

A
HISTORY
OF
EDUCATION
IN THE
VIRGIN VALLEY



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Introduction

This book was undertaken as a English IV Distinguished Scholar research project. It endeavors to cover the history of education from the first settlement in 1877 in Bunkerville to the present day. This year was chosen for the project to mark the last year the students of the Virgin Valley High School would spend on the present campus and to commemorate the move to the new facility.

Many people in the Virgin Valley have contributed information and spent hours helping the seniors research this book. Throughout the text, the memories and research of Vinnie Leavitt and DeMar Hughes are used as the basis for the history. Others who have contributed are E. Wesley Hughes, Marion "Tex" Hughes, Gertha Norvell, Myrtle Reber, Rene Adams, Emmett Barnum, Don Lee, Jack and Villate Hardy, Larry and Colleen Reber, Mike Waite, Evan Wilson, Kirk Brotherson, Joe Bowler, Kent Anderson and Harold Wittwer. For their help and encouragement, we are extremely grateful.

A bibliography of the articles and histories which were used in each chapter are listed at the end.

As the research was gathered, there were discrepancies in some of the articles. Many of these were cleared up by personal interviews. However, there may still be some

incorrect facts of which the reader may be aware. If this is the case, the authors would appreciate the information so the book may be corrected. Also, more information which is not contained in the book will be accepted and added.

The purposes of the book were to give the college-bound students a research experience through investigation of written and oral histories, to record educational history to this date in the Virgin Valley, and to bring enjoyment to those who lived it by having the experience of living it again through the written word.

To the pioneers who had the dream to settle this land, and in whom there was a love and need for education, this book is dedicated.

Susan Bennett

English IV Teacher

Chapter One

Settlement and First Schools

In order to understand the history of education in the Virgin Valley, the history of the Valley must also be told.

The first known white people to come to Virgin Valley followed the old Spanish trail. Some of those who traveled along this trail were trappers, Indian slave traders, missionaries and those heading west for California.

About 1826, Jedidiah Smith, a famous frontier explorer, came looking for new trapping grounds. He and his party, which included a man named Thomas Virgin, camped about 30 miles up the river from Mesquite. While there, some Indians attacked. One rumor says that Thomas Virgin was killed in the battle and buried on the side of the hill overlooking the river. Jedidiah Smith then named it the Virgin River in his honor. Another rumor says that Thomas Virgin was only wounded in battle and later killed by a bear. Whichever the case may be, the River was still named after Thomas Virgin.

A few years later, John C. Fremont, another famous explorer, camped in a wash near Virgin Valley while waiting for a flood to go by.

The Mormon Battalion passed through Virgin Valley in 1847. Edward Bunker, Sr. was in the Battalion.

A Captain May came through the area looking for a roadway on the Utah-California border which at that time was near Jean, Nevada.

A few years later, Edward Bunker was living in the small town of Santa Clara. In Santa Clara they tried to live the United Order, but after a year the system failed. Edward Bunker wanted to continue living the principles of the United Order. He succeeded over the next two years in convincing a few close friends and family members to help him organize a new community fully committed to living the United Order.

Consulting with Brigham Young, the President of the LDS church, he was advised that he could "go any place south, but not north." In January 1877, eight families, guided by Edward Bunker, met and organized themselves into a company for carrying out the United Order elsewhere.

Edward Bunker remembered the Virgin River Valley. On January 5, 1877, the party arrived on the Mesquite flat with six wagons, 70 horses and 23 people.

On the Mesquite side of the river the land wasn't very good. The Bunker party soon found out that there were reasons why others had not settled there. An overgrowth of Mesquite bushes had to be grubbed out, yard by yard, before crops could be planted. It was necessary to level the rolling landscape before successful irrigation could be undertaken. It was obvious that the Virgin River had been

cruelly misnamed. It was full of mud and sticks--almost impossible to use as a source of drinking water.

On the other side of the River, the ground was flat and the soil was rich. Rather than deal with the almost impossible landscape, the party moved across the river to what would become Bunkerville.

Settlement commenced with an impressive ceremonial blessing of the land. Standing in the center of a circle surrounded by seventeen men, Edward Bunker dedicated the land known as Bunkerville to the Lord. During the prayer, he let wheat fall through the fingers of one hand and soil from the land through the other.

Bunkerville was a product of one man's desire to find a place where he and a few like-minded saints could practice the United Order. The Bunker party found a place that permitted them the solitude to shape their own society as they wished. The settlers, as it turned out, were not pioneers leading the way for others--they sought to build a secluded oasis.

The community was soon organized into practicing the United Order. The group prepared meals in a common kitchen and ate in one large dining room. The women shared cooking, laundry and dairy tasks, rotating the duties on a weekly basis. The men were organized into crews for clearing and leveling the land, building ditches and dams, planting, tending and harvesting crops.

A couple of days after the party arrived in Bunkerville, the very first building was built. It was a lumber shack made out of a wagon. They built it on the hill where Jack and Kathy Faught live now. This lumber shack was not only the very first building built in the valley, but also the first schoolhouse and church.

There were no children in the first company; but by fall, several families had come. The school was started. A man named Charlie Heath was the first teacher in Virgin Valley. The students sat on split cottonwood logs. The school had one arithmetic, one spelling and three reading books.

By September or October, Myron Abbott established a night school, which was really the first high school.

Between 1877 and 1880, the settlement began to move southwest close to the area where Vey Mickelson's house is today. A grist mill was put in and run by water power. Some people settled there, and some went down by where Bunkerville is now.

The second school built in Bunkerville was called the "Willow School." It was built in the community square where the Bunkerville Park is now. The school was built out of cottonwood logs. When it got cooler, they covered the logs with willow or canvas. School was not held on work days. Children did not go to school everyday, just whenever they could.

The first house built in Bunkerville was built in November of 1879. It is now Loye Houston's house.

By December 1879, the settlers had a bowery with canvas walls and a split log floor. There was no roof. This bowery was used for dancing and community get-togethers.

In 1880 the bowery was enclosed with canvas, sticks and adobe. It was big enough for five quadrilles to dance in. It had two windows and a door and was also used as a church. This building was known as the "Flag School." Mrs. Cox and Lucius Peck were teachers in the 1880's.

Mesquite, Logandale, Overton and Bunkerville all went to school in Bunkerville. Often students would just live with other families in town, because it was too far away to travel back and forth. The area was still part of the Utah territory. Bunkerville is the oldest permanent established town in Southern Nevada.

So those were the early days of Virgin Valley schools. That is where it all began.

Shaulee Perkins

Doug Navarro

Chapter Two

1890-1905

The movement for a larger rock building originated with a group of young men who had been denied the use of the old "Flag School" for a dance before they left on a freighting trip. The community refused because of rules that dances could only be held on Friday nights. These young men, William Abbott, George Lee, and George Bunker formed a committee with their leader, Thomas D. Leavitt. They had obtained a site, constructed the foundation, and hauled some of the rock before the community realized that they were serious.

When Bishop Edward B. Bunker, Jr., saw they were serious and were going ahead, he got the ward members to join the committee; and they constructed a general ward house on the property the committee had acquired. Rocks were hauled from nearby hills and lumber from Mount Trumble, Arizona. Lime was produced in a kiln which was located ten miles south of the community. The Rock Church was completed in 1900 and school was held there.

This structure was 75 feet by 100 feet with a stage, arched ceiling, and steeple belfry. It had wooden benches and a twelve inch board used as a writing desk. This one

room housed about forty or fifty students ranging from the first to the eighth grade. The structure was located across the street from where the present day Bunkerville Post Office is located.

For sports and recreation they had baseball, dancing, horse racing and hunting.

In 1890, Martha Cox was one of the first teachers to serve in the new rock school. She had formerly taught in Overton. She said, "I gave a month's teaching toward a meeting (church) house. The boys donated lumber." She taught alone there from 1890-1894, but due to the great increase of pupils that year, she applied for an assistant. The services of Mrs. I.J. Earl were offered and accepted for five dollars per month.

Soon after 1900, it became necessary to hire a third teacher and conduct school in private houses as the pupils had outgrown the facilities.

Apparently no school was held at Mesquite during the first settlement. If it were, it must have been irregular.

Meanwhile, early in the spring of 1885 a group of young men with their wives moved from Bunkerville and completed a ditch on the Mesquite Flat. With the help of prospectors, Mr. Cap Smith and Mr. Seymore, they surveyed and fenced the land.

Charles Hardy built his home--one large adobe room which served as a church and school. His wife, Lorena, taught school. The first school term there lasted only two months. The second year, in 1896, the school and church were moved to one room of the two-room house erected by Jessie Waite located west of Hughes Garage. Bell Bunker was the teacher.

By the fall of 1897, a tent had been set up for public meetings. It was located on the corner where the old block schoolhouse was later built and the same property where the present school is. It was sixteen by sixteen feet. It had no windows, no heat, a dirt floor, and only logs to sit on. There was a door opening on the south where the flaps were tied back. When the opening was closed it was tied with strings. From the post in the center, the tent was held in place with ropes drawing tightly on the slope of the tent and being pegged to the ground in all four directions.

The brush was cleared off in just a small area. It was above the water ditch so there were no trees or shrubs. Martha Cox was the teacher. The tent, which belonged to John Hancock, was where all community activities were held until 1899.

From the old tent, the school was moved into the first chapel which was later sold to the school. Each year another room was added until they had a four-room school. The "Wilson Building" occupied the area which later was utilized by the Mobil Service Station.

E. Wesley Hughes recounted how he started school in that old frame building. "The old building at that time was in its last stages of usefulness. It reminded me of an old hen with spread-out wings trying to cover her growing-up chicks. During the years, as the school enrollment increased, rooms had been added on until there was no room for more."

Scott Olsen

Jennifer Tobler

Chapter Three

1905-1920

A number of years before 1905 there had been three teachers who taught in rooms of private homes. The people met together and decided to build a school building for grades one through eight. This Old Rock School was located in Bunkerville. On March 23, 1906 the dedicatory services for the new school building were held. At this service Mr. Joseph I. Earl spoke and said, "Now we have executed on this spot the best school building in Lincoln County, Nevada."

James S. Abbott also spoke and said that the people of Bunkerville had outdone the whole United States in the matter of tax levies for schools "in building this, the best school building in the county." This school building had four rooms and was made out of rock. Three of the rooms were connected by curtains which could be closed to divide the building into classrooms.

Between 1905 and 1909 school in Virgin Valley settlements ended with the ninth grade. Students from Bunkerville went to Las Vegas for high school. Girls stayed in a dormitory on Fremont Street, and boys were given an allowance of \$7.50 a month for board and room.

Meanwhile by 1909, a church had been built in Mesquite and served as a school house. Later a frame house was used

for school purposes, and in 1923 a modern concrete structure of suitable size was built to serve as a school and community meeting house.

By 1911 the people in Bunkerville wanted to add ninth grade to the school. Bishop David Cox, Edward I. Cox, Joseph I. Earl and others started a campaign for a ninth grade; and citizens of the Valley signed petitions to give to the county commissioners. The commissioners thought that having dormitory facilities in Las Vegas was a sufficient solution. One of the commissioners expressed the fear that if Bunkerville were allowed to have a high school, then Moapa Valley would want one, too. Bishop Cox answered, "I hope they have enough sense to insist on their own high school." The citizens of Bunkerville won, and that year ninth grade was added with 15 students registered. Paul C. Miner was the teacher.

To meet the building needs, the "Town Hall" was used with the stage providing one classroom, and when the weather permitted the wood shed, barn, hay loft, and outside benches were used. At times, private homes were used for classes.

In 1913, the tenth grade was added. By 1913 they had added two more educators, A.L. Kelly as the principal and E.S. Romney. In 1914 a new teacher, William Baker, was added. November 26, 1914 there was a basketball game in Overton and the Bunkerville boys won by four points.

By 1915 there was a faculty of four teachers, and that year a class of ten graduated from the four year course in Bunkerville.

In 1916 the graduating class began their last year in the "Town Hall" church building.

Because there were not enough class rooms, a new building was begun in 1916. It was to be built out of lumber and adobe with a cement floor. After the framework on this building was completed, a fierce wind storm almost demolished it. Not discouraged in their first attempt, the people decided by vote to raise enough money to build a concrete building with gas lights, two windows and a door. This building was completed the following year, and the graduating class of 1917 was honored with the privilege of being the first class to receive their diplomas in the new building.

Sports were a big part of the the school. Basketball was played in the area also used as the kitchen. There were only six men on the team and they played barefoot. They traveled by wagon to places like Moapa, Carp and Elgin. When they went to Lincoln County, they went by wagon to Moapa and then caught the train for the ride to Panaca.

In 1917 the school house burned, and the church building was turned into a school. At the time the gossip was that a certain boy from Mesquite didn't want to go to Bunkerville to school, so he burned the school building

down. On December 6, 1920 the church burned. No books, records or equipment were saved.

In the meantime construction had begun on what was the West Building of the Virgin Valley High School in Bunkerville. This school would serve four years of classes. This new building was equipped with a gas lighting system. Huge wood burning stoves were put in each corner of each room for heat. The building was adequate for all high school needs of the time and contained a large assembly and recreational hall with a large stage, classrooms, cooking and sewing and chemistry rooms, library, office and ample hall space.

In 1923 a gymnasium-auditorium and four classrooms were added. Later a vocational-agriculture shop and a gymnasium were added. The gymnasium building later became the County Recreation Center.

Under the leadership of Mr. A.L. Kelly, Principal of the Virgin Valley High School, a movement began to consolidate the schools of the two valleys, Virgin Valley and Moapa Valley. With skillful lobbying and work by Clark County legislators, the County was divided in 1919 into three educational districts. Number One included the Virgin and Moapa Valleys and surrounding areas to the extent of about fifty-seven townships. Number Two comprised the rest of the County except for Boulder City which became District Number Three.

Educational District Number One represented complete consolidation of all the area under one school board and superintendent. Mr. Kelly became the Superintendent of District Number One. He served from 1919 to 1929.

Other superintendents were Mr. F. Edgar Mineer from 1929 to 1935; Mr. Paul Thurston from 1935 to 1943; and Mr. Seymour Fish from 1943 to 1956 when the Clark County School District was organized.

Gertha Streeter
Jennifer Robertson

Chapter Four

1920-1930

In the early nineteen twenties, life in Virgin Valley was very challenging. The people had to work very hard in the fields to make a living and take care of their families because of the lack of jobs provided. But it was also exciting in ways, such as the growth and changes taking place.

One exciting event that took place was Bridge Day on March 18, 1921. The entire Valley met at the River and celebrated the completion of a bridge across the Virgin River between Mesquite and Bunkerville. Before this bridge was built, the people had to ford the River each time they crossed and often got stuck in sand and silt. The new steel and concrete bridge made a great deal of difference for travelers between the two towns. It also made it possible to drive to and from school.

Another very exciting event that took place was the consolidation of Educational District Number One. It was organized with Moapa Valley and Virgin Valley. Mr. Pierce was the first principal.

In the 1920's, first through third grades were held in Mesquite in an old lumber building where the Texaco Station and Mini-Mart stand today. Fourth through sixth grades in

1923 were held in a building where the old Mesquite gym is now located. In approximately 1922, the old school was traded to Zilpha Hughes Gurreo for the unimproved block of land where the school property now is, and a nice big school building was constructed. The fourth grade teacher was Emma Gardner. Leah Leavitt taught grades five and six.

In 1923 the Church decided it was cheaper to rent the school including lights, heat and janitor service than maintain the church. This was a large block school house with plenty of classrooms and a large all-purpose room on the lot the school now owns. This was rented for \$24.00 a month. The Church property was sold to Clara Granger, and she asked Walter Hughes to salvage the building and use the material in making ten cabins--now the Wagon Wheel Motel.

At this time, grades seven through twelve were held in Bunkerville in a building where the Bunkerville Community Center is now. The original building has been torn down.

The principal during this time was S. P. Fish, and later in 1927, Jack Whiting. Some of the members of the staff were Roy Shank, agriculture teacher; Mr. Barnson, history teacher; and Mrs. Snail, English teacher. Mr. Anderson, the FFA advisor, led members to earn State honors. Pulling weeds was a common activity in physical education taught by Mr. Pulsipher. Music was taught by Nile Washburn. He was also the director of many good operas.

The students rode to school on a truck bed that had boards for seats on both sides. The driver was usually a

male high school student. In the winter they brought blankets and coats to keep them warm. The first school bus was built in 1925 by Lewis Pulsipher. It was a truck with a roof on it.

Basketball and baseball were the main extra-curricular activities in which they participated. They also ran track occasionally. Their only competition was Moapa Valley. They only competed two or three times a year in each sport.

They had many activities such as the Junior Prom in the Spring. Prom tickets cost 50 cents a person. All lights were left on while the dance was going, except for one dance which they called "The Moonlight Dance." This dance was the only one where the lights were left off during the whole prom. They also had floor walkers who walked around the dance floor and watched for decency.

The big thing for the girls to do was to make their own prom dresses in home economics. The home economics teacher was Mrs. Bearnsen.

Another activity in which they participated was the Spring Festival. At this activity they all went to White Rock on horses and in buggies for a cook-out. This activity was generally held around Easter.

Marion "Tex" Hughes told of the times when some of the boys would run skunks under the floor of the school and make them spray. Then school would have to be excused because of the smell.

They had FHA. The members went to Reno for State competition. They competed in cooking, sewing, and first-aid. This was a big thing for high school girls. One of the experiences remembered by Myrtle Reber was about one trip to Reno when they ran over a bunch of nails and flattened all their tires.

The schools were not very modern. They had no indoor plumbing at first, so they had to use out-houses which were located in the fields next to the school.

Traci Carter

Elizabeth Reber

Chapter Five

1930-1940

The Great Depression brought a cold start to the 1930's. Everyone was very poor. Jobs were hard to come by. Everyone was desperate for jobs and the ones they did find, they worked hard at.

Don Lee remembers everyone in the whole town being very close. People did everything together like one big family. When someone got food, everyone shared.

The autumn of 1931 was during the height of the Depression. The people in Mesquite started migrating to other towns. They went to look for work because the mill workers and those on the freight run were not coming into the cafes and because the crops were poor on the ranches. People had no money because circumstances were poor. There were no fancy houses and a number of people lived in tents. The mothers cooked in wood stoves and washing machines were hand churned. They drew their water out of a well. The big event for the week was the Saturday night bath. They thought this was a privilege.

They didn't have many cars, but they rode in fancy buggies pulled by horses. Every Christmas they would put bells on the horses. Many, many times they would get together and make ice cream. And they used to swim in the

big ditch which still runs from the new softball complex to the Peppermill.

The Depression slowly faded in 1934. They set up a CCC camp where the men could work and earn money. It was located in Bunkerville where the Dixie Leavitt feed-lot is now. They had long soup lines in Bunkerville.

In the late 1930's Elmer Hughes and Howard Pulsipher built a movie house. It is torn down now, but it was across from the home of Bill Lee on Willow Street. The name of the theater was "Elward" taken from the "El" in Elmer and the "ward" in Howard. Admission was 15 cents. Children had grape stands to earn money for the movies and passed papers on horses telling people what show was playing.

They had one grocery store at the northeast side of town. Since people didn't have a lot of money, they traded crops for groceries at the store. The Post Office was in the grocery store, and mail was delivered on horseback.

For those fortunate enough to own a car, gas was eight cents a gallon. They could buy eight gallons for \$1.00, but never had the dollar remembers Don Lee.

A hamburger could be bought for 15 cents.

The high school was in Bunkerville. Students were transported by an old wooden school bus driven by the high school boys. If someone missed the bus, he had to walk.

Lunch wasn't served at school until the late 1930's. Up to then students had to bring their lunches if they wanted to eat.

In the 1930's they got money to build a gym for the elementary school in Mesquite. In 1936 there was no kindergarten. Second grade had 18 students. The teacher was Ann Hughes who began her first year of teaching that year. She continued teaching young people of Virgin Valley until one week before her death this year. Leonard Burns was the principal. The third grade teacher was Zella Burns.

Grades one through six were in Mesquite in the building which is now the Community Center. They started Kindergarten, and it was put on the stage. First grade was where the Court is today, and the second was in the area used by the Clinic. The auditorium was in another building north of where the clinic is today, but that building has been torn down. The other classroom was located north of the clinic, also. The kitchen was in the clinic.

In Mesquite, the school rooms had solid windows for light. Until electricity came into the Valley, there were no programs after dark. There was no piped water. The school had a well; and the water was pumped to a high tower located behind the portable, which was built by the industrial arts students and finished in 1986. There was also a large building in the same area which housed the buses.

In 1937 electricity was brought into Mesquite and when the school was wired, they could have activities at night.

At the same time they got money to build a gym for the elementary school, they got money to build a gym for the

high school in Bunkerville. The high school had three buildings. The high school was on the west (the old Flag School). The Bunkerville tennis courts are located on that land today. The middle building contained the auditorium, the classrooms and the belfry. It was where the the fire station is being built today. They held church services in the middle building in the auditorium.

The football field was where the rodeo grounds are today. Virgin Valley and Moapa Valley combined to have enough to play six-man football. Then football stopped because the basketball coach was afraid his players would get hurt. Then the football field became the Ag field. Bryan Hafen was national vice-president of FFA. Carol Hardy won the national FHS cherry pie baking contest.

Bunkerville established a Normal School or Junior College where students could go an extra year and become a teacher. About 20 people took advantage of this.

The school had normal classes including science, math, FFA, shop, geography, art and others.

It took a while for boys to get dates for proms because they were afraid of the girls. But once they got to a dance, they had a good time. An orchestra provided the music and they danced until they had to be home. The students had to be careful how they danced. They couldn't dance too close, and they never danced with the same person all night.

In 1937 electricity was brought into the little town. They used carbide to make light.

The only yearbook which could be located from the 1930's was one from 1937-38 and belonged to Caroline Reber. It was called the Vecho. The principal at the time was Elmer Randall. The Senior Class consisted of Marell Reber, Marva Bunker, Wilma Reber, LaVerne Hortt, Grace Pulsipher, Archie Hughes, Brent Bower, Raoul Leavitt, Cleo Frehner, Rex Peterson, Rodney Waite, Lavoid Leavitt, Dilworth Strasser, Lester Adams and Owne Hughes. The advisor was J. Milton Beck.

Juniors were Carma Reber, Norma Reber, Edna Lund, Marguerite Hughes, Joan Abbott, Marie Iverson, Caroline Reber, Karma Adams, Marjorie Hortt, Harley Leavitt, Amy Leavitt, Maxine Abbott, Jennie McKnight, Jean Abbott, Vernon Hardy, Wendell Leavitt, Vern Leavitt, Runell Reber, Brady Walker, Max Abbott, Derald Jensen, Billy Pulsipher and Lester Barnum. Clyde Allan Miller was advisor.

Members of the sophomore class were June Leavitt, Maia Enke, Rose Hafen, Pauline Oliver, Georgia Colton, Norine Reber, Wilma Earl, Orley Waite, Renay Leavitt, George Hughes, Elmer Leavitt, Allen Knight, Lynn Adams, Cloyd Tobler and Arthur Strasser. Anna Lou Peterson was advisor.

Freshmen were Rayma Abbott, Wanda Leavitt, Norma Horsley, Syble Adams, Norma Leavitt, Alice Leavitt, Maurice Leavitt, Bernice Bower, Clenna Robinson, Iris Leavitt, David Pulsipher, Vida Hughes, Lorena Hardy, Alvie Colton, Richard

McKnight, Reed Leavitt, Keith Abbott, Gerald Reber, Clair Hughes, Ernest Burgess, Gene Leavitt, Horace Lund, Melburn Jensen, Stewart Pulsipher, Don Lee, Cleave Barnum and Berdell Knight with Norma Petty as advisor.

Each year freshman were initiated into high school. One particular year the girls had to come dressed like old men with lots of clothes on. The boys had to dress like girls.

During the 1936-37 year there was a snow storm. It left a foot of snow which lasted on the ground for six weeks it was so cold. It killed trees, the cottonwood trees along main street and destroyed grapes being raised to make raisins.

The basketball team of 1937-38 finished second in zone and placed Brady Walker on the All-Tournament team. In basketball, if they scored 30 points they thought they were doing very well. In those days they didn't know a "jump shot." They called it a "set shot."

There were no girls sports. Track was a very popular sport. There were also successful band, drama and agriculture programs.

The first dance review in the history of the school was put on during the 1937-38 school year. It was one of the outstanding features of the physical education department. It had a cast of eighty-five.

Before 1940, Bunkerville was the business hub of the area. There were three gas stations, two stores, two

cafe/garages and a movie theater. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was also located there. They built rock dykes on the river, some of which are still intact and built flood channels. When the CCC left, it really hurt the businesses and most of them died out. There was an exodus of many people to Idaho. Many are still in Idaho, but some did return.

Kelli Waite

Danielle Chism

Chapter Six

1940-1950

During the early 1940's the world was at war. The forces of oppression were having their way in Europe and Asia. What a frightening time for teenagers to go to school and graduate to face an uncertain future. The decade in Virgin Valley education began at this troubled time.

Adversity and impending doom made the necessity of an education more important to the small Virgin Valley.

During the decade of the 1940's the schools in Virgin Valley operated under the Six-Six System. First through sixth grades attended elementary school in Mesquite. Grades seventh through twelfth attended high school in Bunkerville. The high school at this time was set up in a campus setting. It was comprised of three red-bricked buildings. The present Bunkerville Community Center was the school's gymnasium and science complex.

In the gymnasium, study and hard work took place as students labored in Chemistry. The basketball team tried to hold its own in this building against opposing basketball teams.

The real importance of the gymnasium was found in a poem written by M.T.H. (M.T.H. is quoted in many yearbooks,

and her identity is Mildred Hunt, the English teacher.) A section of the poem reads:

"The gym where we learn the best lesson of All
To fight hard and play fair and to think and stand tall."

If one is familiar with Virgin Valley's competitive spirit, it will be easy to understand that the gym was the focal point of the community on many winter nights.

The Administration building was located where the present Bunkerville Park is. It was situated where the swing and picnic area stand today. This building was known as "The Building of Life," because in this building the students could participate in all the essentials of life: work, sleep and eat. Delicious home cooked meals were served in the lunch room. These meals often consisted of a full course meal of mashed potatoes, gravy, biscuits, vegetables, roast beef, spanish rice and spaggetti. A meal cost ten cents each day. What a deal! Food could also be found in the Home Economics Laboratory. In one of the year books it was said that students often slept in the study hall or the sick room located in this building also. And as if there wasn't enough excitement in the Administration Building, most of the classrooms were located there. The Principal's office was also crammed into this crowded area.

The Music and Auditorium Building was located where the Bunkerville Fire Department's new building is placed. This building had many uses. The Future Farmers of America

(FFA), the Music, and English Departments all held classes in this building. The Student Council also met in this building to decide on assemblies to take place in the auditorium.

The school calender in the 1940's was designed to get the required school days over quickly. School started after Labor Day. They took very few vacation days to fit in all the required days before late spring. The boys were all needed to help plant and take care of the crops. The only vacation one person interviewed could remember taking was a week at Christmas. Others remembers having Armistic Day and Thanksgiving as vacation days. They were out around May 22.

Virgin Valley High School was very small. Not one time in the 1940's did it contain more than 23 seniors. The small size of the school made it difficult for the school to offer a wide variety of classes or a large number of them. The students were limited in the subjects they could study, but they weren't affected a great deal because they only needed 16 credits to graduate.

There had always been an abundance of great clubs and activities in which students in the Valley could participate. The 1940's were no exception. V-Days was held around April 1. Some of the clubs included the Fireside Club, Girls Glee Club, Boys Glee Club, Pep Club, FFA and FHA (Future Homemakers of America). The Fireside Club was comprised of girls who held an initiation with all the members running around in weird costumes. They held potluck

dinners and had slumber parties. The Pep Club was always a fiery group with a great deal of school spirit.

There were also many extracurricular activities in which to participate. The Music Department had a variety of groups which included an orchestra, band and chorus. The Drama Department had school plays and yearly operettas. The sports at this time were restricted to males only. These sports included football in the fall, basketball in the winter and track in the spring. The young ladies participated in cheerleading and were majorettes to support the athletic teams. All of the students at Virgin Valley High School had an opportunity to participate in these activities. This kept everyone busy, but it also was a great learning experience for them.

The year 1941 was an exciting year for most of the students involved. They held successful activities and made lifetime memories for themselves. The following information is taken from class histories in the 1941 yearbook. The seventh grade (class of 1946) began the year with 21 students. During the year they elected new class officers every six weeks so that each member of the class would have the opportunity to hold an office. During one of the many assemblies the seventh grade gave the teachers an examination and they all failed! One morning during their home period they went down to the river bank and had cookies and hot chocolate. They had spelling bees and the losing team would often provide treats to the winners.

The eighth grade had fifteen students in it. At the beginning of the year they presented an assembly called "Columbus." They were very proud of their accomplishment. For their class party, they all went to the home of Marie Hardy where they popped corn and had a candy pull. After they ate, they played games.

In accordance with the school tradition, the freshmen were initiated into Virgin Valley High School. During the initiation the Freshmen were required to dress up like Indians. The "braves and squaws" dressed in burlap and carried papooses and bows and arrows. A kangaroo court was held in an assembly and many of the freshmen were tried for minor law breaking. Later in the year they held a party underneath the bridge. Rain began to fall but nothing would stop this grand party. They roasted marshmallows and ate candy. The freshman felt good about their year and what they had learned.

The sophomores, juniors, and seniors all became greatly involved in extra-curricular activities and clubs. The football team played six-man football. For the second consecutive year football was victorious on many occasions. The reward for all the bumps and bruises they received was a Nevada State Championship. Virgin Valley won seven out of nine games. The two games the Bulldogs lost were against Hurricane and St. George on the Utah teams' home fields. The Bulldogs defeated Hurrricane at home, Boulder City twice, Alamo at home, Cedar City in Cedar, Las Vegas away

and Lodge at home. The Bulldogs traveled to Winnemucca to play the Northern Division winner. On November 23 they won the State Championship game by a score of 36-0.

Coach Tobler and the players held a banquet to celebrate the victory. At the banquet each player received a gold football. The team members were Melburn Jensen, captain, half back; Vern Waite, quarterback; Ernest Burgess, fullback; Stewart Pulsipher, center; and Lynn Adams and Don Lee, ends. Clair Hughes, Burdett Reber, and Allen Knight were substitutes for the team.

The Bulldog basketball team was also very successful that year. It won the District Tournament by defeating the Las Vegas Wildcats two out of three games. The Bulldogs enjoyed a 10-5 record in league play. During the State Tournament, which was held March 13-15, they won their first game but lost the next two. However, the boys had fun meeting girls and taking a trip to a Reno ski resort.

The track team had a fairly successful year especially considering how inexperienced they were. They came close to winning the home track meet when they lost by seven points.

As tradition would have it "V"-Day took place on April 1. The boys polished the "V" and the girls cleaned the school. The younger boys on campus stayed and helped the girls at the school, but they mostly policed the grounds. The senior girls later served a luncheon they had prepared that morning. After the luncheon, the seniors went and finished the day at the Springs with a swim.

During the next school year the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and America went to war. This had a drastic effect on education at Virgin Valley High School during the next four years. Mr. Hunt, the principal during the first five years of the decade, was quoted in a year book as saying "The best thing the students can do to help the war effort will be to learn as much as they can now so they can use their educations to help democracy in the world." Mr. Hunt's advice became hard for him to help the students attain as the War pressed on. There was a serious teacher shortage as many people joined the service or moved on.

During this time the teacher who taught Geometry on campus left. No one else could remember enough of it to teach it. The FFA teacher, Mr. Christensen, a very popular teacher, volunteered to teach Geometry. He would take his book home every night and study. The next day he had learned the example problems from the assignment. He would write them on the board and then solve them. What made this strange was that the example problems were the only ones he knew how to do. So everyone in class would just learn the examples and they would ace the test because Mr. Christensen didn't know how to do any other problems. The teachers at that time really tried to listen to the students and help them. Often they would show up at teenage parties.

The War even affected the school activities. To save gasoline for the war effort, it was rationed all over the country. The gasoline rationing prevented the cheerleaders

and pep club from going on trips. It also cut down the football schedule. One year they played just six games. Three were in Moapa and three were in Bunkerville on the dirt field. To save gas the teams travelled in the principal's and the coaches' cars.

The War didn't put a damper on all the activities. The students participated in fashion parade assemblies, rabbit suppers at the bridge, Christmas parties and gift exchanges. At the 1943 Junior Prom the gym was decorated with a victory theme, and flags of the United Nations were hung for decorations.

The students always found things to do. Every Sunday night someone would have a party. During these get togethers, pranks ran rampant as pies and food were stolen in raids. They would often hold community dances in the school gym. Everyone would come. They would have so many people attend that they had to kick the little kids out so they would have somewhere to dance.

The yearbooks in the two years of 1943-44 and 1944-45 were dedicated to the approximately 50 area servicemen serving in the War. The valley was really making a sacrifice for the War effort.

In 1944 the sports teams struggled. The football team had a 2-6 season and the basketball team went 3-10. During the Spring a new sport was added. Baseball came to the Valley in 1944 and has been popular ever since.

The opening of the 1944-45 school year began on September 5, 1944. There didn't seem to be any changes made at Virgin Valley High. The school still consisted of three main buildings: Administration Building; Auditorium, Commerce and Music; and the Gymnasium and Science Rooms. Even the sizes of the classes hadn't changed much. That was at the time of registration, anyway. The senior class started the year with seventeen students, but as the year progressed students moved away and others quit, until the class roll dwindled down to a skimpy eleven.

The Junior class came back to school with an extraordinary, grand number of 14 students and a great deal of enthusiasm. And by the end of the year they were very anxious and excited about returning for their mighty senior year. The sophomores out-numbered the juniors by only two, while the freshman rolled over everyone with 32 students. The eighth grade was few in numbers, but mighty in achievement. The eight students won the dollar's worth of candy for the most original song, stunt and yell at the football rally. They also won all three prizes in the "Bulldog Barker's" Christmas poem contest.

The seventh graders came in second in the number of students enrolled. According to their yearbook, their large number of 25 was looking forward to the new school year until they could plainly see that their school work was interferring with their fun.

The eighth graders weren't the only ones with success. The football team, composed of five seniors and one junior, took the Southern Zone six-man championship. The biggest event of the year, next to the Zone Championship was the Junior Prom. The dance was a success with a live orchestra from Hurricane.

The 1945-46 football team wasn't quite as fortunate as the previous year. They were only able to come out victorious in their game against Hurricane 26 to 6.

Unlike the football team, the basketball team finished the season as Nevada State "B" Division Champions. This accomplishment was practically a miracle. Throughout the season, they only won one game, but somehow pulled off winning two games at zone, qualifying them for the state tournament. The first game was against Wells. Virgin Valley dominated them with a final score of 53-26. The second game was played against Fernley. Because of a few transportation malfunctions, Fernley wasn't able to get any rest and ended up losing. This put Virgin Valley in the final game of the tournament. They once again came out on top, beating Carlin 38 to 28. Bunkerville celebrated the happy occasion by having a chicken dinner on the water tank hill. The following day a big Victory Dance was held in honor of the State Champs.

The band, being rather small in numbers that year, was the best they had had for years. They represented their

school well when they played for assemblies, pep rallies, the Mesquite Fair, parades and music festivals.

In the 1945-46 and 1946-47 school years, the size of enrollment decreased slightly from approximately 106 students in 1944-45 to 98 in 1945-56, and going down again to 94 in the 1946-47 school year.

The Class of 1947 had 26 students in it and four of the girls were named Irene Leavitt.

There were no parking lots at the school because the students and most of the teachers didn't have cars. Because gasoline was rationed, there were few cars made. Gasoline was twenty cents a gallon which was a lot at the time. There were speed limits of 35 miles-per-hour to conserve gas. Teachers rode the buses along with the students or they walked.

In 1947 the tradition of initiation took a different twist. This year the freshmen dressed like members of the opposite sex. It was really interesting to see what everyone really thought about the way the opposite sex dressed.

The school operetta that year was "Wild Rose." It was presented in three different towns on three different dates. It was shown in Mesquite on February 12, in Bunkerville on February 13, and in Overton on February 16. In 1944 the Football Queen was Gwen Reber; and the Rodeo Queen, Ellen Hafen. The Junior Prom Royalty was Arlene Thurston as Queen with LaVerne Adams and Nedra Leavitt as attendants.

The school's marching band had an excellent year. On April 8-9 the band traveled to Las Vegas and took part in the competition as well as marching maneuvers. To top off their year's performances, on May 15 they marched in the Helldorado parade in Las Vegas.

By 1948 there were 125 students in the high school between the seventh and twelfth grades with eight teachers including the principal. There were no teacher aides.

After the War there were veterans on the campus. A program was set up much like the Community College program which was funded by the G.I. Bill. Fifteen veterans took advantage of this program to further their education.

The Class of 1948 graduated 22 students including Carol Reber and Larry Hardy.

April Bunker

Jim Price

Chapter Seven

1950 to 1970

A new elementary school was built in Mesquite in the mid-1950's. The two outside elementary wings were built first. The school was much different than it is today. The foyer between the office and the auditorium was a breeze way and wasn't filled in for several years. The room behind the stage was the kitchen and students ate on the stage. The library was located in the present attendance office. The area where the library is today was an open court yard.

The high school portions were added by 1958. The school in Bunkerville was found to be in bad shape because of all the use and because of the Atomic Bomb testing. Education District Number One had no money, so it was put in the Clark County School District. The present school on Yucca was added on to in preparation for becoming part of the District.

The school was completed for grades kindergarten through twelfth. It was hard for the people in Bunkerville to have the high school moved away from the area where it had been for so many years. They had always felt there was an unwritten agreement that the high school would always be in their town.

When the lunchroom was added, students entered it from the other side off of the veranda or courtyard. Where in-house is today, the lockers were located.

Seymour P. Fish, who had been the Superintendent, became the principal and among the faculty were Wesley Hughes (Sue Chism and Marie Mickelson's dad), Boy's Physical Education; and Aunt Erma Leavitt (Vinnie Leavitt's mother). Margaret Hardy was one of the cooks. Lee Reber was the Student Body President. There were seventeen graduating that year including Roxie Bearden and Mary Lynn Leavitt. Vinnie Leavitt, Joe Bowler and Tony Burns were juniors. There were 94 students in grades nine through twelve.

Along with basketball, baseball and track, they also participated in swimming and tennis. It was the first year for tennis. Joe Bowler was one of the winners of the Lion's Club speech contest. The opera that year was "Cherrie of Cherokee Road," under the direction of L. K. Barney. Lynn Dunn also directed "The Importance of Being Earnest." They had band, pep band and chorus. Bonnie Hughes Boyce was the Junior Prom Queen and Roxie Barnum Bearden the V-Day Queen.

In 1959-60 Seymour P. Fish was still principal. Roger Hunt (brother of Joy Noel and Sue Woods and now a lawyer and Stake President in Las Vegas) was the Student Body President. There were 26 seniors, 98 in grades 9-12. Some of the graduates were Johnny Lee, Joe Bowler, Gary Biasi, Orpha Woods (Ruth), Sam Reber and Bonnie Boyce. Sports stayed the same.

"Finian's Rainbow" was the musical that year. Katie Pulsipher (Lee) and Vinnie Leavitt played Mr. and Mrs. Green and White; Orpha Woods (Ruth) was the V-Day Queen.

In 1960-61 Doug Hafen (Tilman's Uncle) was Student Body President. He and his family live in Las Vegas now.

It was a tradition for the seniors to go on a senior sluff trip every year. They would pick a day--to be known by only seniors--close to the end of the school year and would take a bus to Disneyland, Knott's Berry Farm and the San Diego Zoo. Every year the juniors would try to stop the seniors by stealing their luggage or something of that nature. That year the seniors assembled very early at the school and had a meeting in what is now the Chemistry room. The juniors waited until the seniors were in the room, then pushed cars in front of the door that went out the storage room into what was then an alley in the back.

As soon as the seniors found out what was happening, Art Reber, a pretty big guy, headed for the back door. The junior advisor was in the alley ready to block the door with a board when Art came barging through the door. He saw the advisor and stepped back inside. The advisor closed the door really fast and blocked it off. The juniors finally let the seniors out, and then gave them a going away party.

Ken Jensen and Guy Faught graduated in a class of 1959. The student body of grades nine through twelve was around 91 in number. The basketball team under Coach Wes Hughes had a disappointing season, but went on to place third in the

State. The other sports had good seasons, but had no state records. There was a strong music program under the direction of Nathan Smith. "Brigadoon" was the musical that year. Lynn Dunn took charge of the drama department and directed "Bell, Book and Candle." Bill Lee was F.H.A. Mr. Dream and Junior Prom King. Kathryn Abbott (Leavitt), now the Credit Union Manager, was V-Day Queen.

Blaine Allen, former elementary consultant, was the new principal in 1961-62. Bill Lee was the studentbody president, and Michael George Waite, senior class president. Both are businessmen in the Valley now. Only 22 graduated that year. Grades nine through twelve were down to 89. Once again the basketball team made it to zone, but they did not get to continue to state.

The band included students grades seventh through twelfth. The musical that year was "Call Me Madam," directed by Nathan Smith. He also did the plays "Blythe Spirit" and "Night Must Fall." The fourth annual Fine Arts Week was held, one of the largest of its kind ever to be held in Nevada. Lorraine Leavitt (Plaisted), Taylor's mother, was the Senior Ball Queen.

Kelton Chamberlain joined the faculty in the 1962-63 year. Blaine Allen was still principal, and Dan Frehner studentbody president. Dan's son, Justin, would have graduated with this year's seniors, but they moved to Pioche where Dan has a farm. Lowell Potter was one of the 16

seniors who graduated. There were 95 in grades nine through twelve.

After a ten year absence, football started again that year, with Karl Brooks as the coach. They won four out of eight games. The basketball team took zone, but was unsuccessful at state. The dramas put on that year were "Taming of the Shrew" and "The Heiress," under the direction of Nathan Smith. The chorus and band together made a record.

The yearbook took second place in the National Yearbook Contest.

In 1963-64, Harold Wittwer joined the staff as a coach and a social studies teacher. Mack Easton, who died about three years ago in an automobile accident in Alaska, was the Student Body President. Jack Faught and Kathy Hardy (Faught), and Garry Noel were among the 24 seniors who graduated that year. The nine through twelve enrollment was up to almost 120.

The sports were football, basketball, baseball, track, swimming and tennis. Vicki Lee (Walte) was the JV head cheerleader that year. Gwen Hughes (Olsen) was Homecoming Queen and Junior Prom Queen. Cliven Bundy was President of the VV chapter of F.F.A. and also State Vice-President. Melvin Peterson was F.H.A.'s Mr. Dream. The musical was "Oklahoma."

Blaine W. Allan was the principal all through 1964-70. In 1967 the girls basketball team won the first place

championship in the County playoffs. That was the first year they appeared in the yearbook. The homecoming queen was Rita Reber. The senior ball king was Creed Frehner and the queen was Nita Waite. The musical was "110 in the Shade." Joy Noel had the leading role of "Lizzie."

In 1969 the homecoming queen was Debbie Linge. The musical that year was "The Music Man," starring Alfred Frehner and Yvonne Hughes Johnson. The senior ball queen was Rita Reber.

In 1970 the student body president was Douglas Waite. The homecoming queen was Lou Ella Jones. The Senior Ball queen was Susan Hughes. The musical was "Flower Drum Song."

Aaron Waite

Heidi Tobler

Chapter Eight

1971 to Present

The years between 1971 and 1991 at Virgin Valley High School have been years of tremendous growth and years of many changes not only for the valley, but also for the school.

In the valley new and bigger casinos have been built bringing more jobs and more people. And more casino are on the way. Recently a small airport was built, and a plastics company is in the process of being built. The plastic company is supposed to employ many people, which will expand the town and enlarge the school.

As the valley grows, the school grows also. And as the school grows the need for modifications have been made. During these revisions the school has changed, the people working there have come and gone, and yet the tradition of quality and success have always stayed a part of the school and valley.

The success of Virgin Valley was contributed to by teachers, principals, and student leaders in the valley. They have always had a very caring staff who help students not only academically, but also with life's everyday problems and achievements.

Some of those individuals who made things happen at Virgin Valley are Blaine Allen, principal from 1970 until 1975; and Theron Jensen and Marian Clegg, studentbody presidents while Blaine Allen was principal. Dale Tobler, Scott Polock, Noel Thornley and Dan Thornley were all student body presidents while Dr. George Jeffs was principal during the years 1975-1979. In 1979 David Anderson took over the position of principal. He stayed in the position until 1986. Boyd Wittwer, 1980-81; Joe Bowler, Eric Wittwer, Dirk Jeffs, Aaron Thornley and Teri Frehner represented the school as student body presidents from 1979-1986. In 1986 Cody Thornley took over the role as studentbody president, followed by Randy Robison, Dagan Leavitt, Edward Ponce, James Price, and the 1991-92 President David Walte. Kent Anderson became principal in 1986 and is currently still working as Virgin Valley's principal.

Because of these and many more people, Virgin Valley has been a quality school. Without them and their leadership abilities, Virgin Valley would not be the school it is today, which is a very respected school.

The Virgin Valley School has had many changes and modifications done to buildings due to the growing number of students in the high school, junior high, and elementary. The foyer between the main office and auditorium was filled in, in 1971. The library was an open walkway, but was filled in because they needed more rooms. In 1981 a new

elementary wing was built to make room for the growing number of students. Classrooms have been divided with walls. Those walls were torn down, and again rebuilt. The most recent division was done in the library. A wall was built in the back to provide another needed classroom. The shop addition was built. A weight room was added to the gym, along with a boys dressing room on one side of the gym, and a girls dressing room on the other. Over the years three portables have been brought in, and in 1990 four more became part of the Virgin Valley campus.

These modifications and additions became a part of Virgin Valley and helped provide a more comfortable setting for the activities and education in the valley.

The traditional success of Virgin Valley has also been brought out in the drama program. In the years between 1971 and 1978, Steve Broadhead and Pat Reber were the directors of the plays and musicals. In 1971 they directed "Oliver," written by Lionel Bart. In 1972 they put on Rodgers and Hammerstein's "The Sound of Music." Frank Loesser's "How to Succeed in Business (Without Even Trying)" was a success in 1973, along with another of his musicals, "Where's Charlie" in 1974. Also, performed in 1974, was "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown," by Clark Gesner. In the years 1975 and 1977 the VVHS drama department put on two more of Rodgers and Hammersteins' musicals: "The King and I" and "South Pacific." In 1976 Johnny Mercer's and Gene de Paul's "Li'l

Abner" was preformed. In 1978 "The Wizard of Oz" was the last musical Steve Broadhead directed at VVHS.

In 1979 Pat Reber still directed, but now with Ernest Travis. That year VVHS put on "Mame", by Jerry Herman.

From 1981 until 1987 Greg Johnston and Pat Reber were the directors of the musicals at VVHS. In 1981 the students preformed "Oklahoma," followed by "Carousel" in 1982. Lee Adams and Charles Strouse were the authors of the musicals preformed in 1983 and 1984. These were "Bye Bye Birdie" and "The All Americans." The 1985 musical was "I Remember Mama" and in 1986, "Anything Goes."

"Cinderella" was directed by Greg Johnston, Susan Bennett, and Pat Reber in 1987. The same directors produced "South Pacific" in 1988. Also, in 1988 Susan Bennett, Pat Reber, and Sherman Bennett presented Lerner and Loewe's "Camelot." In 1989 "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" and "Pajama Game" were preformed. They were directed by Susan Bennett, Pat Reber, and Sherman Bennett. In 1990 Susan Bennett, Pat Reber, and Jerilyn Anderson presented "Li'l Abner." In 1991 the theatre department did a musical review, covering all musicals done the past 32 years. Directors were Susan Bennett, Pat Reber, Sherman Bennett, Jerilyn Anderson and Joy Noel. This preformance was a huge success.

The dramatics program at Virgin Valley has always been successful, and the tradition will continue.

Virgin Valley has always had traditional activities. They have the big Homecoming football and volleyball games, along with a dance. They also have Junior Prom and Senior Ball. Sometimes these two dances have been done as one dance and is called the Junior-Senior Prom. At these proms there are always the prom king and queen. Then there are the Reverse and Sadie Hawkins Day dances when the girl gets the relief of choosing her date to the dance.

V-Day is a day full of water fights, games, paint, and simple relaxation. This is the day students and teachers go up on the hill above town to paint the "V." (Not only the "V" gets painted, but also everyone there.) And this night there is a dance where some lucky girl is crowned V-Day queen.

Every Monday morning for many years the high school has met for the first few minutes of first hour to review the weeks events, tell of any activities, athletic events, or special assemblies. These Monday morning assemblies are conducted by the student body presidency.

Every year the seniors take a day off for "Senior Sluff Day." Usually the class decides on where, when, and what they'll do, choose a school day, then skip school. Although administration disapproves, it's a tradition and seniors don't want to break it.

Since 1971 VVHS has had a long tradition of being the best athletically. From 1971 to 1991 the athletic department had 32 state championships. The year 1971 held

two of those championships, one in basketball and the other for baseball. Both teams were coached by Kirk Brotherson. In 1972 and 1974 the football team took state. They were coached by Evan Wilson.

The next three years didn't have any championships, but 1977 began another long winning streak. Coach Kirk Brotherson coached the basketball team for four state basketball championships, 1977-1980. Eugene Hughes and Kirk Brotherson took the baseball team to the top of Nevada's 'A' division in 1980. In 1981 the girls volleyball team took their first state championship.

The years 1981-1985 showed how dynamic football was. They brought home five consecutive state titles. Coach Evan Wilson was the man behind these great teams.

The year of 1982 was a very successful year for all VVHS teams. They were the best in girls volleyball, girls basketball, boys basketball, baseball, football, and boys track. The year 1983 brought almost as many state championships into the valley including state basketball, baseball, football, and girls basketball.

In 1984 and 1985 Kirk Brotherson coached his basketball team to two more state titles. Also in 1983, the girls volleyball team added to the long list of state championships. They were coached by Tom Leavitt. Girls basketball, volleyball, and baseball teams took state in 1985.

In 1985 the wrestling team was the "A" division State runner-up. Armando Biasi, James Curtis, Jorge Macias, and Jose Munoz took their weight class for first place medals. Charlie Lee took a second in his weight class. These athletes were coached by Ned Mikkelsen and Evan Wilson. In 1987 the outstanding volleyball and football teams earned more State trophies to add to the vast collection.

The last state title at VVHS was taken by the girls track team in 1989. This was also the first state championship taken by the girls track team. They were coached by Ellis Cheney.

Virgin Valley High School has produced many fine athletes. Tammy Hughes added to the list of winners as she participated in the Special Olympics. She represented herself very well.

Many of the athletes at Virgin Valley have continued their athletic achievement in college and have excelled. The athletes at Virgin Valley have always had a lot of desire to do well. In 1989 the school moved into the 'AA' league. In the new league they are the smallest school with only about 220 students. They compete against schools up to four times their size. Since this move, the teams haven't taken any state titles, so far; but the girls basketball team, coached by Elwin Whipple, came close in 1991 by being state runners-up. The teams are working hard, hoping that soon they can add a state title.

The coaches at Virgin Valley have been the key to the school's athletic success. These coaches have spent uncountable hours training their teams. Because of this training, many of these athletes have received many honorable awards. The athletes have been a part of All-Conference and All-State teams. They have been MVP's and Players of the Year. They have many coaches named Coach of the Year. The fine performances of athletes and coaches at Virgin Valley are certainly something of which they can be proud.

Virgin Valley has had success in all areas they've competed in. They've had spectacular plays and musicals, done well in FFA and FHA activities, athletes have taken many state championships, and all other extracurricular activities have done well. But, even more important than any of those things, Virgin Valley has had many great teachers who have provided an high academic standard of the valley can be proud.

Students who have graduated from VVHS have been very successful. They've gone to colleges, universities, technical schools, and other places and have become a success in the areas they've pursued.

Keith Reber and Kelly Reber are successful podiatrists; Joe Allen, an ear, nose, and throat specialist; Lowel Bunker, a captain in the Air Force; Allen Romriel owns an insurance agency in Idaho; Vern Pollock is a chiropracter; Charlie Lee, a fireman; John Gleave, accountant; Danny

Thornley, a computer technician; Carl and Scott Barnum, computer programmers; Kolin Reese is in computer drafting; Kelly Barnum operates Burger King; Tony Barnum is an Army officer; Richard Jensen assembled bombs during the Gulf War; Dale Willard was in the 101st Airborne in the Gulf War; Hal Leavitt owns and operates Harley's Garage; Junior Dalton is the manager of Valley Market; Susan Bundy Hardy is the school nurse at VVHS; Ivan Jones is a brick layer; Elwin Barnum, Jr. works for Moore Business Forms; Richard Biasi owns Biasi Dairy; Nick Stathos works for the Arizona Highway Department; Debbie Waite is a Summa Executive Secretary; Joe Bowler, Lyle Hughes, and Larry Reber are entrepreneurs; Emil Cluff is chief of police in Moroni, Utah; D.J. Jensen is a security officer; Jennifer Reese is secretary of an electric company; Doug Waite, Bryce Frehner, Bruce Hughes, and John Jensen are with Overton Power Company; Theron and Kevin Jensen own and operate Sandia Construction Co. Cliff Hughes, Alf Frehner, Boyd Wittwer, Nick Bartlett, Bonnie Boyce, Pam Hughes Tait, Elmer Hughes, Joe Bowler, Vyonne Anderson Hughes, Claire Leavitt Crowther, Marnie Hughes Biasi, Dr. Tommy Leavitt, Vinnie Leavitt, and Mary Lynn Frehner Leavitt are teachers at Virgin Valley; Van Cluff is a teacher at Excalante High School; Tony Burns is corporate president of Ryder Trucks; Roger Hunt is an attorney in Las Vegas; Scott Peterson, realtor; and Melvin Peterson is an accountant. Jimmie Hughes is Mesquite Mayor and Bill Lee, Craig Pulsipher and Dr. Tommy Leavitt are City Councilman.

The list could go on and on. And it shows that Virgin Valley has done well not only in its extracurricular activities, but also academically.

Virgin Valley has been a fine place of learning and achieving. It's a place where teachers and administrators care about the students and their accomplishments. It's been a successful school in all areas. As the high school and junior high move up into the new school, it will become an even better educational atmosphere. But the success of the new school depends on the teachers, administrators, students, and the support of the Valley where the quality of people will make the new Virgin Valley High School an even bigger success.

The 1991-92 school year will begin with a very big change. The school will be moving into a brand new \$14.3 million dollar facility. The school will have a capacity of 800 students. The gym will hold 1200 and the auditorium 530.

The Clark County School District had originally planned to build an elementary school. However, the local leaders convinced the District that there was a greater need for a new high school. There was also the problem of selecting the correct location. One area considered was just across the Virgin River Bridge off to the left on the plain, but the present site over-looking the City was selected. Besides the support of the present administration and faculty, the City of Mesquite was a driving force for the

new school. The City donated the land that the school is on and did much of the preliminary work on the ground.

The move to the new location will take place following the 1990-91 school year and will be completed for the opening of school in the fall. Grades six through twelve will be in the new facility. Eventually a new elementary school will be built and the present complex on Yucca will become a middle school.

The founding fathers of this Valley who placed such early emphasis on the importance of education, would be extremely proud of the progress made by the present leaders who have developed the plan for the future in the new facility.

Julie Brotherson

Don D'Amato

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