

Way We Were  
Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>  
Sarah Hill, Research Librarian  
Schools Out Forever

In Park City's hey-day the population was booming, jobs were abundant, and families flourished. In order to support the large community it was necessary to have three separate school buildings spread throughout town: Washington, Jefferson, and Lincoln. These presidential schools worked well for a number of years, only to be affected by the great changes taking place in the 1930s.

The Great Depression hit Park City's mining economy hard, causing mines to consolidate and close, forcing locals to relocate in search of jobs. With the population dropping there was no longer a need for multiple schools to house the lowering number of students. In response, the school district decided to merge the three school buildings into one. With the help of a Works Progress Administration project headed by Paul I. Poulsen a Salt Lake City Contractor, they broke ground in March of 1936.

The building was built where the old Marsac Mill once stood and was officially open after eight months of construction in November of 1936. The final product was said to be quite the 'modern marvel.' In an interview with the *Park Record* school board president John A. Wyckoff stated that the new building contained 24 rooms, two of those rooms forming an assembly hall that could seat up to 200, and that it will also be used as a gymnasium. It was highlighted that "Among the modern features of the building are the east and west faces of diffused glass, an automatic bell system controlled by a master clock, showers in each rest room, a modern heating system controlled by thermostats, and an air-conditioning system." The entire structure housed children in the first through the eighth grades, and in its first year had 18 teachers and close to 750 students.

The school ran successfully and efficiently for nearly 44 years, and in 1980, with a turnaround in population, the students outgrew the building. The Park City School District constructed a new elementary school north of town named Parley's Park Elementary School. The Park City Municipal Corporation purchased the building and in 1983 renovated it to house the city offices.

The Marsac School Building at 445 Marsac Avenue will be on the Park City Museum's Historic Home Tour on Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 3pm. The museum would like to welcome all former teachers and students of the Marsac School to an informal gathering at the school during the tour.

Tickets for the tour are \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. Free parking is available at the China Bridge Park Garage and Sandridge parking lots. For more information, please call the Park City Museum at 435-647-7457 or visit our website at [parkcityhistory.org](http://parkcityhistory.org).

The Park City Historical Society & Museum is celebrating 30 years of preserving, protecting, and promoting Park City's history and heritage.



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Credit: Park City Historical Society & Museum, Pop Jenks Collection

Caption: Marsac School Building now the Park City Municipal Building located at 445 Marsac Avenue.