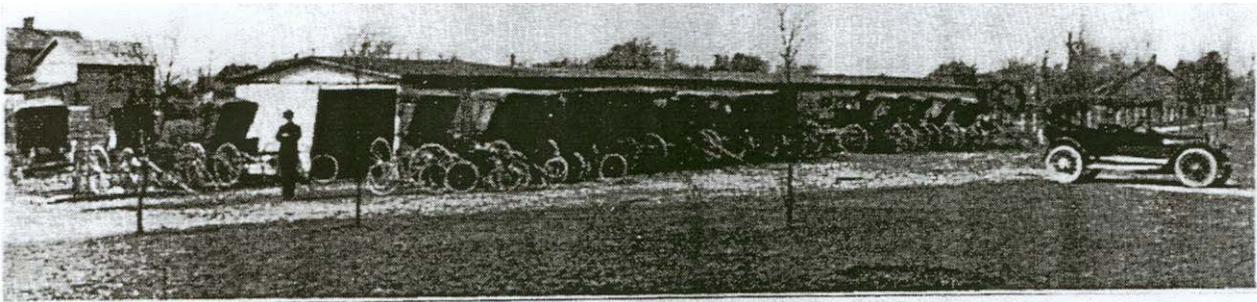


THE HILLIARD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

The transportation department is a system all of its own within the school district. The department is not only governed by the Board of Education but also by the Department of Ohio Highway Patrol. All buses and drivers must meet certain regulations; drivers must hold valid driver's licenses.

In the very early years children walked to school in the district area if they were fortunate enough to be able to attend school. They walked over dirt and gravel pathways and trails in some cases. As time progressed so did the transportation. Children were transported by parents or neighbors by horses and horse and buggy to attend school. There has been a great deal of improvement since those days!

By 1915 a shed type building was erected for covering horses and buggies.



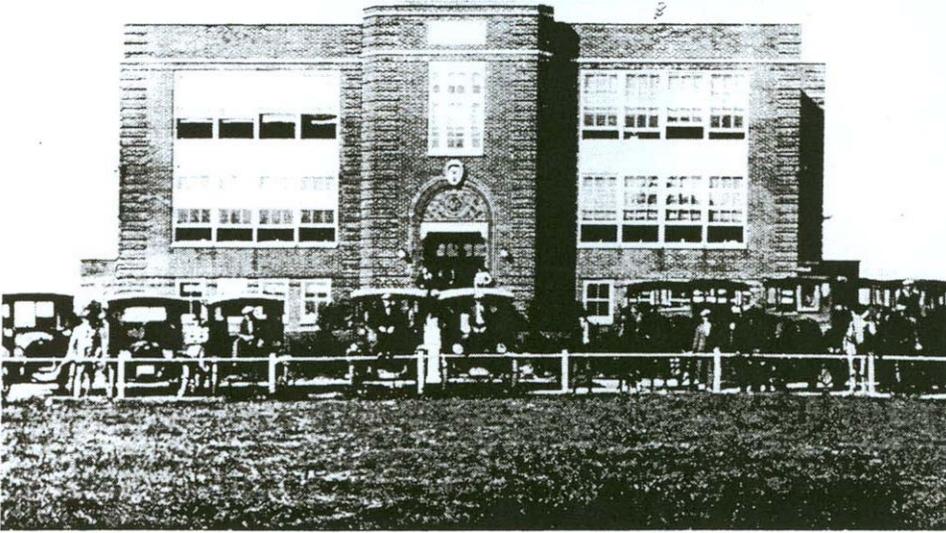
Ref: *The Blue and White* Yearbook, 1915, pg. 10. Yearbook courtesy of Mary Alice (Sherwood) Becker, Class of 1947, Mary (Weaver) Miller, Class of 1932, and Susie Noxon.

This type of transportation seemed suitable but in 1912 the local Board of Education received a communique that a driver's wagon and outfit was unfit to convey pupils to school. Perhaps it was this reason that the Board of Education began to consider other types of "Kiddie Wagons". Due to the fact that "motorized vehicular conveyances" were on the roads, this was an alternative possibility.

By July of 1918 bids were put out by the local Board of Education of Norwich Township Rural District to haul children to and from the school buildings at Amlin and Hilliard. The bids were for either horse-drawn vehicles or auto truck.

By August of 1919 wagons were used to convey the children to school. Some of the wagons used were from the local livery stable owned by Mr. William Skinner. One entry in the Hilliard of Education minutes stated that the wagons were to be 14 feet in length. Drivers were paid for the use of their time and conveyances to transport students. The Board advertised more bids for more drivers as the school population increased.

A photograph of Hilliard Elementary, built in 1917, shows a combination of horse and buggy drivers and gasoline powered automobiles that transported the children to school.



SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, circa 1920, Photograph courtesy of Mary (Weaver) Miller, Class of 1932.

Over the years the horse and buggy became outdated and was replaced by gasoline powered vehicles. Sometime later, the Board of Education purchased school buses which looked much like the following photograph in the 1930s. On the sides of the buses was painted "Norwich Local School District, Franklin County".



Photograph courtesy of Marjory (Knick) Dougherty, Class of 1950.