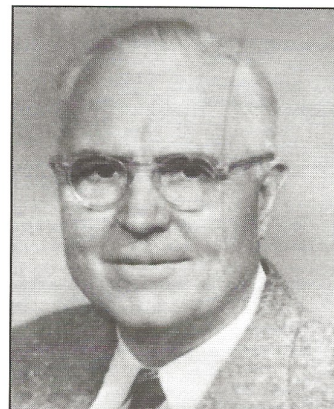
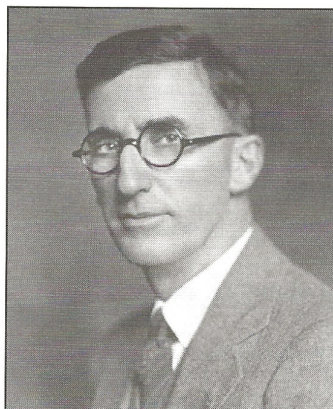
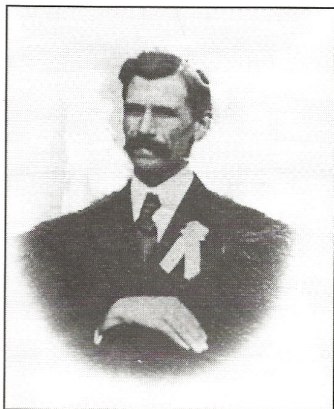


Ch. 4

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 Codington 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.

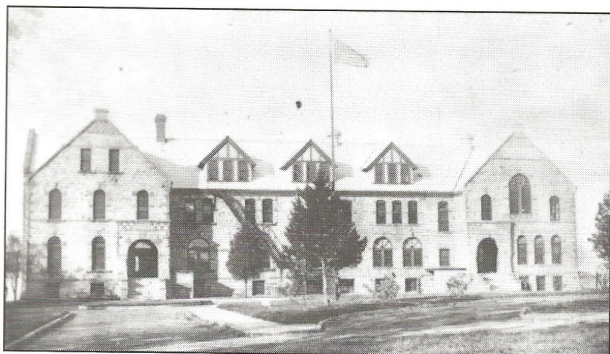
In 1911, \$10,000 was also appropriated



The school building during construction.



The additional 109 acres added to the farm.



The school building when finished.



SDSD students ply their new trade.

for the purpose of building a heating plant on the campus. A poultry house, machine shed and coal house were other additions to the farm made during the same year.

An addition was constructed on the east end of the girls' dormitory (French Hall) in 1913, when the state legislature appropriated \$12,000 for the addition. This structure was also finished in Sioux Falls granite.

The pump house on the farm was converted to serve as a creamery during 1914-16.

In addition to buildings, 109 acres of land was added to the farm in 1917, after the state legislature appropriated \$35,000 for the purchase. Howard Simpson made a concentrated effort in getting this land for the school. He was interested in establishing a course in agriculture, for the benefit of the boys attending SDSD. Approximately 80 percent of the SDSD boys during Howard Simpson's time came from families engaged in farming.

A 36 x 80-foot combination barn, complete with modern equipment, was built adjacent to the old barn and round concrete silo in 1918. This barn was necessary, to house the growing dairy herd and the workhorses.

In 1920, one block and two lots of land were added for the purpose of improving the school grounds.

Changes and additions to the school program itself were also made. New printing equipment for the printing office was purchased in 1911. The school had been doing a substantial amount of printing — stationary, etc. — for state institutions under the Board of Charities and Corrections. During the same year, a small shoemaking shop was installed. All the students and employees had their shoes repaired in the shoe-repair department. There was a small fee charged for the work, which was utilized in purchasing materials and tools for the trade.

In 1913, a carpentry trade was added to

the school program for the boys. The girls were given instructions in domestic science and sewing.

Shortly after Howard Simpson became superintendent, the state Legislature passed a compulsory attendance law, making it imperative that parents with deaf, school-age children send them to the state school (SDSD). As a result of this law, by 1916, the student enrollment hit the 100 mark. Enrollment dropped to a total of 79 the next year (the lowest since Simpson's first full year at SDSD), due to the fact that the United States just entered World War I, and many students were called home because of the absence of other family members.

When World War I broke out, Simpson became active in war work in Sioux Falls. When the United States entered the war, Simpson enlisted and later was sent to France as a field representative of the Red Cross. At that time, the Board of Charities and Corrections granted him a leave of absence for one year. The duties of the superintendent were in the hands of Stella Simpson, Howard's wife, during his absence.

After managing SDSD for 10 years, Simpson entered the hotel business. He went into partnership and bought the Park Hotel in Madison, Wis., and remained there for six

years. Unable to endure the severe Wisconsin winters, Simpson sold the Park Hotel and moved to Wichita, Kan., where he purchased the McClellan Hotel. He managed the hotel until the time of his death, in 1928. His gravesite is located in Wichita, Kan. Although he only lived until the age of 46, Simpson was known to be very active in the club affairs of the Rotary (Sioux Falls and Madison) and the Lions (Wichita) clubs. Stella Simpson died on Feb. 24, 1961.

Harry Welty succeeded Simpson as the superintendent of SDSD in 1920 and took control of the school for the next five years, until 1925. Not much is known about Welty's background, other than, at one time, he served as the principal at the Nebraska School for the Deaf. Both history and records indicate that Welty's tenure was a quiet one. During his administration, 10 acres of the school's farmland were turned over to a Dr. N. E. Hanson of South Dakota State College to experiment with fruits and roses. Between 1920 and 1925, mundane improvements, repairs and purchases of equipment were made as needed and approved by the Board of Charities and Corrections.

Welty left SDSD at the end of the 1924-25 school year, accepting a job at the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind.