and building additions to the Franklin and Roosevelt schools in the city.

⁷ “District to Ask PWA Grant for New School Buildings,” *The Great Falls Tribune*, June 8, 1938; “Definite Need for Bigger and Better Schools Shown,” *The Great Falls Tribune*, July 30, 1938; T. H. Watkins, *The Great Depression: America in the 1930s*, (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1993), 144; Michael P. Malone, Richard B. Roeder, and William L. Lang, *Montana: A History of Two Centuries*, Rev. ed. (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1991), 299, 300.

⁸ Diana J. Painter, “Montana Post-World War II Architectural Survey and Inventory: A Preserve America Project, Prepared for the Montana State Historic Preservation Office, December 2015, p. 54; US Census Records, viewed at www.ancestry.com; Immigration & Emigration Records. Viewed at www.ancestry.com; Great Falls City Directories, (Omaha: R. L. Polk and Co., 1915-1956); “Johannes Van Teylingen, Prominent Architect, Dies,” *The Great Falls Tribune*, 14 November 1956.

⁹ Painter, Montana Post-World War II Architectural Survey, 54.

The PWA grant amounted to \$76,500 for the projects on the condition that work began on them by January 1, 1939. In November 1938, the board awarded the contract to construct the Lowell School to Great Falls contractor Fred B. Dudley for his low bid of \$51,719. The heating and plumbing contract went to Mil. Drake for \$9,850 and the electrical contract to Nepage & McKinney for \$3,092.¹⁰

Born in Marlette, Michigan in February 1888, Fred Dudley had moved to Spokane with his family by 1900. He obtained a degree in Engineering from Washington State University-Pullman and then came to Great Falls as a building contractor about 1917. Over the years, he worked by himself or in partnership with other Great Falls contractors. Dudley was working on his own when he built the Lowell School in 1939. Dudley formed the Victory Construction Company during World War II. Victory had a contract at East Base (now Malmstrom Air Force Base) during the initial development of the facility in 1942. Shortly after the war, Dudley and Roy N. Anderson formed a partnership, winning the contracts for the construction of two buildings on the State Capitol Complex in Helena. Dudley specialized in the construction of sewer systems and built the large concrete water tower in southeast Great Falls. Fred Dudley died in Great Falls in December 1975.¹¹

By the end of the first week in December 1938, Dudley had already completed the footings for the new school and began work pouring the foundation for the building. He obtained a building permit in January 1939 to begin construction of the brick superstructure of the school. In mid-April, the *Great Falls Tribune* announced that “construction of the new Lowell and Whittier schools [was] being rushed. Lowell school brickwork and roofing [would] be finished this week and lathing and plastering starts next week. The building will be finished about June 15.” Construction sometimes doesn’t go according to plan and it wasn’t until mid-July 1939 that Dudley completed construction of the new Lowell School. The total cost of the project was \$65,252.72.¹²

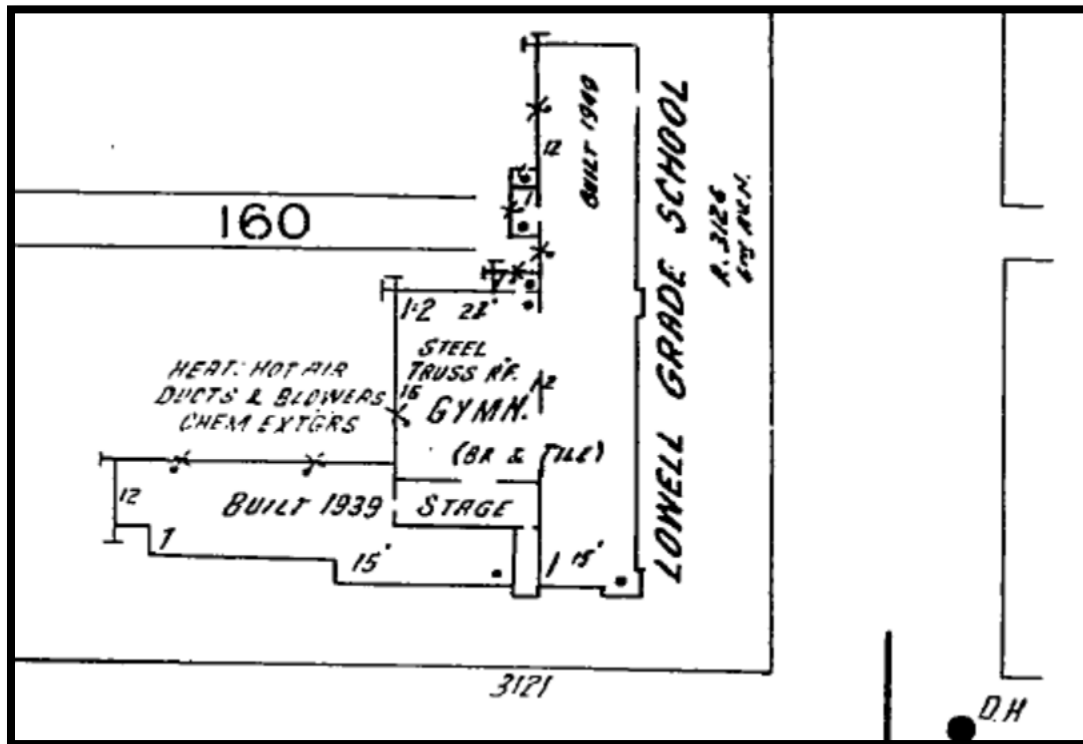
The third Lowell School opened to little fanfare in September 1939. The new building was definitely a step up from the old school with plenty of natural lighting, spacious classrooms, and a gymnasium. The school’s first principal was Helen Edgerton, who had been the principal at the old Lowell School since 1930. During the course of its 40-year history as an elementary school, Lowell School had only three other principals. After Edgerton left in 1943, Katherine Anderson served as principal until 1944. By far the

¹⁰ “Notice of Sale of School District Bonds in the Amount of \$170,000,” *The Great Falls Tribune*, August 15, 1938; “Falls School Bond Issue Sold at Low Interest,” *The Great Falls Tribune*, September 16, 1938; “Cowan Given Contract for School Here,” *The Great Falls Tribune*, November 1, 1938; “Board Opens Bids on Two School Jobs,” *The Great Falls Tribune*, November 22, 1938; “Public Works Jobs Boost Great Falls Building Activities,” *The Great Falls Tribune*, November 23, 1938.

¹¹ “Fred B. Dudley,” *The Great Falls Tribune*, 13 December 1975; Great Falls City Directories, 1915-1975; US Census Records.

¹² “New Lowell School Construction Work Already Under Way,” *The Great Falls Tribune*, December 8, 1938; “New Record Established in Building Permits for Month of January,” *The Great Falls Tribune*, January 14, 1939; “City’s Ninth PWA Project Starts Soon,” *The Great Falls Tribune*, April 13, 1939; “Excavation if Going Rapidly,” *The Great Falls Tribune*, April 28, 1939; “New Schools About Ready,” *The Great Falls Tribune*, July 7, 1939.

longest serving principal at Lowell was Mary Lee Tower. She ran the school for 26 years until 1970. The last principal was Herman Plass from 1970 to 1979.¹³



The 1951 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing the Lowell Elementary School.

An unusual feature of the building was a sundial over the main entrance to the school. Architect Van Teylingen intended the sun dial to aid students in telling time. It worked well until February 1942 when President Franklin Delano Roosevelt instituted a year-round Daylight Savings Time called “War Time.” Clocks were set an hour ahead to maximize the number of daylight hours. Consequently, the sun dial on Lowell School was an hour behind the established time. The Great Falls Tribune reported on the discrepancy that “puzzled school officials haven’t decided whether the dial will be changed to conform to the war time schedule.” Apparently the dial wasn’t changed and “War Time” ended September 1945, making the Lowell School sun dial once again accurate. That is until 1966 when a federal law established Daylight Savings Time once again. The Lowell School sun dial has only been accurate part of the year since then.¹⁴

With the end of World War II, Great Falls enjoyed an economic boom that substantially increased the size and population of the city. In 1940, Great Falls had a population of

¹³ Larson and Stahlecker, “History Highlights of School District #1,” p. 63; “Lowell School Principal Named Boss of the Year,” *The Great Falls Tribune*, June 12, 1967; “School Board Gets Year-End Report,” *The Great Falls Tribune*, July 8, 1969; “New Principal,” *The Great Falls Tribune*, June 24, 1970.

¹⁴ “Sun Tells Time for Lowell School Children,” *The Great Falls Tribune*, July 11, 1939; “Lowell School Sun Dial Gives School Board a War Time Problem,” *The Great Falls Tribune*, February 10, 1942.

29,928 individuals, but by 1950, that number had swelled to 39,214. The boom was caused by the expansion of East Base at the beginning of the Cold War (renamed Malmstrom Air Force Base in 1954) and the general post-World War II economic boom. The increasing population and the Baby Boom meant that the number of children attending Great Falls' schools also substantially increased. The number of school age children increased dramatically after World War II. Accordingly, the school district's overcrowding woes significantly increased. In 1946, the district began a long range program that brought about the construction of five new schools and the expansion of seven others during the 1950s.¹⁵

In March 1948, the school board called for a bond election to raise money for the expansion of the Lowell School. The bond involved \$50,000 for the construction of a kindergarten and classroom at the school. If enough money was left over, the board hoped, it would be able to build an additional classroom. The board hired Great Falls architect Angus Vaughn McIver to design the Lowell addition. Born in Great Falls in April 1892, McIver obtained a degree in civil engineering from the University of Michigan and obtained his architectural training from famed Montana architect Chandler Cohagen. Like Johannes Van Teylingen, McIver specialized in schools and institutions. In addition to elementary schools, he designed the Veteran's Hospital in Miles City, the Veterans and Pioneers Memorial Building (Montana Historical Society) in Helena, housing at Malmstrom Air Force Base, the Russell Art Gallery in Great Falls, and a residence hall at Montana State University in Bozeman. McIver died in 1974.¹⁶

It wasn't until April 1949 that the school board awarded a contract to contractor Fred Dudley for the expansion of Lowell School. The Mehl Plumbing and Heating Company and Rowe Electric Company also obtained contracts for work on the addition. The total cost of the project was \$44,935 with the work to be completed by the beginning of the 1949-50 school year.¹⁷

Importantly, the board made provisions for the future expansion of the school by postponing the awarding of a contract to building a west wing to Lowell "until building costs decreased." Architects Calvin Hoiland and Robert Lund designed the west wing addition to the school. It wasn't until June 1955 that the school board finally awarded a \$121,336 contract to Burt Talcott to build four classrooms "together with some remodeling" to the building. A native of South Dakota, Burt Talcott came to Great Falls in 1923 and obtained work as a carpenter. In 1925, he formed Burt Talcott, Builder. At first, Talcott concentrated on residential construction, but after World War II, he expanded his contracting activities to more ambitious projects, including the 1955 addition to Lowell Elementary School. In March 1956, he and his son, James, founded Talcott

¹⁵ *Portrait of Progress*, 107.

¹⁶ "Notice of School District Bond Election," *The Great Falls Tribune*, March 11, 1948; "\$14,000,000 School Construction Projects to Start Spring," *The Great Falls Tribune*, September 21, 1948; "School Board Approves Plans for New Classrooms," *The Great Falls Tribune*, October 5, 1948; Painter, "Montana Post-World War II Architectural Survey and Inventory," p. 52.

¹⁷ "Notice Building Contractors Invitation to Bid," *The Great Falls Tribune*, April 5, 1949; "\$35,465 Dudley Construction Co. Bid Accepted for Lowell School Addition," *The Great Falls Tribune*, April 19, 1949.

Tank Company. The firm then expanded into the field of steel buildings “and other construction.” Burt retired in 1961 and sold the company to Elliott Dyrdaahl in 1975. Burt Talcott died in Great Falls in April 1976.¹⁸

With the completion of the 1955 addition, there were no more expansions to the Lowell School. Over the years, however, there would be other projects that enhanced the building. These included replacement of windows (1972), the installation of steel lockers by Burt Talcott (1956), landscaping of the grounds, and the introduction of hot lunches in 1973. The neighborhoods around the school also grew and expanded after World War II with an increasing number of classified advertisements in the Great Falls Tribune advertising for rentals and houses for sale. The school matured along with the surrounding neighborhoods.

In 1979, the school board decided to close Lowell School for a variety of reasons, but mainly because of declining enrollment and aging facilities. Although Great Falls enjoyed a strong economy, based primarily on the presence of Malmstrom Air Force Base and the city’s status as a trade and transportation center, it was no longer a “growth center” as it had been in the past. Suburban development also drew families away from the traditional neighborhood schools, such as Lowell and Whittier, making them more difficult to support in the face of declining enrollment. The School Board appointed a School Facilities Sub-Committee in 1978 to study the problem. It classified Lowell School as a Group Three School, recognizing that it had “some problems.” Since 1979, the old school building has housed building trades staff and used for equipment storage. Two classrooms were used by the Elementary Environmental Program and staff. Currently the building is vacant.¹⁹

Activities associated with Lowell School were typical of all Great Falls schools from 1939 to 1979. The school was not only a center of learning, but also a community center that brought together the children and their families in the surrounding neighborhoods. The Boy and Girl Scouts regularly met at the school as did the Camp Fire Girls, Bluebirds, Parent-Teacher Association, and other groups. The school was also a voting precinct during elections and, for a time, was the gathering place for the newly organized Christ Methodist Church until it built its own church in 1962. In February 1943, US Army Air Force servicemen presented a variety program in the Lowell gymnasium.²⁰

In 1955, a group of Lowell School teachers and parents formed The Melodiers, a 20-voice group who sang at Christmas pageants, Great Falls Symphony concerts, PTA meetings, home shows, and other events during its twenty-year history.²¹

¹⁸ “Bids of \$121,336 Okayed for Lowell School Work,” *The Great Falls Tribune*, June 7, 1955; “Burt B. Talcott, 89, Dies,” *The Great Falls Tribune*, 5 April 1976; US Census Records.

¹⁹ Task Force on Education, Summary of the Final Report, vol. III, Great Falls Public Schools (March 1979), pp. 16, 17, 25, 27; Email from Tom Moore, Assistant Superintendent-Secondary, Great Falls Public Schools, 4 April 2017.

²⁰ “Consecration Sunday for Methodist Church,” *The Great Falls Tribune*, March 6, 1962; “Lowell School,” *The Great Falls Tribune*, February 14, 1943;

²¹ “Melodiers in Concert Friday Night,” *The Great Falls Tribune*, December 12, 1961.

Conclusion

For much of its history, Great Falls has enjoyed a rich and vibrant school system characterized by an increasing number of good schools to serve its children. The Lowell School is one example of how the city adapted to changing conditions and utilized best the resources available to it. Established in 1896, the Lowell School saw two incarnations before the present building was constructed in 1939. Like many communities in Montana during the depths of the Great Depression, the Great Falls School District was able to use federal funds to construct a modern facility that best served its needs and the needs of its school children. The school also represented the changes that beset the Electric City in the years after World War II as the Baby Boom, the increasing dependence on the hydroelectric dams on the Missouri River, and the expansion of the Anaconda Company's reduction works and Malmstrom AFB placed increased demands on the school district. The district rose admirably to the challenge by constructing two additions onto Lowell Elementary School to accommodate its greater responsibilities. The *Great Falls Tribune's* assessment that Lowell School was "one of the most attractive units of the Great Falls school system" was fitting.²⁴

A Note on the Sources

Lowell Elementary School's history is typical of the Great Falls school system. But, unfortunately, information about that history is limited. Most of the information utilized for this document came from the Great Falls Tribune, which, at first, published a large amount about the school and the activities of its students. Unfortunately, by the late 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s, there was progressively less information published about the school. Except for the Tribune, photographs of the school were also difficult to come by. With the exception of construction photos in 1939 and 1955 and the sun dial on the façade of the building, the author was unable to locate any historic photos of the building.

²⁴ "New Schools About Ready," *The Great Falls Tribune*, July 7, 1939.

References

- “Bids for Adding Lowell School Rooms Rejected as Excessive by School Board.” *The Great Falls Tribune*, November 2, 1948.
- “Bids of \$121,336 Okayed for Lowell School Work.” *The Great Falls Tribune*, June 7, 1955.
- “Board Opens Bids on Two School Jobs.” *The Great Falls Tribune*, November 22, 1938.
- “Break School Glass.” *The Great Falls Tribune*, August 21, 1964.
- “Burt B. Talcott, 89, Dies.” *The Great Falls Tribune*, April 5, 1976.
- “Business News Parade.” *The Great Falls Tribune*, August 22, 1955.
- “City’s Ninth PWA Project Starts Soon.” *The Great Falls Tribune*, April 13, 1939.
- “Consecration Sunday for Methodist Church.” *The Great Falls Tribune*, March 6, 1962.
- “Cowan Given Contract for School Here.” *The Great Falls Tribune*, November 1, 1938.
- “Definite Need for Bigger and Better Schools Shown.” *The Great Falls Tribune*, July 30, 1938.
- “District to Ask PWA Grant for New School Buildings.” *The Great Falls Tribune*, June 8, 1938.
- “Driver Education Aids Given to Great Falls School System.” *The Great Falls Tribune*, December 6, 1973.
- Ecke, Richard. *Great Falls Memories: A Photo Album, 1940 to 1980*. Volume II. Battle Ground, WA: The Pediment Group, Inc. 2009).
- “Excavation is Going Rapidly.” *The Great Falls Tribune*, April 28, 1939.
- “\$14,000,000 School Construction Projects to Start in Spring.” *The Great Falls Tribune*, September 21, 1948.
- “Falls School Bond Issue Sold at Low Interest.” *The Great Falls Tribune*, September 16, 1938.
- “Fred Dudley.” *The Great Falls Tribune*, December 13, 1975.
- Furdell, William J. and Elizabeth Lane Furdell. *Great Falls: A Pictorial History*. Norfolk, VA: The Donning Press, 1982.

Great Falls Chamber of Commerce. *Great Falls, Montana: Montana's Largest City*.
Great Falls: Chamber of Commerce, 1960.

Great Falls City Directories. Omaha: R. L. Polk and Co., 1915-1975.

"Johannes Van Teylingen, Prominent Architect, Dies." *The Great Falls Tribune*,
November 14, 1956.

Larson, Regina R. and Viola Williams Stahlecker. "History Highlights of School District
#1, Great Falls, Montana, 1888-1988. Great Falls: No publisher, 1988.

"Lowell School Construction Progresses." *The Great Falls Tribune*, September 6, 1955.

"Lowell School in Service near Third of Century." *The Great Falls Tribune*, December 5,
1938.

"Lowell School Principal Named Boss of the Year." *The Great Falls Tribune*, June 12,
1967.

"Lowell School Students Enjoy First Assembly." *The Great Falls Tribune*, October 20,
1941.

"Lowell School Sun Dial Gives School Board a War Time Problem." *The Great Falls
Tribune*, February 10, 1942.

"Lowell School to Start Bicentennial Minute." *The Great Falls Tribune*, April 7, 1975.

"Lowell School Wins Dr. Walker Trophy for Second Year." *The Great Falls Tribune*,
March 16, 1942.

"Melodiers in Concert Friday Night." *The Great Falls Tribune*, December 12, 1961.

Montana Place Names from Alzada to Zortman: A Montana Historical Society Guide.
Helena: Montana Historical Society Press, 2009.

"New Edifice Will Replace School Here." *The Great Falls Tribune*, December 5, 1938.

"New Lowell School Construction Work Already Under Way." *The Great Falls Tribune*,
December 8, 1938.

"New Record Established in Building Permits for Month of January." *The Great Falls
Tribune*, January 14, 1938.

"New Schools About Ready." *The Great Falls Tribune*, July 7, 1939.

“Notice Building Contractor Invitations to Bid.” *The Great Falls Tribune*, April 5, 1949.

“Notice of School District Bond Election.” *The Great Falls Tribune*, March 11, 1938.

“Notice of Sale of School District Bonds in the Amount of \$170,000.” *The Great Falls Tribune*, August 15, 1938.

“Notice to Electors.” *The Great Falls Tribune*, October 4, 1944.

Painter, Diana J. “Montana Post-World War II Architectural Survey and Inventory: A Preserve America Project.” Prepared for the Montana State Historic Preservation Office, December 2015.

Peterson, Don. *Images of America: Great Falls*. Charleston: SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2010.

Portrait of Progress: Great Falls Diamond Jubilee, 1884-1959. Great Falls: The Diamond Jubilee, Inc., 1959.

Public Works Jobs Boost Great Falls Building Activities.” *The Great Falls Tribune*, November 23, 1938.

“Pupils Honor Teacher at Bridal Shower.” *The Great Falls Tribune*, January 15, 1950.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1929, 1950, 1957. Montana Historical Society Research Center. Helena, MT.

“School Board Approves Plans for New Classrooms at Lowell.” *The Great Falls Tribune*, October 5, 1948.

“School Board Gets Year-end Report.” *The Great Falls Tribune*, July 8, 1969.

Spritzer, Don. *Roadside History of Montana*. Missoula: Mountain Press Publishing Co., 1999.

“Sun Tells Time for Lowell School Children.” *The Great Falls Tribune*, July 11, 1939.

“\$35,465 Dudley Construction Co. Bid Accepted for Lowell School Addition.” *The Great Falls Tribune*, April 19, 1949.

Task Force on Education. Summary of the Final Report. Volume III. Great Falls Public Schools (March 1979).

“Two Boys Held for Fire Bombing.” *The Great Falls Tribune*, June 19, 1972.

United States Census Records. Viewed at www.ancestry.com.

“Vandalism Rate Low at Falls Public Schools.” *The Great Falls Tribune*, November 8, 1970.

Vertical File: Great Falls, Montana Schools (3 files). Montana Historical Society Research Center. Helena, MT.

“Wednesday, Sept. 7 is Set for Start of School Year.” *The Great Falls Tribune*, August 27, 1938.

“Work Progresses on School Annex.” *The Great Falls Tribune*, August 11, 1955.

“The World at its Worst.” *The Great Falls Tribune*, September 8, 1939.

Photographs of the Lowell School appearing in the Great Falls Tribune

- Lowell School in Service Near Third of Century. December 5, 1938, p. 8
- Construction. December 9, 1938, p. 1
- Construction. January 21, 1939, p. 1
- Construction (framing). February 3, 1939, p. 7
- Construction. April 16, 1939, p. 1
- Sun Tells Time for Lowell School Children. July 11, 1939, p. 1
- School pageant in old Lowell School. August 27, 1939, p. 54 (special section)
- Dog waiting by front door of Lowell School. September 8, 1939, p. 1
- Second Graders Entertaining Their Mothers. November 23, 1939, p. 6.
- Third Graders Studying Fish. December 17, 1939, p. 72.
- Photograph. August 18, 1941, p. 41.
- Lowell School Puppeteers. March 19, 1945, p. 12.
- Lowell School Carolers Present Program. December 24, 1945, p. 6.
- Lowell Children Prepare for Christmas. December 16, 1946, p. 6.
- Pupils Honor Teacher at Bridal Shower. January 15, 1950, p. 23.
- Work Progresses on School Annex. August 11, 1955, p. 11.
- Flag Ceremony. August 12, 1956, p. 30.
- The Melodiers. April 1, 1964, p. 19.
- Lowell School Principal Named Boss of the Year. June 12, 1967, p. 7.
- Young Performers. March 25, 1975, p. 20.