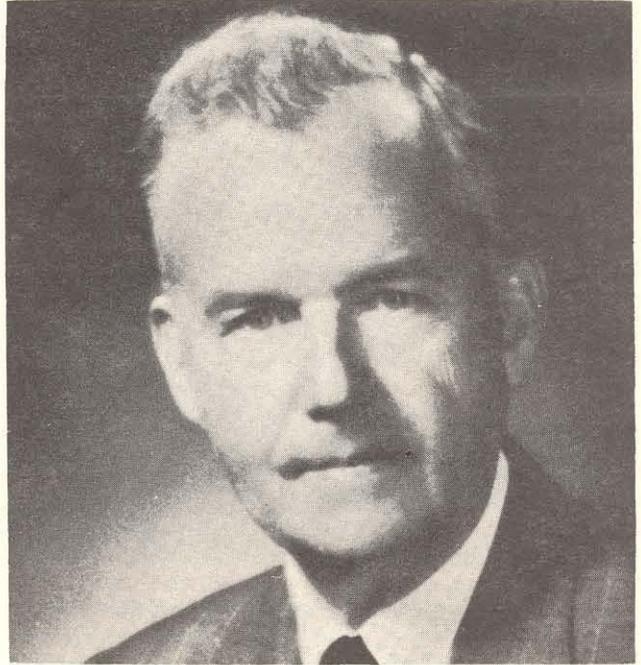


# SOUTH EUCLID MUNICIPAL COURT

*Lawrence J. McGurk, Judge 1951-1960*

The South Euclid Municipal Court was established on January 1, 1952 by an act of the Legislature of the State of Ohio. In November 1951, Lawrence J. McGurk was elected to a six year term as South Euclid's first Judge and later elected to a second six-year term in November 1957. At the time of his first election as Judge, he was completing a second elected term as City Solicitor, the office now known as Law Director. He was elected to three consecutive four year terms as Justice of the Peace prior to the creation of the Municipal Court. Judge McGurk resigned from the Judgeship in 1960 after more than 24 years of public service in South Euclid to engage in the private practice of law. His wife, Margaret (Dottie) McGurk, was born and has lived all her life in South Euclid. She is well remembered as Deputy Registrar of Motor Vehicles and former Woman Democratic Ward Leader.



Judge Lawrence J. McGurk

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR JUDGE

Dear Friends:

"All the costly apparatus of Government - the Crown, the Navy, the Army, Taxes, Parliament, Power and Privileges - are really of little other use than to maintain the twelve judges in authority at Westminster."

This statement is just as true today as it was when it appeared in the Edinburgh Review 140 years ago. The Judiciary was - and is - the backbone of a democratic society - the four freedoms depend on its being properly administered. In other words of that great American Statesman Daniel Webster, "Justice" is the great interest of man on earth."

When a judge begins his term, he solemnly swears that he will administer justice and faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of his office. To me, this has not been a hollow pledge. A judge cannot promise that his decisions will always be right, but I can assure you that every case heard in our Municipal Court was given fair, careful and conscientious consideration. It has been said that "proof of the pudding is in the eating." Only once in my seven year tenure was the South Euclid Court reversed by a higher court - and this was not on the merits of the case itself, but merely with regard to a ruling on a Motion. My published judicial opinions have been cited by attorneys and relied upon as legal precedents by judges throughout the entire State of Ohio.

Many of you have been jurors in our court - but don't wait until you are called for jury duty - come to court as a visitor to see how the Judicial Branch of your government operates.

Cordially,

*Jerome A. Klein*  
Judge Jerome A. Klein



Judge Jerome A. Klein

*Jerome A. Klein, Judge 1960-present*

When Judge McGurk retired in June, 1960, Governor Michael V. DiSalle appointed Jerome

A. Klein as his successor. Judge Klein was elected in 1961 for the unexpired term and then again in 1963 for the full six-year term and is currently Judge of the Court of South Euclid.

The Staff of the South Euclid Municipal Court consists of a Clerk of Courts, Bailiff, two Deputy Clerks, a Secretary and a Probation Officer. The Clerk of Courts is Marjorie M. Walters having served in this office since 1957. The Bailiff, C. M. (Sam) Ellis has been the Bailiff from the time the court was established on January 1, 1952. Mr. Ellis served as Town Constable from 1948 to 1952. The Deputy Clerks are Dorothy Hoffman and Fay Sandler, the Secretary is Shirley D'Amico and Nathan Kliot is the current Probation Officer.

When first established, the court's maximum jurisdiction in civil cases was \$3,000. This was increased on three separate occasions thereafter by the Legislature of the State of Ohio. The current monetary jurisdiction of the Court in civil matters is \$10,000. In criminal matters, the Court has complete jurisdiction over all misdemeanors (i.e. crimes for which the maximum penalty is one year in prison or less) committed within the city. The court also holds preliminary hearings in felony cases, that is, crimes for which the maximum penalty is in excess of one year in jail.

## SOUTH EUCLID POLICE DEPARTMENT

One of the most colorful histories of active South Euclid citizens is that of J. H. (Jack) Bilkey who came to the United States from Cornwall, England when he was six years old. He was raised in the 107th and Cedar Avenue area where he worked a waffle wagon. After coming to South Euclid in 1905, he opened a confectionary store and dance hall which later burned. Mr. Bilkey was elected Constable in 1906 and served for four years. When South Euclid became a Village he was elected the Marshal. At this time Mr. Bilkey provided the entire police protection for the village and continued in this capacity for many years. Most old-timers felt he was more than equal to the task, others felt that he may have been over-zealous at times. However, Mr. Bilkey preserved law and order in South Euclid for many years until his police career ended in 1934. His proudest moment and one he enjoyed discussing was the time he arrested John D. Rockefeller and his chauffeur for speeding in 1916. He was a most colorful figure in South Euclid and lived to be 90 years old.

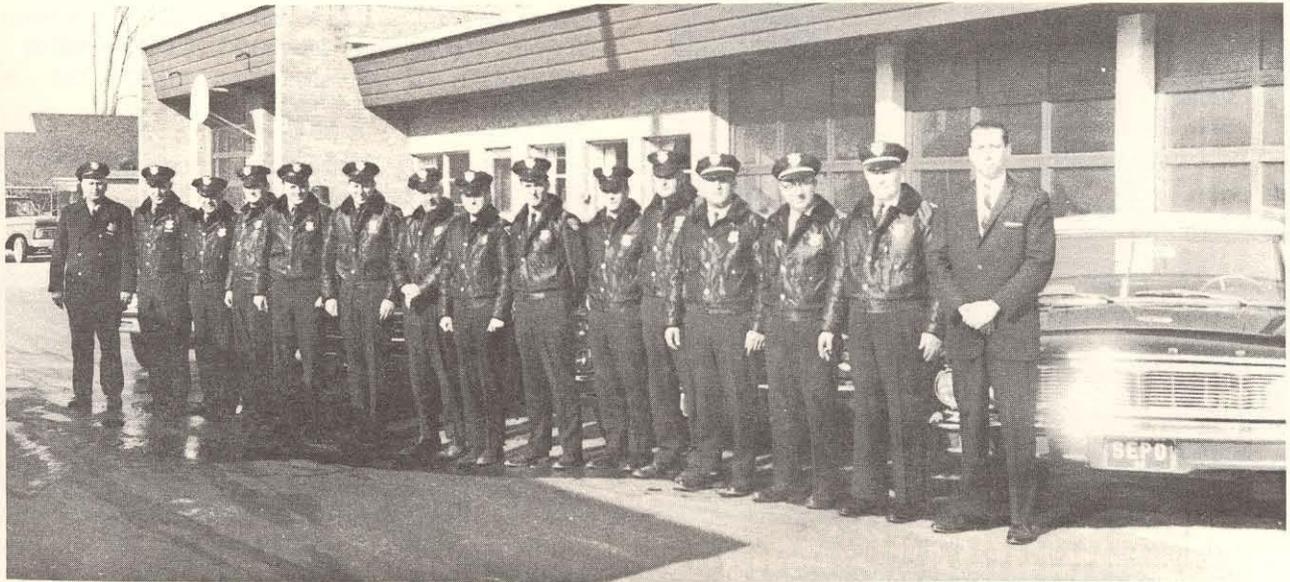
In the early 20's during Mayor Charles Havre's administration, the police department was headed by an elected Marshal, Jack Bilkey, who for a short time had two deputy marshals under him. This, however, was unsatisfactory. Later, policemen appointed by the city adminis-

tration worked with Bilkey. Some of these men include Vern Strickler, Howard Shuart, "Cal" Herr, Art Marsh and "Happy" Dietrick.

One of the first police cars was a Model T Ford touring car with two circular windows in the back of the top. This car was outstanding because no other citizen's car was like this. One of the predominant duties of the police department at that time was seeking out "spooners" from the isolated spots which were numerous at that time. There were no outstanding crimes that can be recalled. In 1925, council created a police department consisting of one chief and ten policemen. The Marshal was to be ex-officio Chief of Police. Policemen were to be appointed by the mayor and thus could be discharged by him. The police chief was to receive no salary as such, but would be paid as Marshal.

During Mayor Quackenbush's term in office, Claire Coulter was appointed Captain and acted as head of the Police Department even though "Jack" Bilkey was still the elected Marshal. Bilkey disagreed with the administration and it is reported his pay was reduced to \$10 a year as Marshal. A lengthy law suit followed and Bilkey was finally defeated. Some of the patrolmen at this time were "Bill" Matzinger, "Hub" Hansen, "Marty" Schmies and "Al" Burgeson. During this period the main crime in South Euclid was running illicit whiskey stills that attempted to by-pass Prohibition. "Marty" Schmies and "Al" Burgeson should be given the main credit for cleaning up the town in this respect. In 1931, Mr. Coulter, who was acting head of the Police Department, left the service and patrolman Matzinger headed the department. It was at this time that "Tony" Valentino was appointed to the department. The police cars at this time included two Model A Fords with round heads for extra speed and a Lincoln touring car that doubled as an ambulance.

In 1932, Douglas G. Oviatt became Mayor of the village and Bilkey once again became head of the police department for a year. Martin Schmies succeeded Bilkey as Captain and "Al" Burgeson as Lieutenant. From 1932 to 1938 there were four policemen. In 1932, the police department received its first enclosed car, a souped-up Ford without radios and heaters. The communication system consisted of a red light that everyone labeled the "Berry". This was mounted on a telephone pole at the corner of Mayfield and Green Road. When the police were needed, the firemen, who took the police calls at that time, turned the light on at the corner by a switch located in the station. Hence the police who were on the road at the time



Left to Right: Cliff Hoffman, Animal Warden; Richard Hoyer, Patrolman; Edward Hodina, Sec'y to the Safety Director; Patrolmen: Louis Kulis, James Jimison, Patrick Check, Gerard Luskin, James Farrell, Robert Patterson, Charles Madger, Fred Kraiger; Donald De Laat, Sergeant; Richard Gaffney, Lieutenant; Ernest Clink, Captain; William Van Veghel, Chief

Not Present for Picture Due to Change in Shift: Harold Kopf, Captain Detective Bureau; Frederick Nimberger, Lieutenant; Thomas Tranter, Lieutenant; Robert Van Veghel, Lieutenant; Joseph Rainaldi, Sergeant; Leonard De Laat, Sergeant; Patrolmen: Anthony Valentino, Haydn Whigham, Harley Badger, Raymond O'Malley, Patrick Duffy, David Meyer, Raymond Webb, Ronald McLaughlin, Joseph Plantner, John Cooper, Frederick Bumblis, Theodore Cieslak, John Vobornik, James Codney; Joseph Iarussi, Dispatcher; Charles Havre, Dispatcher; Nora McGregor, Stenographer

#### Police Department

knew that they were needed. Another "Berry" was mounted on the pole in front of the Town Hall. In 1934 or 1935 the police acquired their first radios, receivers only, in the cars and received their calls through the Cleveland Police Department. It was not until 1940 that radio transmitters were installed in the cars and they were still linked with the Cleveland radios. In later years the operation was transferred to Cleveland Heights.

When South Euclid became a city in 1941 the police and fire departments were put on Civil Service and removed from politics. A new Pontiac Panel truck, converted into an ambulance with two stretchers was put into service in 1956. Since that time the department has always been equipped with modern ambulances.

Martin Schmies was appointed Chief of Police in 1941. The Police Department then consisted of six men: a Chief, two Captains and three Patrolmen. In 1948, the Detective Bureau was initiated and consisted of two men. The Traffic Bureau began operation in 1953. Presently the Police Department consists of thirty-four regular policemen, three civilian dispatchers, one clerk-

stenographer, one animal warden and one police matron who serves on call and twenty school guards. In operation are ten police cars and one motorcycle.



Police Chief William Van Veghel



Left to Right: Patrick J. Duffy, Harley E. Badger,  
O. Hayden Whigham, Harold W. Kopf

Detective Bureau

In 1965, both the Police and Fire Departments installed new communications equipment including a 110 foot high radio antenna, console control boards and recall system, making the system one of the most modern, well equipped law enforcement agencies in the area. The present Chief, William Van Veghel, was appointed in 1961, upon the retirement of Martin Schmies. Interesting to note is that Bill's twin brother Robert is also on the police force as a Lieutenant.

## SOUTH EUCLID FIRE DEPARTMENT

On Monday evening, May 22, 1922, more than one hundred and fifty citizens of South Euclid gathered in the auditorium of Victory Park School for the purpose of organizing a volunteer fire department. Forty-five of those present signed as charter members of the new South Euclid Fire Department. Everett McFarland was elected Fire Chief, Ass't Chief-J. P. Bieger, Engine Co. Capt. Walter Eckert, Lt. H. G. Knapp, Hose Co. Capt. J. C. Arndt, Lt. Ed Prasse, Hook & Ladder - Capt. Wm. Fibich, Lt. R. Schroeder, Secretary - O. J. Korb, Treasurer - G. H. Knappenberger, Trustees - F. B. Hunt, H. B. Hoffmeyer, J. C. Arndt.

By mid-summer the new Reo fire truck arrived (Fire Truck No. 1 and the chemical trailer cost \$3,950.) and South Euclid with its brand new fire engine and its brand new fire department - had no place to house them, because the members of the new St. Gregory the Great Church were using the town hall for religious services. All hands were satisfied when the fire

truck was installed in the garage at the home of Mayor Havre on Mayfield road pending the completion of the new St. Gregory the Great Church.

In October, 1922, alterations to the town hall began. The stage, which had been the scene of rhetorical and spelldowns on many occasions, was demolished to make room for the new fire truck. By this time Walter Brown had been elected fire chief and three fire companies organized.

With the organization of the Fire Department came a change in the method of giving alarm in case of fire. For many years the church bell of St. John's Lutheran Church served as a fire warning signal and was followed by the use of a steam whistle installed at the Prasse Basket Factory. Later on May 17, 1923, a real fire siren was placed in operation at the Town Hall.

Before the advent of the South Euclid Fire Department, fire-fighting in this section of the county was a "good neighbor and good bucket" affair. A good neighbor always brought along a good bucket "or else" in answering an alarm of fire. The "or else" meant being put on the pump handle of the nearest well or cistern. One session on the pump handle was usually enough to make one remember to bring along that good bucket the next time.

The "good neighbor" policy worked both ways in the early days: South Euclid helped its neighboring communities fight their fires and all the neighbors helped the South Euclid firemen. In those days South Euclid had the only fire engine between Cleveland Heights and Chardon, and that gave the South Euclid firemen plenty of room in which to roam. Runs to Lyndhurst, Mayfield Township, Mayfield Village, Gates Mills and other neighboring communities were routine affairs. South Euclid's firemen have been called to Chesterland in Geauga County, and on several occasions to Lake County. Later on the South Euclid Fire Department made a charge for such runs. One humorous incident recalls when a kitchen caught on fire in Lyndhurst. The resident tried to call the Lyndhurst volunteers, but could reach no one, so they called South Euclid. Our fire-laddies responded, but they were met at the line by the Lyndhurst Chief who told them they would have to pass over his dead body. The fire had been put out by neighbors, and they did not want to pay for a call to Lyndhurst.

There was no natural gas in this section in the early days and nearly all the housewives used oil stoves for cooking. Oil stoves caused frequent fires, and the Fire Department had a



Left to Right: Captain Graber, Fireman Janovsky, Fireman Sakryd, Fireman Lachner, Fireman Beneditti, Fireman Kingsley, Fireman Hart, Fireman Maruna, Lieut. Stenger, Cap. Schwed, Lieut. Hansen, Fireman Hostutler, Fireman Vrabec, Fireman Schaefer, Fireman Mayeros, Fireman Glavac, Fireman McHenry, Fireman Barnes and Fireman Weise. Chief Fibich and Asst. Chief Gardner Other Fire Department Members Include: Fireman Urban, Fireman Diemert, Fireman Weinmann, Fireman Simone, Fireman Savage, Fireman Kelley, Fireman Gannon, Fireman Porz, Fireman Flynn, Fireman Avalon, Fireman Huston, Captain Vlchek, Captain Kellackey, Lieut. Stevens, and Lieut. Brogoch

#### Fire Department

special "oil stove squad" composed of Carl Hauschild and William Fibich who usually just carried the stove out into the yard, and told the firemen to go to work on it.

J. A. Falkner was appointed fire chief on July 1, 1924, by Mayor Havre. Joseph Hodgson was appointed to the fire department on Jan. 5, 1925, and made assistant fire chief on April 17, 1928. Fire Chief Falkner retired on Jan. 1, 1942. Godfrey Hoffmeyer was named fire chief on November 16, 1942.

The most spectacular Fire was at the Prasse Basket Factory on July 14, 1923. The alarm was sounded at 1:30 A.M. and brought out most of the town as the reflection of the flames could be seen for miles. Assistant Fire Chief John Arndt was in charge and the report of the fire showed that 900 feet of hose was laid out. Thirty-four firemen and citizens signed the roll at the town hall following the fire. A pumper from the Cleveland Heights Department arrived in Francis Court at the height of the blaze and "soaked down" a row of homes near the basket factory, thereby saving a major conflagration.

In 1927 Fire Engine Truck No. 2 was bought and put in operation by the village. It was a

triple combination truck, consisting of a pumper, hose wagon, and ladder truck all in one. It was an American La France Ladder Truck.



Fire Chief William Fibich

The members of the South Euclid Fire Department played an important part during World War II. Not only did some of the younger members see actual combat service, but the older members performed well on the home front. Forty-four Auxiliary Firemen spent many hours learning to operate the fire-fighting equipment and stood ready to assist Chief Hoffmeyer and members of the fire department in case of an emergency. Five members of the department served in the armed forces during World War II; John M. Urban, Ray Feiten, Fred Fark, Ross Albaugh, and William Fibich, Jr.

The Dodge Fire Truck (a white one) was purchased in 1946 during Mayor Reynold's administration. It was a fine truck with a 135-horsepower engine, five speeds forward and one reverse and equipped with dual rear tires. Unfortunately it was involved in a bad collision between the truck and a police car during a blinding snow storm at the intersection of Mayfield and Belvoir Blvd. After repairs, the truck was repainted red immediately.

In 1952, the South Euclid Lions Club presented the Fire Department with a Rescue Squad car. Also in 1952 the Department personnel began full time duty and a dormitory for the men was built as an annex to the old City Hall. Godfrey Hoffmeyer resigned as Fire Chief in 1953. Henry Meyer was appointed to take his place as an interim Chief to organize the full time Department. Chief Meyer had been a training officer for the Cleveland Fire Department of which he had been a member for 35 years. He retired in 1955, and William Fibich, Jr. was appointed Fire Chief then. Today the Department consists of Fire Chief William Fibich, Jr., Ass't Chief Charles Gardner; Captains: Charles Schwed, Walter Graber, Frank Vlcek, James Kellachkey; Lieutenants, Joseph Stevens, Torben Hansen, Anthony Brogoch, and Henry Stenger, and 26 men. The Chief and Assistant Chief are on duty every day, with eleven men maximum on duty at all times, working 24 hours on and 48 hours off, with three platoons.

A new Ford rescue squad car was purchased in 1960 for \$13,500. It is equipped with every scientific apparatus to meet almost every emergency. In 1952 they purchased a 1000 G.P.M. American LaFrance that is still in service, and in 1955 they acquired another 1000 G.P.M. American LaFrance.

## SOUTH EUCLID SCHOOLS

Very little information about schools can be found in the early records of Euclid Township. The first mention of schools was made in 1828

when the entire township was divided into districts, and by 1900 there were eleven one room school houses scattered strategically throughout the township.

In 1903 the Village of Euclid was incorporated, encompassing the northern half of Euclid Township, with essentially the present day boundaries of the city of Euclid. The southern section to Cedar Road continued as Euclid township and was governed by their own township trustees. This included what is today South Euclid, Lyndhurst and Richmond Heights. It also had its own Euclid Board of Education. Within its boundaries there were five public schools. District No. 1 - Chardon Road, one fourth mile west of Richmond Road. It was a one room brick veneer building erected in 1899, called Beechnut School. District No. 3 - Richmond and Highland Roads. A one room brick veneer building erected in 1899 and called Maple Grove School. Later it became known as Claribel School. Still later it was a private residence and then Richmond Heights Village Hall. The building was razed to provide land used for the new Richmond Heights City Hall. District No. 4 - Mayfield and Richmond Roads. A one room brick building erected in 1866 and used until 1924 when the Richmond Road or Lyndhurst Village School was built. The little red brick school still stands behind the Richmond Road School and has more recently been used by the Boy Scouts. The Lyndhurst Garden Club plans to beautify the land around it and perhaps establish a museum. District No. 2 - Mayfield and Green





Back Row: Fred Elbrecht, Richard Lossner, William Wischmeyer, Fred Fark, Henry Kuhlman. Middle Row: Christ Obrock, Nora Fark, Martha Schaefer, Louise Prasse, Teacher Hoffmeyer, Mathilda Faust, Minnie Melcher, Henrietta Prasse, John Abil. Seated: Edward Prasse, Mary Bindbeutel, Willy Nitske

South Euclid Lutheran School 1889

Roads. A one room stone school built about 1865, torn down in 1911 and replaced by a six room brick building in 1912, known as the Green Road School. District No. 5 - Green Road. A one room stone building erected about 1877 and known as the Bluestone School.

A schoolhouse was located at Mayfield and Green Roads as early as 1845, but the records show that not until 1865 did Polydore King and his wife Laura sell the site of the present Society National Bank and parking lot to the "school directors". The transfer was recorded on February 16, 1865 and deeded seventy-two one hundredths of an acre for the sum of \$125.00. The Mayfield Road frontage of this same land sold in 1927 for \$74,500. While the Green Road brick school was being constructed in 1911, classes were held in the Town Hall. The names of some of the early teachers have been recorded as Conley Walworth, Levy Woods, Miss McClintock, Mrs. Helen McFarland Luster, George Gurney, Perry Caldwell and William Sickman.

The first high school in South Euclid was established in 1912. The course of study, which was purely academic, was offered only to pupils in the 9th and 10th grade. All the other grades also met in the Green Road School. Previous to this, the pupils in the north end of the township went to Euclid High School which was built in 1894. Ollie Whigham, the future Mayor of South Euclid was graduated from there in 1901. Others went to Cleveland Heights High School.

However not many availed themselves of this higher education. Absence and tardiness prevailed to a marked degree. Walking was the chief means of transportation except for those who came some distance and they rode horseback or drove a horse and buggy. Parents were mostly indifferent to the educational needs of their off-spring and frequently kept the child home to work on the farm. Later the South Euclid school got around this by allowing two weeks off in the spring during planting time and two weeks off in the fall for harvest.

A real crisis had developed by 1917. The first township buildings were getting old and needed repairs if they continued in use and there were only 317 pupils in the whole township. The Chardon Road school had only 33 in all eight grades. Green Road school had 215 in the new building for the eight grades and High School. Claribel School had 26 in all eight grades, and Richmond Road School only 19 in six grades; Bluestone had 24 in four grades. A newer larger building was needed at Richmond and Mayfield to meet the needs of the fast growing community.

The first class graduated from the South Euclid High School in 1916. Helena Faust, Mary Fierbaugh, Cornelius Hayes, Clarence Melcher, Arden Rowland, and Paul Larson were members of this first graduating class.



Back Row - Left to Right: Frank Zeller, Carl Anderson, Henry Telling, Kenneth Telling, Mrs. Wells, Harvey Hussong, J. Ruskai, A. Beaver. Middle Row: Ellen Sersinger, R. Crane, Marian Renner, Laurel Krieg, Mary Wilkins, Margaret Luster, Irma Renner, Anna Vanisky. Front Row: Leonard Anderson, Lee Hamilton, Roy Brot, George Urban, Tom Beaver, Clarence Larson, Wm. Freeman, Ladis Zack.

3rd and 4th Grade Green Road School  
1914 - 1915

George H. Knappenberger became superintendent of schools in 1913 and continued in that capacity until 1920.

On February 10, 1917 the Euclid Township Board of Education consisting of C. C. Rankin, President; L. A. Black, Vice President; J. W. Dean, Joseph A. Morlock, Henry Schroeder, and G. H. Knappenberger, Superintendent; placed a bond issue before the people of the township for a vote. The bond issue of \$150,000 to build new buildings and update the system was defeated. This left no alternative but to close the Richmond Road or No. 1, No. 4 and No. 5 School Districts and take care of all the pupils in Claribel School and Green Road. The Euclid Township Board ordered the Richmond Road School closed. This meant that pupils would have to go to the Green Road building. Residents of District 4 regarded this as an unnecessary hardship and fought the move. At this time someone looked up the law and discovered that an incorporated village could control the schools in its confines. Thereupon, a petition signed by 33 electors was duly presented to the township trustees, and an election was set for August 7, 1917 on the question of incorporation. The petition stated that the proposed village had 300 inhabitants. The results: 63 residents voted and favored incorporation, 6 opposed. The successful voters christened the new village Euclidville. Euclidville, now controlled its own school, but there was a flaw in the law, for a new village also acquired jurisdiction over schools in adjacent unincorporated territory.

The schools continued under the Euclid Township until the last board meeting was held on October 16, 1917. Then on Oct. 30th, 1917 the same directors met under the name of Euclidville Village School district. An election was held in November to name the new School Board Members of the two new School districts, Euclidville School district and the South Euclid Village School District. South Euclid had been incorporated on October 13, 1917.

The members of the South Euclid Village School Board were W. R. Carson, Pres.; Dr. G.I. Bauman, Vice Pres.; E. L. Leppelmeier, B. E. Luster, and M. A. Gates members with G. H. Knappenberger, Supt. The members of the Euclidville Village School District as of January 1, 1918 were William Kneale, Pres.; Roy Hawthorne, Charles Hays, Edward P. Keruish, and R. R. McKechnie. Claribel Village Board: Milo J. Tilden, Pres.; Henry Schroeder, Clerk and Member, George M. Berg, Frank Berg and Joe Hanslik.

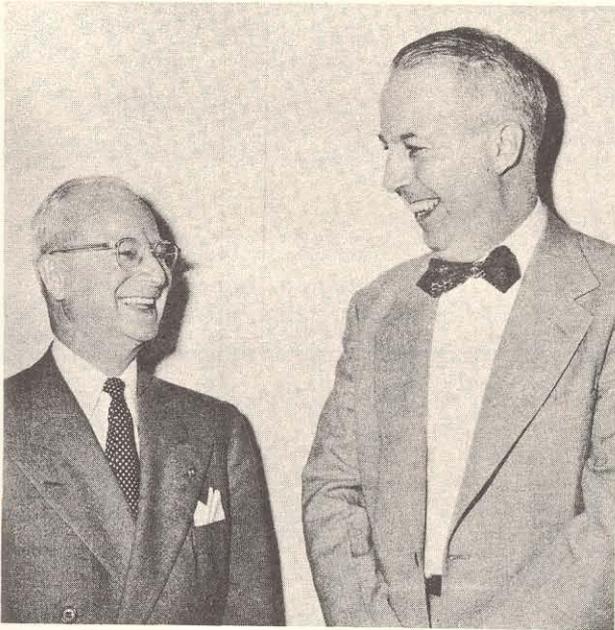
Already the South Euclid Village Green Road School was bursting at the seams, therefore, during the summer of 1918, the board had two-one room frame buildings erected for \$3,148.40 to house some of the High School classes. During this early period of the South Euclid Village schools, it is interesting to recall some of the early teachers: Helen Stone, Lola McFadden, Ethelwyn Parker (Mrs. J. C. Nichols), Daphne Gallagher, Fran Swam, Mildred Merkel, Estella Rankin, and Roslyn Flynn with a teacher's base pay of \$975.00 per year and the principal's, \$1,500.00.

The School Board purchased seven acres from Marian K. Stage in 1919 for \$2500.00 facing Mayfield Road anticipating building Victory Park School. This area was named Victory Park to celebrate the end of World War I. Victory Park School opened in 1921 with 11 classrooms, a gymnasium and an auditorium. Green Road School was used for some of the primary grades until it was abandoned in 1953. However, an Annex to Victory Park was opened in 1947. During this period, under the leadership of W. R. Carson as School Board president, the Board did some forward planning and purchased several pieces of property for School Building sites including the four acres Belvoir-Bayard Road property from William T. Arnos for \$18,000.

During the 20's, Miss Mayme Terrill, Karl Keller, Miss Frances Pinkerton (Mrs. John Welser), John Welser, Miss Lola McFadden, C. R. Dustin, W. R. Moore, Mr. Scherer, and Miss Leona McGrath were teachers.

The most difficult time for the School Board was during the 20's since they did not have sufficient funds to pay the current bills and much less for expansion. At this time the village property was being assessed as farm land. Through the efforts of the School Board and Citizens League of South Euclid, they were able to get the Village properties reappraised thus providing a better tax base.

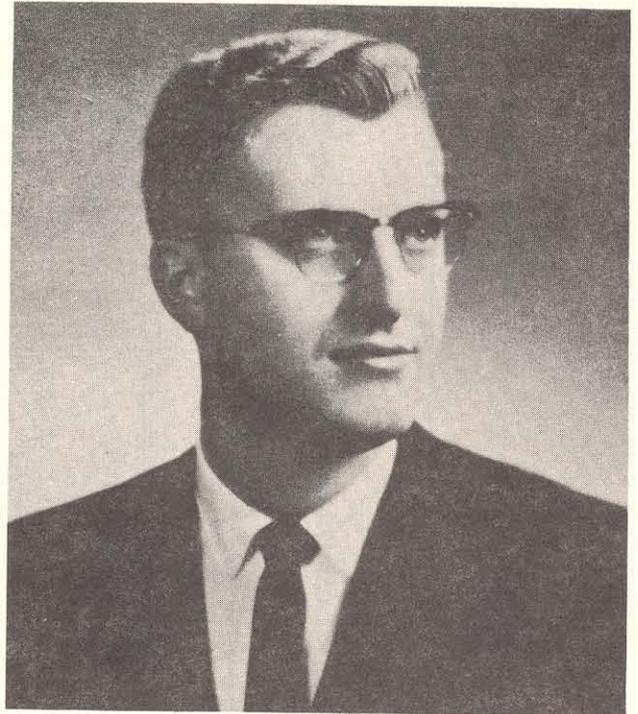
In 1924 there were 686 children enrolled in the village schools which increased to 1372 in 1931. Lyndhurst and South Euclid were both operating under the county school system. The year 1923 found both villages facing critical problems: Lyndhurst having no High School and South Euclid's High School classes being crowded into an old building on Green Road north of Mayfield. South Euclid's High School not only had insufficient classroom space, but also lacked such facilities as auditorium, gymnasium, athletic field and modern laboratory equipment.



Left to Right: Dr. Otto J. Korb, Teacher in South Euclid-Lyndhurst Schools, 1917 to 1920; Superintendent of Schools 1920-1939, Korb Field at Brush High School is named in his honor. William B. Edwards, Superintendent of South Euclid-Lyndhurst Schools, 1942-1953..

Dr. J. B. Korb and William B. Edwards

School Superintendent O. J. Korb of South Euclid had come to the conclusion that the best solution to the joint problem was to create a single school system serving both villages. He felt that neither was large enough to support adequate high schools separately. Dr. J. E. Rowland of South Euclid, when elected to the Cuyahoga County Board of Education, supported the merger. Adding weight to the argument was the fact that Lyndhurst already was sending its high school students, paying \$11.00 monthly tuition, to South Euclid. Two advocates of consolidation on the Lyndhurst Board of Education were the chairman Mrs. Harry (Beryl) Brainard and Horatio Ford. A majority of Lyndhurst residents, however, opposed being "annexed" to the South Euclid schools. The move also was disfavored by a minority in South Euclid. Among their reasons were the desire for independence in school decisions and fears that the combined system would create tax inequities between the two villages. In the case of Lyndhurst, the memory of the arbitrary closing of District 4 was still fresh and many residents feared they



Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Marvin Maire

would receive secondary consideration. Although Superintendent Korb already had under option the site that later was chosen, a rumored location of the high school in South Euclid was considered inconvenient for Lyndhurst pupils.

When the county board announced its decision to establish a single school system for the two villages in February 1924, the Lyndhurst objectors took the issue to court. In May 1924 Common Pleas Judge F. E. Stevens in a significant decision ruled, in effect, that the broad interests of education should prevail over other considerations. Judge Stevens upheld the county board decision. Full text of this decision, which has been widely quoted in United States school disputes, was printed by the South Euclid Citizen on May 7, 1924. The Lyndhurst objectors lost the case; however, they gained a high school of great beauty and civic value. When the dispute ended, an eighteen acre tract of land in Lyndhurst, just over the South Euclid City line, became the site of the new combined high school. The site consisted of the Henry Melcher farm and part of the Dodsworth farm, almost in the exact geographical center of the area it serves. A \$468,151 building was completed late in 1926, and classes commenced in January 1927.

