Reform in the schools

Language barrier need to work

By Fred McGonagle

This library scene was taken in the old Willson Avenue (E. 55th St.) School. The man with the mustache, standing in the center, was Edward L. Harris, school principal for 24 years.

"1 at one end or another and went up from there, sometimes by halves. Some streets changed their names from block to block. Streets in different parts of the city had the same name.

The Chamber of Commerce took the lead in bringing order to chaos. On March 8, after vigorous debate, City Council adopted a plan that soon was hailed as a national model.

The names of north-south streets were changed to numbers. Erie St. became W. 6th, Case became E. 40th, Willson became E. 55th, Euclid became W. 20th, Gordon became W. 65th.

Lake St. on the West Side became Lake Ave. N.W. and Lake St. on the East Side became Lakeside Ave. N.E. Some streets changed from being diagonal to running east or west, now running north or south.

The numbering system was picked up by all but a few a few suburbs such as Berea, Bedford and Chagrin Falls, although streets in some Heights villages came from near the river and had numbers in the 200s or 300s. 

Old numbers were on the east side of north-south streets. On east-west streets, odd numbers were on the north end. On the East Side, they were facing the West Side, so that someone traveling away from downtown (where the few low numbers were) always had an odd number on the left.

Thoroughfares were avenues if they ran east and west, streets if they ran north and south, roads if they ran diagonally, drives if they curved and boulevards if they were wide and tree-lined. Short or disconnected thoroughfares were courts (west) or places (north-south).

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