

Buskirks gave land for school

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Within two years in 1926, a school had been built and was open for its first pupils. Unlike the Hunter and McCalla schools that had been named for former school superintendents, the new school, roughly bounded by Hawthorne, Hunter, Woodlawn and Second streets, was named for the subdivision of Elm Heights.

Bloomington attorney, Fred Gregory, who attended Elm Heights, recalls that one of the things he liked about the school was that, unlike University School, which was sort of "elitist" in those days, Elm Heights had children that came from a cross-section of the economic life of Bloomington.

Another resident, older than Gregory, recalls that prior to the building of the school a man by the name of Sam Brown lived in a farmhouse on the southwest corner of Hawthorne and Second and delivered milk in a wagon pulled by a "swaybacked nag."

A casual glance at the PTA scrapbooks kept by the officers of that organization shows that the school was very active in presenting carnivals and shows for the entertainment of the Elm Heights neighborhood. The programs presented through the years included such ambitious undertak-

ings as "Cinderella," "A Christmas Carol" and the marriage of Tom Thumb.

Through the years the school and its teachers helped to produce an impressive list of pupils who later took responsible places in the community and others who have gained a measure of fame.

An incomplete list shows that out of Elm Heights school came 10 physicians and 15 lawyers, including two judges -- Marc Kellams of Monroe County and Joe Hensley of Madison -- and David Rogers, a former state senator.

Also among the list of former pupils are Rick Rechter, president of Ralph Rogers and Company; Richard Reineking, a C.P.A.; Richard Strain, president of Eli Lilly of Japan; Clifford Curry, an architect; Eva Bachmura, an actress; and David Campaigne, a scientist.

Perhaps the two Elm Heights alumni who have already achieved the most widespread fame are John Stempel, who has just written a book about his experiences in the American Embassy in Iran just prior to the seizure of American hostages, and Emily Black, who is engaged to Robert Kennedy, Jr., son of the former U.S. Attorney General and presidential hopeful.