

chairman. Wells also was Euclid's Civil Defense Director in charge of Women's Groups and Euclid's coordinator of Women's Groups for Red Cross recruitment. She had once been president of the Euclid Business and Professional Women's Association.

True to her educational philosophy, Wells took fifty children from Noble School to the McGregor Home for the Aged in East Cleveland on December 15, 1954. In an attempt to bring some cheer into the lives of the elderly people living there, the students staged a talent show. Bessie Sherman Wells died nearly two weeks later on December 31, 1954. Her husband, Delbert Wells, had been an engineer on the New York Central Railroad and died in 1937.



Sources:

John Williams, *A History of the City of Euclid*

Cleveland Press, December 31, 1954.

Euclid News Journal, January 6, 1955.

Leonard B. Vorhees, *Euclid, Ohio 1797-1947: A Record of the Birth and Growth of an Industrial Community*.

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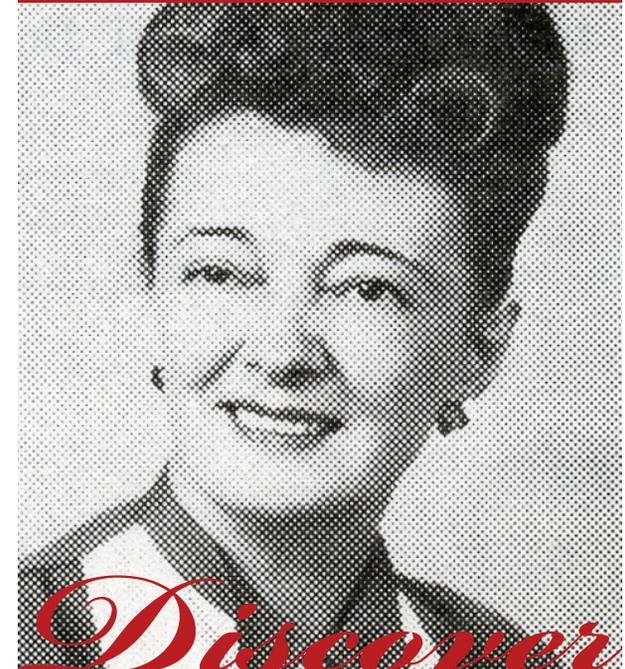
Euclid

BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

1809-2009

BESSIE WELLS

*"You can't live within four walls
and expect to take children very
far beyond them."*



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Bessie Sherman Wells was a well known educator and civic leader in Euclid for many years. Her philosophy was “You can’t live within four walls and expect to take children very far beyond them.” Her life and contributions to Euclid reflected this philosophy.

Bessie Sherman Wells was born in 1893 in Euclid. She was the daughter of Henry and Lissa Sherman. After graduating from Collinwood High School, she attended Cleveland School of Education and Western Reserve University. Her dissertation at Western Reserve University, “The Teaching of Nutrition in Elementary Schools,” brought her national attention and resulted in her lecturing on the subject to graduate classes in Family Service. She continued her studies by attending Ohio University, Kent State, Ohio State, and Columbia University.

She continued the family tradition of teaching (her mother had taught school in Euclid Township in the 1880s) by accepting a teaching position in South Euclid in 1911. In 1915,

Wells returned to Euclid to teach at Berwick School, which was located at the southwest corner of Lake Shore Boulevard and East 200th Street. She later taught at Roosevelt Elementary



School, Upson and Shore Schools. In 1921, she was appointed principal of Noble Elementary School, located near Babbitt Road and Lakeland Boulevard. She would hold the position for the next 33 years.

While serving as principal of Noble Elementary School, Wells had some notable accomplishments. The faculty,

under her direction, developed a curriculum which received the commendation of the Ohio State Department of Education. A Safety and First Aid Unit, also developed at Noble Elementary School, was made part of the Ohio State curriculum in 1948. Wells also authored many articles which were published in *Ohio Parent-Teacher*, *Ohio Schools*, *Pathfinder*, and *Today's Woman*.

Wells was an active member of numerous professional and community organizations. In addition to being a member of the National Education Association, the National Elementary Principals Association, and the National Council of Teachers of English, Bessie Wells was a charter member of the Tau Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, a national honor society for women in education.

In 1954, she was elected President of the Department of Elementary Schools of Northeastern Ohio. Wells was active in the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA). She served as program chairman of the Euclid Council of the PTA and was also its health and safety