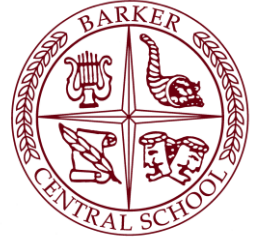


# Barker Central School District

1628 Quaker Road, Barker, New York 14012  
(716) 795-3832 • Fax: (716) 798-3394

Dr. Roger Klatt, Superintendent of Schools



October 13, 2011

Dear BCS Community:

Commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Union Free School District No.1 (The 1911 Building)

Throughout the 2011-2012 school year, school staff, students and community members will be involved in commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Union Free School District No.1 or more commonly known as the "1911 Building". The kickoff event will involve current students retracing the steps that students of their age and grade had taken 100 years ago. Specifically, representative students from Grades 5 - 12 will meet at Barker Bicentennial Park at Huntington Beach at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. Each student will gather a token lake stone symbolic of the many stones used to assist in the construction of the building.

The event follows the recollection of Hazel Huntington Gardner, a 1914 graduate of Barker noted in Lorraine Wayner's book titled, Welcome to Somerset. Gardner recalled that in September 1911, the students were excused at 1:00 PM and taken to the lake in horse drawn hay wagons. There they picked up small lake stones which were later embedded in the concrete decoration on the north and south sides of the building.

A special thank you to Lorraine Wayner, former Town of Somerset Historian, for her extensive research on the Town of Somerset and support for this event. Together, our hope is to keep the, "richness in history of the earlier days" alive in the memories of our students for generations to come.

Also, we share our appreciation to Norm and Emily Atwater for leading their team of horses and wagon that will be used to transport our students from the park to the school.

You are welcome to join us at the park at 1:00 PM and/or the school at 1:45 PM. Choral students will sing the Alma Mater and members of the high school band will also perform.

There are several additional activities planned for both students and community members. Please visit the District's website for event dates and times.

Rain date is Wednesday, October 19th.

Please call the school at 795-3832 if you have any questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. J. Klatt".

Roger J. Klatt, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

## THE EVOLUTION OF THE BARKER CENTRAL SCHOOL CAMPUS

The forward vision of the residents of Somerset was never more apparent than it was on Tuesday, January 30, 1912. For many years several of the foremost citizens had sought to secure a vote permitting the creation of a high school. In 1911 three districts combined and authorized the erection of such a building. Union Free School District Number One was formed by the Union of Districts No.9, No. 10 and No. 15.



Five acres of land were purchased from the Sharpsteen farm on the southwest corner of Quaker and Haight Road. A building 62 feet by 76 feet of buff brick with trimmings of Indiana Limestone contained eight classrooms, principal's room, teachers' room and library with spacious halls. In the basement were two lavatories with all of the latest sanitary devices. It was heated by a steam heating plant with forced ventilation supplied by electric fans. An automatic pump forced water from a well into the lavatories and to a drinking fountain in the main hall.

The students finally moved into the new school during Christmas vacation 1911 and the building was dedicated on January 30, 1912 even though it was not quite completed.

In 1924 an addition was completed to the 1911-12 building. It was located on the west end of the original building and provided a gymnasium with raised seating at one end on the ground floor and a large study hall on the second floor.

A pamphlet published in 1938 entitled *Let Us Consider the Facts About a Building Program for the Barker Central School District* outlined the needs for additional space to meet the needs of an expanding school. The plan adopted by the Board of Education called for a junior-senior high school building which would house such facilities as a gymnasium, auditorium, cafeteria and administrative offices for the grade building. The students moved into the new building over Thanksgiving vacation in 1939.



A shop wing, which is now the high school cafeteria, was added in 1939 by the Federal Government to house vocational courses for the National Youth Administration.

In the spring of 1962 ground was broken for the construction of a new gym and pool building and the addition of a new elementary wing.

Only five years elapsed before the need for more space was felt. This building was named the Milford H. Pratt Elementary School in honor of the former principal who was instrumental in centralization of the district and a leader well-known throughout the state for his work on school finance and equalization rates. The dedication was held March 15, 1970.

From [The Splendid Edifice on University Hill](#) written by Marion Pike, Grace Raymond and Priscilla Wolff.