

Zook had charge of the art program.

Mary Zent

Part 8 --Physical Education,
Health and Safety
Clarence Biedenweg and Grace Fielder

In these nations which do not have a system of compulsory military training, the schools offer the best, if not the only, opportunity for the study and improvement of national physical welfare on an extensive scale.

The turners exerted their efforts to secure a place of gymnastics in the public schools through out the nation in 1885. Professor Henry Meyer, an instructor of the Fort Wayne Turnverein, was our first city supervisor. Miss Carrie Snively, a truly professional teacher assisted in this supervision program until her retirement. Professor Meyers continued in his capacity until illness forced his retirement in 1941. At that time Superintendent Merle J. Abbett appointed Clarence A. Biedenweg as Director of Health, Physical Education and Safety Education for the entire school system. With the enlarged scope of the program, Miss Grace Fielder was added to the staff as supervisor of elementary and girls physical education in 1948.

If we accept the statement that the whole child is coming to our schools to be educated, then we must base our judgements of the educational growth not only on the mental achievements but also his physical accomplishments.

Recognizing this fact the State Governing Bodies in 1919 passed a law that requires the teaching of physical education activities to all children unless physical deficient no less than fifteen minutes daily. Our own School Board felt that this class room instruction was important enough to set aside time in excess of the State requirement for physical education, health and safety education.

Physical education as a subject in the curriculum has passed through many trial and error periods. The first efforts were to use formal exercises and apparatus for class work which was commonly known as the sport period; the second trend was the corrective phase; the third trend was the character building efforts which consisted of a very little teaching and mostly free play. Also in this period came the disease of "spectatoritis" where 90% of the pupils remained on the sidelines while the 10% with natural ability performed. Competition can not be the primary factor during a physical education class period because the timid and poor performers will be neglected. The purposes of this period is to teach