

THE LEGEND OF ABITA SPRINGS

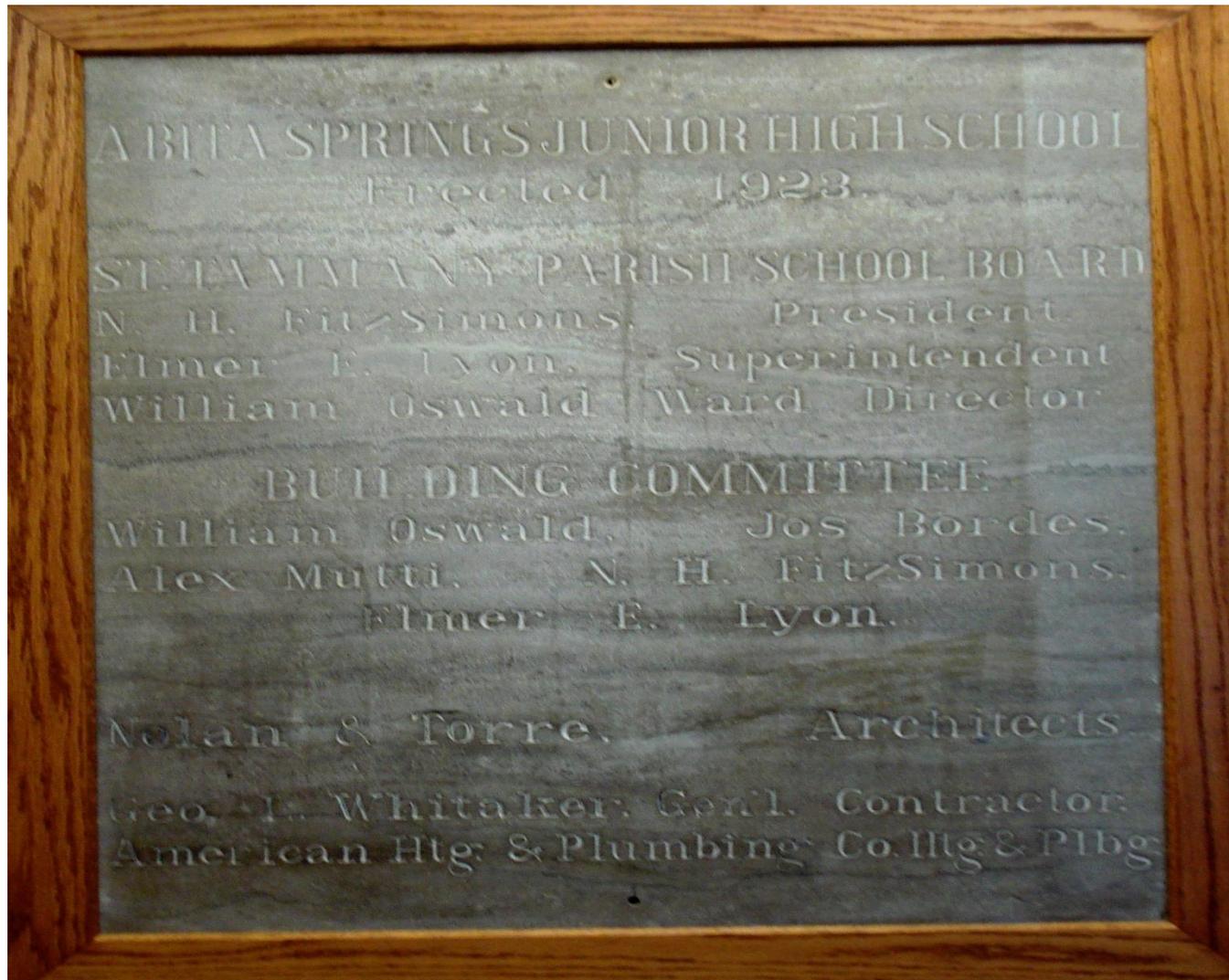
A short history of our little town and
our fabulous school.

THE LEGEND OF ABITA SPRINGS

- Many years ago Henriquez, a native New Orleanian, of Spanish birth, was visiting in the area of present St. Tammany and met a beautiful Choctaw princess named Abita. They fell deeply in love with each other and were married. After a time, she grew very ill and none of the doctors could help her. Henriquez summoned the medicine man from across the waters of Lake Pontchartrain. The old Indian told Henriquez that his bride could only be helped if the Spaniard would bring her back to where she could drink from the waters that the Indians loved and bathe in the bubbling springs. Henriquez returned Abita immediately to her village, and after his return she was as healthy as before. She had been cured of her illness! They lived happily in eternal love. At this time the village was given the name of Abita Springs, for the beautiful Choctaw Indian princess.



THE HISTORY OF OUR SCHOOL



- ◉ Abita Springs Middle School was built in 1923, which was 85 years ago.
- ◉ Throughout the years it has been a grammar school, a junior high school, and is currently a middle school.
- ◉ Recently, the main building of the school was completely renovated. This newest renovation houses most of the 4th grade classes as well as the administration offices.
- ◉ Several of our current faculty were students here, Mr. Eddie Strohmeyer our Principal went to school here. One of our 5th grade teachers, Aimee Bond also attended our school.

THROUGH THE YEARS.....

- ◉ In the years prior to 1969 the school itself was a good deal smaller. The top floor of the building held 2 offices of town hall. Even the firehouse had residence in that historic main building.
- ◉ During those years the school yard was confined to a much smaller area, the rest belonged to the state park.
- ◉ In the early years A.S.M.S. had grades 1-8, and the classrooms had two grade levels in each classroom.

- ◉ In 1969, the school became K-8, and was predominately a whites only school. The first years of court ordered segregation quickly followed and the school was integrated. The school for black children was off of St. Charles Street and Hwy. 36. That school closed in 1969.
- ◉ In 1969 there were 225 students attending A.S.M.S. and there were only 4 school buses.
- ◉ In and around 1973 9th grade was added until Covington Jr. High was established.

- At this time there were only 2 main buildings which were the old two story building and the oldest, now 5th grade wing. The cafeteria was where our library is now.
- In the early 1980's our school changed to only grades 4-9 due to the addition of Abita Springs Elementary School.
- 4th grade soon moved over to the elementary school but in 1995 was moved back to our current facility.

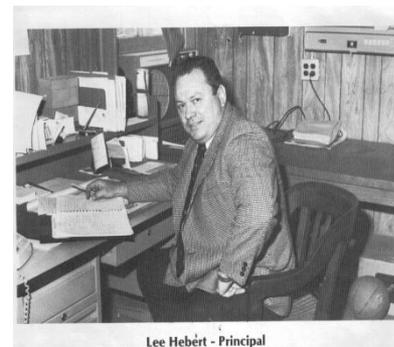
- ◉ In 1990 9th moved to Covington High School, followed quickly by the movement of 7th and 8th over to Fontainebleau Jr. High School, which happened in 1995.
- ◉ Currently A.S.M.S. has 400+ students grades 4-6.
- ◉ There are 54 faculty and staff members currently employed at our school.
- ◉ In 2007 Mrs. Rhonda Meyers was added as assistant principal

A.S.M.S. PRINCIPALS

- Miss Mamie Paysinger was principal from 1933-37.
- In 1942 the principal was Earl Riley.
- In 1961 Louis M. Peters became principal after having taught 8th grade.
- Mr. Lee Hebert was principal for many years until Mrs. Margaret Sharpe became principal from 1992-1996.
- Carole Risher took over the helm after Mrs. Sharpe and was principal from 1996-2001.
- Julie Matte then took over as our leader and was principal from 2001-2006.
- Donna Forrest became our principal in 2006 until 2015.
- Our current principal is Edward Strohmeyer.



Abita Springs Middle School recently held a dedication ceremony for its new outdoor classroom, complete with a beautiful gazebo that will be used by all students on campus. The project was completed with tremendous support from the community. Among those taking part in the ribbon cutting were Abita Springs Mayor Louis Fitzmorris, Dr. Susan Stran, Dayna Pembo, Patti Achord, Kama Fischer, Mary Spicuzza, Debbie Laborde, Donna Caffarel, builder David Chatelain and Principal Julie Matte, Oct. 2003



Lee Hebert - Principal



Eddie Strohmeyer