

*The Dansville Elementary Library was dedicated to Mr. Searl Briggs in 1971. Mr. Briggs lived from 1907-2001, passing away at the age of 94. He lived in Dansville all of his life, with the exception of two years while serving in the United States Navy. He exemplified the true meaning of the word, "service" to our community as a teacher, administrator and coach for a total of 43 years.*

*He was born and raised in Dansville, Mi when the downtown was alive with blacksmith shops, hotels, a merchandise store, department store, general store with soda fountain, auto sales business, doctor's office, a three-story town hall, butcher shop, and a jewelry store. As a boy, Searl attended a four-room school that sat on the present Middle School site. While in elementary school he was noted for his singing the old time song, "Run for the Doctor, Charlie Dear" . In his teen years, he worked with his brother in their father's road construction business and upon high school graduation, attended school in Ypsilanti for one year.*

*Mr. Briggs then began his teaching career at the Dennis School located on the Dennis/ Williamston Rd. corner where he taught four years. In 1930 he went back to Western for another year of schooling and received a country school teaching certificate and was asked to teach and coach at Dansville. For three years he taught 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade before returning to Western for one more year to receive his degree. Upon the completion of this degree, he became Dansville's High School principal along with teaching 2 periods of 9<sup>th</sup> grade shop, 4 junior high classes and a study hall. With all of those responsibilities, he also coached the high school football and baseball teams and eventually the basketball team. His football teams were well-known for their successes and in 1939 he took his basketball team to the semi-finals of the State tournament. In 1940, Mr. Briggs became Dansville's Superintendent and was highly respected in all of his endeavors. In total, his teams took 14 league championships and he was inducted into the Michigan Coaches Hall of Fame in 1965. Even in his final year as superintendent at Dansville Schools, he taught seniors Economics and Civics. Under Mr. Brigg's administration, Dansville Schools underwent two major building programs.*

*He married his high school girlfriend, Verlee Collar, in 1933 and together had three children, Jan, Jill, and John; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Verlee passed away in 1994 after 60+ years of marriage. Mr. Briggs always spoke of his family with great pride.*

*In 1971, the Dansville Elementary Library was dedicated to this well-deserved and highly respected man and at that time was named the "Searl Briggs Resource Center". Mr. Briggs was a very special gentleman who left a legacy to our school and community that will never be forgotten.*