

Nursery/Nursery School Section

The Nursery Section was one of the first three sections of the University of Michigan Faculty Women's Club.

A cooperative day nursery was organized by the FWC Nursery Section on March 21, 1923 and continued through 1926.

The charge was 15 cents for a child and every additional child in the family 10 cents. The day nursery served faculty and student children.

A new constitution was approved April 30, 1925 and adopted April 26, 1926 and the section was renamed the Nursery School Section.

The Merrill-Palmer School of Detroit established a branch in the Faculty Women's Club House on South Ingalls Street, located where Burton Tower now stands.

The Executive Board of the FWC Nursery School Section functioned as an Advisory Board to the Merrill Palmer School.

Report on Nursery School Section by Mrs. Wilfred Shaw in 1927.

“Nursery School, sponsored by the FWC Club and is

located in the clubhouse on S. Ingalls Street, is a branch of the Merrill-Palmer School of Detroit. Financed by that organization (Merrill-Palmer) with the exception of a small tuition paid by each pupil, just enough to pay for the actual food the child eats at school. Merrill-Palmer pays for maintenance expenses of the clubhouse.”

The school enrolled 25 children between the ages of 2 – 5. There was a waiting list of 40.

In 1930 the Merrill-Palmer School withdrew support of the Ann Arbor branch.

May 19, 1930 the advisory committee of the Nursery School Section disbanded. The section was dropped due to lack of interest.

Regents’ Proceedings, September 1924, Page 417

On motion of Regent Clements, the Board formally approved the use of a portion of the quarters assigned to the Faculty Women’s club as a school for small Children.

Regents’ Proceedings, October 1924, Page 452

On motion of Regent Stone, the Board authorized certain changes in partitions and other minor interior repairs in the building assigned to the Faculty Women’s Club, to adapt the second story of the building to use of the school for

small children. These changes and alterations in the building are to be made without expense to the University.

History of the Merrill-Palmer Institute

In 1916, Lizzie Pitts Merrill-Palmer left a bequest to found The Merrill-Palmer School (later, Institute). Up and running in 1920, the Institute's early efforts were aimed at serving Detroit's children through formalized, academic programs in child development. The Institute has a long and respected history of producing research in the area of child development and providing training and education to scientists in the field. The Institute served as a model for child development laboratories across the country, playing a role in the development of national standards for the federal Head Start program. In 1981, the Institute was incorporated into Wayne State University.

The University Elementary School opened in 1930. This is probably the reason that Merrill-Palmer closed the nursery school. University faculty and students could now send their children to the University School.

Regents' Proceedings, June 1930, Page 348

On recommendation of the Dean of the School of Education the Board enacted the following provision for the operation of the University Elementary School:

1. The School is to open September 30, 1930, and to close June 5, 1931, with vacation periods coincident with

those provided for the University in general

2. The children to be admitted are to be selected by Dean Edmonson or under his delegated authority

3. Fees are to be charged as follows: Nursery school children on full-day schedule, \$50 per semester for the first year. Nursery school children on half-day sessions, and kindergarten children on half-day sessions pay \$15 per semester for the first year.