

After two years in the works,
the doors swung open this week at

Kelso School

by DAN DILLON

When the Sandy Elementary School District decided to build a school near the site of previous Kelso schools, it knew it wanted something different.

"I specifically requested of the architects that they design the building so that it wouldn't look like every other school you've been in," said Clark Lund, district superintendent.

The result, unveiled Friday in a special student preview, is the \$2.4 million Kelso Elementary School specifically designed to fit the rural setting and tradition of the area. A design so rural, in fact, that workmen told Lund that they had been approached and asked by one woman when the stable would open because she needed to board her horse.

The first school at the site was the High Forest School — a log cabin. "We've tried to tie that history to the

contemporary school," Lund said.

Natural cedar paneling reflects that concern for the natural history and offers a neutral, passive surrounding for an instructional atmosphere.

A passive atmosphere did not always surround the construction project. When the building was framed and work was going on inside the school, word came from the state fire marshal that one stairwell was inadequate for emergency exiting. A wall was torn out and the stairwell was enlarged.

A pump, installed in 1978, was thought to be malfunctioning during final preparation for opening three weeks ago. Although it was just a matter of minor adjustments, Lund said the thought of an inadequate water supply brought him some worrisome nights.

The school, which will house 240 students in grades one through six, includes all the modern amenities evident in other schools.

The school will utilize an ionization detection system for fire protection. The system involved two sensors in each classroom which are sensitive to heat, gas and smoke.

The system is tied directly to the Boring Fire Department. The alarm would sound automatically at the main station and firefighters could be on the scene in a matter of minutes.

The heating system was designed to be energy-efficient through a system of heat exchangers. Hot water circulates through ducts in the ceilings that warm the rooms. It is supplemented by body heat and heat from lighting that is captured by intake ducts in the classrooms.

The hot air is returned through the heat exchanger which is pneumatically controlled in the machine rooms of the school. Should the building become too cold, a refrigeration system automatically turns on to air condition the school.

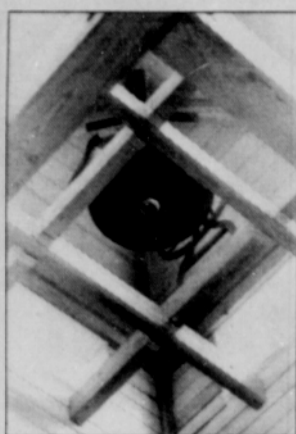
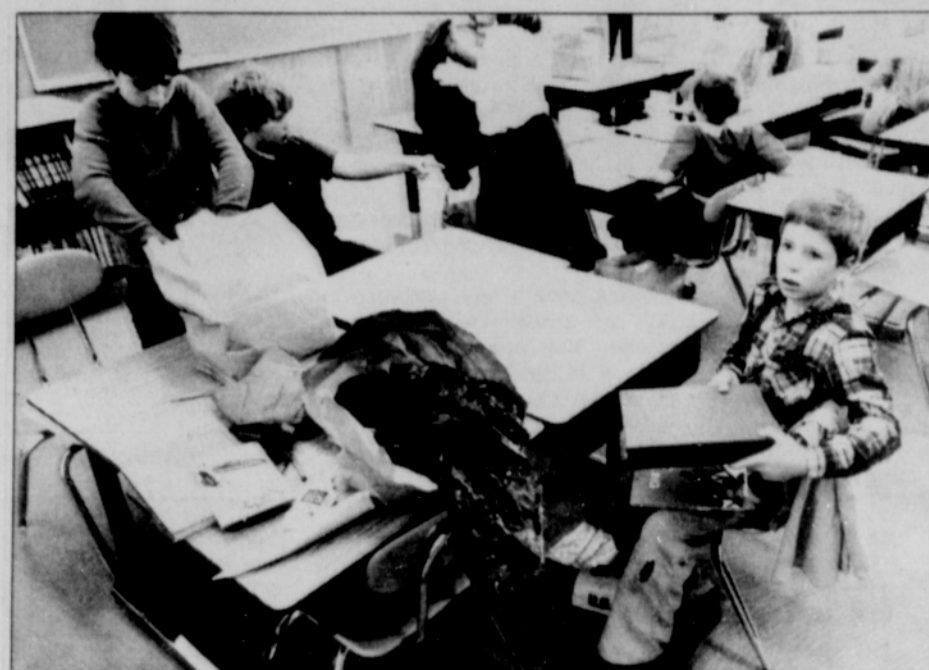
The school, designed by the architectural firm of Broome, Oringdolph, O'Toole, Rudolf and Associates, is built compactly, without an excess of windows. Natural light from the north side of the building is utilized, however, and skylights in the second-floor classrooms are used to supplement artificial lighting.

The Kelso "Colts" will have a gymnasium that benefitted from a trade-off early in design and development stages. Lockers and showers were added and the gym enhanced, while a dining room was eliminated. Students will eat their hot lunches, served outside the rooms and prepared in the building, at their desks.

The building offers a library, music room, special education facility, staff lounge and speech therapy center. An intercom system runs throughout the building, right next to eye-level clocks.

While the students have moved in, there is work yet to be done. Landscaping for the 14.75-acre tract is waiting for the mud to dry out. The flagpole is not yet erected. And a special feature of the school — the bell from the 1906 version of the Kelso School — is waiting to be wired so that it might ring.

When the bell tolls, there will be little doubt what is "stabled" in the large, grey building at the intersection of Kelso Road and Orient Drive.



New Kelso School principal Judy Warren welcomed incoming students Friday by visiting each classroom (above). Moving turned out to be quite a chore for some students, especially Kenny Carlson (above left), a three-year veteran of Sandy Ridge who accumulated quite a bundle. The new students were most in awe of the gym, a luxury they didn't have at Sandy Ridge. In the middle of the floor, the new Kelso emblem, a colt, draws the attention of one class (center). Another attention getter will be the bell, (far left) part of the old Kelso School and more than 50 years old.

With new school

Kelso tradition grows

Kelso School was first known as the High Forest School, and the log-cabin beginnings stand a long way from the modern 12-classroom facility that began operation this week.

The log cabin was built in 1880 and upgrading to a new facility was no easier than it is today. According to Superintendent Clark Lund, records show that the district met July 22, 1897 to propose a new school. It was to be 46 feet by 28 feet, with a 12-foot ceiling, bell and finished chimney.

The voters rejected the \$500 building by a 17-3 vote.

Four years later, after the district was renamed Kelso, the board met, made a motion to borrow \$600 and asked for bids on a new school. The voters were left in the cold this time.

The bids were opened July 27, 1901. W.W. Davis was awarded the contract for a new school at \$548. Like modern times, cost

overruns were unforeseeable. Davis had to reapproach the board and ask for an additional \$13.

That building burned during a slash fire in 1905. A new building was erected in 1906 by John Jonsrud at a cost of \$784, according to Lund's records. Two years later \$857 was levied to double the size of the building.

In 1906, the Kelso district purchased a new bell for the school. It cost \$27. That bell now hangs in the new Kelso School.

The first teacher at the old High Forest School was one Carrie Phillips.

In its final days, attendance at the old Kelso School was voluntary. Lund, who was a fifth grader during the last year of the school, remembers shorter days and special ice cream parties being used as enticements to gather volunteers to attend the school.



The second Kelso School housed students from 1900 to 1905 before it was accidentally burned to the ground by a nearby slash fire.