



TRADE SCHOOL bearing name of one of America's greatest scientists, Thomas A. Edison, opened in Portland in 1936 in former Albina-Homestead School Building at NE Beech St. and Mallory Ave. School soon was divided into boys', girls' divisions.

Schools Bearing Revered Names Had Histories Marked By Strife

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Two of the most revered names in American were embroiled in almost endless strife when they were borne by two high schools in Portland.

The names of Thomas A. Edison, the scientific wizard, and Jane Addams, the Chicago social settlement worker and women's leader, were bestowed on the schools, which had an 11 1/2 - year history.

The high school opened in January 1936, as a coeducational six-year high school embracing the seventh grade through the senior year of high school.

FOR SEVERAL years the school bore the name Thomas Edison Six-Year High School.

Both schools were housed in the erstwhile Albina-Homestead School at NE Beech St. and Mallory Ave. at first. Some 570 boys and girls attended.

Courses were offered in shoe repairing, blacksmithing, cabinet making, dyeing, spinning and home nursing and the like.

The schools were meant for students of lower academic ability or those who did not fit into academic courses, although as the years went on some graduates of the schools went on to college.

ONE OF the longest bitterest feuds began when school authorities undertook to move the girls into Brooklyn School and send grade school pupils elsewhere. Those were the days of dwindling enrollments as small depression born classes went to grade school.

The girls moved into Brooklyn in 1937 and stayed two years. One of those years there were no grade school students in the building.

Then the girl's high school was moved to Holladay School, which it shared with grade school students.

Jane Addams' name was given to the girls' school in 1939.

BUT WOES were not over. In the summer of 1940 the school board voted to move Edison into the Sabin school building and send the Sabin students to nearby grade schools.

The uproar that followed went from school board room to court and back again and lasted for years.

In 1941 the 415 Edison students asked the board to change the name to Sabin High School, and the board did so.

In the spring of 1947 the school board voted to kill the two schools, and the last classes were graduated in June of that year. Grade schools were crowded by now, and – more important – styles in thinking had changed to favor a situation in which all kinds of students, regardless of ability or kind of aptitude, were housed in the same buildings.