

Twin Falls School Dedicates Cafeteria to Longtime Custodian



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TWIN FALLS • Tom Snow was more than a custodian at Lincoln Elementary School.

For nearly three decades, Snow was the school's caretaker. He knew virtually everything happening in the building and was beloved by teachers and students.

He had even attended Lincoln Elementary as a child.

Snow, who worked at the school from 1979 to 2008, died in May.

About 30 school district employees and family members gathered Thursday to dedicate Lincoln Elementary's cafeteria to the longtime employee.

Snow's wife, Carma, had tears in her eyes and said she was touched when she found out the cafeteria would be dedicated to him.

"He tried really hard to make this school the best it could be," she said before the ceremony.

Principal Beth Olmstead told the audience the event was to "honor our favorite custodian in the world."

Snow worked under five principals at the school. He lived four blocks from the school and kept an eye on the building.

"I swear he just had a sixth sense" and knew when something needed to be done, Olmstead said.

Snow stayed late for many school events and loved students and teachers, she said.

A plaque for the "Tom Snow Auditorium" will be mounted on the wall outside the auditorium/cafeteria.

Lincoln Elementary employee Margene Willis told the crowd that she asked Snow shortly after he retired if he'd like to help in the school's computer lab.

He jumped at the opportunity and rarely missed a day for several years, Willis said.

The Snows became like adopted grandparents to many children at the school, she said.

Canyon Ridge High Principal Kasey Teske said he remembers being a student at Lincoln Elementary when Snow was the custodian.

“I think I got in trouble everywhere except the cafeteria,” Teske said. He recalled Snow greeting students – usually by name – at lunchtime and asking how they were doing.

Ted Popplewell, elementary programs director for the Twin Falls School District, worked at Lincoln for 12 years.

He recalled the Parent Teacher Association buying portable radios so it would be easier to communicate with Snow around the building.

On the first day, “Tom was like a kid with a new toy,” Popplewell said. But by a few weeks later, Snow remarked, “You guys can find me anytime.”

It became a running joke after that, Popplewell said.

Olmstead said Snow told her interesting facts about Lincoln’s early days, such as how kindergarten classes were held in the basement.

Sometimes there are rumors of ghost sightings at the school, she said. If Snow’s ghost were to show up anywhere, “I’m sure he’d be back here.”