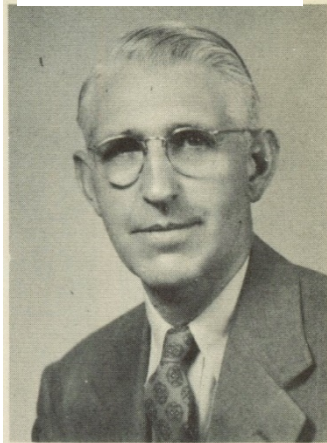


**Harold R. Smith, son of Ruben John (1881-1956) and Etta (Cphoon)**

*1948 Okemos Tomahawk*



Harold R. Smith  
Principal  
"Father to us all."

(1878-1960) Smith, was born 24 May 1902, Linden, Genesee County, Michigan. He and his 3 siblings were raised on a working farm in Argentine Township near the small town of Linden. Harold graduated from Linden High School in 1920 and furthered his education at Central Michigan Normal School (now Central Michigan

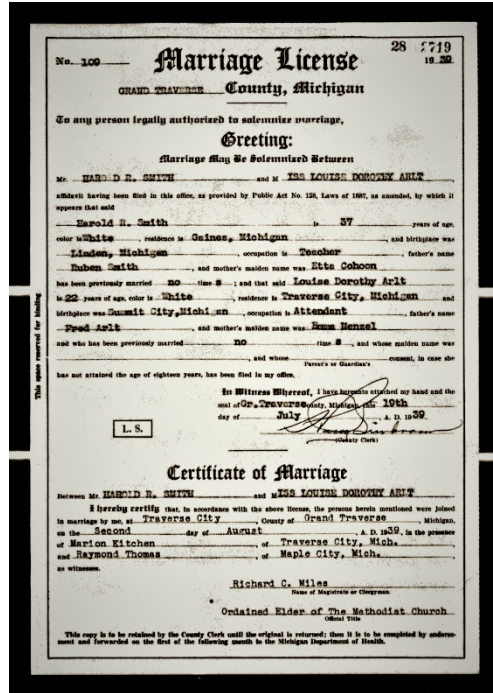
University), Mt Pleasant, Isabella County, Michigan, where he received a bachelor's degree in 1932.

By 1935 Harold was teaching school at Kingsley, Paradise Township, Grand Traverse County, Michigan. He married Louise Dorothy Arit on 2 August 1939, Traverse City, Grand Traverse County. By the 1941 school year,

*Lansing State Journal, January 22, 1942*

Haslett, Fowlerville and Okemos face non-league action the coming week. Saturday night Coach Harold Smith will take his Webberville team to Kingsley, 12 miles south of Traverse City, for an "intersectional" tussle. The Spartans will spend a week-end of skating, tobogganing and skiing in the Traverse region.

Harold was teaching and coaching at Webberville, Ingham County. He remained there until the 1943-1944 school year when he was hired as high school principal and science teacher at Okemos Consolidated Schools.

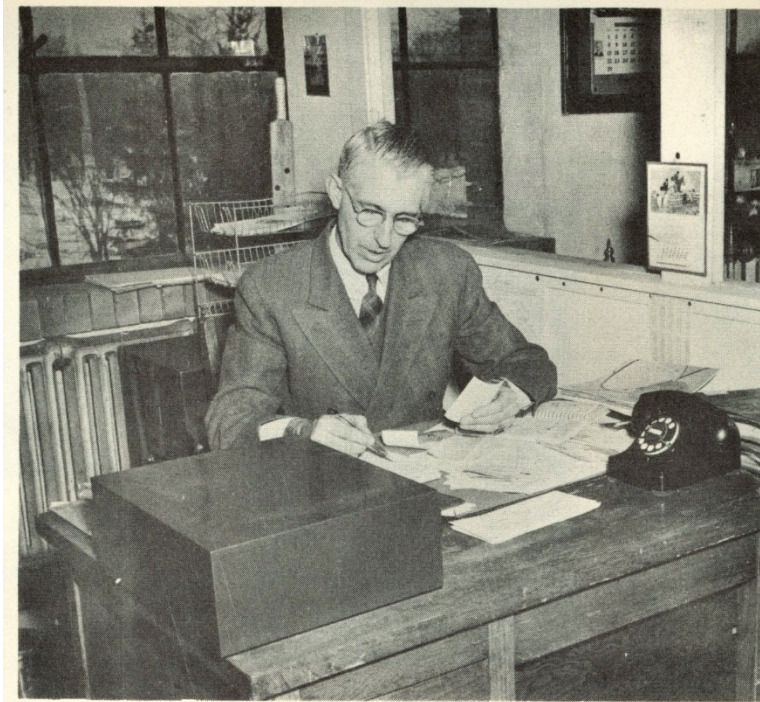


*Lansing State Journal, July 25, 1943*

**SCHOOL TEACHER—Desires unfurnished home vicinity Okemos by September 1. 5 rooms preferred, child 2 years. Write Harold R. Smith, Webberville.**

Harold received his a master's degree in education from Michigan State College in 1947.

*1948 Okemos Tomahawk, Harold Smith, Principal 1943-1948*



He was resigned from his Okemos position in May 1948 and became principal of the Boy's Vocational School in Lansing.

*Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Thursday 20 May 1948*

### **OKEMOS HIGH PRINCIPAL ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION**

Okemos, May 20 - Harold R. Smith principal of the Okemos high school for the last five years, Thursday announced his resignation, effective at the end of the school year. He has taught science while in the Okemos system. Mr. Smith will begin his new duties as principal III at the Boys' Vocational school in Lansing. His work will be that of directing and coordinating he educational program of the school.

Mr. Smith has his A. B. degree from Central Michigan College of Education, Mt. Pleasant, and his M. A. degree from Michigan state college, East Lansing. He has had 24 years' teaching experience in the schools of Michigan.

Boys Training School, as it became known, was established by the State of Michigan in 1856. Over its 117 year history, the school was known by several variants including Michigan State Reform School and Boys Vocational School. The campus was located at 4000 North Pennsylvania Avenue, Lansing, with a capacity, by 1964, for 400 boys. The state permanently closed the facility in 1972.

Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Thursday 3 November 1955

## ACTION FOLLOWS UP BRIEF SCHOOL RIOT

Six of the eight youths who participated in the 30-minute Boys Vocational school riot Wednesday noon have been confined to jails in Jackson and Gratiot counties.

Two have been

kept at the school, Robert Wisner, superintendent, announced Thursday.

State police and school officials have conferred with the Ingham county prosecutor's office concerning possible court action against the youths.

According to **Harold R. Smith**, training director of the school, the boys broke out of their cells in the security section of the main building by ripping two cell doors off their hinges and forcing the locks on two others.



**INSPECT DAMAGE** — Harold Smith, training director at Boys Vocational school, left, and Kenneth Schwartz, home life director, inspect the damage from a brief riot in the detention section at the school Wednesday noon. Damage done by eight boys during 30 minutes of violence was estimated at \$400. (Journal Photo).

## Barn Fall Hurts Man

Clarence E. Myers, 56, R. 3, W. Mt. Hope rd., was in critical condition at Edward W. Sparrow hospital Thursday, suffering from a skull fracture sustained in a fall

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Smith was in charge at the school at the time of the riot. Wisner was on a speaking engagement in Flint.

### PILE MATTRESSES

Before order was restored the boys piled mattresses on the floor in front of the cell block door.

The door was quickly opened by state police, summoned by school authorities.

The boys confined in the block are those with "disturbed problems" or those who have been returned to the school from truancy and are awaiting questioning by police before being returned to the regular school quarters, Smith said.

### 3 ARE LEADERS

He said the disturbance was led by three boys who were returned to the school from Detroit Wednesday morning. Two of the youths kicked the metal covered door off their cell and once out in the corridor quickly forced four other doors open.

Four other youths confined in the block refused to co-operate in the outbreak and remained in their cells.

Smith said the boys did not attempt to break out of the block. A frosted glass window in the cell block door was not broken, Smith noted.

When the boys began rioting, Frank Casteel, a supervisor, went for help, Smith said.

### DOOR SLAMMED

When he returned he found the first cell door off and slammed the door leading to the hallway,

## 'Traveler' On Loose

### Police Warn Merchants To Watch for Forger

Lansing and central Michigan merchants were warned by state police Thursday against "The Traveler," a nationally sought check forger.

Det. Sgt. Fred Kelly of the state police said the forger has made 27 cross-country trips, dropping bad checks, using up to 100 different aliases.

These checks are usually made out on the Iowa Sheet Metal Contractors of Des Moines, Ia., and signed by John R. Williams. The checks are usually made out in \$80 and \$90 amounts.

The only description of the suspect is that he is about 45 years old, five feet seven inches in height, light brown greying hair, and walking with short quick steps. He was last reported in Iowa and believed en route to the east coast.

confining the boys to the cell block until police aid arrived.

"The boys did not attempt to escape," Smith said. "It was more of a demonstration against the school."

He said the riot was "a combination of circumstances" which put some of the "worst boys in the history of the school" in the cell block at the same time.

The school officials said "the outbreak shows the dire need of a security building at the school. We have asked for such a building at the last four sessions of the legislature."

Damage to the cell block was estimated at \$400.

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Harold spent 19 years as Educational Director at the Boys Training School. He retired in 1967.



*Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Saturday 15 July 1967*

### **3 BOYS TRAINING SCHOOL STAFF MEMBERS TO RETIRE**

Three long time staff members of Boys Training School with a total of 80 years of service are retiring. They are Miss Genevieve O'Connell, account clerk, with 39 years at the school; Eitel E. Engel, business executive, with 22 years, and **Harold R. Smith**, educational directory, 19 years.

Miss O'Connell, 311 Lathrop St., an Ionia native, joined the staff in 1928 and has worked under 10 superintendents.

Engel, 829 North Foster Ave., joined the staff in 1945.

Smith, 2405 Mark St., former principal of Okemos High School, began work at the training school in 1948.

Harold and Louise celebrated 51 years and 3 children together. Harold died 26 July 1991, Lansing. Louise, born 2 July 1917, died 25 July 2007, Shiawassee County, Michigan. Harold and Louise were interred Fairview Cemetery, Linden, Genesee County.

*Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Tuesday 30 July 1991*

## **HAROLD SMITH, 89, EDUCATOR**

Harold Smith was a man who spent his entire life teaching others.

Funeral services were held Monday for Smith, who died Thursday at age 89.

He taught for more than 50 years. He taught in Saginaw and was coach, teacher and principal of Webberville and Okemos high schools. Smith was the deputy superintendent and director of education at Boys Training School in Lansing until he retired in 1967.

Smith graduated from Linden High School in 1920. He earned a bachelor's degree in 1932 from Central Michigan University and a master's from Michigan State University in 1946.

He moved to Lansing in 1950 and attended Pilgrim Congregational Church.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Louise; two daughters, Judy Crook of Charlevoix and Janet McMullen of Perry; one son Harold Raymond of Farmington Hills; and several grand children.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.