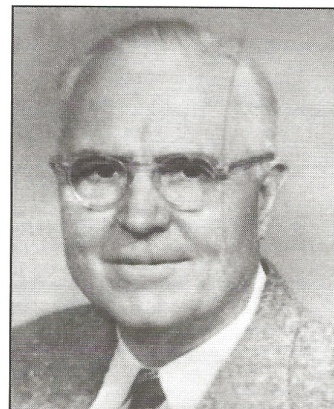
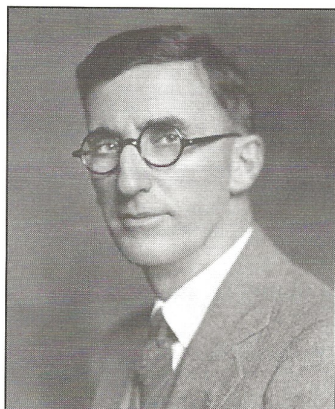
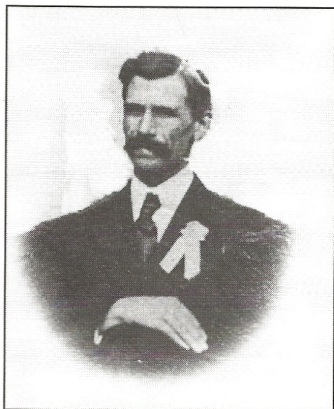


## Ch. 4

# The McLaughlin, Simpson and Welty Years



J. D. McLaughlin, fifth superintendent of SDSD, managed the school from 1908 to 1910. Research reveals that very little, if anything, can be found on him or his accomplishments during his tenure. This is mainly due to the fact that he managed the school for a very short time.

McLaughlin came to South Dakota from Wisconsin, and he took up residence in Codrington County. Later, he was elected county auditor and moved to Watertown. He moved to Sioux Falls when he was appointed superintendent of SDSD. From Sioux Falls, he and his family moved to Los Angeles, Calif., where he died in his home on Dec. 1, 1925.

There was not any significant construction, other than repairs and improvements, that took place under McLaughlin's tenure, and most of the work was done on the barn. The roof had been repaired and re-shingled. A concrete floor had been placed in the basement of the barn. Other general repairs and improvements on campus were made as needed.

Howard Simpson, son of James Simpson, followed McLaughlin to the helm in 1910 and held that position for the next 10 years, from 1910 to 1920. Howard was born at the school in the Main Building (Simpson Building) on Feb. 7, 1882. He was acquainted with sign language from birth since both of his parents

were deaf. He was the first CODA (Children of Deaf Adults) to become superintendent of the school. SDSD has had a total of three CODAs as superintendents, Edward Tillinghast and Gordon Kaufman being the other two.

During Howard Simpson's term as superintendent, several physical changes occurred on campus.

A "temporary hospital" was provided when a room in the shop building (of all places) was constructed in 1911.

The school building was built after the legislature appropriated \$27,000 for the new building. The east end of the building was constructed in 1911 and was only an addition to the boys' dormitory, including 11 intermediate and high school classrooms, a principal's office, two large gyms in the basement, an assembly room and a room for the woodshop on the third floor. At one time, the assembly room was used as a roller skating rink. The exterior of the school building was constructed of Sioux Falls granite, to conform to the other buildings. The interior was built of tile, to make it entirely fireproof. After sitting empty for a number of years, this building (the school building and old boys' dormitory) was renovated into apartments in 1995-96.

In 1911, \$10,000 was also appropriated