



"Forget Not the Past"

Homer F. Briggs, Superintendent
1956



Homer Briggs began his career in the field of education in the Ontario School District as a sixth grade teacher at the South Side Grammar School, later named South Euclid School. He was the first male elementary school teacher hired in the history of the school district. His progress in the district was rapid. Within 4 years he was appointed as teaching principal of Grove School, which was located just north of the present Sunkist facility. The following year, Homer Briggs was appointed as Principal of Vina Danks. Seven years later, in 1947, he was appointed Assistant Superintendent for Business and four years later, he was selected as Superintendent, beginning a record 21-year tenure. Homer Briggs retired in 1972 after a 37-year career in education.

Excerpt from an article, *Homer F. Briggs*, by Sue Cornell - Originally appeared in *Hardy Happenings*

Dear Junior High Friends:
"Life is a great, inviting and interesting race. Let no one tell you it is not. It is only dull and dreary to those who refuse to properly train and abide by the rules. May you each run well, with head up, eyes to the front, confidence on your face, and determination in your stride. My prayer for you is that you forget not the past, but that you also face the future and run such a race as no generation has yet run. Be true to your ancestors, but also be true to yourself."

Excerpt from message to Ontario Jr. High School students by Superintendent, Claude W. Randall, May 15, 1936.



Above and below, Euclid School, 1930



Below, Euclid School, 5th Grade Class, 1922. Courtesy of Mary Rodriguez, Lehigh.



Vina Danks Operetta, 1938



Did you know - January 10, 1935, the Shell Oil Co. was given the contract for supplying the district with gasoline for the coming year at 10½ cents a gallon.
February 28, 1935 - the new administration building was opened, located at 429 West Fourth St. The cost of the building was \$9,536.12.
May 6, 1935, - Three teachers that had married, two of them permanent teachers, Mrs. Ayland and Mrs. Germandt, and had signed the promise to resign at the discretion of the Board, were insisting upon holding their positions under the teacher tenure law of California. After a lengthy discussion and conversation with these two teachers, it was finally unanimously adopted that they would be granted contracts for the school year 1935-36.
May 16, 1935 - the Board passed the following resolution: "That it will be the policy of the Ontario School Board in the future to ask all teachers who have reached the age of 65 years and who are eligible for a pension to resign from the Ontario Schools."



Thanks to Dwayne Palasek for compiling much of the history of OMSD while a graduate student at Cal State Fullerton, 1973. Also thanks to the Ontario City Library for sharing information found in the Model Colony Room and the Estate of Jerry Dubois. For more photos and interesting facts, visit our OMSD Home page and click on Did You Know? omsd.k12.ca.us