

Pioneer Sholes School

Discipline of the School°

The Traditional School

"Reading, 'Riting and 'Rithmetic, Taught to the Tune of the Hickory Stick."

°°° The old test of good discipline was, if you can hear a pin drop, then the order in the school is perfect.° The implication was that the "wheels in the head" make no noise when in action.° The teacher was advised never to smile until Christmas.° The youngsters were generally marched into the classroom, marched to classes, and then marched out of the building.° The old time teacher, by virtue of his position, was a dictator.

°°° The teacher enforced order and quiet among students except for recitation periods.° Pupils spoke when called upon by the teacher or requested periods.° Pupils spoke when called upon by the teacher or requested permission before speaking by raising their right arm.° They were usually required to stand when speaking to the teacher or to the class.° Titles of respect (Miss, Mister, Ma'am, Sir) were always used in addressing the teacher.° Students were required to speak correctly.

°°° Punishment took numerous forms.° Corporal punishment was not unheard of nor were other extreme penalties such as detention, suspension and even expulsion.° Lesser punishments, more common at that time than now, included such things as a rap on the hands or knuckles with a steel edged ruler; standing in a corner with face to the wall; wearing a dunce cap, facing the room, and sitting upon a high stool beside the teacher's desk; standing for long periods with arms held straight out in front; standing with an arm outstretched, palm up, while holding a heavy book on that hand for a long period; or being banished to the girls' cloakroom (if the culprit were a boy).

"Modern Standards" Appearing in the Later 1800s

°°° In the period between the Civil War and the middle of the twentieth century, there was increased attention to the individual development of school children.° The earlier conceptions of strict discipline and even brutal punishment gave way to more sympathetic views of the child as an individual.° Authoritarian discipline and corporal punishment were softened, and greater attention was given to the development of habits of self-discipline.

°°° According to V. H. Culp, author of How to Manage a Rural School, "The discipline of

the rural school should be more like that of a well ordered family with the teacher as its head.° The children should be able to get a drink or a book or even leave the room, without permission except in occasional cases where such privileges are abused.° If the older children are encouraged to help the younger ones upon many occasions a feeling of cooperation will always be in evidence."° When a child could not conduct himself in routine affairs without disturbing the school, or wasted his own time, his liberties must be restricted until the rules were learned.° Punishment should always be in proportion to the transgression.° The certainty of punishment rather than the severity would deter evil doers.° Corporal punishment and suspension should be used only as a last resort.° It was taken for granted that the Golden Rule, courtesy, fairness, and good manners were the standard of conduct.

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