History of Clark County Schools

By

HARVEY N. DONDERO

This Book Was Compiled and Edited By
BILLIE F. SHANK
Clark County School District Educator from 1951-1985



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About The Author . . .
HARVEY N. DONDERO



1909 - 1986

Harvey N. Dondero, born and educated in Nevada, for over fifty years dedicated his life to education of Nevada youth. He served as teacher, school principal, and central office administrator in Nevada and Clark County. He assisted eight superintendents and twice held the post of interim superintendent, guiding the policies and regulations which govern the Clark County School District today. A person of vision, he looked toward the future correctly predicting the rapid growth of the Clark County School District and formulated plans for successful expansion. Most importantly, he was a role model for students and fellow educators — a living example of excellence in personal, community, and professional endeavors. He was both mentor and counselor to numerous teachers and administrators providing encouragement to all. In 1977, an elementary school was named for the scholarly educator.

A devoted father and husband to Clark County Commissioner **Thalia Dondero,** he sought to strengthen the bonds between the community and the school. He was skilled in writing, had an appreciation for the arts, and a keen awareness of history in the making. Given these qualities and his unique vantage point, he was able to document the drive, civic pride, and value for learning exhibited by early Clark County leaders and thereby set the precedent and on-going demand for quality education for youth in Clark County, Nevada.



In Dedication



o the
Children of
Clark County . . .

May They Be Served
and Their Voices Heard

Acknowledgments

I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness and gratitude to the numerous Clark County educators who provided dates, historical information, research papers, and other data about the Clark County School District during its developing years. Their generous assistance was most helpful.

Additionally, many school district employees assisted in collecting materials for this history. Special note of thanks to **Madelyn Barnum** for typing the ever-changing manuscript and to **Roland Armstrong,** photographer.

Harvey N. Dondero, 1986

Foreword

In the history of education, the story of the process of imparting knowledge or skill is found in the account of the achievements of man. There is probably no story that needs more to be told in that only through the evaluation of the procedures used and the results achieved can the true value of the processes be determined. It is only through this determination and the use of the observations made that the maximum in improvements can be realized.

There was probably no one better qualified to prepare a comprehensive history of the schools of Clark County, Nevada, than **Harvey Dondero.**

Mr. Dondero began his teaching career in the Las Vegas High School, Educational District No. 2 of Clark County, in 1931. He observed the growth of the district from an organization serving a few hundred students to an institution providing public school education for upwards of 100,000 students. He worked under the organization for administering and for teaching that was instituted originally under the provisions of the Constitution of the state of Nevada, that of providing local schooling for Nevada's largely rural population in accordance with the needs of the time. He attended public school as a student and began his teaching career under that Nevada system in which every elementary and high school was conducted under the direction of its own separate school board in individual school districts, or under some corresponding combination of such districts, but remaining strictly local in nature.

As a deputy state superintendent of public instruction he supervised the administration of state interests in some forty-five districts or combinations thereof in three and one-half counties of southern Nevada. In this capacity, he assisted in the organization of new schools and districts and witnessed the dissolution of others where there was no longer a population to be served.

As an assistant superintendent of the Las Vegas Union School District, he participated in the transition of the state administrative system from the prevailing local districts to the reorganization of the state under the now existing county unit plan of administration. He then remained in an administrative position in the newly created Clark County School District from 1956, the time of its inception, until his retirement in 1984.

Organized education in present-day Clark County, however, antedated Nevada statehood. This is discussed under the Las Vegas Mormon Mission and the Muddy Settlements of the mid-19th century. Federal and state governments proved inimical to the church colonies and the new settlements were abandoned. Later colonies were successful under a more mature state government and state-sponsored schools and school districts became a fundamental part of the way of life in the new population centers, all of which have added to the rich educational heritage of Clark County.

Elbert Edwards

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Chapter 1
INTRODUCTION

Before There Was a Clark County

In the 18th and 19th centuries, various trails crossed the wilderness of what is now Clark County, Nevada, establishing routes between Santa Fe in New Mexico Territory and the missions in California, and from settlements in Utah to the California coast.

Meadows and natural springs, bases of the future Las Vegas, became known to the pioneers who explored this barren land inhabited only by tribes of Paiute Indians. The site then became a stopping place for weary travelers and hungry and thirsty animals.

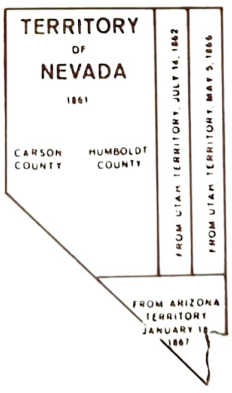
These trails were known by various names, depending on the persons using them: Spanish Trail, Emigrant Trail from Salt Lake City to Los Angeles, Mormon Corridor or the Mormon Trail, Old California Trail, Fremont Trail (John C. Fremont traveled the trails in 1844), Forty-Niner Trail, and even Arrowhead Trail. All of these trails passed through present-day Las Vegas valley, which offered water from its large springs for travelers and green grass for animals.



Early Boundary Changes: Creation of Present-day Clark County

Congress organized the territory of New Mexico in 1850. Present-day Clark County was included in New Mexico Territory until 1863 when the Arizona Territory was organized, placing Clark County in Arizona Territory. Therefore, between 1850 and 1863 that part of southern Nevada which is below the 37th parallel was a part of New Mexico Territory; from 1863 to 1866, southern Nevada was a part of Arizona Territory.

Nevada Territory, carved from Utah Territory, was created in 1861. When Nevada became a state in 1864, its southern boundary was at the 37th degree of latitude. Thus, the area which is now Clark County was a part of Arizona Territory when Nevada achieved statehood.

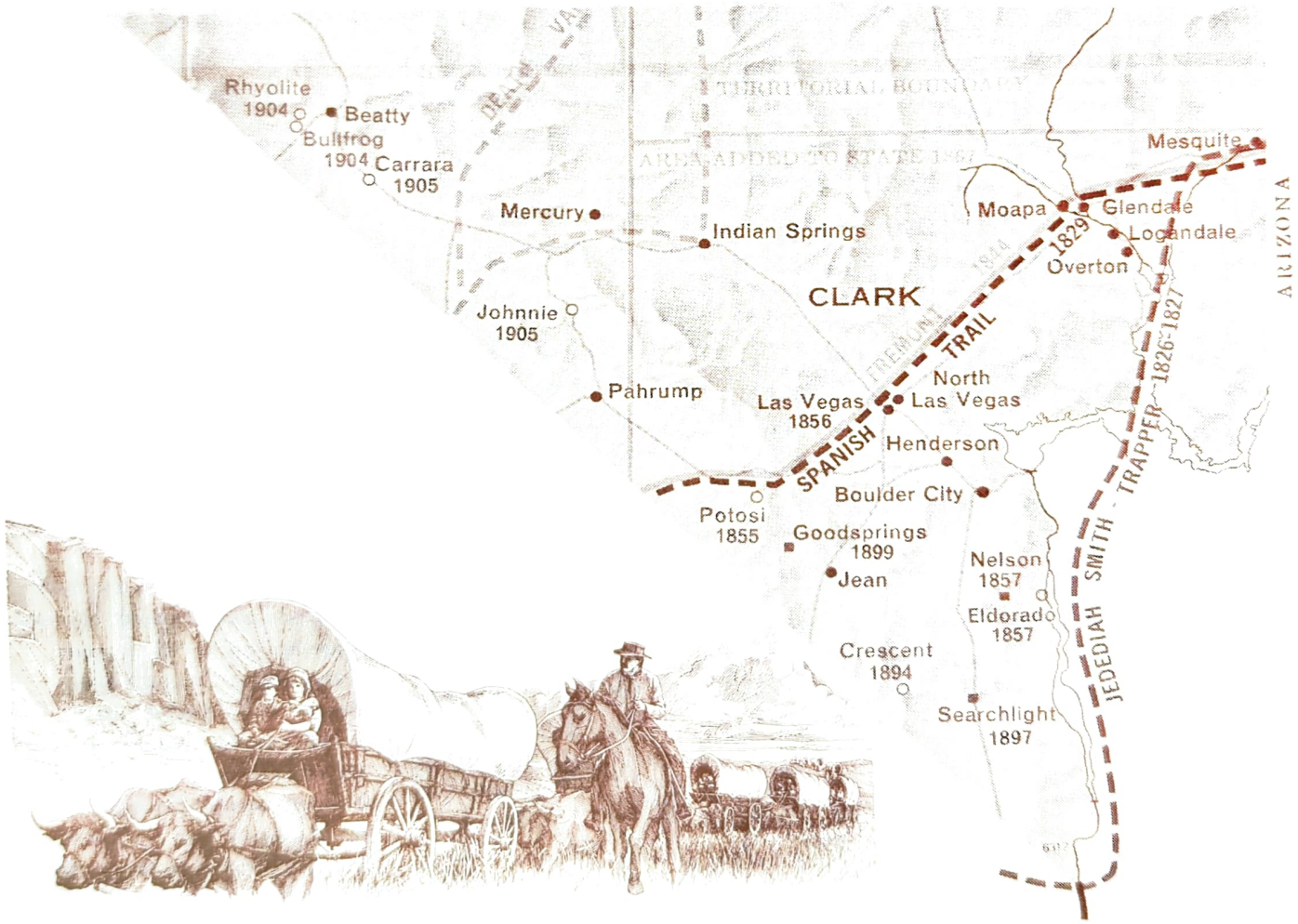


1861 — 1867

Territory of Nevada formed in 1861 from Carson and Humboldt Counties of Utah Territory. In 1862 Nevada Territory enlarged by extension eastward one degree into Utah Territory, and the state was created in 1864, coextensive in size. Additional extension eastward one degree into Utah Territory in 1866 by state of Nevada. Extension south into Arizona Territory to the Colorado River by state of Nevada in 1867. Nevada Territory existed in two different sizes; Nevada as a state in three different sizes.

An act of congress on May 5, 1866, added the triangle comprising the southern point of the state of Nevada to the southern portion of the area south of the 37th parallel. In 1867, the Nevada State Legislature approved the congressional act adding the triangle to Nevada.

Clark County became a separate county from Lincoln County on July 1, 1909, and Las Vegas became the county seat. On June 1, 1911, Las Vegas became an incorporated city.



Nevada Department of Highways, Carson City, NV
Prepared by Rand McNally & Company, Chicago, Illinois

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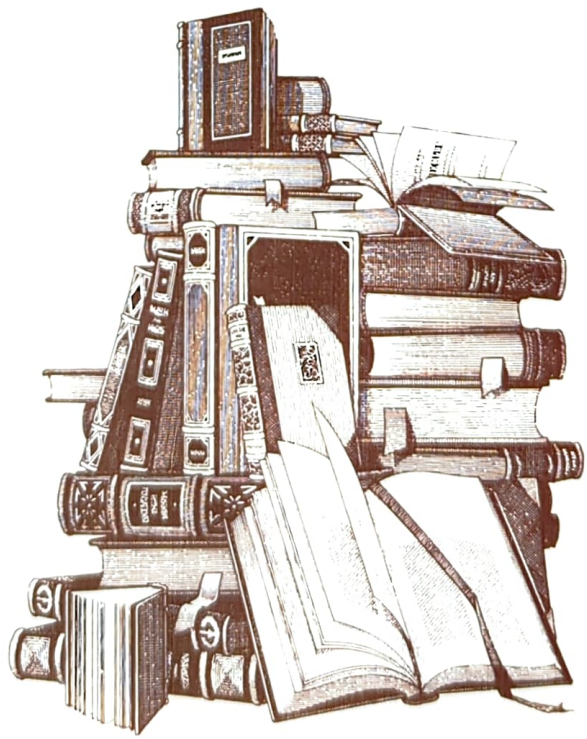
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Chapter II
SCHOOL IN THE OLD FORT
— 1856 —

The first non-Indian occupation of present-day Clark County came in 1855 when Captain William Bringhurst of Salt Lake City arrived with a group of 36 missionaries of the Mormon Church. The missionaries were detailed by Brigham Young to colonize the Las Vegas area *(still a part of New Mexico Territory)*, build a fort to protect travelers who used the various trails, provide a half-way station between Utah and California settlements, educate and "teach the gospel to the Indians," and "teach the Indians the arts of civilization, husbandry, etc." The settlement, known as the Las Vegas Mission, was located at the present-day intersection of Washington Street and Las Vegas Boulevard North *(first known as Fifth Street)* and became known as the Las Vegas Ranch.

Because some families followed the party, a school for the younger generation was organized in the fall of 1856, located in a section of the Old Fort. Construction of the school was the first job of the missionaries. Here began the story of education in Clark County.

The Fort was 150 feet square. The walls were 14 feet high, two feet thick at the base, and one foot at the top. Inside the Fort was the area designated as "the school."

At a parents' meeting on November 18, 1856, Alexander A. Lemon was selected as teacher of the missionaries' children and Indian children who could be brought into the school. George W. Bean was named to act as superintendent of schools. School directors were Edward Cuthbert and William W. Riley.

Journals of the Las Vegas Mission report that Elijah Knapp Fuller, a missionary who later journeyed to the Mission, was one of two men chosen to be teachers at the Fort school. His daughter, Zelpha Deadeura Fuller, born August 20, 1856, was the first white child born at Las Vegas. The Fuller family returned to Salt Lake City in 1858.

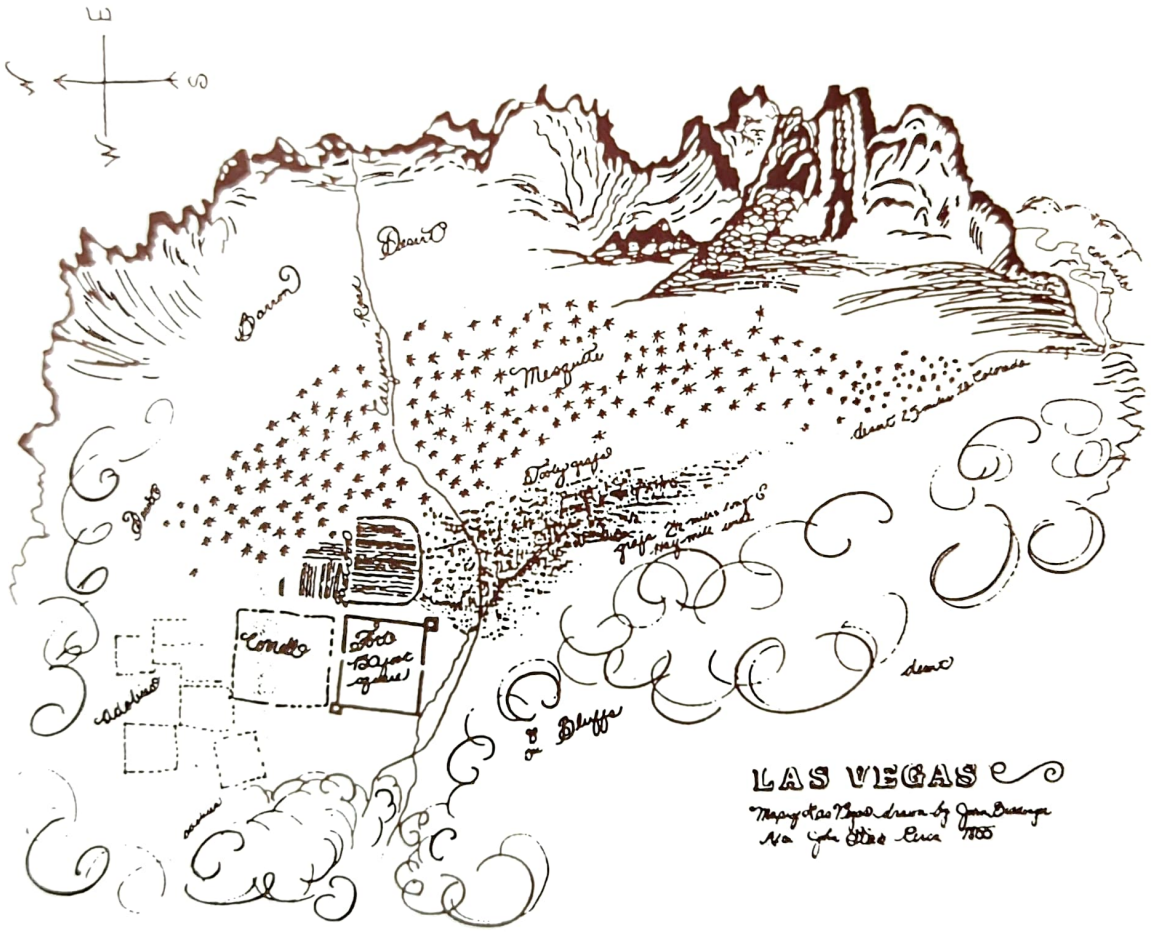
Parents were asked to contribute to pay teachers' salaries which were set at three dollars a quarter per pupil — this to be paid in produce or work. Indian parents were not asked to contribute to this plan. School directors, selected from among parents, were given authority to manage all things pertaining to the school and even had power to levy a tax on the people for erection of the Fort schoolhouse. It was agreed that each missionary school should pay $38 for construction of a joint school building and house of worship. Since the mission was abandoned in 1857, this plan was never realized.

In addition to the school for children, Las Vegas Lyceum was organized in December 1855. Weekly meetings were held in the evenings for the purpose of "diffusion of useful knowledge."

This first school lasted only a short time because the Mormon missionaries were recalled

to Salt Lake City in 1857 and the Old Fort was abandoned. The Old Fort land fell into the hands of other owners who later occupied it, mainly Octavius D. Gass, Archibald and Helen Stewart, and owners of the San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad (1903).

The next attempt to establish schools in the Clark County area did not take place until Mormon settlers arrived in the Muddy River Valley. The first settlement was at St. Thomas in 1865, followed by the establishment of four other villages along the Muddy River.



Sketch by John Steele, one of the Mormon missionaries sent to Las Vegas in 1855, giving his impression of Las Vegas at that time. In the lower right hand corner is the notation: "To President George A. Smith — This is drawn not according to any particular rule, being my first attempt at drawing, but it may serve to give you an idea of Las Vegas. John Steele." This sketch is probably the first "picture" of Las Vegas and an important historical record. The school was located in the square marked "Fort-150 foot square."

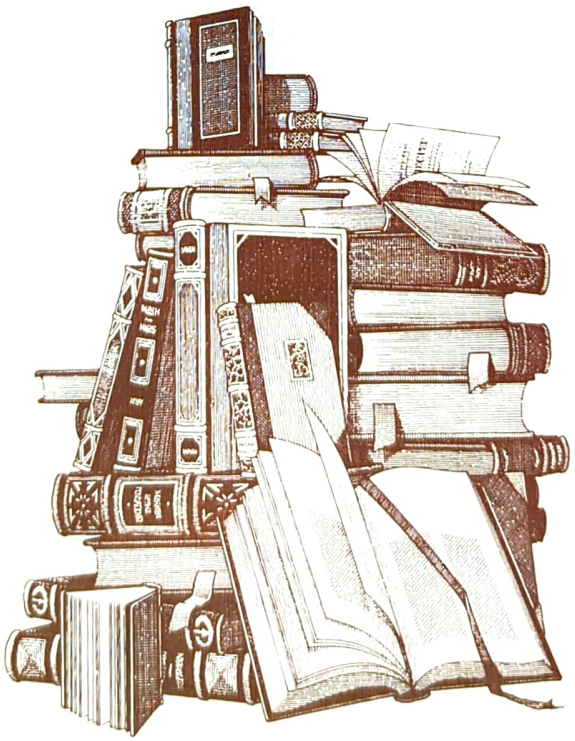
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Chapter III
EARLY SCHOOLS — EARLY SETTLEMENTS
— 1865 —

An adequate supply of water in the Muddy River Valley and the quality of fertile soil attracted Mormon colonists from southern Utah to the northern section of present-day Clark County. At that time, the area was still a part of Arizona Territory in Pah Ute County.

On January 8, 1865, the first Mormon settlers arrived and laid out the settlement of St. Thomas. The site was located about two and one-half miles above the junction of the Muddy and the Virgin Rivers which are tributaries to the Colorado River. These settlers, comprised of about 45 families, were a part of the "Dixie" or "Cotton Mission" of St. George, Utah. Later in 1865, the first school of any permanency was established at St. Thomas. St. Joseph and St. Thomas were often referred to as Twin Colonies.

Thompson and West, in ***History of Nevada, 1881,*** reported that at St. Thomas there was an adobe schoolhouse, 12 by 14 feet in size, which could accommodate 25 to 30 pupils. A school at St. Thomas was continued until 1933 when waters of Lake Mead began to back up to inundate St. Thomas and eventually cover the area. The last year school was held at St. Thomas was in 1932-33 with only enough students to warrant one teacher.

Other Mormon families arrived to settle the Muddy River Valley between 1865 and 1870. Settlements founded were St. Joseph in 1865, known today as Logandale, Overton in 1868-70, and West Point in 1867 *(upper Muddy Valley)* in the present area of Moapa. Mill Point *(1866)* was seven miles north of St. Thomas and three miles below the first St. Joseph which was abandoned in 1868. Mill Point became the new St. Joseph after a fire in 1868 caused many of the residents of the original St. Joseph to move.

West Point *(1867)* was located 12 miles northwest of St. Joseph on the Upper Muddy River near present-day Moapa; by 1869, twenty families were there. In the fall of 1870, West Point was abandoned, but there is no record that a school was located there. Apparently schools were established at most of these early settlements. The schoolhouses were usually combination meeting houses/schoolhouses, both filling a desired need in the settlements.

The Mormon colonists always built a background of culture in their desert communities and "calls" were issued to men and women qualified to teach, sending them into the various settlements to organize schools and teach the youth. Scant records report that schools were founded in practically all frontier communities but were often conducted under the most adverse conditions.

Successive fires in school and church buildings have destroyed official records of the early period, although some information is available from personal diaries.

In 1868, the site of a new town to be called Overton had been selected, but by the time the town was laid out in 1870, it was changed to the present location of Overton. Simonsville was a small settlement between Overton and St. Joseph. Rioville *(Junction City, 1868)* was established at the junction of the Virgin and Colorado Rivers and Callville *(1864)* was further south on the Colorado River.

Few records are available of the established schools *(1865-71)* or of formal education among these early settlers along the Muddy River. However, it is known that the people of the Mormon settlements placed a high priority on the education of the young and always provided for education of the children.

Most Muddy River settlements were abandoned by 1871 as a result of a dispute over tax collections between Lincoln County, Nevada and Arizona. This stemmed from uncertainty of boundaries. However, settlers began to drift back in 1880. On the reoccupation of Muddy Valley *(Overton)* in 1880, Martha Cox of St. George was hired as the first teacher. Her autobiography, written in the early 1900's, reveals much about education in what is now northern Clark County in the 19th and early 20th centuries and emphasized the need for a stable school system for that area.

Martha Cox tells of her trip to the county seat in Pioche to take the teachers' examination in order to qualify for her Nevada teaching certificate, and she provides interesting details of getting the school at Overton in operation. At the time of her arrival, she relates that the one-room adobe school was not complete. Rather than lose precious school time, the resourceful teacher arranged to carry on her classes in the open air.

Her notes record the opening of her school:

Directly across the stream was a level place shaded by three beautiful (cottonwood) trees. Here we brought a few of the school desks and Mr. Roscoe loaned me an old table for my use. The pupils hung bonnets and hats on nails driven in the trees . . . where I also contrived to hang my blackboard which I had always retained from the time I had it converted from a bread board for my first school . . . a good thing I brought it. That afternoon, September 1, 1881, I registered nine pupils.

Unable to find other accommodations for herself, Martha Cox moved into an empty cotton storage house. She was forced to do her own cooking outside and milked cows for a neighbor, in return receiving enough milk for her own use. During her spare time, she picked cotton or hoed weeds in order to meet other requirements for living. In 1882, the teacher recorded that she was serving a Mormon town of seven families: Whitney, McNeil, Crosby, Perkins, Kelsey, Manson, and her own. Truly one of the pioneer educators of southern Nevada, Martha Cox taught at Bunkerville, St. Thomas, Panaca, and Mesquite, Nevada; Enterprise, Utah; Mt. Trumble, Arizona; and finally, in Mexico, devoting her active life to education.

The action taken by congress in 1886 that separated the Mormon communities along the Muddy and Virgin Rivers from Utah and Arizona was a bitter pill for the people of those communities, one they greatly resented. It is significant that the educational system provided in Nevada did much to ameliorate relations between the state and local communities of Nevada and the people. Following a visit to these settlements, a historian of the Mormon Church wrote:

Although this is within the limits of high taxed Nevada, the people here find no reason for complaint on this account, as they receive back in school funds considerably more money than they put out in taxes, and besides, both the state and county officers are very kind and considerate to our people, and exhibit no animosity whatever toward them on account of their religious belief.

Seymour P. Fish was the last superintendent of Educational District No. 1 from January 1944 to July 1, 1956, after Educational District No. 1 had become a part of the newly consolidated Clark County School District. In a review entitled *"Brief Historical Sketch of Educational District Number One,"* which became a part of an information report on the Clark County School District, Fish prepared the following information on the Overton schools in 1956:

From the parent colonies established in Utah during the mid-Nineteenth Century, pioneer groups began to spread out to the surrounding country. Wherever river valleys existed with possibilities for farming, these groups established communities, usually with fairly compact community centers, similar to New England towns. Thus it was that the Moapa and Virgin River Valleys came to be settled, largely by Mormon colonists.

In the Moapa Valley the first colonization, begun in 1865, proved abortive, and about 1871 most of the settlers left. By 1880, however, they began drifting back. The first school at Overton, as nearly as can be ascertained, was opened in September, 1881 with Martha Cox as teacher. As the construction of a building had not been completed, school was held in the shade of some large cottonwood trees. Desks were provided and a blackboard section was nailed to a tree.

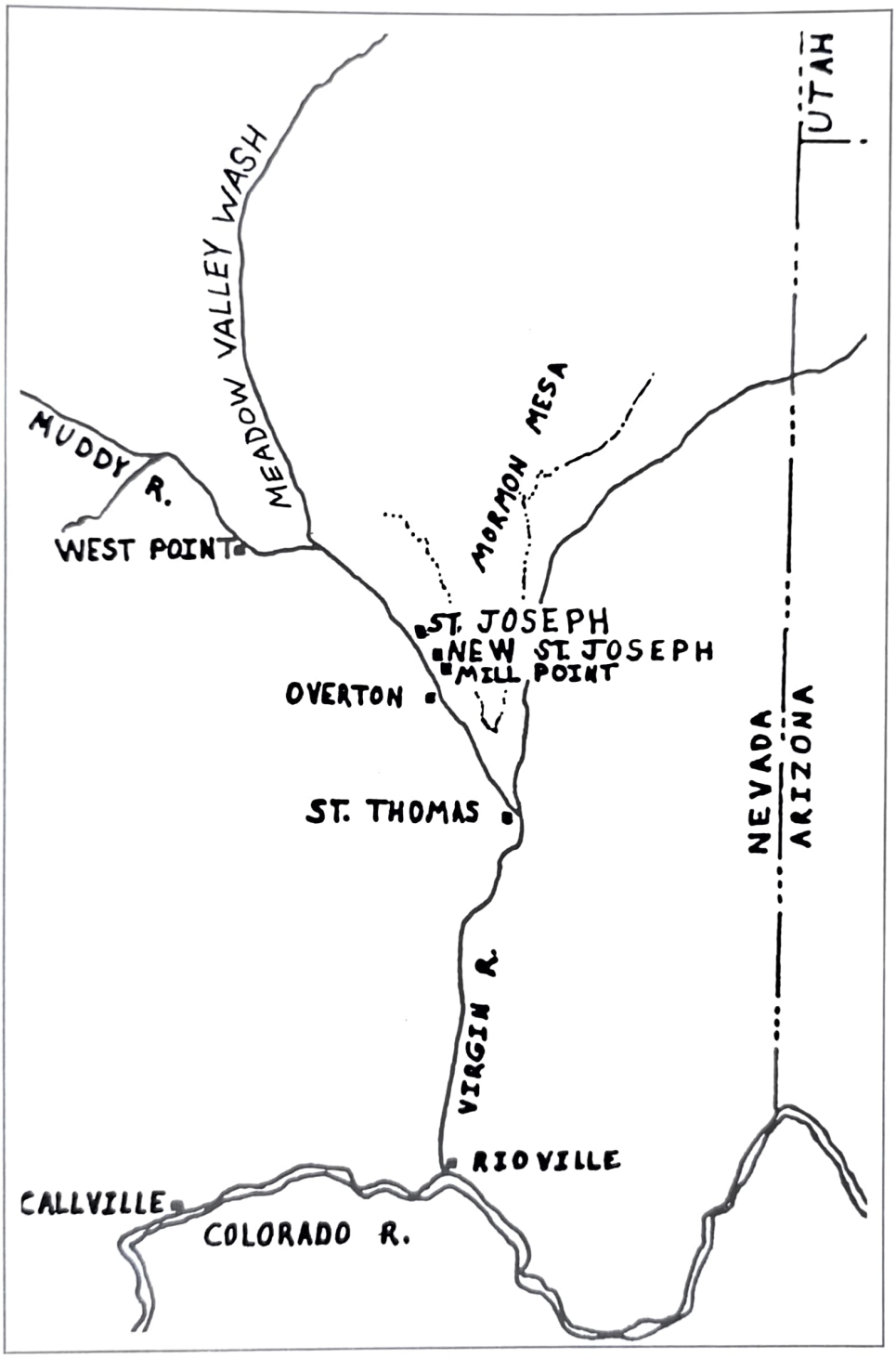
The first school building was later destroyed by flood. School was then held in a frame building owned by the McNeil brothers, then successively in the homes of Thomas Jones, Brigham Whitmore and Isaiah Cox. Next, the school board bought a 20 by 40 foot tent to which was added wooden floors and sides. About 1902 a brick building was erected which served for about ten years when a cement block structure was placed on the site of the present school building. Periodically, additions were made, and the building served until it was torn down in 1950 to be replaced by the building now in use.

High school work, a four year school, was added in 1915, and the first class of two members graduated in 1919.

Schools which continued in session in Moapa Valley were: Moapa until 1950, Logandale *(St. Joseph)* now Grant Bowler Elementary, Overton Elementary, and Moapa Valley High School at Overton. Over the years, schools were opened for varying periods of time in the Muddy River area at Kaolin, Crystal, Dry Lake, Moapa, and Warm Springs.

"Schools and Education in Southern Nevada," prepared by Elbert Edwards for ***Inside Nevada Schools: A Challenge for the Future*** by the Nevada State Retired Teachers Association for Nevada's Centennial edition, states:

It is interesting that one of the earliest records of formal education in the historic Muddy *(Moapa)* Valley is of the school established for Indian children in that area. A discussion of the school and educational progress was included in a report submitted by Indian Agent G. W. Ingalls from the Paiute Reservation, St. Thomas, Nevada, November 30, 1873. The report, in addition to providing a record of the formal schooling offered, is also of interest because it discusses what is believed to be the original introduction of the school lunch program in Nevada.



Major settlements of the Mormon Church's Muddy Mission located near the Muddy and Virgin Rivers. *(Map adapted from an article by Carolyn Grattan-Aiello in* ***The Nevadan, Las Vegas Review-Journal,*** *February 23, 1986.)*

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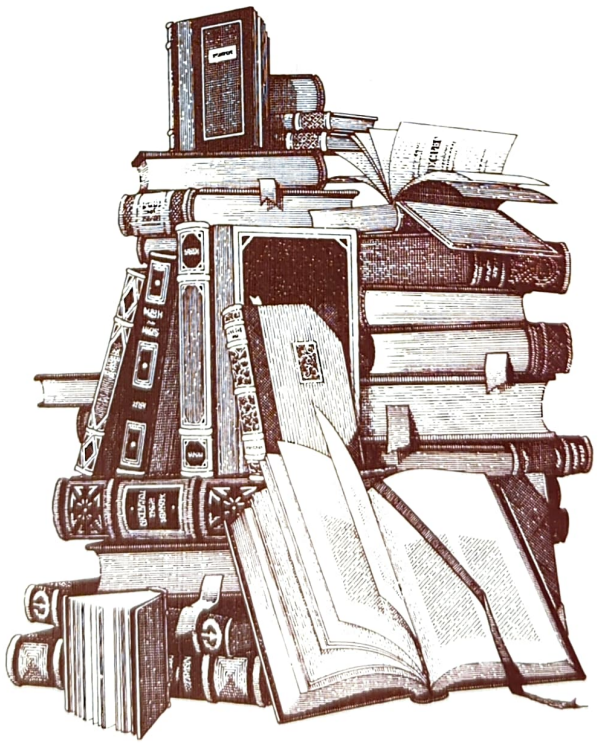
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Chapter IV
VIRGIN VALLEY-BUNKERVILLE SCHOOLS EMERGE
— 1878 —

Bunkerville was established as a Mormon colony on January 6, 1877, by a company of Utah pioneers from Santa Clara, Utah, led by Edward Bunker and his family, who decided to settle on the south side of the Virgin River. A formal educational program was required and the first instruction began on November 5, 1878. Since there were sufficient children then to warrant a school, the community dining hall was used as the first school room which later was moved to a "little shanty on the hill." When the Bunkerville townsite was surveyed, a choice and centrally located block of land was set aside for a combined school, meeting hall, church, and social center.

Thomas and West's ***History of Nevada, 1881*** reports that in 1880, Bunkerville had a population of 125 people and a day school with an enrollment of 33 pupils.

James Smith Abbott, in his autobiography, described the first school in Bunkerville, as remembered by a ten-year-old boy:

> On the present school grounds we set up four posts, lashed poles around about and overhead and cut green willows and leaned against them. These were over head and this is where we went to school. Our teacher was Samuel O. Crosby. What schooling we got was effective but there was much interruption for the farm had to be worked and many other jobs had to be done. We were out of school about half the time. As this brush shanty would not do for cold weather we built another house of adobe. It had windows and a board floor but the roof was thatched. It was much better and more suited to our purpose. This house was used for church and school and all socials and dances. For these things it got by for some years.

Abbott remembers that equipment in the school was primitive and rough: homemade benches of split cottonwood logs, a long table, and a bit of blackboard. Some students had slates or pieces of slate. The teacher had a spelling book, an arithmetic book, and two or three readers. This same year, Myron Abbott taught a night school for men and boys old enough to work in the fields during the day.

Mr. Abbott also recorded a note on student attitude and attendance:

> The attitude of the students toward their school work was good, but there were many interruptions caused by the demands of farm work, the herding of cattle, and the need to make frequent repairs on the irrigation dam and canal. The boys were out of school more than half the time to assist in keeping the economy of the little community progressing.

Erma Leavitt, a member of a pioneer Virgin Valley family and a long-time resident, gave the following information in an article prepared on the history of Virgin Valley:

In 1890 Martha Cox, formerly a teacher at Overton and now employed at Bunkerville writes, 'I gave a month's teaching toward a meeting *(church)* house. The boys donated lumber.' Mrs. Cox taught school alone until 1894. Because of the great increase of pupils that year, she applied for an assistant, and the services of Mrs. J. I. Earl were offered and accepted for five dollars a 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.

Grant Hardy, a former teacher at Virgin Valley and later in Las Vegas schools, in his ***Short History of Bunkerville,*** in 1960, wrote this summary of the Bunkerville schools:

Bunkerville Precinct and School District

Life began politically for the community in November 1878 when in response to a petition of the settlers, the officials of Lincoln County created the precinct of Bunkerville and ordered an election to be held on that date. At this time a school district was also granted.

The community evidently took little notice of politics, since it was not until September 15, 1884, that a primary convention was held. S. C. Crosby, Myron Abbott, and J. I. Earl were elected to the county convention to be held in Pioche on the 24th of this month. In March of 1879, however, following the organization of the school district, George W. Lee, Charles F. A. Heath, and S. A. Bunker were elected and qualified as school trustees.

Bunkerville's First School

In 1878 Charley Heath became the first teacher of the Bunkerville school. This first school was conducted in the lumber dining hall, and the term was three or four months.

The next year Myron Abbott conducted a night school for boys that had to herd cows and work on the farm in the day time.

Flag School of 1881

This school is rightly named because it was made out of poles and flags. The flag school was located just a few roads east of the present elementary building, and Samuel O. Crosby became the first teacher, having also taught the year before in 1880. School was only held when the boys didn't have to herd cows, hoe weeds, and thin cotton. The subject matter was limited to reading, writing, arithmetic, and spelling. All school equipment was owned by the private instructor. The furniture consisted of homemade benches and tables. In 1882 George Whitney became the instructor, and the school was continued for the next three years in the "Flag School."

School Moved in the Rock Church, 1900

The Mormon Church helped the settlers to erect a church building and school house combination in 1900. This was a structure 75 by 100 feet with a stage, arched ceiling, and the rock for the structure was gathered from the hills.

Martha Cox was one of the first instructors in the old Rock Church. Due to a great increase in pupils about 1900, Mrs. J. I. Earl was hired as an assistant to Martha Cox for $5 a month. Shortly after 1900 a third teacher had to be added because of the increased enrollment.

The old "Rock Building" served the church and school faithfully for twenty-one years. But in 1921 the building caught fire while school was in session and the complete inside burned out, leaving nothing but the rock walls.

Another Rock Building Constructed

After the first building was completed the towns people saw the necessity of another rock building for school purposes. By cooperation and effort, the local citizens soon bonded themselves and a new building for the grades from one to eight was under construction. This building, completed soon

after, was a four-room structure, three rooms of which were connected by sliding doors. Joseph I. Earl went to Carson City and received a personal appropriation of $300 from Senator Newlands in order that the roof might be completed. As the pupils increased, the county became more free with its taxable money; and the ninth and tenth grades were added to the Bunkerville school system.

First High School Graduation

The first high school was organized in 1911 with fifteen students under the aggressive leadership of Edward Cox, with Paul C. Miner as the teacher. A. L. Kelly and E. S. Romney were hired in 1913 by the local school board to teach such subjects as: physical sciences, social science, and domestic science.

Mr. A. L. Kelly taught one of his classes in the old woodshed just north of the rock building. This class was just as effective as any of the others according to Mr. Kelly. Two years after the high school was organized, the community saw it graduate eight students. Most of these first graduates proved themselves in the successful way after leaving Bunkerville because their success in other fields demonstrated the firm foundation of the beginning school.

Before the first high school classes were started at Bunkerville, high school students attended the Las Vegas High School *(Clark County High School No. 1)* and the girls lived in a dormitory on Fremont Street in Las Vegas provided by the Board of Education. The boys lived in private homes in Las Vegas and were given an allowance of $7.50 a month to pay their costs.

The first Bunkerville high school classes were referred to as Clark County High School No. 2 *(Las Vegas High School being Clark County No. 1)* but the change was made to Virgin Valley High School in 1918.

New Concrete Building Completed 1917

Because of inadequate classrooms a new frame building was begun in 1916. After the frame work was completed a disastrous wind almost demolished it. Discouraged in their attempt, the people decided by vote to raise enough money to build a concrete building. This building, completed the following year, was equipped with a gas lighting system and a fair means of heat and ventilation. It was adequate for all high school needs of the time and contained a large assembly and recreational hall, classrooms, cooking, sewing, and chemistry rooms, library, office, and ample space.

Educational District No. 1, 1919

Under the aggressive ability of A. L. Kelly, consolidation by the state legislature was effected in 1919. The towns of Bunkerville and Mesquite in the Virgin Valley were consolidated with Logandale, Overton, and St. Thomas in Moapa Valley to form Educational District No. 1. Mr. Kelly was chosen superintendent for the next ten years.

Edgar Mineer succeeded A. L. Kelly as second superintendent of District No. 1. During his administration, the district advanced materially as well as educationally in all the respective schools. Through his aggressiveness, he obtained funds from the state, built new buildings, improved the campuses as well as the older buildings.

Paul Thurston Becomes the Third Superintendent in 1935

Mr. Paul Thurston made many improvements as well as changes. During his ten-year term employed as superintendent, he established a more efficient budget system that proved valuable in an economical way as well as being a proficient method of checking and knowing exactly where every cent was spent. Semi-annual nation-wide achievement tests were

inaugurated in the district, which gave the board members, teachers, and patrons a knowledge of the standards and achievements of this district in comparison to other schools throughout the United States.

An elementary supervisor was hired as a full-time supervisor to the district to aid in any way the improvement of the first six grades. This added appointment proved a great asset to the school system by raising the standards of all the district elementary schools.

In 1956, Educational District No. 1 became a part of the newly formed Clark County School District under the jurisdiction of the Clark County Board of School Trustees and the county superintendent. Dell H. Robison, who had served as a member of the Educational District No. 1 Board of Trustees for more than 30 years, became the first member of the new Clark County Board of School Trustees to represent the Educational District No. 1 *(valley)* area. Dell H. Robison Junior High School, built in 1974, was named in his honor. Superintendent Seymour P. Fish became the area administrator until his retirement in August 1961.

Information prepared in 1956 on Educational District No. 1 by Fish, last superintendent of Educational District No. 1 before consolidation of the Clark County School District, appears as a section of a "Background and Related Information Report" on the Clark County School District. Fires in church and school buildings have destroyed official records of this early period. Fish's report reads partly as follows:

It appears that school at Bunkerville may have been held under a bower or willow shack prior to 1880. According to the diary of Joseph I. Earl, who served more than twenty years as trustee, the first building "on this ground" was built of adobe with a thatched roof of tule. On January 1, 1902, Mr. Earl wrote, 'I am supervising the building of a school house the Bunkerville people are putting up. It is being built of rock. There *(are)* three classrooms, one hall and one Literary room.'

At the dedicatory services in the new school building on March 23, 1906, Mr. Earl said, 'Now we have erected on this spot the best school building in Lincoln County, Nevada.' On the same occasion, James S. Abbott said 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.'

By 1911 the people had determined to have a high school. The high school class, with Paul C. Miner as teacher, was held in one room of the grade school building. In 1913 two more teachers were added, Mr. A. L. Kelly and Mr. E. Romney. As each year added more students, more classrooms and equipment were needed.

It was during this period that Bishop David Cox sought help from the county commissioners. The commissioners thought that dormitory facilities should be provided at Las Vegas and the children sent to the Las Vegas High School. Bishop Cox was obdurate and finally won his point, though the amount of aid given seems to be in doubt. One of the commissioners expressed the fear that if Bunkerville were allowed to have a high school, then Moapa Valley would want one too. Said Mr. Cox, 'I hope they have enough sense to insist on their own high school.'

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

By 1915 there was a faculty of four members, and that year a class of ten graduated from the four-year course.

In 1917 the school house burned and the church building was turned into a school. On December 6, 1920 the church burned. No books, records or equipment seem to have been saved.

In the meantime, construction had been started on what is now called the West Building of the Virgin Valley High School. In 1923 a second building was erected providing a gymnasium-auditorium and four classrooms. Since then a vocational agricultural shop and a gymnasium have been added *(1937-38).*

Throughout this period there was growth in the outlying areas of each valley. Elementary schools in St. Thomas and Mesquite grew to rival those of Overton and Bunkerville. One- and two-room schools were created to provide for Moapa, outlying ranches, railroad groups, Indian reservations, etc. Students began to travel in order to attend the two high schools.

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 and their environs. With skillful lobbying and work by Clark County legislators, the county was divided in 1919 into two educational districts, number one comprising the "valleys" and surrounding areas to the extent of about fifty-seven townships and number two comprising the rest of the county. Educational District No. 1 represented complete consolidation of all the area under one school board and superintendent. District 2, which was the remaining part of Clark County, provided consolidation for high school only.

Through this period of consolidation, the one- and two- room schools in Educational District No. 1 were gradually closed. By the time of county consolidation in 1956, children from what had been at least fourteen separate districts were attending the four schools at Mesquite, Bunkerville, Logandale, and Overton.

During the life of Educational District No. 1, there have been four superintendents. The administration of A. L. Kelly, 1919-29, was marked by consolidation and building. During the period of Mr. F. Edgar Mineer, 1929-35, the school at Logandale was enlarged, transportation was improved and greater emphasis was placed on curriculum enrichment, especially in music and art.

The term of Mr. Paul Thurston, September 1935 to October 1943, was a period of struggle with the federal government for building funds. During this period gymnasiums were built with federal assistance at Overton, Bunkerville and Mesquite. Also, under N.Y.A., the metal shop buildings at Bunkerville and Overton were replaced with cement brick structures. The administration of Mr. Seymour P. Fish, January 1944 to July 1, 1956, *(when county district superseded educational district organizations)* was marked largely by a struggle for state equalization in school financing. During this period the last of the one- and two-room schools, Moapa and Dry Lake, were closed, transportation was improved and extended and a new school building was constructed at Overton housing grades one through twelve and a new elementary school building was erected at Mesquite for all students of the Virgin Valley from kindergarten through the sixth grade.

Thus it had been that "The Valleys" have carried on the most nearly complete program of voluntary consolidation of any section of Nevada. Always handicapped with lack of money, the people have consistently taxed themselves to the limit of legal provisions. It is the attitude of the people to continue to support every move which will provide better educational opportunities for their children.

Mesquite's First Schools — 1880

The first attempt at colonizing Mesquite Flat was made in early 1880 by Mormon settlers called from Panaca, Pine Valley, and St. George. Mesquite Flat was a narrow strip of land running along the north side of the Virgin River, beginning at the present Arizona state line and extending westward to the foothills of Mormon Mesa. By May 1882, 71 persons from 15 families were living in Mesquite.

The first school was started in Mesquite about 1882. Lucius Peck was the teacher as well as working as a store helper and postmaster. School was held in the living room of his home.

By 1891, colonization of Mesquite was abandoned because of floods, hot weather in the summer, and other adverse conditions. Resettlement of Mesquite occurred in 1895. During the winter of 1895, school was organized and held in the home of Charles M. Hardy with Lorena Hardy serving as the teacher. This school lasted only a few months.

In the winter of 1896, school was held in a room furnished by Jessie Waite. By fall of 1897, a large tent, located where the present school stands, had been set up for public gatherings and also served as the schoolhouse. Belle Bunker was the teacher in 1897.

By 1909, a church had been built in Mesquite and served as a schoolhouse. 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.

Erma Leavitt, member of a pioneer Virgin Valley family and long-time resident, in her article on the history of Virgin Valley, made the following statements:

> The Mormon population were well pleased from the beginning, with the free school system of Nevada and taxation now was not seriously opposed. During the first year of settlement on the Virgin, John T. B. McAllister, speaking in conference, reports to the effect that:
>
> > 'Taxes were high in Nevada, the rate being three and eight-tenths per centum and power under Nevada law to increase the rate of four and a quarter per centum on the assessment.'
>
> The report went on to state that although the Nevada taxes were high, the people had a free school system, thus most of the taxes were refunded to educate the children and build school houses.

In 1892 an article written from Bunkerville appeared in the ***Deseret News*** as follows:

> State and local officers more and more began to recognize the benefits gained by cooperative effort and remarkable advancement has been the result in the Virgin Valley. By 1905, housing facilities for students were needed and accordingly a public meeting was called and the people voted to bond themselves for a new building for the grades from one to eight then being conducted. This building completed soon after, was a four roomed rock structure, three of which were connected by sliding doors. Classes were slowly increasing in number. By 1911 a vigorous campaign led by Edward I. Cox, Joseph I. Earl and others resulted in petitions signed by the citizens of the valley in response to which the state made appropriations for a ninth grade that year registering fifteen pupils. The following year appropriation was made for an additional grade, the tenth, in which ten students were enrolled that year making an

enrollment of thirty students the second year. There were two teachers instead of one. The teachers, Paul Miner and J. W. Whiting both taught some grade work. They also added an upstairs room to the grade building, and the lawns made the study rooms.

In 1913 they were holding school in private homes, and had two new teachers, principal A. L. Kelly and E. Romney. The next year another teacher was added, William Baker.

In 1916 graduating class began their last year in the church building. The stage served as a classroom, the hall as the study room, but the real study rooms were the woodshed, barn and hayloft.

Because of inadequate classrooms a new frame building was begun in 1916. After the frame work was completed, a disastrous wind storm almost demolished it. Discouraged in their first attempt, the people decided by vote to raise enough money to build a concrete building. 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.

This new building was equipped with a gas lighting system and a fair means of heat and ventilation. Huge wood burning stoves were put in a corner in each room for heating purposes. 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.

Under the direction of A. L. Kelly, consolidation was affected in 1919, the towns of Bunkerville and Mesquite in Virgin Valley consolidating with Logandale, Overton, Moapa and St. Thomas to form Educational District No. 1.

The Virgin Valley Elementary School and Virgin Valley High School at Mesquite, part of Educational District No. 1, became a part of the Clark County School District consolidation in 1956, under the jurisdiction of the Clark County Board of School Trustees. In 1956, a new elementary school building to house Virgin Valley Elementary was erected at Mesquite for all Virgin Valley students from kindergarten through sixth grade. In 1958, elementary grades at Bunkerville were moved to Mesquite and students were transported to that school. From 1911 until 1958, Virgin Valley High School *(grades 7-12)* was located at Bunkerville but in 1958, high school classes were also established in the new plant in Mesquite.

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Chapter V
FIRST PERMANENT SCHOOLS IN LAS VEGAS

The Founding of Las Vegas Meant Schools Would Follow

The Las Vegas area became a division point between Los Angeles and Salt Lake City when the San Pedro, Los Angeles, and Salt Lake Railroad was built through southern Nevada in the early 1900's. Land for railroad use was purchased in 1903 from Helen J. Stewart of the Stewart Ranch, also called Las Vegas Ranch or Old Ranch. Helen Stewart hired J. T. McWilliams to survey the land for sale to the railroad.

McWilliams, for whom the J. T. McWilliams Elementary School is named, acquired an 80-acre government tract adjoining the Stewart Ranch and began selling lots in "Las Vegas" in 1904. This area, now bounded by Bonanza Road, Washington, "A," and "H" Streets, became a bustling tent community during the construction of the railroad. In April of 1905, about 1,500 people lived in this townsite or along Las Vegas Creek. The area, now referred to as Westside or



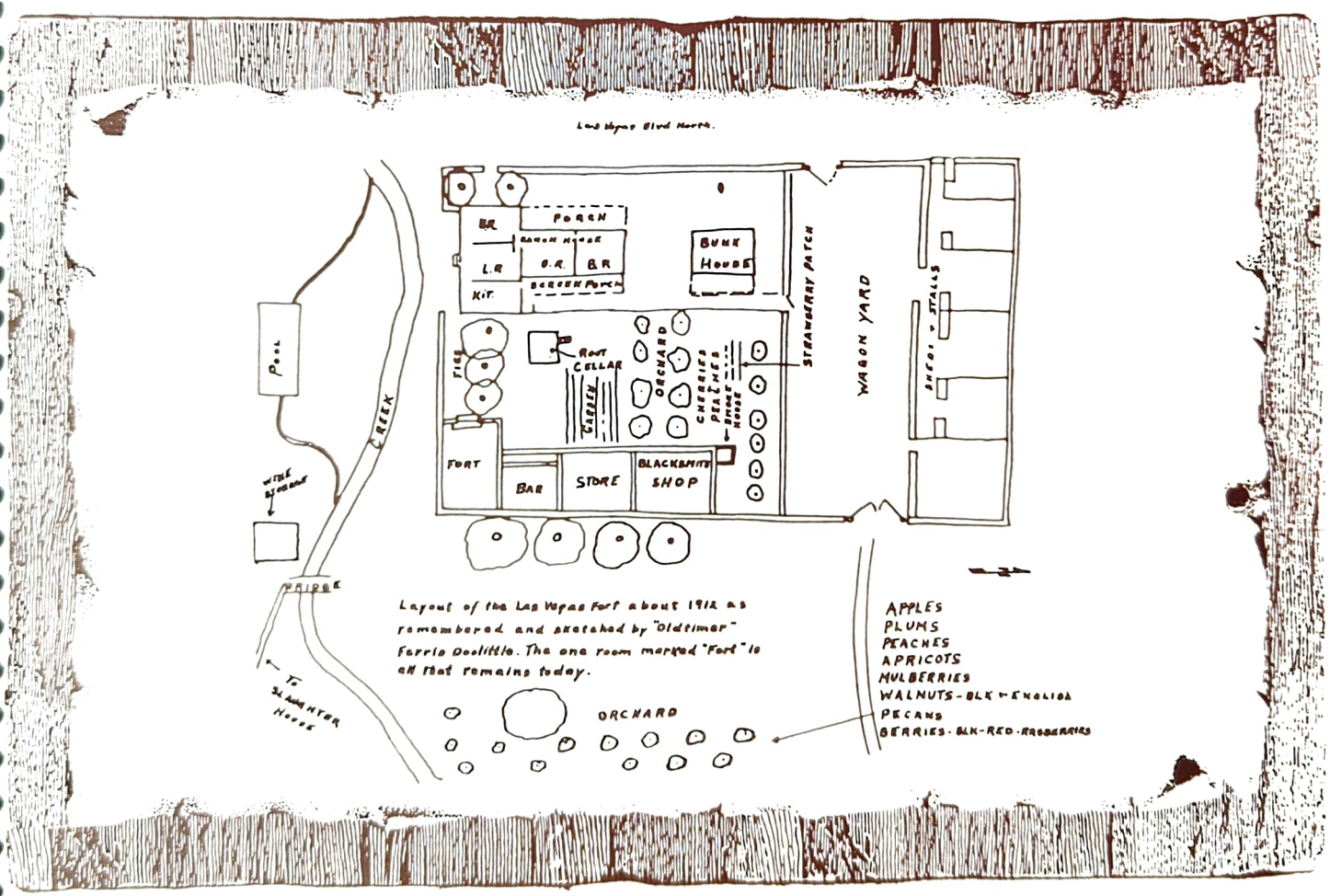
Las Vegas — 1876

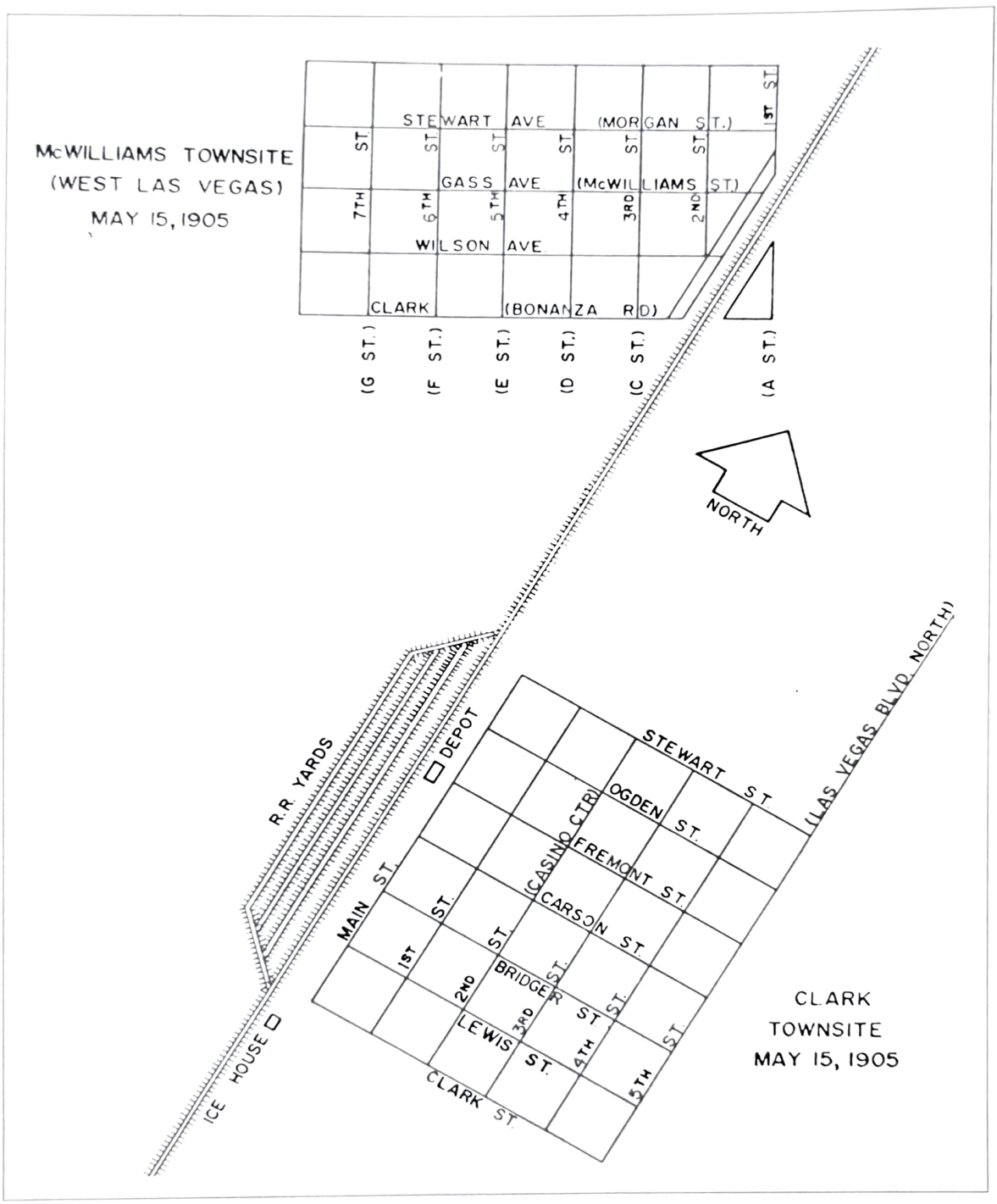
West Las Vegas, was known as "Old Town," or "McWilliamsville," or "McWilliamstown."

Here were families with children but no school facilities. Helen Stewart arranged for her children to be tutored at the Old Ranch and then often sent them to schools in California. Parents were concerned about the lack of schools and organized in order to get a school started.

A board of education had been selected early in 1905 to purchase plans for establishing a school. Robert E. Lake, Sr. was leader of the movement and served as president of the school board. Other board members were A. Russell Crowell and Reverend John Wesley Bain.

The new railroad had been completed in January 1905, and on May 15, 1905, the San Pedro, Los Angeles, and Salt Lake Railroad held the famous auction of lots in Clark's Las Vegas Townsite, an area of 36 blocks bounded by Main, Fifth, Stewart, and Garces Streets. The townsite was named for Senator William Andrews Clark of Montana, a copper baron who planned and built the new San Pedro, Los Angeles, and Salt Lake Railroad between 1903 and 1905. This townsite was the beginning of modern Las Vegas.





The Beginning of Modern Las Vegas — 1905

By Las Vegas Creek — Summer of 1905

Temporary classes were held during the summer of 1905. There was a "side-boarded" tent school, east of the railroad bed near where Main Street crossed Vegas Creek and a "little to the east." The tent provided room for only 17 persons. Large cottonwood and fig trees, watered by the old creek, had been planted by Mormon missionaries in 1855 and 1856 at the time the Old Fort had been built and by later landowners. These trees had grown to provide ample shade and cool air. The new Clark's Las Vegas Townsite had no shade trees to offer relief from the desert heat.

Establishment of schools was the work of a group led by Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Lake, Sr. and supported by public subscription. The story of the first schools in Las Vegas must include recognition of the work of the Lakes in getting schools started. Robert Lake arrived in Las Vegas in June 1904 to set up the first barber shop, and Mary Lake arrived on November 5, 1904, with her four school-age children. They became very much involved in initiating a school. The family was to increase to ten children after arrival in Las Vegas.



One of the Earliest Pictures of Las Vegas

Photo of intersection of Main and Bonneville Streets taken about 1910 when the San Pedro, Los Angeles, and Salt Lake Railroad was building the cottages between Second and South Fourth and Clark Avenue and Gass. In the fall of 1909, "a spur track" was built up Bonneville Avenue to build railroad houses. Some of the houses (lower left) still stand at Main and Bonneville.

Robert Lake was one of the first school trustees and served on the school board for many years. He worked closely with District Attorney Benjamin Sanders of Lincoln County in establishing the first school building in 1905. Nevada law at that time assigned the extra duties of county school superintendent to district attorneys. District Attorney Sanders was instrumental in assuring that unassessed property in southern Lincoln County was properly assessed to provide school funds for schools in the area which was to become Clark County.

The Lake children attending the first Las Vegas schools were Alice, Olive, Tom, and R. E. "Spud" Lake, Jr. Tom was one of the first eighth-grade graduates *(1907)* from the school after it was established at Second and Lewis Streets. The Robert E. Lake Elementary School at 2904 Meteoro Street in Las Vegas was named in Mr. Lake's honor.

Helen J. Stewart: Outstanding Early Educator

After the Mormons had abandoned the Las Vegas Mission in 1858, Las Vegas *(Old)* Ranch was in the hands of several owners or was left uncared for until Octavius Decatur Gass took control in 1865. Gass consolidated small ranches into a 960-acre spread, modifying Old Fort buildings.

In 1882, Archibald and Helen J. Stewart bought the property and water rights, and the family with their three children occupied the property. Archibald was shot and killed in 1884. Helen Stewart sold 1,800 acres of the Las Vegas Ranch and water rights to the San Pedro, Los Angeles, and Salt Lake Railroad in 1902. From this land was carved the town of Las Vegas known as Clark's Las Vegas Townsite, bounded by Main and Fifth Streets between Stewart and Garces Streets. Helen Stewart died in 1926.

Helen J. Stewart is worthy of recognition for her interest in schools and her efforts to promote education. Because no school was available in the 1800's, she hired a Scotchman named James McGarigel, a graduate of Oxford University who found his way to Stewart Ranch, as a tutor for her children. She even attempted to entice Indian children living on or near the property to attend the tutoring sessions. When her children were old enough, she sent them to California to attend school. In November 1916, Helen Stewart was the first woman elected as member of the Board of Education of the Clark County No. 1 *(Las Vegas High School)* and No. 2 *(Bunkerville High School).* Clark High School No. 1 was created in 1909 and No. 2 in 1911 with only ninth graders. Clark County High School No. 3 was established at Overton in 1918.

Helen Stewart took office on January 6, 1917, and became clerk of the board until 1922. In 1919, the high schools at Bunkerville and Overton had been consolidated into Educational District No. 1. No longer referred to as County High School, they became known as Virgin Valley High School and Moapa Valley High School. The high school in Las Vegas then became known as Las Vegas High School. The Helen J. Stewart School is named in honor of this pioneer woman, a leader in the education of the community.

At Second and Lewis — Exciting Plans

On April 7, 1905, an election was held among Las Vegas residents to authorize a tax to be levied to build a schoolhouse in the Las Vegas

district. The plan was to build a frame school building on the corner of Second and Lewis to be ready in the fall. Local citizens donated money to buy lots one to eight, block 22, on which to build a school at that site. The building was to be forty feet by fifty feet and to consist of three rooms.

As autumn approached and more families arrived, the need for a school of a more permanent nature was immediate. Plans were made in August to relocate the tent, which had been erected earlier in the summer on the Las Vegas Creek, to the property at the southeast corner of Second *(Casino Center Boulevard)* and Lewis.

Plans for a new building at that site were scrapped when it was discovered that the old Salt Lake Hotel building at Second and Stewart was for sale at a much more affordable price *(about $150)* and could be moved to Second and Lewis.

The old hotel was thirty feet by forty-eight feet. It was converted into two classrooms at a cost of $550. Since a new building of this size "may have cost $1150, purchase of the old hotel was considered quite a bargain." ***(Las Vegas Age**, August 26, 1905)*

In September 1980, to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the founding of Las Vegas and to mark the location of the first schoolhouse, a bronze plate was placed at the southeast corner of Second *(Casino Center Boulevard)* and Lewis Streets. The plate was provided by the Clark County Board of School Trustees.

The Salt Lake Hotel was moved to Second and Lewis and school was started at that location. School children collected enough money, through public appeal, to buy a school bell. A bell tower was added to the front of the school building to house the bell. The exact date of the addition of the bell tower to the building is unknown. The ***Las Vegas Age*** of February 9, 1907, expressed its dissatisfaction with having the children collect money for a school bell and belfry with this item:

> **For several days young children were begging on the street for money for a school bell. If a bell is necessary and the school district is too poor to buy one, a meeting of taxpayers should be called. Begging on the streets is not a proper occupation for children of tender age. It is stated that about $50 was raised, and the trustees will buy a bell and erect a belfry.**

The converted hotel was ready for occupancy on October 2, 1905. The first teachers at the school were Sophia Schultz, principal, and Alma Tuttle. By the middle of October, the two rooms were overcrowded with an enrollment of 81 children. A school census in November revealed a population of 114 school children. The "tent by the creek" had also been moved to Second and Lewis. Because of lack of funds, the 1905-06 school year closed on April 26, 1906.

The second year, 1906, the school opened in October with Ella Palmer, principal, and Elsie Chandler. In January 1907, a library was opened at the schoolhouse and socials were held to raise money for literary books.

By 1906, enrollment at Las Vegas Grammar School had increased to the point that school trustees were required to locate a third building

on the school site to relieve overcrowding. The first graduates from the eighth grade at the school at Second and Lewis, on May 31, 1907, were Julia Westlake, Frank Ferris, and Thomas Lake.

In September 1908, the teachers were Miss Eastman for the upper grades and Miss Bartlett for the primary grades. By 1909, trustees were planning a larger school on property at Fourth and Bridger, deeded to the schools by the Las Vegas Land and Water Company. Since high school classes were being held on the elementary site, additional space was needed for the growing high school.

Las Vegas' First Grammar School — 1911

The building at Second and Lewis served as the elementary school until 1911 when a more permanent two-story "elegant," "mission-type" school costing $30,000 was started in 1910. It was located at the corner of Fourth and Bridger Streets, facing Fourth, and was known as Fifth Street School. However, the official name was Las Vegas Grammar School.

When Clark's Las Vegas Townsite was laid out in 1905, the Las Vegas Land and Water Company, a subsidiary of the San Pedro, Los Angeles, and Salt Lake Railroad, decided that block 20 would be designed for public purposes, thus making available a full city block between Carson and Bridger and Second and Third Streets for the Clark County Courthouse. The new Clark County became a separate county from Lincoln County on July 1, 1909.

On July 8, 1909, the Las Vegas Land and Water Company deeded to the Las Vegas School District a parcel of land *(block 37)* "in consideration of the sum of $10 gold coin of the United States" for school purposes, with a clause specifying that if the land were used for any other purpose, it would revert to the Water Company. This parcel consisted of the block extending from Bridger to Lewis with Lewis not intersecting the property, and was one block deep between Fourth and Fifth Streets. The north half was to be the location of the new grammar school to be built in 1910, and the south half became the site of the first high school building in Las Vegas built in 1917.

The old buildings at Second and Lewis were sold in January 1910. The school board kept an option on the original property and continued to use the school there, awaiting completion of the new facility at Fourth and Bridger. The buildings at Second and Lewis were purchased by Griffith Oil and Fuel Company for $310.

During the fall of 1910, construction at the new school suffered a setback due to a squabble with the contractor. As a result, the 1910-11 school session resumed at the Second and Lewis facility. Parents paid $5 for special high school classes in the old buildings.

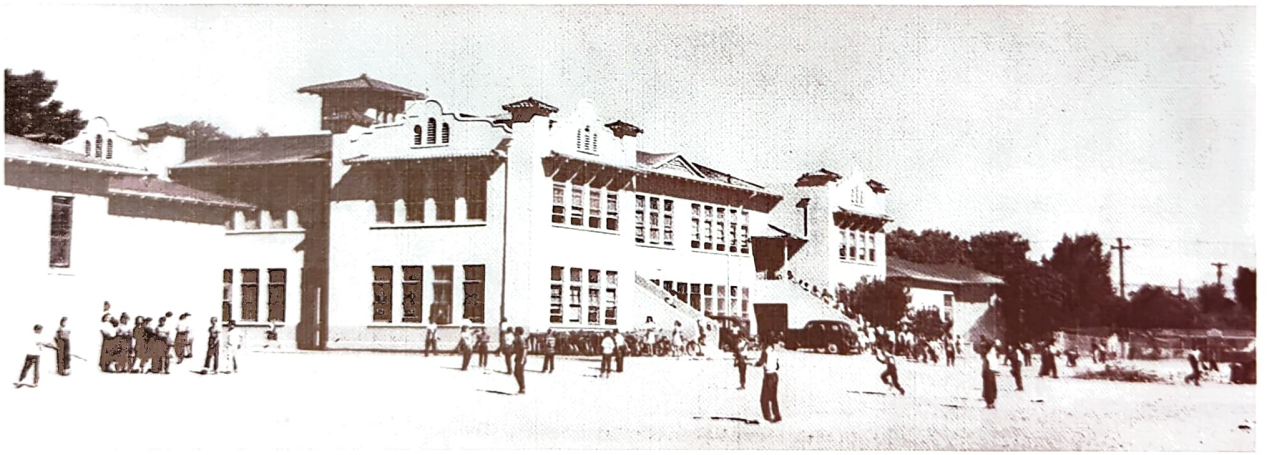
In December 1910, the main school building at Second and Lewis burned to the ground, forcing students to complete the school year on half-day sessions at the Methodist Church at Third and Bridger. The fire was believed to be incendiary.

The newly completed school at Fourth and Bridger admitted students for the first time in October 1911. The cornerstone is now embedded in the wall of the lobby of the Clark County Education Center at 2832 East Flamingo Road. Dedication ceremonies for the new school were held on July 4, 1910.



Fourth and Bridger Cornerstone

This cornerstone is part of the wall in the lobby of the Clark County Education Center at East Flamingo Road.



Las Vegas Grammar School

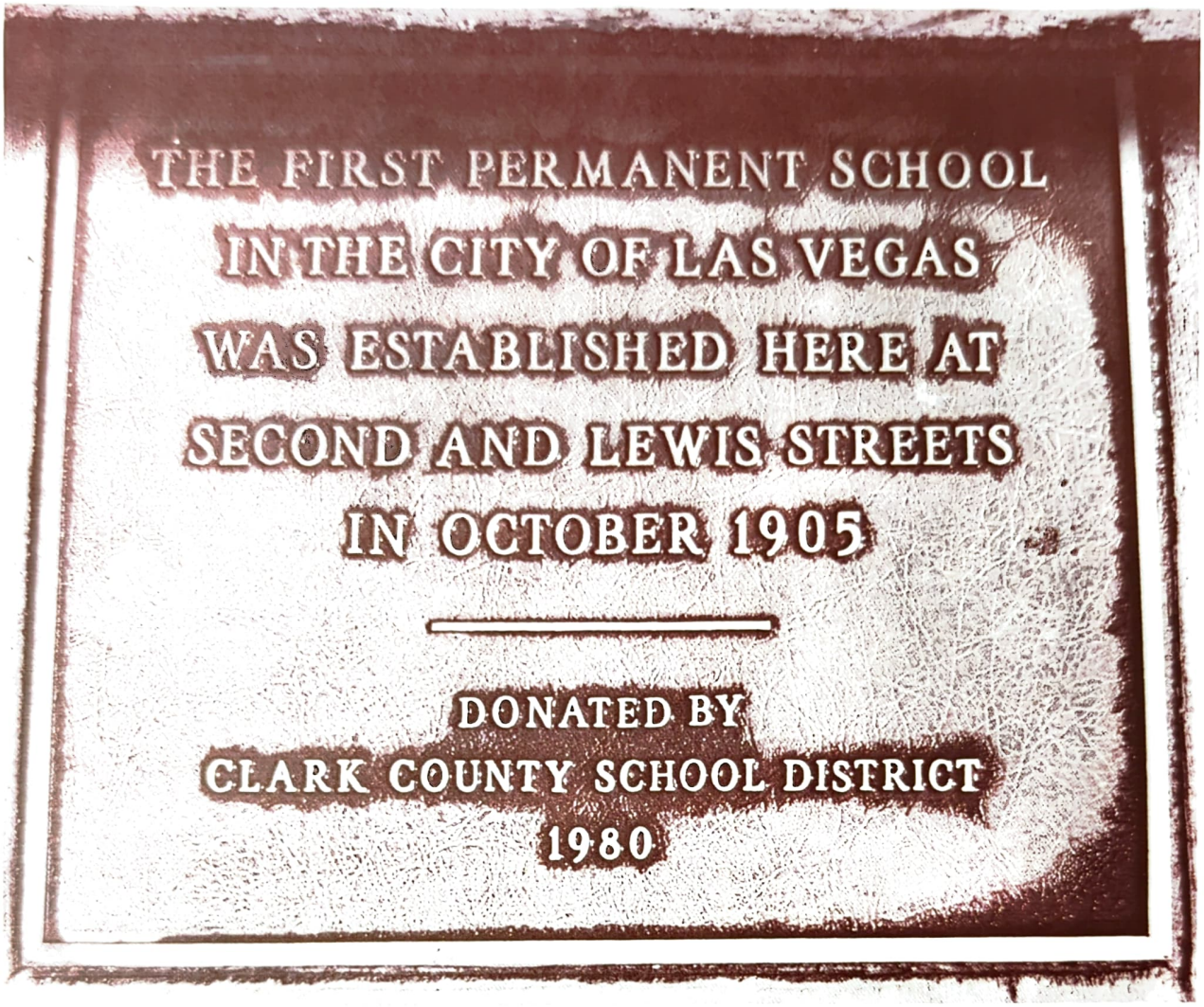
The two-story building *(center)*, built in 1911, was the first "permanent" school in Las Vegas and was initially occupied by the Clark County High School and the Las Vegas Grammar School. The one-story building *(far right)*, built in 1922, was the kindergarten building which paralleled Bridger Avenue. The one-story building *(far left)* was the Manual Arts building and was also built in 1922. The three buildings were discontinued for school purposes in 1964, sold to the U.S. Government, and dismantled for the site to be used for the present Foley Federal Building on Las Vegas Boulevard.



Squires Collection, UNLV Library

Las Vegas Grammar School
1905 - 10

This building was the first school building in Las Vegas. It opened in 1905 at Second and Lewis Streets and served elementary students until it burned in 1910.



First Permanent School Marker

This marker was presented for placement at Second and Lewis Streets to commemorate the establishment of the first permanent school in Las Vegas.



Transferring Deed of Old School Site

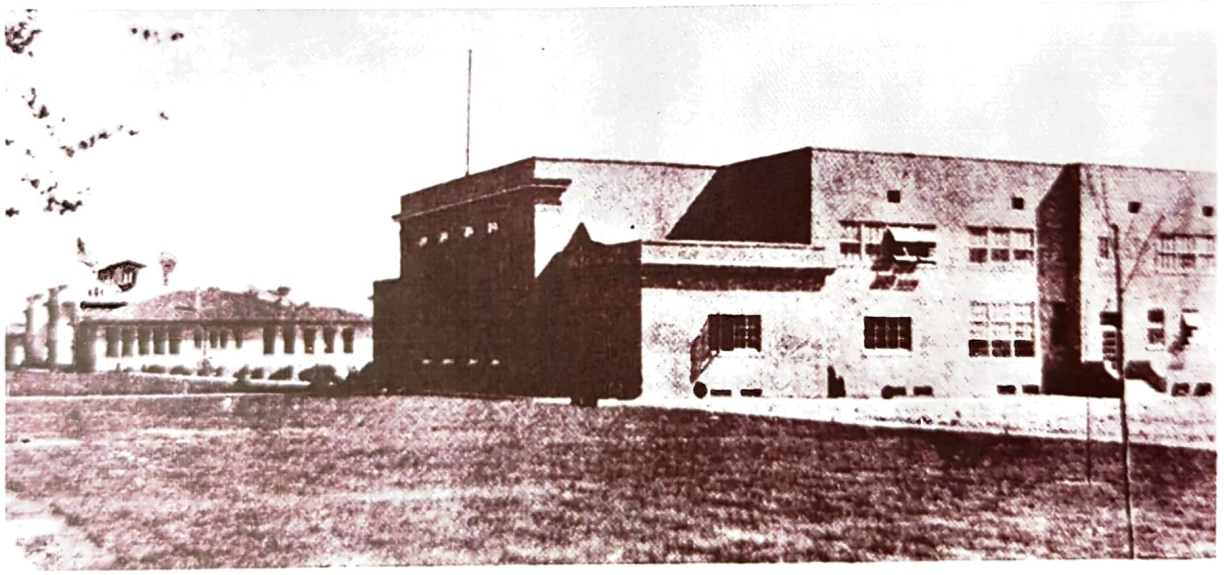
George E. Harris, Clark County School District, hands the deed to the old school site at Fourth and Bridger Streets to Paul Horn, Clark County Recorder, and Reed Whipple, Las Vegas City Commissioner, with Walter McCall of the Clark County School District.

Additions: From 1922 On

The two-story elementary school with its fourteen rooms which "would never be filled" exceeded its capacity in 1921. The following year, a $75,000 bond was passed for the construction of three new buildings — a kindergarten and a domestic science room to be built on either side of the Fifth Street Grammar School and a school for the Westside. This school for the Westside had long been regarded as "a must" by the people in general as it was deemed unsafe for the primary children of that area to cross the railroad tracks in going to and from school; this was before the underpass at what was then Clark Avenue, now Bonanza Road, was constructed.

In 1922, those buildings were erected. The kindergarten building at Fourth and Bridger was a four-room building. The manual arts building, a four-room structure on the south side of the two-story building, was used for manual training and home economics.

A two-room building was built on the Westside on Washington and in 1927, two rooms were added. This building accommodated children in kindergarten and primary grades and enabled youngsters to attend school without walking long distances or crossing the railroad tracks. The Westside School is the oldest schoolhouse in the city of Las Vegas and is presently the property of the city of Las Vegas, leased by the city to the Economic Opportunity Board.



First High School Building in Las Vegas

The building on the right is the first high school building in Las Vegas. It was built in 1917, at the corner of Fourth and Clark and opened on December 17, 1917. When the present Las Vegas High School at 315 South Seventh was built in 1930, this building was used for sixth, seventh, and eighth grade. On May 11, 1934, at about 4 p.m. this building was destroyed by fire. In 1936 it was replaced by the building between Fourth and Las Vegas Boulevard at Clark, which is now the courthouse annex.

The elegant two-story, mission-type building and the two smaller buildings on either side were abandoned for school use in 1954 and converted to school district administration offices. The kindergarten building continued to be used as the superintendent's office and for other personnel at the time that the schools were consolidated into the Clark County School District. The two-story building was converted to a board meeting room and space for other offices of supervisory and auxiliary personnel.

Las Vegas: First High School Building

High school classes started in Las Vegas in 1909 and were held in the first elementary school building at Second and Lewis and in the newly built *(1908)* Methodist Church at Third and Bridger. When the new two-story building at Fourth and Bridger opened in October 1911, the high school board of education rented the south end wing of the building for high school classes. The high school was designated as Clark County High School No. 1 and served 17 students.

By 1916, the Las Vegas Grammar School needed all the space in the two-story building. Thus, in June the high school board of education awarded a contract for construction of the first high school building at Fourth and Clark. The new high school opened on December 17, 1917, with 51 students.

The New Las Vegas High School — 1930

The high school building served Las Vegas high school students until 1930, when the new Las Vegas High School at Seventh and Bridger was opened. This school was dedicated on November 2, 1930.

The two blocks *(37 and 38)* were the site of the Las Vegas Grammar School including upper grades until 1963, when the north block of property was abandoned for school purposes. At that time, the Union Pacific Railroad lifted the restrictive covenant so that the north block of the property could be sold by the Clark County School District to the General Services Administration. The south block on which the remaining part of the Fifth Street *(Las Vegas)* Grammar School remained was also abandoned for school purposes, purchased by Clark County, and converted to an annex for the county courthouse. This building, built in 1936, replaced the old Las Vegas High School, built at the corner of Clark and Fourth in 1917 and destroyed by fire in 1934, while being used to house upper-grade students after the present Las Vegas High School on South Seventh was opened in 1930.

After the building used for the upper grades was destroyed by fire, the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades occupied tents purchased by the district and located on the school grounds parallel to Fifth Street. Students attended school in tents until 1936, since no plans to replace the building were made until that year.

The Tragedy of Francis H. Butcher, Educator

Francis H. Butcher was employed as football coach and teacher at Las Vegas High School beginning in September 1927. He taught mathematics, drafting, and physical education, and organized the first faculty team at Las Vegas High School. Butcher served as part-time juvenile probation officer and high school "truant officer" with the city's social program. He was born near Fort Worth, Texas, November 11, 1905, and obtained a B.A. degree in mathematics at Howard Payne College in



Las Vegas Grammar School
(Fifth Street School)

This building at Las Vegas Boulevard South between Lewis and Clark was built in 1936 to replace the first high school at Fourth and Clark which was destroyed by fire. It became known as the Fifth Street School and was used as a grammar school from 1936 until 1963. It has served as an annex to the Clark County courthouse since 1963.



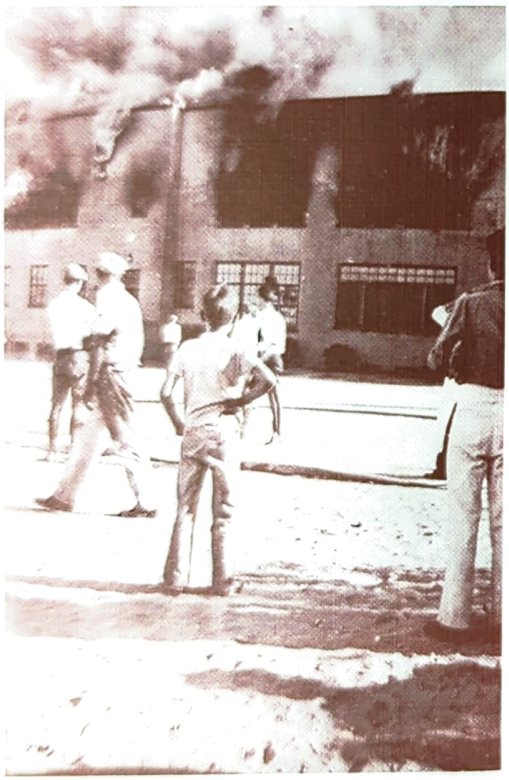




Photo courtesy of B.J. Stephenson

Original Las Vegas High School *(1917)*
Destroyed by Fire May 11, 1934

At the time of this tragic fire the building housed the upper grades of the Fifth Street school. The photo at the top was taken from the corner of Fifth Street *(Las Vegas Boulevard)* and Bridger. The building at the right of the high school is the Manual Arts building.

Brownwood, Texas. "Butcher was tall, six foot two, had blond wavy hair, blue eyes, fair complexion with a ready smile showing a dimple on the left side and spoke with a southern drawl."

Butcher roomed at a home not far from Las Vegas High School. One afternoon in December 1930, he returned to his residence after football practice and proceeded to rekindle the fire which heated the home. He reached for a can of gasoline, which he mistook for kerosene and poured some on the coals. The can exploded, drenching his body with flaming liquid and setting the room afire. In attempting to extinguish the flames, he was badly burned. With the help of a neighbor, he made it to the hospital. Two days after the fire, on December 15, 1930, he died at the age of 25.

All business houses, city and county offices, and schools closed for his funeral, held in the gymnasium of the new high school which had just opened that fall; 1,500 persons attended his services.

The football field being developed at the new high school on South Seventh Street between Lewis and Clark Streets was named Francis H. Butcher Field as a memorial to the young, enthusiastic high school athletic coach who was respected in the community and had done a fine job in raising the standards of the school's athletic teams.

The ***Las Vegas Age*** of December 18, 1930, said, "Coach Butcher has left us. But the splendid example of sterling young manhood which he brought to us will live for generations in our children's children."

The First School in North Las Vegas

In 1918 the Tom Williams, Sr. family moved from Utah and bought 150 acres of land north of Las Vegas, bordering the Helen J. Stewart property. Thus North Las Vegas, originally named Vega Verde, was started.

As families settled in this new area, demands were made on the Las Vegas School District for school facilities. In August 1932, the school board of the Las Vegas Union School District announced that the first school in North Las Vegas would be constructed at the corner of White Street and College Avenue *(Lake Mead Boulevard),* on a block of land donated by Tom Williams, Sr.

The first principal was Miss Beula Jane Adams *(Ledbetter).* It was a two-room structural block building and was ready for its first classes on October 10, 1932, to serve the primary grades. It was named North Las Vegas School No. 1. In 1942 it was necessary to add two temporary rooms and in 1948 a four-room block addition was built on the property. In 1949 the name was changed to Washington.

Other Schools Soon Follow

Across the highway *(at Jefferson Street and College Avenue)* the four-room North Las Vegas School No. 2 was built in 1942. A portable building of three classrooms and a block addition of four classrooms were added in 1946 and 1948. Kathryn Tambini was the first principal. The name of North Las Vegas No. 2 was changed to Jefferson School in 1949. Both Washington and Jefferson Schools are still in use by the school district for auxiliary programs and special projects.

The Tom Williams Elementary School at 3000 East Tonopah was built in 1957 and named in honor of the man who started North Las Vegas. The first junior high school in North Las Vegas was J.D. Smith Junior High at 1301 East Tonopah, named in honor of long-time school board member of the Las Vegas Union School District, Dr. J. D. Smith. The school opened as an elementary school in 1952 and was converted to a junior high in 1958. The first principal was James H. Fincher.

In May 1951, 69 children were the first to graduate from the eighth grade at the North Las Vegas schools since the town began. Before that date, the upper grades continued to attend school at the Las Vegas Grammar School known as Fifth Street School. At that time, the upper grades, fourth through eighth, attended Jefferson School and grades first through third attended Washington School.

The First Vocational-Technical School - 1965

In 1909, the Nevada legislature authorized the introduction of commercial courses and industrial education as a part of the public school curriculum. The legislature also authorized agricultural courses be included in the Clark County schools at Panaca. Manual training and domestic science *(home economics)* could be added to the public school courses. In 1913, commercial courses were begun at the high schools in Las Vegas, Bunkerville, and Overton. Agricultural courses were begun at Bunkerville and Overton High Schools.

In 1919, the Nevada legislature accepted the terms and provisions of the act of congress to provide for the promotion of vocational education and "to appropriate money and regulate its expenditure."

In 1965, the Clark County School District opened the first technical-trade high school in the state of Nevada, known as Southern Nevada Vocational-Technical Center at 5710 Mountain Vista, Las Vegas. The Area Technical Trade Center at 444 West Brooks Avenue, North Las Vegas, was opened in 1982. The Smith-Hughes method of vocational training, a national program, taught students more than just to cook or sew, but also the chemistry of foods, nutrition, child care, home nursing, home planning, remodeling, redecorating, meal service, and consumer buying.

Something New and Different: Sunset High School

At the beginning of the 1970-71 school year, the Las Vegas area initiated a new approach to building utilization and provision of educational opportunities for students. Las Vegas Urban *(Evening)* High School, renamed Sunset High in 1973, was established. James E. Embree, then-director of secondary education for the Clark County School District, described Las Vegas Urban School as a program designed to demonstrate a new concept in building utilization and curriculum implementation. The first principal *(director)* of Urban High School was Gerald F. Hunt.

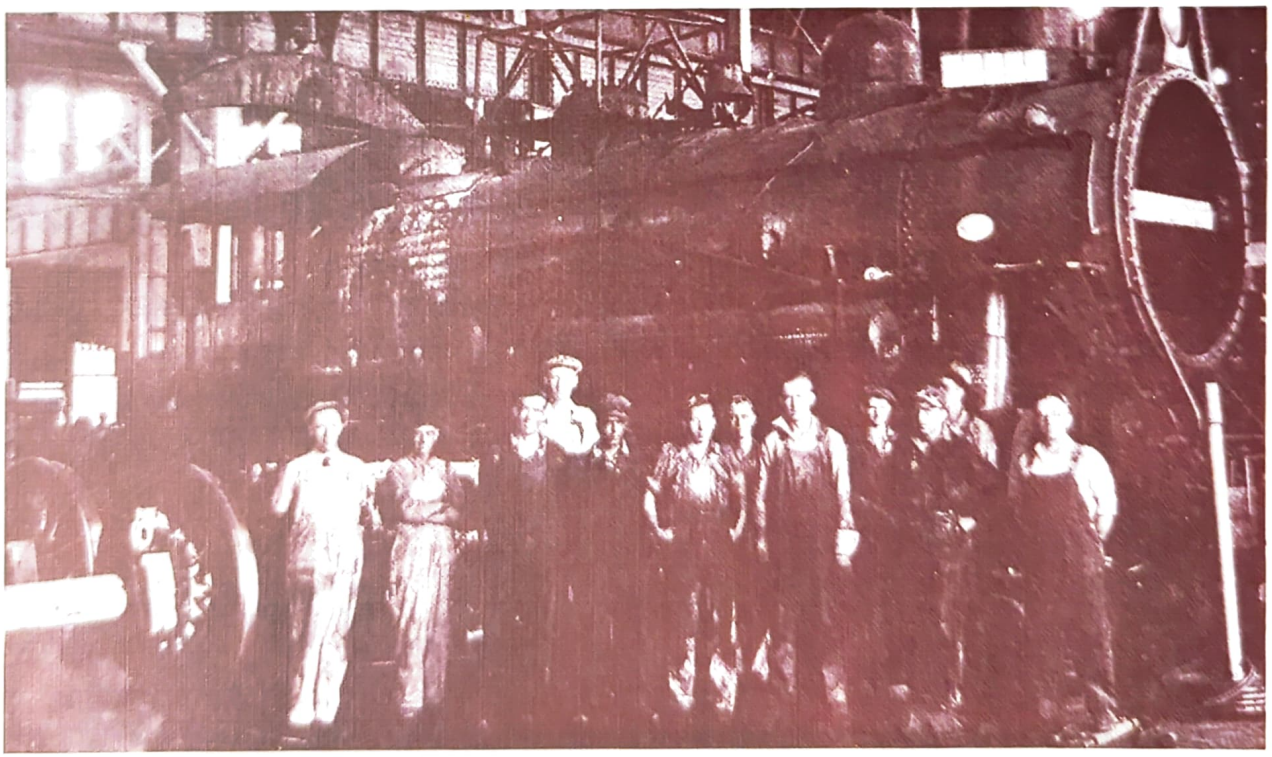
Urban High School was unique in that it operated for senior high school students not in the traditional morning hours but in the late afternoon and continued through the early evening hours *(4:30-9:30)*. The intent was to provide a complete high school program resulting in a high school diploma similar to that of other schools, except that the hours of operation were at a different time. In 1971, 80 students were the first to receive diplomas from Urban High School.

The school presently operates in a facility which has already been used that day to its normal capacity. At 4:30 p.m. another 450-500 students begin their day. They have chosen this time as the most convenient for them to attend classes because they are forced to work, must remain at home to care for younger brothers or sisters or their own offspring, or other reasons why they are unable to attend during regular hours. Sunset High operates on quarter sessions.

Sunset High School began as Urban High School on the Valley High School campus for the first two years and moved to Las Vegas High School in 1972 and was located in seven buildings at Las Vegas High School. Sunset High School was relocated to Hyde Park Junior High in the fall of 1985.

Sunset High School's Young Adult Center (YAC) was added later; the Evening Care Center (ECC) was added in 1983 to accommodate the student mothers who have no way of caring for their babies. The YAC program teaches students the basics of breast-feeding, nutrition, birth control, and nurturing a human being. The ECC provides care for babies while mothers attend program courses.

In 1971, the first graduates of Urban High received diplomas. Eighty students earned diplomas by attending school from 4:30-9:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, in the nation's first comprehensive evening high school for students of regular school age.



Vocational Education Class in Las Vegas — 1927-28
D. T. Stewart's class of apprentice boys do a complete overhauling job on a Union Pacific locomotive. Part of the instruction of this class was sponsored by the vocational department.



Southern Nevada Vocational-Technical Center

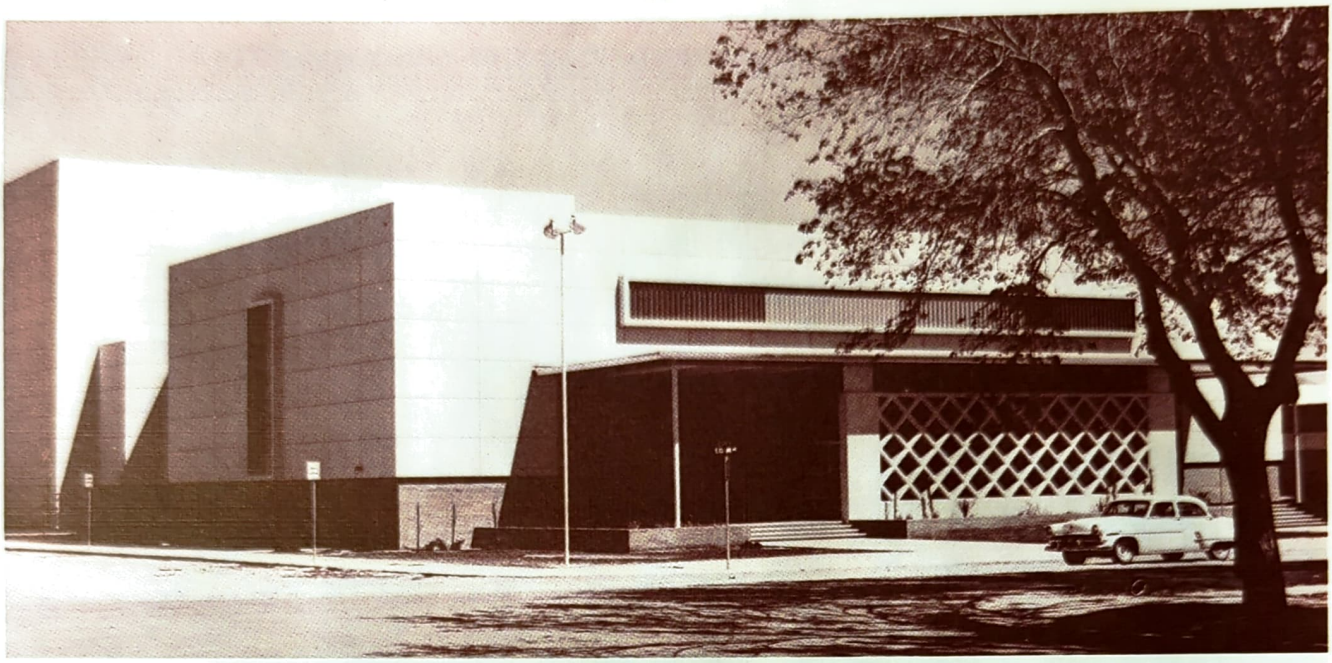
These facilities opened at 5710 Mountain Vista in 1965. Special courses in occupational training not typically available at other high schools were offered.



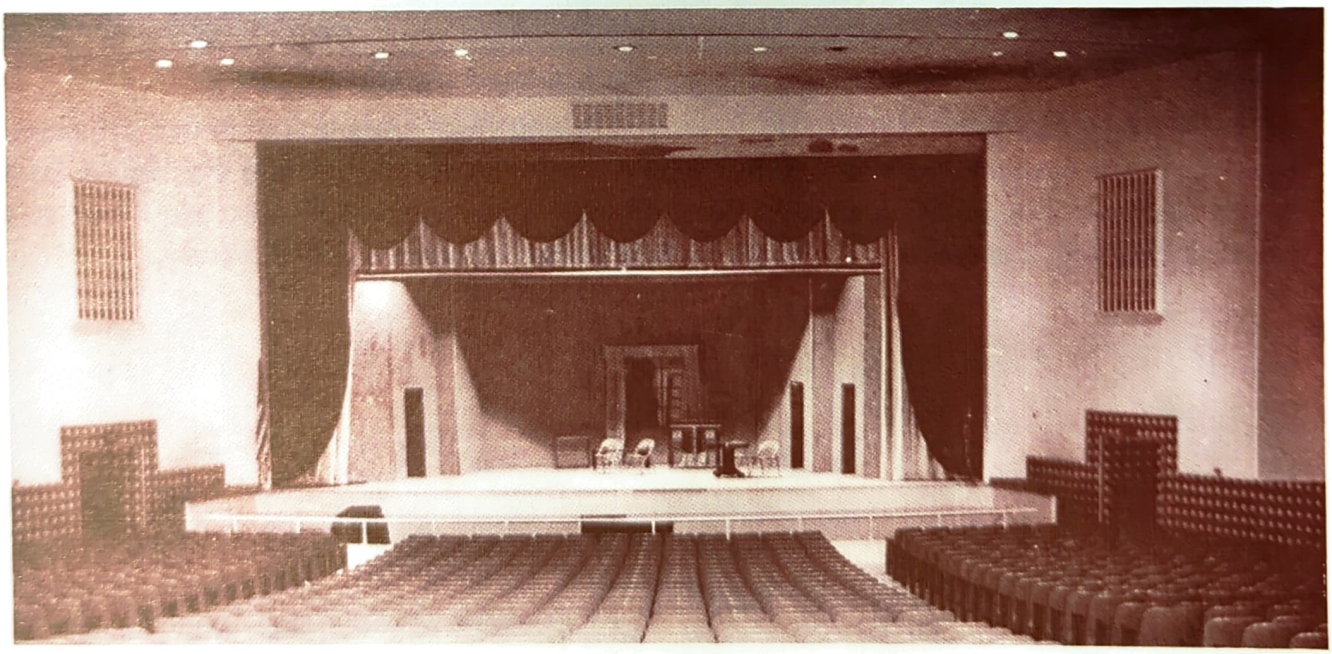
Las Vegas High School

The new modern Las Vegas High School located at Seventh and Bridger Streets was dedicated November 1930. It opened with full accreditation and housed over three hundred students and sixteen teachers. This building was designated by the state legislature to be preserved as a historical building. It is listed in the National Registry for its historical architecture.

— LAS VEGAS HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM —



The Las Vegas High School Auditorium built at Ninth and Clark in 1954. The first auditorium still stands at Ninth and Clark.



Inside view of auditorium of Las Vegas High School.

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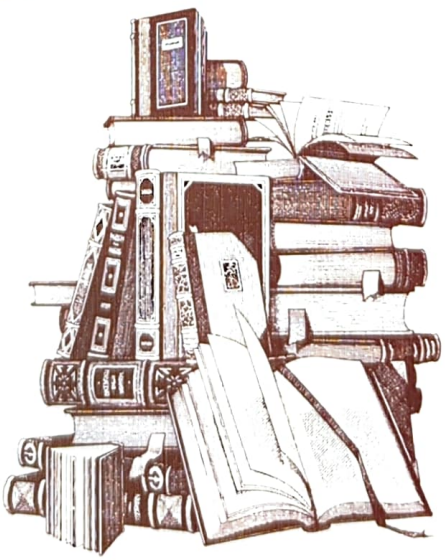
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Chapter VI
FIRST HIGH SCHOOLS IN CLARK COUNTY
Las Vegas, 1909; Bunkerville, 1911; Overton, 1914

Between 1905 and 1909, students of high school age living in Las Vegas increased as early-day families grew up and new families continued to move in. There were no available high school classes. Schools in the Muddy Valley and Virgin Valley settlements ended with the eighth grade, and students went to Utah to continue their education.

First Classes in Las Vegas

Demand for high school classes in Las Vegas emerged in 1909, two years after the grammar school graduated these students: Julia Westlake, Frank Ferris, and Thomas Lake. As a result, in the fall of 1909, the board of education authorized high school classes under the name of Clark County High School, using space in the elementary school and the new Methodist Church built at Third and Bridger in 1908. Parents paid five dollars for the special high school classes.

The new elementary school building on Fourth between Bridger and Lewis, although expected to be ready in September 1910, was not complete until October 1911. At that time, the new high school board of education, separate from the elementary board, leased the south wing of the new elementary building for high school classes. The high school board was comprised of different members from the Las Vegas Elementary School because it served all of the county.

A. S. Henderson, who left his position as district attorney in Eureka County to become superintendent of schools in Las Vegas in 1910 at a salary of $125 a month, had to continue school "in the decrepit old buildings at Second and Lewis." E. W. Griffith had bought the old school building for $310, but the board of education continued to use it in anticipation of the move to the new two-story building.

In 1911, the high school was officially established. Being the only high school in the county, it was suitably named the Clark County High School. Seventeen students enrolled. The following year, the enrollment had grown to 37; the 1913 enrollment totalled 51.

The first high school classes were taught by A. S. Henderson and Josephine Johnson, payment of whose salary was shared by the grammar school board and the parents of the students. In 1911, C. E. Overman from Goldfield and Miss Lester became the high school faculty. Henderson resigned in 1913 to return to law practice in Las Vegas and J. E. Wall became the new superintendent and high school principal.

The first four students to graduate in 1913 were: Olive Lake, Leland Ronnow, Winona Earl, and Herbert Squires.

First Classes in Muddy and Virgin Valleys

Students from Bunkerville and Overton came to Las Vegas to attend high school after Clark County High School was established. Girls

stayed at the dormitory on Fremont Street with Eva Sinn as housemother. The boys were given an allowance of $7.50 a month for board and room.

Yielding to pressures from the Bunkerville parents for their own high school in Virgin Valley, the county board agreed in 1911 to establish high school classes for ninth graders with Paul Miner as the instructor for 15 students. In 1913, the second year of high school classes was added when 30 students attended. Juniors and seniors continued to attend the high school in Las Vegas.

In 1917, the county board let a contract for a high school building at Bunkerville to serve four years of classes; it was named Virgin Valley High School. This building was later abandoned as a school to become a county recreation center. The present Virgin Valley High School building at Mesquite was built in 1957.

First High School Building in Las Vegas

When the two-story, 14-room Las Vegas Grammar School was built in 1910, many believed it to be too large, and there would never be enough pupils to fill it. By 1916 the building was full, and the high school board renting the south wing was asked to secure other quarters.

The board immediately purchased the entire block *(38)* south of the grammar school and had Lewis Street between the two blocks closed. Plans were submitted by a Los Angeles architect. Two contractors submitted bids which were opened on March 14, 1917, by two members of the County Board of Education, Sam Darling and Helen J. Stewart. The third member, O. C. Cazel, was absent. One bid was for $65,740 and the other for $67,978. Both bids were rejected, and the architect was asked to prepare another set of plans which would provide for a building which could be constructed with the available funds totaling $43,000.

The contract for the building was finally awarded to a Los Angeles firm on June 2, 1917 for $42,500 and the building completed according to schedule. Teachers and students moved into the new school on December 17, 1917.

The new high school was built at Fourth and Clark, facing Fourth, by contractor A. W. Jurden. The cornerstone was dedicated on October 30, 1917, in a ceremony conducted by Grand Master of the Masons of Nevada, Thomas Lindsey. During the ceremony, all businesses in town were closed from 2 to 4 p.m. at the request of Mayor Hawkins.

A description of this new high school building was provided by Delphine *(Mom)* Squires in 1956 in an article titled "Historical Nevada" which she prepared for the ***Las Vegas SUN*** on the history of the first Las Vegas schools. Squires was an early-day resident of Las Vegas, an outstanding citizen and social leader, and the wife of C. P. Squires, who founded the first Las Vegas newspaper, the ***Las Vegas Age.***

Squires wrote with an unmatched sense of humor:

> **A large number of parents and taxpayers visited the building during the next few days.**
>
> **Pushing through the front portal they found themselves in a large foyer and behind it was a large auditorium which was used as the main**

study hall. Here the floor inclined toward a very large stage well equipped with both foot and overhead lights. Around the auditorium there was a balcony designed to hold several hundred people. There were two large rooms fitted up for classes in business education off to the right of the auditorium and a few small rooms for the rest of the students who greatly outnumbered the "favored ones."

At the time the plans for the high school were in the making the most influential member of the faculty was the teacher of dramatic art and she was a member of the household of the president of the board. She had insisted that the school must have a large auditorium and stage; so, that was the way it was built. Other members of the faculty had classrooms tucked away in inaccessible places, without any idea given to their heating, lighting or ventilation.

Here were taught the studies that really mattered while the few who studied dramatic art and work relating to "white collar jobs" had the best part of the building to rattle around in. The parents tried to interfere, setting forth the claim that the essentials of education should receive first attention but they were swept aside and art won out. For a little time we were short on what might be called the "Three Rs" and a little long on the would be Bernhardts and Booths.

In the same article, Squires concluded:

This old building was razed by a serious fire in 1934 and every parent in Las Vegas which had children attending classes in that building drew a sigh of relief as it had always been regarded as a fire trap.

Miss Maude Frazier was superintendent of the Las Vegas schools and principal of the high school at the time. She noted, "The old high school was good enough to look at, but it was unsafe. The thought of what might happen in that building if a fire started gave me more wrinkles and gray hairs than all the rest of the job. I swear I did not light a match to that flimsy structure but I admit to being relieved that we were rid of it." The fire occurred on a Friday afternoon and Miss Frazier, Mr. Knudson, the principal, and many of the teachers worked all weekend to set up sufficient class space in the remaining buildings and nearby churches so that school could be in session again on Monday morning. Until 1936 when the building was replaced, classes were held in tents on the Fifth Street side of the old high school property.

Present Las Vegas High School

With the influx of population caused by preparations for the construction of Hoover Dam, the school district again needed additional school space. In 1921, a bond issue for $350,000 was voted for the erection of a new Las Vegas High School at the corner of Seventh and Bridger with school property extending to Clark Avenue. The present Las Vegas High School opened in September 1930 and was dedicated November 2, 1930. The class of 1931 was the first to graduate from the new high school.

The old high school at Fourth and Clark was turned over for the use of grades five through eight of the grammar school. At the end of the school day on May 11, 1934, the building was destroyed by fire. The replacement, built in 1936, continued as part of the Fifth Street Elementary School until 1963 when the building was taken over by Clark County as a courthouse annex.

First Accreditation

In 1923, Las Vegas High School was accepted into the National Association of Accredited High Schools, the first high school in the state of Nevada accepted for such accreditation. The yearbook produced by the Las Vegas High School students in 1921 was named "Pah-rah-wah-na," a name derived from the Paiute Indian phrase for "rainbow." In the 1930's, the name was changed to the "Boulder Echo" at the time that Boulder (Hoover) Dam was being built. Because "Boulder" seemed more appropriate to Boulder City, the "Boulder Echo" became the "Wildcat Echo" about 1936 after Boulder City had opened its own high school.

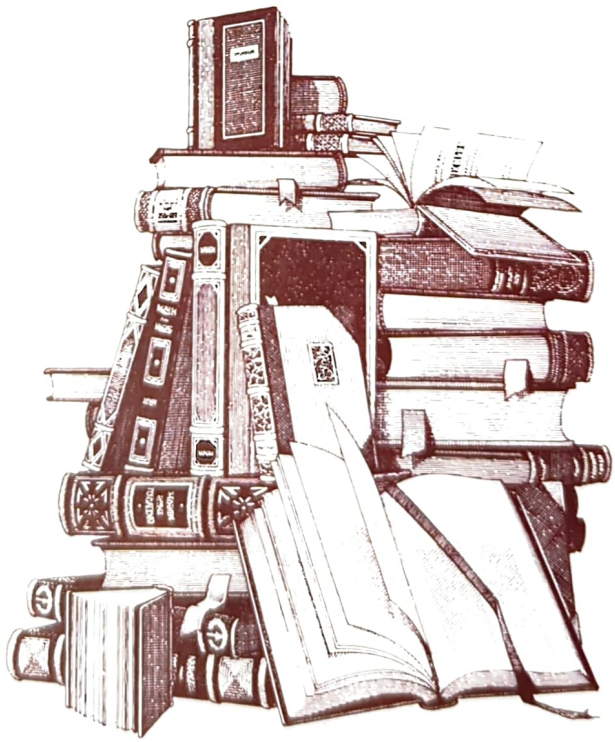


High school teacher Wayne Robertson's science laboratory during the 1940's at Moapa Valley High School, Education District No. 1.

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Chapter VII
RURAL "OUT-POST" SCHOOLS

Small schools were scattered throughout the Clark County area at mining camps, farms, and railroad maintenance stations. Early Nevada school law permitted the county commissioners to create from unorganized territory a new school district when there were five or more resident children of school age in the area. The new school would receive its apportionment of public school moneys and could function as long as it had a legally qualified teacher, a term of at least six months, and could report an average daily attendance of three resident children between the ages of six and eighteen.

One state superintendent of public instruction in a 1923-24 report referred to these remote schools as "out-post schools," claiming that "the greatest problem in the Nevada public school system was the proper, adequate supervision and provision of well-trained teachers for these schools."

Remote schools in Clark County were eventually abolished by the closing of mining towns, consolidation, or ease of transporting children to neighboring schools because of road and highway improvements.

Following is a list of these remote schools:

Sandy Valley, thirteen miles west of Goodsprings, operated a school at a gold mine from 1916-21 and was reopened in 1982.

The Dike District was on the north side of Vegas Valley near Apex in 1925, but children were transported to Las Vegas until 1928.

Kaolin School operated east of Overton where pottery for making chinaware was mined.

St. Joseph School eventually became Logandale and the school now operates as the Grant Bowler Elementary School.

Sloan District operated south of Las Vegas at a gypsum mine; Jean was a maintenance station on the railroad; Enterprise *(Arden)* operated from 1917-56.

Nelson *(Eldorado District)* started about 1900 as the result of mining activity in the canyon. Railroad Pass School opened in 1932 and became the Henderson District in 1942.

Davis Dam School operated from 1946-50. When Davis Dam was under construction south



Student desk and seat combination. This is a photo of one of the desks used in the early Clark County schools.

of Searchlight in 1946-50 in the triangle formed by Nevada, California, and Arizona, enough elementary *(grades 1-8)* children lived in the area to organize the Davis Dam School District on the Nevada side of the Colorado River with James D. Kell as principal. High school students had to attend school in Kingman or Boulder City.

Whitney School began in 1927, but later children were transported to Las Vegas; their own school opened in 1941.

These schools were often dormant for a year or so or children were transported to a neighboring school before the district was abolished. Some of the schools in more remote areas such as Blue Diamond, c. 1928 *(mining);* Goodsprings, c. 1913 *(mining);* Indian Springs, c. 1924 *(farming);* Searchlight, c. 1906 *(mining);* and Whitney *(farming)* had early beginnings as one- and two-teacher schools, but continued population in the district meant that they were still maintained as schools by the Clark County School District.

In the Muddy River *(Moapa)* Valley, small schools along the railroad or on small farms were Acton, Arrowhead, Warm Springs, and Moapa, which consolidated into the Moapa schools in 1924 and 1929.

The Tristate School District on the Colorado River, where Arizona and Clark County come together, operated from 1921-24 and closed in 1924. Mining activity at the Katherine mine near Bullhead City in Arizona attracted families who lived on the Nevada side of the Colorado River.

The Crescent District lay 15 miles west of Searchlight near the California border to service a turquoise mine in the early 1900's *(1905).*

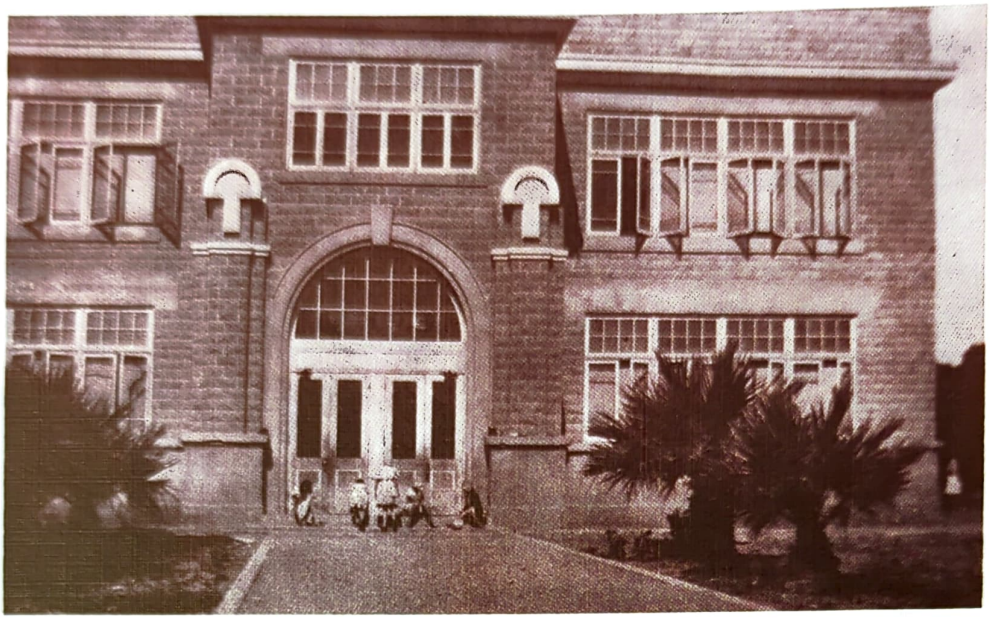
In the Goodsprings area, several mines caused small school districts to be organized: Bartine in 1927 and Spring Mountain which operated northwest of Goodsprings about 1927-42.

Crystal School was located north of Dry Lake about 1926; Dry Lake was in the Educational District No. 1; and the Garnet District operated out of a box car in the 1940's to 1956.



Searchlight School — 1965

This school building opened in Searchlight in the early 1940's. It serves the elementary school students in the Searchlight area with two teachers and an enrollment of 29 students.



Overton High School

This wood heated building is the Overton High School which opened in 1914. Twenty students enrolled with forty students by 1919. Today, the Moapa Valley High School offices are housed on this building site. Students were required to pass an eighth grade state examination before they could be enrolled in ninth grade *(high school)*.



Moapa Valley High School

Photograph of the Moapa Valley High School Office entrance, built in early 1980 on the site of the original office building and old high school.



Laughlin School

The Laughlin School at Needles Highway, Laughlin, Nevada, was dedicated in 1986-87 for elementary school students with Wendell Bond as principal. Laughlin and other county rural communities are growing rapidly in population, requiring the Clark County School District to consider future construction projects.

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Chapter VIII
HENDERSON SCHOOLS

The present Henderson school zone grew out of the original Railroad Pass School District which was established in 1932, and operated a one-room schoolhouse with one or two teachers. The Railroad Pass School District was so named because it lay on both sides of the railroad spur built from Bracken siding southwest of the strip to Boulder City during Hoover Dam construction days and spread through the low pass to Boulder City. The small Railroad Pass schoolhouse sat on the south side of the high point of the pass.

The small mining camp of Alunite had been built at the pass in 1908 when gold was discovered in the area. In 1932, increased activity found several families living there engaged in doing work for the developer of the mining area, A. G. Klinger. Hence, the Railroad Pass District was established, but showed little growth until World War II activity brought about the establishment of the town of Henderson.

Boundaries of the Railroad Pass District extended from the summit of the pass westward on the slope of the undeveloped desert terrain and included the section of railroad



within that area which increased the assessed valuation of the district's tax base. Pittman *(or Midway)*, first settled in 1929 on the Boulder Highway, was the only settlement in this area, having survived the post-Hoover Dam construction days. War was declared between England and Germany on September 3, 1939. Magnesium was a strategic mineral in the war effort needed for making bombs and aircraft for the defense of our allies. When a large deposit of magnesium-producing ore was discovered at Gabbs, Nevada, President Franklin D. Roosevelt approved the building of a $16 million magnesium processing plant in the Las Vegas area on the slope of land leading westward from Railroad Pass. Availability of water and power made selection of this site desirable.

Before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, plans to build the proposed plant, known as Basic Magnesium plant with Basic Refractories as the parent company, were pushed as fast as possible for production of magnesium. Extensive deposits of magnesite and brucite were to be trucked from Gabbs, Nevada. This plant became the largest producer of metallic magnesium in the United States. The new material, brucite, was shipped from the large deposits at Gabbs when McNeil Construction Company signed a contract with Basic Magnesium Industries to construct a magnesium processing plant at an expected cost of $173 million.

The town of Henderson, originally called Basic, was begun on September 3, 1941, to house the workers. The federal government built hundreds of small houses and one-story apartment complexes on both sides of the Boulder Highway near the plants. The townsite of Pittman *(Midway)*, first settled in 1929 during Hoover Dam days, was then included in the Henderson townsite.

As with the construction of Hoover Dam, housing was second in building priority, and educational needs rated third. Tent cities again appeared until houses and apartments were available. Since all facilities at Pittman and Whitney were crowded, housing was eagerly sought in Las Vegas. Application for Lanham Act Funds was made to aid in construction of schools for the rapidly growing city of Henderson. The school would be referred to as the Townsite School.

A running account of the historical data referring to the growth and development of the schools at Henderson, school plant facilities, and school sites was prepared by Lyal Burkholder, superintendent of schools from 1951 to 1956, when the county consolidated. At that time, Burkholder became area administrator until his retirement on June 30, 1969.

1. Construction of the original Townsite School was completed in October, 1942 and consisted of the following facilities: 18 classrooms and an auditorium-gymnasium building. This school was constructed by the Federal Government on what is now known as the Townsite School campus consisting of 16.5 acres. Title to this facility was transferred from the Federal Government to the Henderson School District in August, 1949. From October, 1942 to January, 1954, this building served to house both the Henderson Elementary and the Basic High School.
2. In September, 1946 a building that served as a personnel building at the Basic Magnesium Project was moved to the Townsite School Campus and converted into eight classrooms at a cost of

$37,423.67. The building was donated to the Henderson School District by the Basic Magnesium Project.

3. In January, 1948 a three-classroom addition to the Townsite School was constructed at a cost of $27,371.20.

4. In December, 1948 a boys' and girls' physical education building was constructed on the Townsite campus at a cost of $18,750.00.

5. In January, 1949 a vocational shop building was constructed on the Townsite campus at a cost of $16,365.00. This building housed the vocational carpentry and machine shops.

6. In 1951 an office building was moved from the Basic Magnesium Project to the Townsite School campus and converted to four elementary classrooms at a cost of $15,000.00. This building was donated to the Henderson School District by the Basic Management Incorporated.

7. In 1943 a building that served as a Civilian Conservation Corps barracks in Las Vegas was moved to a 4.7 acre school site in Carver Park and converted to six elementary classrooms at a cost of $20,000.00.

8. In January, 1950 the Henderson School District leased from the Clark County Housing Authority two rooms in the Carver Park Housing Administration Building. A kindergarten and first grade were housed in these two rooms until October, 1955 when the Park Village Elementary School was opened. The school district paid a rental of $51.37 per month for this facility; fuel oil costs for heating amounted to $80.00 per month.

9. In September, 1951 two additional rooms, located in the Carver Park Store Building, were leased from the Clark County Housing Authority. These rooms served formerly as a beer parlor and beauty shop. A first and second grade were established in these two rooms. The School District paid a monthly rental of $60.00 for the use of these rooms. They were vacated upon completion of the Park Village Elementary School.

10. In 1952 a Federal grant in the amount of $547,000.00 was received from the Federal Security Agency for the construction of a twenty-classroom building. This building, known as the Basic Elementary School, was located on a site consisting of 18.9 acres at the corner of Ocean and Tin Streets. This school was occupied for the first time in September 1953. The site was donated to the school district by Basic Management Incorporated.

11. In late 1952 a second grant was received from the Federal Security Agency in the amount of $404,918.00 for the construction of a thirteen-classroom high school. This school is located on a site consisting of 27.8 acres, also donated to the Henderson School District by Basic Management Incorporated.

12. In May, 1953 two school bond issues were voted by the Henderson School District. One in the amount of $750,000.00 which was used to complete the construction of the Basic High School by adding the following facilities: four additional classrooms, gymnasium, a four-department vocational education building, and a two-department home economics building. A second bond issue, in the amount of $560,000.00, was used to construct a twenty-classroom elementary school located on a 35-acre site in Victory Village. Twenty acres of this site accrued to the Henderson School District from the four Henderson Housing subdivisions. The remaining 15 acres were purchased from Basic Management Incorporated. This school was placed in operation in

October, 1955. It serves kindergarten through grade six and is known as the Park Village School.

13. In 1954 a third Federal grant in the amount of $254,520.00 was received from the Federal Security Agency for the construction of a twelve-classroom addition on the Townsite School campus. This building was occupied for the first time in September, 1955 and provides the facilities for the Henderson Junior High School.

Since the completion of this construction, all children in the Henderson School District have been able to attend school on a full-day system basis. In May 1956, a Clark County school bond issue in the amount of $10,600,000 was approved by the voters of Clark County. Funds from the sale of these bonds provided a 20-classroom elementary school to be located on a 10-acre site in the Henderson Valley View addition purchased from Basic Management Incorporated at a cost of $1,000 an acre. Funds from this bond issue also provided six additional classrooms and a music education building to the Basic High School.

The first high school in Henderson opened at the Townsite in 1942 and was listed as the Railroad Pass High School, and changed to Basic High School in 1945. Basic High School moved from the Townsite buildings to a new building constructed at 355 West Van Wagenen in 1952, and then to the present location on Palo Verde in 1972. The Basic High building on Van Wagenen was used to serve junior high students and the name was changed to Lyal W. Burkholder Junior High on October 16, 1972.

When the town of Henderson was built, it was located in the Las Vegas High School District, then known as Educational District No. 2, but the elementary district *(Railroad Pass)* was a separate district. Hence, its high school, now Basic, continued as a part of Educational District No. 2 until county consolidation in 1956. *(Educational District No. 2 was a high school district including all of the county except Boulder City which was established as Educational District No. 3 in 1946),* and Educational District No. 1 *(Overton, Logandale, Bunkerville, and Mesquite)* was established in 1919.

When the state of Nevada, after World War II, purchased the industrial plant for $2,000,000 and then sold it to private industry, title to the school properties was transferred to the Henderson School District *(1949).* In 1953 the original Basic Townsite, some neighboring areas, and the town of Pittman were incorporated as the city of Henderson. At the time of consolidation of the schools into the Clark County School District in 1956, the Henderson schools became a part of the consolidation.

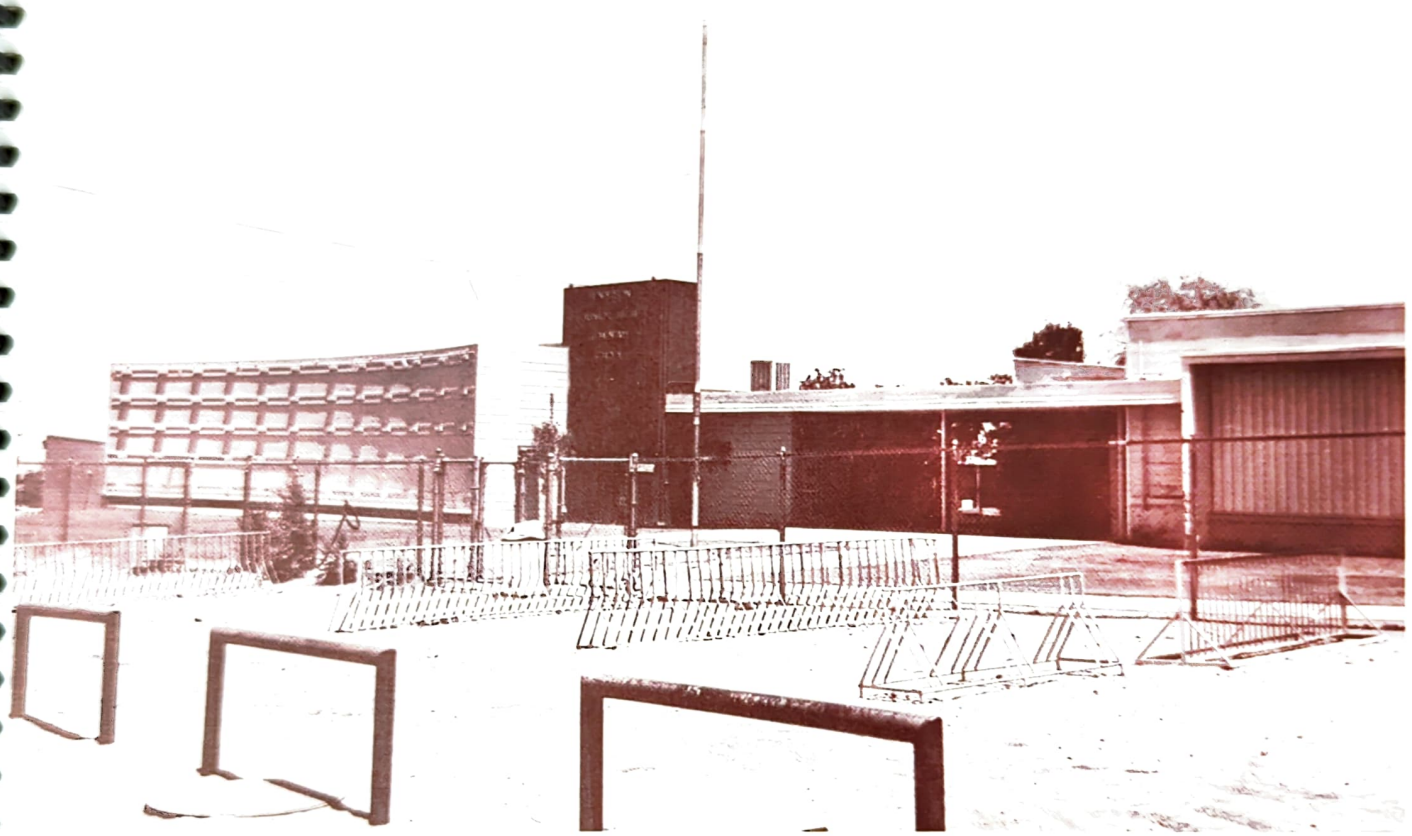
How Henderson Got Its Name

Charles B. Henderson was a United States senator from January 1918 to March 1921. Twice elected Elko County District Attorney, he served a term in the state legislature and on the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada. In 1918, he was appointed U.S. Senator to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Senator Francis Newlands. In the next election in November 1918, he was elected to fill the remaining two years of Newland's term and was defeated for the six-year term in November 1920.

In 1934, Henderson was appointed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt as a director of the Reconstruction Finance Committee; in 1941 he became chairman and was instrumental in the

establishment of the magnesium plant and foundry which now bears his name.

Senator Henderson died in 1954. When the new post office at Basic was dedicated on January 10, 1944, the town was officially named Henderson.

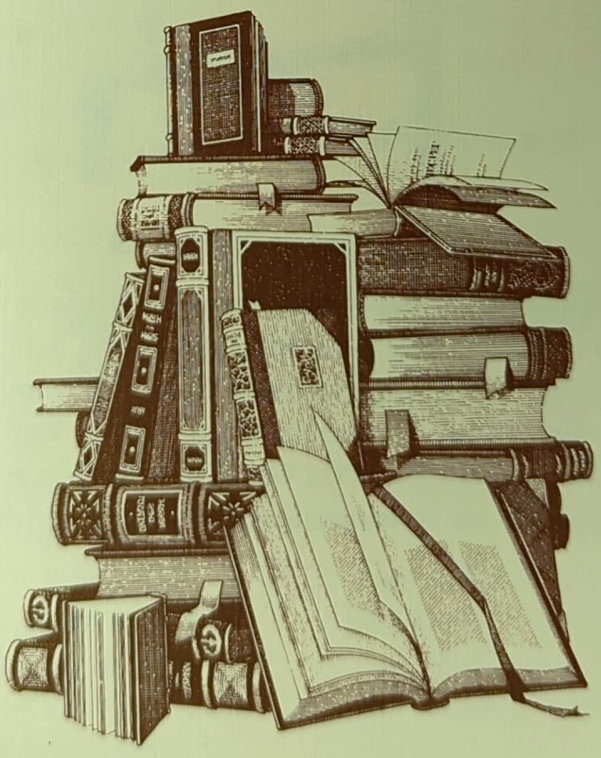


Henderson Junior High School

This school was located at 243 Water Street and was first known as Townsite School in 1942 and used for a high school *(Railroad Pass High School).* After Basic High School was built in 1952, the junior high was housed here along with some elementary grades until Basic Elementary *(now Gordon McCaw Elementary)* was built. When the new Basic High School was constructed at 400 Palo Verde Drive in 1971-72, the junior high was moved to the old Basic High School at 355 West Van Wagenen and renamed Lyal Burkholder Junior High School. This building now serves as administrative offices for the city of Henderson.

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Burkholder, Lyal, ***Report prepared for historical data for Clark County School District, 1965.***



Chapter IX
IMPACT OF HOOVER DAM
BOULDER CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM
— 1931 —

Even before the 1920's, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation engineers had been making surveys on the Colorado River for proposed construction of a dam in Boulder Canyon to control a fierce and powerful river and produce water and power. A gigantic flood in 1905 devastated the lower Colorado region as a result of heavy spring runoffs.

In 1928, congress passed the Boulder Canyon Project Act authorizing construction of Hoover Dam. At first called Boulder Dam or Boulder Canyon Dam, in 1931 it was named Hoover Dam to honor President Herbert Hoover. The name was again changed to Boulder Dam in 1933, and in 1947 congress officially named it Hoover Dam.

Location of the dam was to be in Black Canyon. Actual construction of Hoover *(Boulder)* Dam and power plant began with the driving of four diversion tunnels on June 6, 1933, in Black Canyon by Six Companies, a combination of six major construction companies in the Western United States who joined their assets and engineering skills to build the dam. On June 6, 1933, the first bucket of concrete was placed.

Hoover Dam was the largest construction project ever undertaken by the federal government. It would be the tallest dam ever built *(726.4 feet from bedrock to crest, equivalent to the height of a 60-story skyscraper)* and would create behind it one of the largest manmade lakes in the world.

In 1935, the dam was completed two years ahead of schedule and was dedicated on September 30, 1935, by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The town of Boulder City was to be built on a plateau about 2,500 feet above sea level, seven miles south of the damsite. Since suitable living quarters would be vital to construction progress, Six Companies was awarded the housing contract. The Bureau of Reclamation spent about two million dollars to build Boulder City: hundreds of small houses, dormitories, a cafeteria, and a general store were built and operated by Six Companies. The bureau built and operated the government buildings. In spite of the fact that families were to be living in the new city, no plans had been made for schools.

Southern Nevadans had reflected an intense interest in the proposed idea of a dam in Boulder. Civic leaders of Las Vegas had worked long hours, attended numerous meetings, traveled to Washington, D.C. to testify as to the need of the dam, and bargained for a share of water and power the dam would produce.

In 1931, the Las Vegas Valley had a population of 5,165, almost half of whom had been attracted to the area because of the Colorado River Project. Las Vegas was not prepared for the hundreds of families that

poured into the area hoping for construction work.

In spite of the fact that families were to be living in the new Boulder City, no plans had been made for schools. The need for schools in Boulder City developed suddenly in the fall of 1931 with development of the city's housing area. In 1931, Nevada's U.S. Senator, Tasker L. Oddie, introduced a bill in congress requesting that the Department of Interior provide school facilities for Boulder City children. The state of Nevada and the county of Clark were unable to meet the demand for schools because neither had authority of taxation on this federal reservation set up to control area activities.

Elementary schools provided during 1931-32 were private institutions held in private homes with teacher salaries, supplies, and equipment provided by parents. On September 16, 1931, the first private school opened in Boulder City in a private home. A kindergarten class began in another home made available by the construction company some distance away. Sims Ely, an employee of the Bureau of Reclamation who was serving as city manager of Boulder City, was in charge of these private elementary schools and hired the teachers.

During the 1932-33 school year, the federal government made available a 16-room brick building for elementary grades. Six Companies and Babcock and Wilcox, the construction companies, provided a fund to pay teachers but parents still furnished books and supplies. Ely administered the funds and served as a one-man school board. Leila Tilley, an experienced teacher and administrator, was the teaching principal. This building served until 1970 when the present elementary school at 900 Avenue B, now named the Andrew J. Mitchell Elementary School, was built. The vacated building is now the Boulder City Hall.

High school students in Boulder City were bused to Las Vegas High School since the Boulder City area was under the jurisdiction of Educational District No. 2. This district included Las Vegas High School students and those in all of Clark County outside the Virgin and Moapa Valleys which comprised Educational District No. 1, the first consolidated district in the county. Transportation cost Boulder City parents $16 a month for each child.

The ***Boulder City Journal*** of March 11, 1932, ran the following story on the school system in Boulder City headlined, "Boulder City School Has Unique History:"

> **Never before did a school of five teachers and some ten or twelve dozens of pupils grow up as Boulder City's school system has come into being this year.**
>
> **In the absence of official provision for schooling, for the present year, Mrs. Zella B. Larson carried on "school" in her home, teaching her own daughter, Shirley Jane, and Junior Stokes, while Mrs. Jamieson taught her own daughter, Peggy, in her home.**
>
> **The idea of teaching other children at the same time flashed into their minds, and from there the school grew, until there were five buildings in the central "cluster" with playground equipment built by the Boulder City company and with all the regular study courses of a normal school system.**
>
> **In addition, two other "private schools" came into existence in other parts of the community, making a total of seven teachers, while many pupils, including all high school pupils, go to Las Vegas by bus daily to school.**

On September 16, 1931, Mrs. Larson opened her school, and immediately there were 18 pupils in first and second grades. The first week ended with three third graders added.

Soon Mrs. Winifred Hamilton came to the rescue and took over the third and fourth grades. On October 12 two rooms being occupied by the fast-growing "system".

Later Mrs. Harriet Gossett entered the picture, teaching seventh and eighth, while the Boulder City company kept pace with the growth by donating still another building, of residence type similar to the first two.

Soon a parent-teachers association was talked and parents and Legion committee got together, formed committees and took charge of the situation to a certain extent, deciding to bring in two more teachers.

Came Miss Maxine Provost from Phoenix and Miss Margaret Hunt, recently graduated from teacher's college in Reno, Miss Provost taking second grade and Miss Hunt fifth and sixth. There are now 35 first graders, and more coming every week.

The parents pay $5 a month for each pupil, and buy their children's books, the teachers furnishing supplies.

Desks and chairs, resembling those used shortly after the "Hoosier Schoolmaster" period were made and donated by the Boulder City company, and stoves and fuel also were furnished. Charles Williams and Floyd Currie built swings and other playground apparatus.

Mrs. Anna Bissell opened a school near the New Mexico construction camp later, with 16 pupils to start, and Mrs. L. G. Cairns started a kindergarten at 414 Ash Street early last month.

The first school fire took place two weeks ago, when the roof of Miss Provost's building got afire during the noon hour. The fire was soon extinguished.

By fall of 1933, the State Department of Education was able to assume control of the Boulder City Elementary School. The courts had granted the state and Clark County authority to tax personal property and improvements in the area; thus, Boulder City Elementary District was organized under provisions of Nevada law. Boulder City children were back on public school rolls beginning with the 1933-34 school year. The federal government leased the buildings to the new district and Boulder City Elementary *(grades 1-8)* District was in operation, although high school students were to continue attendance at Las Vegas High School.

A school board was appointed for Boulder City Elementary and all records were turned over to this board. A. H. Ayers was clerk of the board; other members were J. R. Alexander and Earl Brothers.

Robert O. Weede served as first principal of the Boulder City Elementary, with Elton M. Garrett as vice-principal, with 16 teachers and an average daily attendance of 627 for the reporting period.

In 1936, because of parent requests, ninth grade students in Boulder City for the first time attended classes in Boulder City rather than being sent to Las Vegas High School with the three higher secondary grades. This change necessitated the purchase of considerable equipment and a schedule of heavy teaching loads for teachers.

In 1939, the tenth grade was added; in 1941, the eleventh and twelfth grades were added. Elbert Edwards, who had been

serving as deputy state superintendent of public instruction, became superintendent of the Boulder City school system with Elton Garrett principal of both elementary and high school grades. Edwards served until 1956 when all schools in Clark County were consolidated into the Clark County School District.

In 1946, while Edwards was superintendent, Educational District No. 3 was created by the state legislature to include both elementary and high schools *(Boulder City High School was under jurisdiction of Educational District No. 2 until 1946)* and Boulder City became a K-12 system. After Clark County School District was organized in 1956, Edwards became an area administrator in the county office until his retirement.

The following is from a report of "Background and Related Information 1956" on the Boulder City schools prepared by Elbert Edwards at the time he was serving as the area administrator and covers part of the 1931-56 period of time:

> The schools operated satisfactorily on the basis of funds realized from State and county apportionments and local taxes *(from 1933)* until 1938. By that time, the completion of the major part of the project had permitted the construction companies and other large interests to move the large percentage of the assessable wealth from the district and from the tax rolls, and the school district found itself virtually bankrupt. In spite of this removal of valuation and by virtue of the high percentage of Federally owned housing and the increase in the number of Federal employees, the student enrollment held up and it became imperative that the school district receive additional revenues from other sources. An appeal was made for Federal aid, and in 1939 it was made available on the basis of an allotment of $45.00 for each child in average daily attendance who was a dependent of a Federal employee.
>
> The appropriation was made on an annual basis, and each session of Congress found it necessary to garner recognition of the necessity and the equity for this assistance. The adoption by the Federal Government of a general policy to assist with the educational needs of federally affected children obviated the need for this special legislation, and the district was placed on a more secure financial footing.
>
> During the early construction days *(of the dam)* when activity was at its peak, the sixteen-room building was sorely taxed to accommodate the school age population. With the completion of the heavy construction work, the population of the community fell off and there was a corresponding decrease in school enrollment. The reduced student load made classroom space available, and in 1936 the local school board contracted with the Board of Education of Educational District No. 2 to provide the educational needs for the ninth grade. In 1939, the tenth grade was added. The construction of a new building, a combination gymnasium and classroom structure by the Federal Government in 1941, permitted the accommodation of the eleventh and twelfth grades, so that in the fall of 1941 the community was provided with a K-12 program.
>
> The Boulder City School District continued to provide school facilities for grades nine through twelve by contract with Educational District No. 2 until December, 1945. On January 1, 1946, by virtue of legislative enactment, Educational District No. 3 of Clark County came into existence, and the local community was autonomous in its school organization for grades kindergarten through twelve.
>
> Under this new organization, the new school district has access to the regular State and county apportionments; the kindergarten tax up to 25¢ on the $100 of assessed valuation,

the elementary school tax of the same amount, and a high school tax in such amount as needed. In addition to the local income, the district also received the Federal aid as previously mentioned.

With the advent of World War II, the population of Boulder City began to grow to such an extent that the building facilities became inadequate for the school needs. Congress was petitioned to provide the needs of the district in 1942 and construction was authorized. The War Production Board, however, would approve only such minimum construction of a temporary nature that the school board voted to delay action until such time as all needs could be met on a permanent basis. Accordingly, three church basements were rented, a recreation hall was acquired and remodeled, two army barracks buildings were adapted, and the children of the district were kept on a full day attendance basis.

After the war, application to the Federal Government was renewed for the construction of permanent high school facilities *(1101 Fifth Avenue)*. Through the offices of State Department of Public Instruction, the school board arranged for a survey of their needs by personnel from the Division of School House Planning of the State Department of Education of the State of California, and a master plan for the development of the educational facilities of the community was set up.

Through cooperation of the Board of Education, the local offices of the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Department of the Interior, and the School Board's consultant, Charles D. Gibson, the classroom section of the Boulder City Junior-Senior High School was realized in 1950, gymnasium and shop facilities in 1952, and grounds and athletic fields through the intervening years.

Provision for the major part of the building construction was made prior to the adoption of P.L. 815, so the cost of the building was provided through legislation as part of the Colorado River Dam Fund. Subsequent construction provided during the past three years has been financed jointly through the provision of P.L. 815 and local district funds.

The Boulder City Administration has developed and maintains a community recreation area contiguous to the high school campus. This area provided lighted ball fields for softball and regular baseball. These parks are operated by the Boulder City Recreation Association, a volunteer organization. Through a reciprocity agreement of many years standing, the school has free access to and use of these facilities. The school in turn makes available to the association free use of gymnasium facilities when such use does not conflict with school activities.

James C. Nelson — Man of Many Talents

In July 1979, the Clark County Board of School Trustees named the Boulder City High School gymnasium the James C. Nelson Gymnasium at the request of a large number of students, staff members, and townspeople who wished to honor Nelson, a math teacher and coach at the high school for twenty-seven years.

Nelson came to Boulder City in the fall of 1959 after one year of teaching and coaching basketball at Riverside Military Academy in Gainsville, Georgia. At Boulder City Nelson had a varied career: coached junior varsity basketball for four years and varsity basketball for nine years, was assistant track coach for the 1958-59 school year, had been the clerk of course for track meets from 1953 through 1979, coached junior high girls' basketball for three years, and had been a member of the Boulder City Recreation Board. At the time of his retirement at the end of the 1977-78 school year, he had served

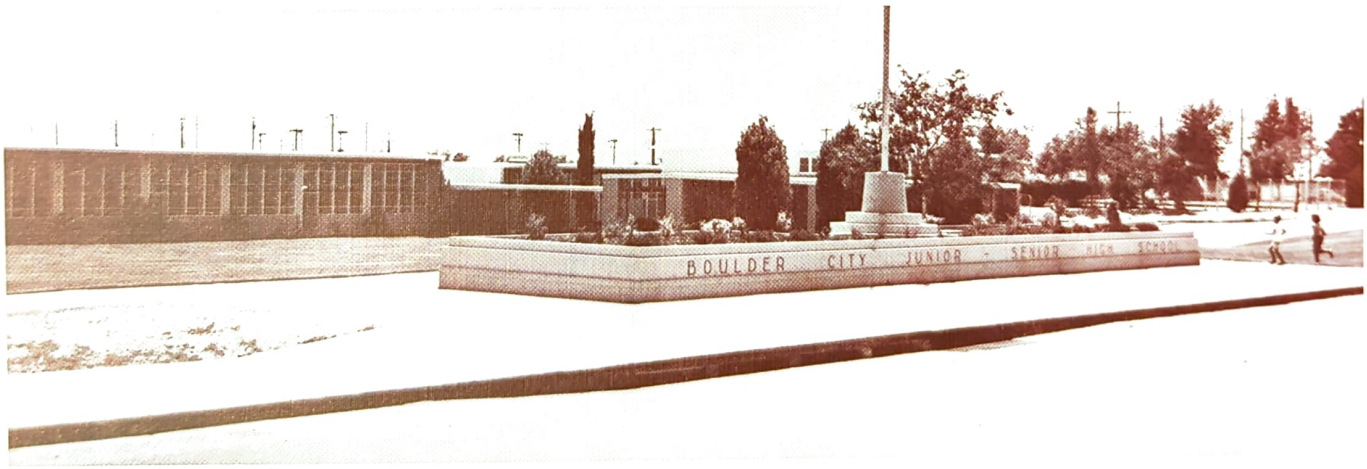
the community's school and children in a tireless and dedicated manner which earned him the respect and admiration of all with whom he had come in contact.

Bruce M. Eaton — Man of Much Spirit

In June of 1983, the Clark County Board of School Trustees named the athletic field at Boulder City High School the Bruce M. Eaton Athletic Field as a gesture of recognition of and appreciation to Bruce M. Eaton for his initiative and leadership in providing youth of Boulder City near-ideal conditions for participation in athletics and outdoor physical education activities.

Growth of the Boulder City area during World War II created a drastic shortage of classrooms. Although congress appropriated funds in 1948 for classrooms, a gymnasium, and shop, no provision was made for other athletic facilities. Eaton's leadership, spirit, and voluntary action benefitted both the Clark County School District and the Boulder City community. Eaton was maintenance foreman of Boulder City. Recognizing the needs of the school and of Boulder City youth, he utilized his office and equipment to level ridges and fill in ravines in constructing the school's athletic field and track. He also solicited volunteer services from his crew and other citizens to make forms and place concrete to build bleachers for the field. These facilities, including the original lighting system and track and score board, were provided at no cost to the taxpayers.

The Board of School Trustees felt that this volunteer service and the enduring assets to Boulder City, the district, and to generations of youth should be gratefully acknowledged by having Eaton's name given to the field. Eaton died on September 27, 1985. A memorial service was held in Grace Community Church on October 1, 1985.



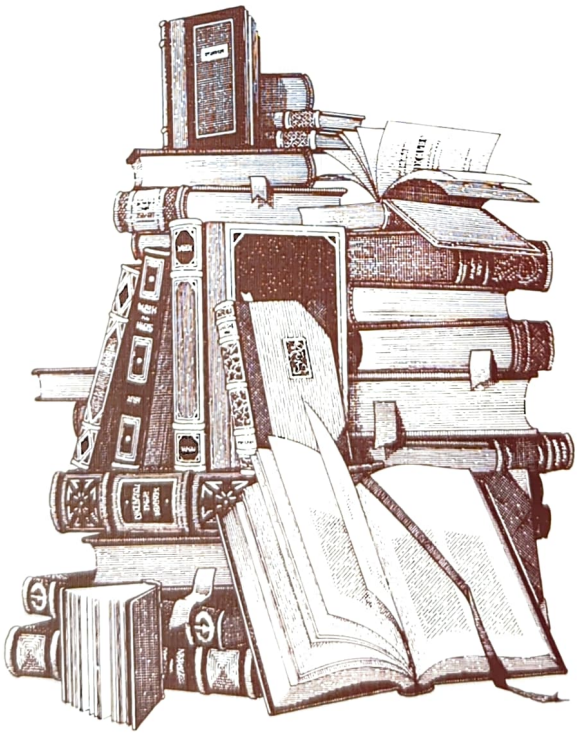
Boulder City Junior/Senior High School

This building was opened in 1950 at 1101 Fifth Street, Boulder City, to serve both junior and senior high students. At present, Boulder City junior high students attend Elton Garrett Junior High School at 1200 Avenue G.

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Chapter X
DISTRICTS IN CLARK COUNTY: CONSOLIDATION AND UNIONIZING

Educational District No. 1

In 1919, by action of the state legislature, the first consolidation of schools took place in the northeast portion of Clark County when independent adjacent districts of Bunkerville, Mesquite, Overton, Logandale, and a few small schools were consolidated into Educational District No. 1. Under the leadership of A. L. Kelly, then principal of Virgin Valley High School, a movement began to consolidate the schools of Virgin and Moapa Valleys and the surrounding area.

Through the efforts of Clark County legislators, in 1919 the legislature divided the county into two districts. Educational District No. 1 included Virgin and Moapa Valleys and surrounding territory containing fifty-seven townships with its own Board of Education, district superintendent, two separate high schools — Overton and Bunkerville — and seven elementary schools. Kelly became first superintendent of the new Educational District No. 1 and served until 1929.

At the same time, the remainder of Clark County was designated as Educational District No. 2 for high school purposes only, under the jurisdiction of a separate board of education; elementary districts were to remain individual districts. This division remained until 1946 when Educational District No. 3 was created for the Boulder City school system.

Las Vegas Union School District

The Las Vegas Union School District, a unionization of Las Vegas Elementary No. 12 and Educational District No. 2 for high schools, was formed in 1925. The Board of Education was composed of five members. H. A. Whiteneck, former principal of Las Vegas High School, served as first superintendent of Las Vegas Union School District for two years. Maude Frazier, deputy state superintendent of public instruction for the southern Nevada area *(Fifth Supervisor District)* since 1921, was appointed superintendent and served until 1946.

Boulder City District No. 3

In 1946, Educational District No. 3 was created to include Boulder City Elementary District, formed under the laws of Nevada in 1933, and Boulder City High School District, which had been contained in Educational District No. 2 *(Las Vegas High School District)*, and that district provided the educational program for high school students in Boulder City. Therefore, in 1946, Boulder City became autonomous in its school organization for grades 1 through 12.

Elbert Edwards became the first superintendent of Boulder City schools and upon consolidation of the county system, became area administrator until his retirement.

Major consolidation of schools in the county

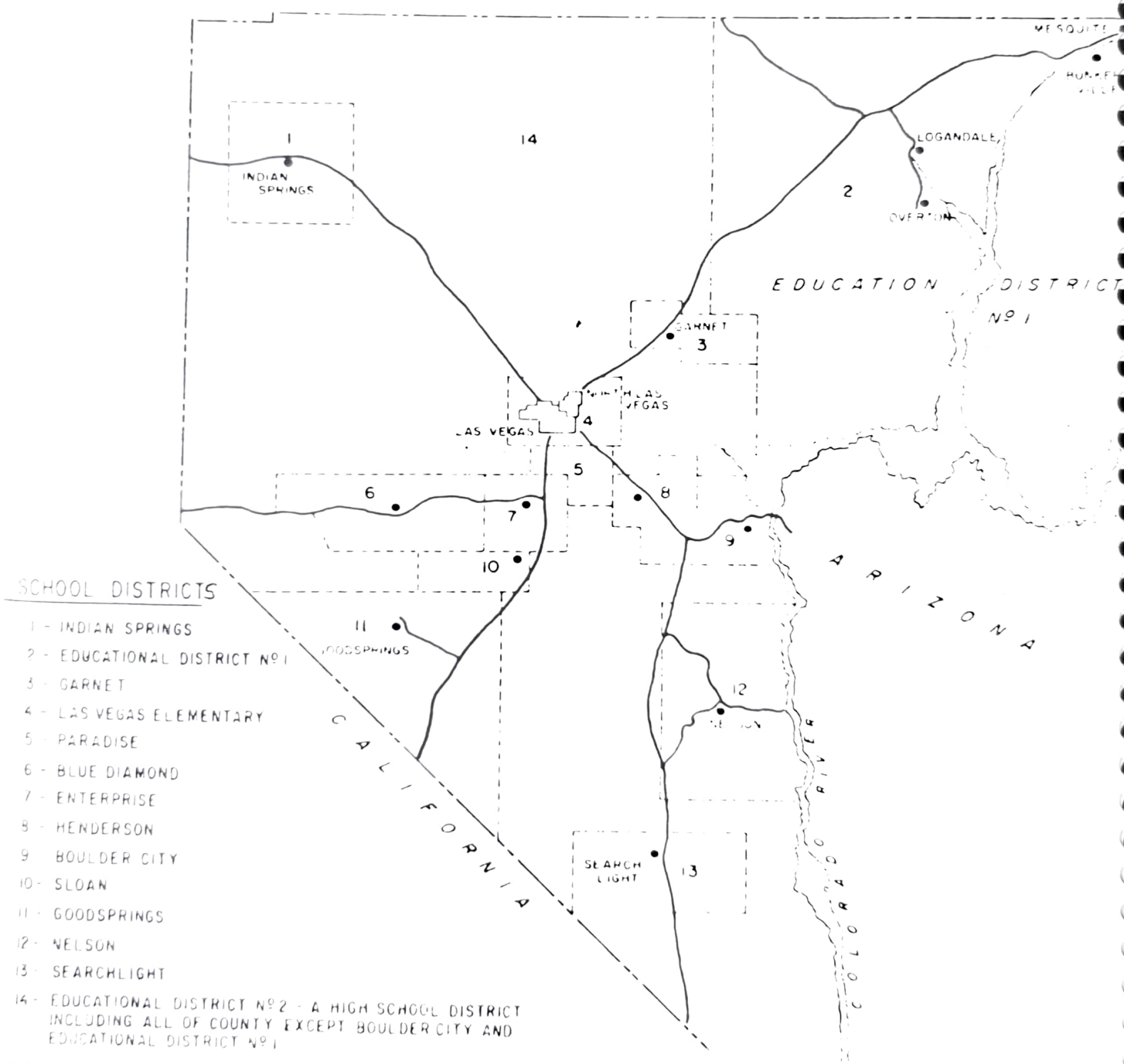
came in 1956 under mandate of the state legislature when 14 independent districts, including the two above-mentioned, were consolidated into the Clark County School District under the administration of seven school board members and first superintendent, R. Guild Gray.

Postscript: Educational Districts

In 1919, Clark County was divided into Educational District No. 1 which included all the elementary schools and high schools in the Overton and Bunkerville areas under one administration and Educational District No. 2 which included the rest of the county for high school purposes only. Clark County High School at Las Vegas was the only high school.

In the spring of 1925, the County High School at Las Vegas *(Educational District No. 2)* and the Las Vegas elementary schools *(District No. 12)* were consolidated to become the Las Vegas Union School District, remaining thus until consolidation in 1956. H. A. Whiteneck, principal of the high school at Las Vegas before 1925, became the first superintendent of the Las Vegas Union School District.

CLARK COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND PRINCIPAL TOWNS
(Prior to 1956 Consolidation)



SCHOOL DISTRICTS

1 - INDIAN SPRINGS
2 - EDUCATIONAL DISTRICT Nº 1
3 - GARNET
4 - LAS VEGAS ELEMENTARY
5 - PARADISE
6 - BLUE DIAMOND
7 - ENTERPRISE
8 - HENDERSON
9 - BOULDER CITY
10 - SLOAN
11 - GOODSPRINGS
12 - NELSON
13 - SEARCHLIGHT
14 - EDUCATIONAL DISTRICT Nº 2 - A HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT INCLUDING ALL OF COUNTY EXCEPT BOULDER CITY AND EDUCATIONAL DISTRICT Nº 1

Chapter XI
THE MOVE TOWARD THE COUNTY SYSTEM
— 1953 - 1956 —

Solving The Growth Problem

The immediate years following World War II, Clark County's population continued to grow. There was vast overcrowding in the schools, insufficient operating funds, general deterioration of physical facilities and underpaid teachers in the Clark County schools — difficulties which were common nationwide. Funding allotted through temporary tax structures failed to meet immediate needs of many state school districts.

Each legislature was met with demands from the State Department of Education, school administrators, teachers, and parents for more funds for each district, urban or rural. An adequate school funding formula for Nevada operating funds allotted by legislative action served to finance schools only on a temporary basis until the next legislature met. Efficient operation of schools was deteriorating and teachers were demanding improved salaries to meet higher living costs.

Finally, the 1953 legislature, recognizing the problems and seeing the prospect of increased taxes, called for a complete study of the state's schools with the hope that the next legislature could provide an adequate funding formula for the obvious demands for school buildings, equipment, and salary adjustments.

A Governor's School Survey Committee was authorized and employed a team from George Peabody College for Teachers to make a professional study.

Compounded problems could be predicted as postwar babyboom children would be of school age in a few years. Legislative action mandating consolidation into Nevada's 17 county school districts meant the replacement of 173 active elementary districts and 35 high school districts in the state and elimination of many individual school boards.

For Clark County, the law provided that the new, original Clark County Board of School Trustees be composed of seven members elected from and by the members of old school boards as follows: only three could come from the county seat, Las Vegas; wisely, the members of the old boards chose other members from the various cultures of the county, i.e., one chosen from Boulder City, another from Henderson, a third from agricultural areas, and a fourth from rural and small town groups. These seven persons were conscious of their emotional involvement in facing new problems and chose to bring in outside consultants to help them objectively consider the problems. Dr. Edgar L. Morphet of the University of California and Dr. Howard A. Dawson, executive secretary of the Department of Rural Education of the National Education Association, were hired as consultants.

When consolidation of 17 Nevada county

school districts occurred in 1956, 14 separate school districts in Clark County were abolished and became part of the Clark County School District. These 14 districts included the previously consolidated Educational District No. 1 in Moapa and Virgin Valley areas, and Las Vegas Union School District composed of Las Vegas Elementary No. 12, and Educational District No. 2, a high school district which included all of the county for high school purposes except Boulder City and Educational District No. 1.

Shown in the photo below is the first Board of School Trustees elected in 1956 when legislation established the new county school boards. Sherwin F. Garside, Las Vegas, was the first board president. Dr. C. W. Woodbury was the second member representing Las Vegas. Mr. Garside died May 20, 1956. Dr. Woodbury died on March 1, 1983, after serving several terms.



First Post-Consolidation Clark County Board of School Trustees

Front Row: Mrs. Helen Hyde Phillips, Boulder City, Clerk; Mr. Sherwin Garside, Las Vegas, President; Dr. C. W. Woodbury, Las Vegas, Member. Standing: Mr. C. T. Sewell, Henderson, Vice-President; Mr. Milton Keefer, Las Vegas, Member; Mr. Robert White, rural Las Vegas, Member; Mr. Dell Robison, Logandale, Member.

Some Interesting Growth Figures

Enrollment First School Month Each Year
Since Consolidation Into Clark County System

1956-1957	20,420	1971-1972	75,269
1957-1958	21,755	1972-1973	75,493
1958-1959	24,052	1973-1974	77,853
1959-1960	25,928	1974-1975	79,150
1960-1961	29,044	1975-1976	81,081
1961-1962	32,675	1976-1977	83,052
1962-1963	40,707	1977-1978	83,346
1963-1964	49,486	1978-1979	86,227
1964-1965	54,306	1979-1980	87,508
1965-1966	57,795	1980-1981	88,603
1966-1967	60,295	1981-1982	89,617
1967-1968	62,944	1982-1983	89,782
1968-1969	67,622	1983-1984	89,128
1969-1970	71,413	1984-1985	89,421
1970-1971	73,846	1985-1986	91,569



Clark County School Board of Trustees — 1986

Front Row: Members of Board of School Trustees are Patricia A. Bendorf, Vice President; Shirley Holst, President; Howard Hollingsworth, Clerk. Second Row: Members Robert Forbuss, Yvonne Atkinson Gates, Lucille Lusk, and Dan Goldfarb.

The following was published by the ***Las Vegas Review-Journal*** on July 20, 1986, indicating current growth and expansion of the district.

The Clark County School District ranks 19th in size among the nation's public school systems. Actual enrollment for the 1985-86 school year was 91,569.

The district is governed by a seven-member board of school trustees who are elected to four-year terms. Each represents a specific district within Clark County. Regular school board meetings are at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at the district headquarters at 2832 E. Flamingo Rd. The public is invited to attend. Students who live in Clark County, which comprises an area of 7,927 square miles, are eligible to attend classes. The district operates 117 schools including 78 elementary schools *(15 of which are year-round schools)*, four special schools, 19 junior high schools and 15 high schools.

The district employs about 8,000 full-time people. More than half the staff, an estimated 4,800 employees, are certified or administrative personnel. The remaining staff members include secretarial, clerical, bus drivers, maintenance personnel and others. The district is an equal opportunity employer.

Advanced education is encouraged and rewarded. Sixty percent of the teaching staff have master's degrees or higher.

Kindergarten is an optional part of the regular school program and is open to children who are five years of age on or before Sept. 30. A child must be six years of age on or before Sept. 30 to enter first grade. State law requires school attendance for all children ages seven to 17.

Report cards are issued for nine-week periods for grades 1-12 and at the end of each semester for kindergarten.

State law requires school children to be immunized for diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, rubella and rubeola. The Clark County Health District offers free immunizations.

The district operates and maintains its own fleet of school buses. Free bus transportation is provided for special education students and all other students who live two or more miles distance from their assigned schools.

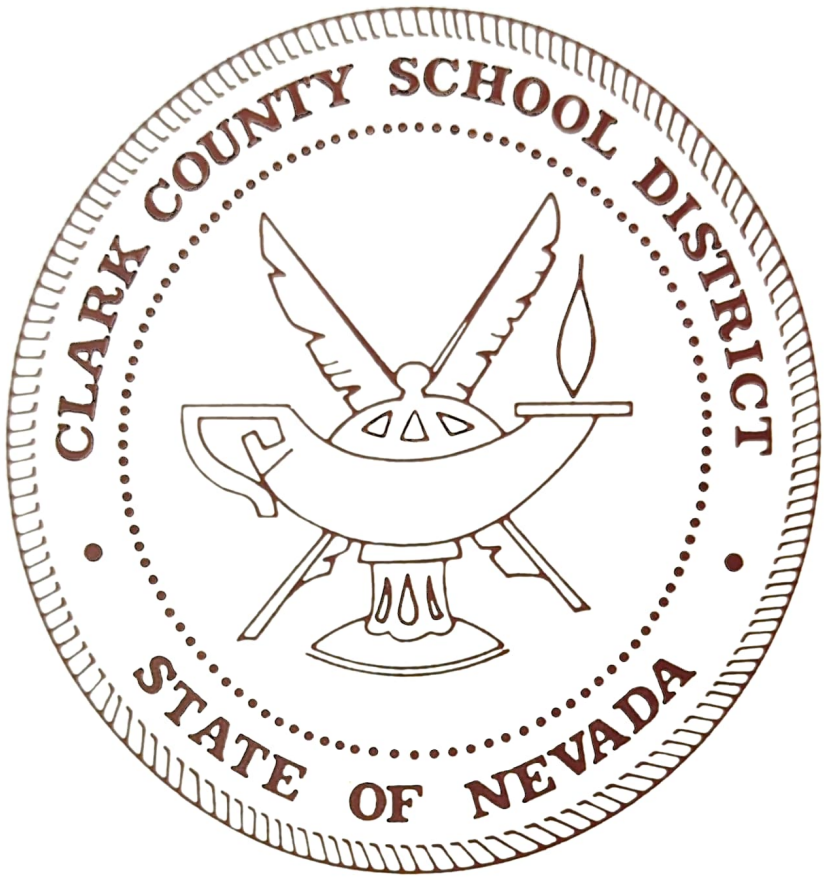
Lunch is available for purchase at most schools at a nominal cost.

Average scores on districtwide achievement tests given at various grade levels consistently exceed the national average.

Table 1 - Clark County Population Increases — 1910-1956[1]

Year	Las Vegas	North Las Vegas	Henderson	Boulder City	Other	TOTAL Clark County
1910	800				2,521	3,321
1920	2,304				2,555	4,859
1930	5,165				3,367	8,532
1940	8,422	1,967			6,025	16,414
1950	24,624	3,875	5,419	3,904	13,467	51,289
1955	44,750	11,000	13,500	4,000	24,750	98,000
1956	47,000	13,000	14,000	4,000	25,000	103,000

[1]Prepared from statistics in the **1957 Las Vegas Report** of the Las Vegas Research and Statistical Bureau of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce.



CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT LOGO

For twenty-three years, the lamp of learning and crossed quills have been used as the logo of the Clark County School District.

The lamp of learning dominates the center circle of the logo, as the symbol of education and purpose of the School District. Located behind the lamp are crossed quills, recognized as one of man's oldest and most important tools used to record knowledge and learning.

The logo was designed by the late Walter E. Jacobson, who taught arts and crafts in the Henderson schools and at Western High School for 28 years. He died June 1, 1983.



Clark County School District Education Center

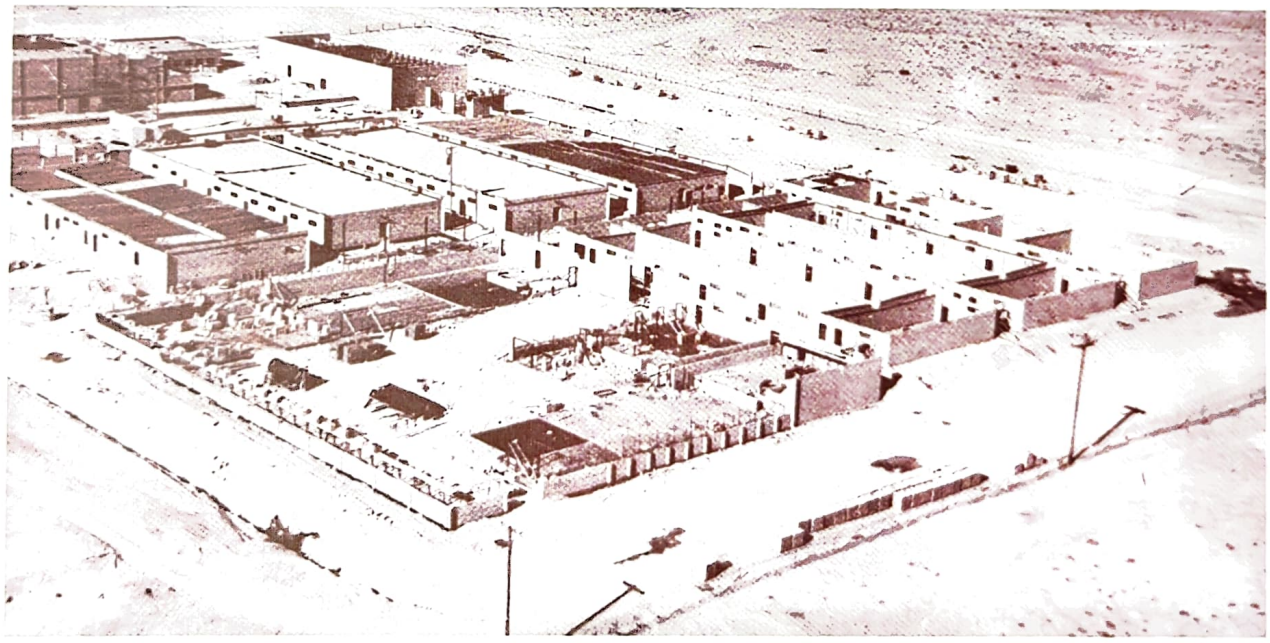
This administrative center opened in August 1964. It is located at 2832 East Flamingo Road and housed administrative support services, including a professional library for the new district. It presently serves as the center of operations. Additional administrative facilities have been added to the south between Rochelle and East Flamingo.

— HIGH SCHOOLS —



Rancho High School

Rancho High School at 1900 E. Owens, North Las Vegas, is a contemporary-styled building which opened in 1955 to serve North Las Vegas students who viewed it as their "hometown" school. It was the second public high school to open in the Las Vegas area. The building has undergone additions and remodeling since its opening.



Western High School

Western High School, the third high school in Las Vegas, opened at West Bonanza Road in 1961. It was named Western High for its location in the newly populated western part of Las Vegas. Ten years later a second story was added to this building.

— JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS —



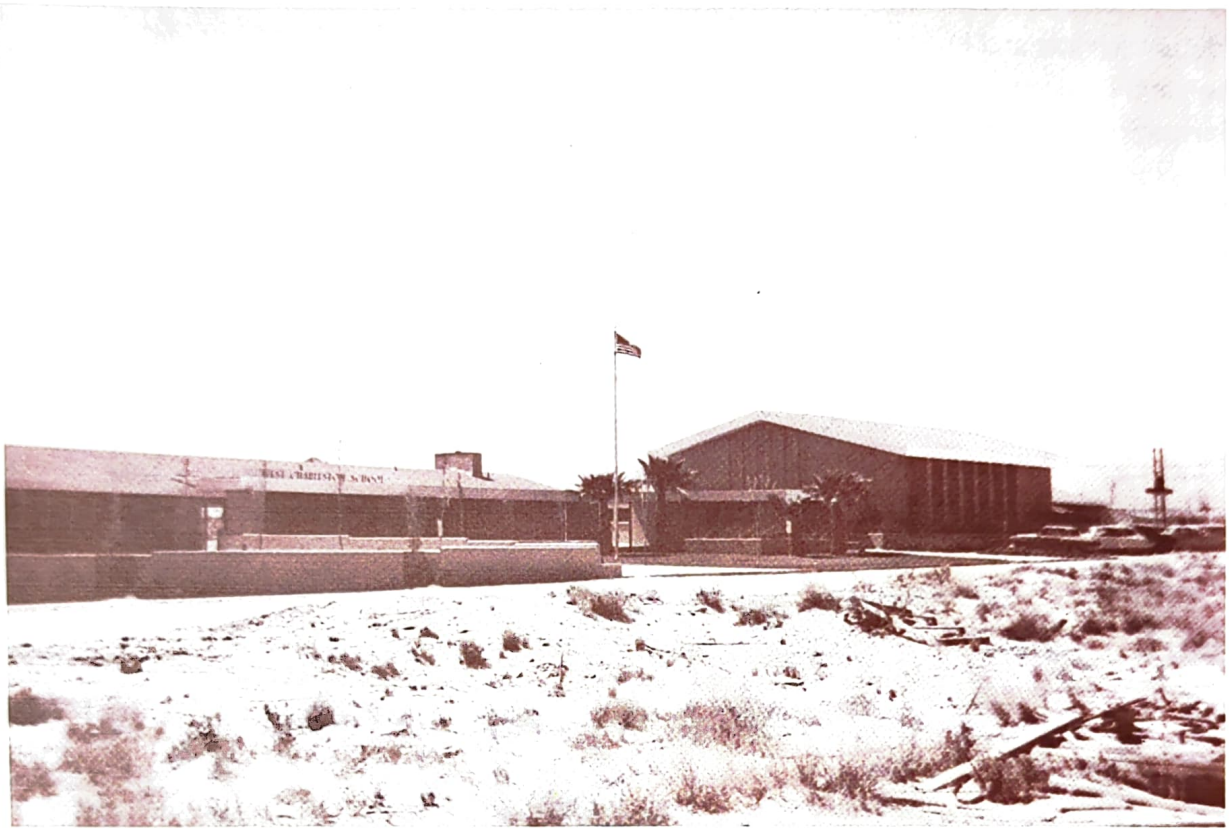
J. D. Smith Junior High School

This school, named for pioneer dentist and long-time school board member, J. D. Smith, opened in 1952 at 1301 E. Tonopah, North Las Vegas. Until the late 1950's it served both elementary and junior high students before becoming a regular junior high school.



C. W. Woodbury Junior High School

C. W. Woodbury Junior High School at 3875 E. Harmon Ave., Las Vegas, is a typical "round school" plan of district junior high schools built during the 1960's and 70's. Woodbury Junior High School was named for pioneer doctor and school board member, Dr. C. W. Woodbury.



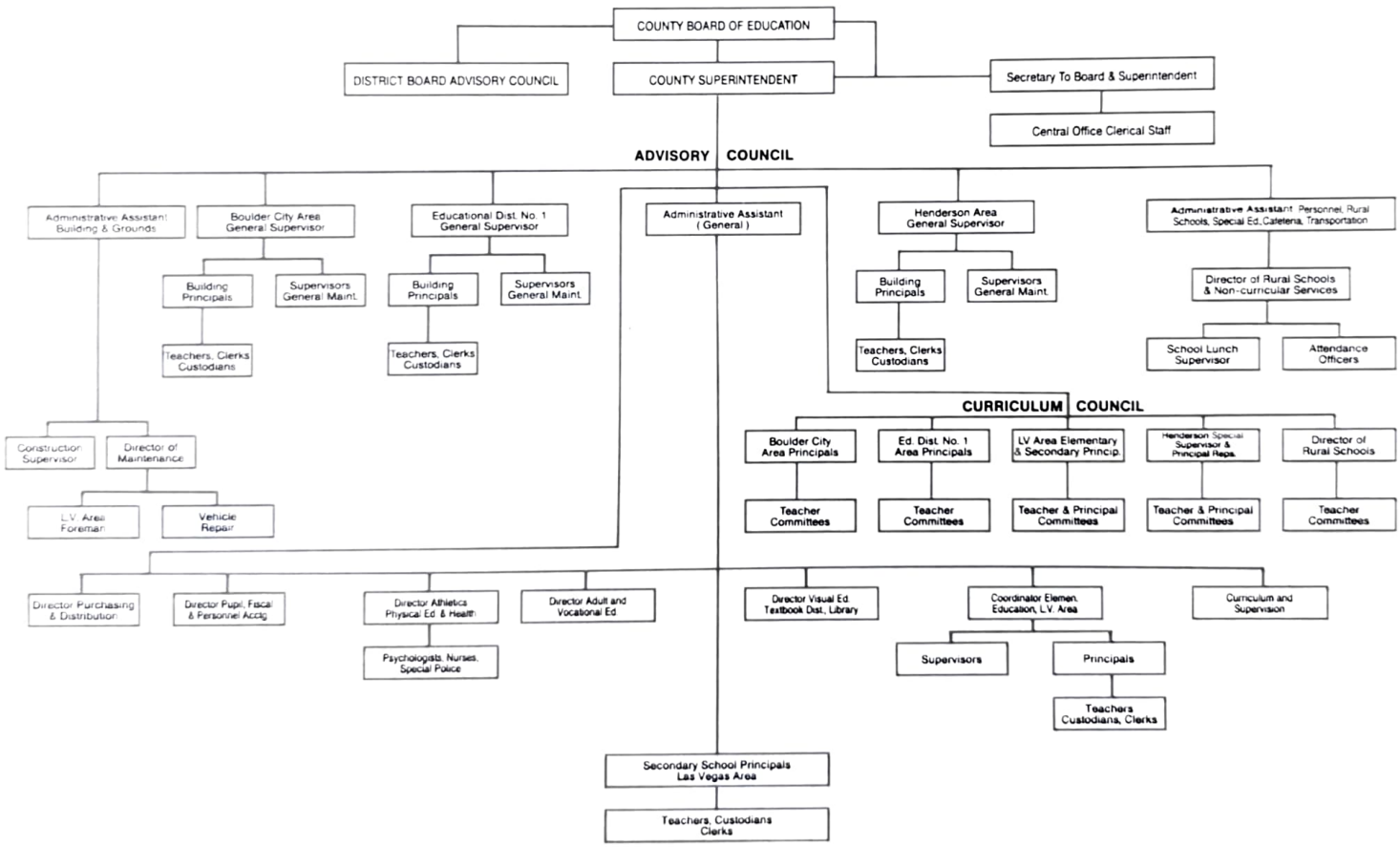
West Charleston Elementary School

West Charleston Elementary School opened in 1953 at 2831 Palomino Lane, Las Vegas, to serve a rapidly growing area of the western part of the city. The school was later renamed Howard Wasden Elementary School in honor of the local educator.

Postscript: Educational Districts

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1956 — This is the transitional administrative organization chart which went into effect when 14 school districts in Clark County became the Clark County School District.

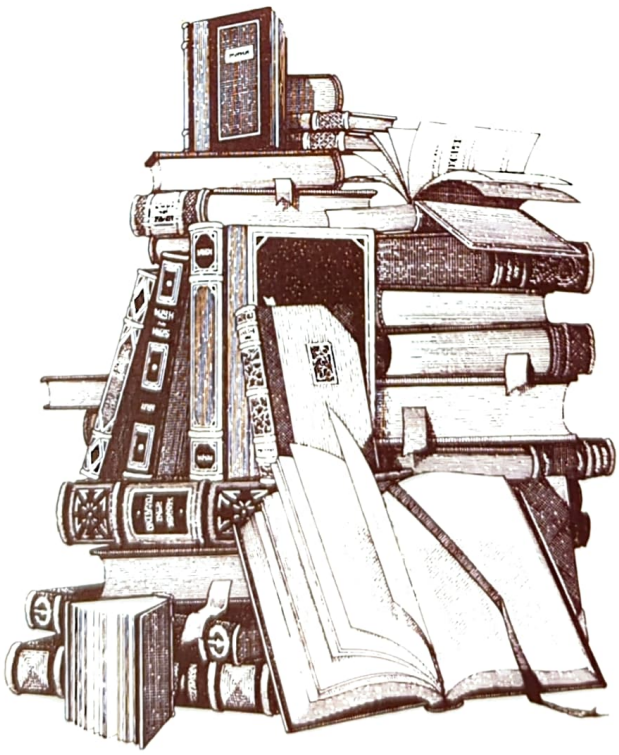
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Chapter XII
CONCERNS FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Before the 1950's, the only educational services available to handicapped children were for the blind and deaf who were sent out of state for education. Parents of handicapped children not enrolled in any kind of classes began to explore the possibility of starting some sort of education for their children. Parents of the blind, deaf, and physically and mentally handicapped met during 1949-50 to consider the problems of handicapped education and to request that the school board consider the problem and possibilities of securing state aid.

With help from parent groups, local media, and community organizations, the problem was brought to the attention of legislators. In 1951, the legislature authorized a study on handicapped children. The survey conducted indicated a need for special education and facilities and pointed toward the 1953 legislature to determine action to be taken. Federal funds were available in many instances to augment state programs in connection with handicapped children.

The 1953 legislature established an additional apportionment of state funds to the school district for children enrolled in special education classes. Nevada law thus enabled school districts to support a program of smaller classes, insuring more individual instruction for children enrolled.

Tent 39 *(chapter)* of the Variety Club was organized in Las Vegas in 1950 by hotel owners, businessmen, and other community leaders. Variety Club's major project became education for handicapped children and, in 1952, the club completed construction of a building at 2601 East Sunrise to be used for the education of orthopedically handicapped children, and one class was started.

In 1953, the Board of Trustees of the Las Vegas Union School District voted to incorporate this class of physically handicapped into the public school system, and Variety Club handed over the school to the district to operate. It was named Variety School for Special Education and was initially operated by five certificated staff, one secretary, and a custodian. Special children received speech training as well as physical and occupational therapy. From this beginning came the excellent program of special education now operated by the Clark County School District. The next year, classes for emotionally maladjusted children were inaugurated and a full-time speech therapist was made available. In 1955, the program for academically talented *(high intelligence and achievement)* was set up on an experimental basis at the sixth-grade level. The Las Vegas Union School District, in 1955, became the first school district in the state to employ a special school psychologist. In 1956, a countywide testing program for screening pupils needing special attention was started.

Howard J. Marr became principal of Variety School in 1958. Previous principals were Dr. Caroline Dowlen and Jasper Harvey. Marr was the pioneer in special education administration

in the Clark County School District and was largely responsible for the establishment of the many varied special education programs presently offered throughout the district. Through close cooperation with Variety Club and the school district's facilities division, he aided in designing and constructing in excess of $2,000,000 worth of physical improvements on the Variety School campus.

Over the years, Variety Club has provided sorely needed items including specially equipped buses for transportation. Las Vegas entertainers have joined hotels and businessmen in raising large amounts of funds for Tent 39 for use at Variety School.

In 1956, a second school was built by the Variety Club at 1001 C Street to aid children of low-income working parents. Named the Variety Day Home and operated by the Sisters of the Holy Family, the school instructs pre-kindergarten children. This facility is not operated by the school district but is supported by Variety Club funds.

In addition to Variety School classes, others are located in schools throughout the county for children diagnosed as having learning problems. Before consolidation of local districts, Henderson District parents had organized a group of mentally retarded children, hired the teachers, and operated the school as a private enterprise. After consolidation, this group became part of the district program but remained at Henderson.

Public Law 94-142, passed by the congress in 1975, provides that all handicapped children be entitled to a free, appropriate public education. The Child Find program, operated by the Clark County School District since 1982, provides an excellent source of discovering children with special handicaps not enrolled in an educational program or who are newcomers to the area.

Dessie Bailey, a Las Vegas resident for 45 years and a parent of one of the Variety School graduates, was a tireless worker from the beginning for the cause of handicapped children, and in 1977 was honored with the dedication of the Dessie Bailey Wing at Variety School.

In 1981, Variety Club raised $150,000 for a special swimming pool — natatorium — equipped with a ramp for wheelchair patients and heated for therapeutic purposes. The natatorium was named in honor of principal Howard J. Marr at the dedication on October 28, 1981.

Since the initiation of special education in 1952, the Clark County School District now provides programs which include classes for the academically talented, hearing impaired, diversely handicapped, emotionally handicapped, learning disabled, mentally handicapped, physically handicapped, speech and language handicapped, visually handicapped, and homebound *(a program started in 1948)*.

After the consolidation of all schools in Clark County into the Clark County School District in 1956, R. Guild Gray, first superintendent of the Clark County School District, prepared the following review of the special education program as a section of the background report on the district.

> **Special education services for the deaf, the physically and mentally handicapped, and the emotionally disturbed have not been neglected in Clark County even though public funds have not always been available. Thanks to the cooperation of the local tent of the**

Variety Club, a special education school was constructed and given to the school district. Presently additional rooms are being added from funds collected by the same organization. Once each year the Club puts on a great outdoor show with stars rivaling those on a television extravaganza furnishing the entertainment. Every day of the week there are dozens of the country's most famous entertainers on the Strip. Those present at the time of the big show give their services, and thousands of people attend. The receipts from this show built and equipped the "Variety School." Other organizations such as the Women's Service League help with transportation of the unfortunate and even pay part of the salaries of instructors. Thanks to the efforts of these people, the Clark County School District boasts a special education program superior to that found in many large cities. There are classes for the deaf, those with speech defects, the mentally retarded, the emotionally disturbed and the physically handicapped. In addition, remedial reading teachers are assigned to the elementary and high schools and special classes for slow learners are maintained.

Helen J. Stewart School was established as a special school for mentally handicapped students at the original site at 201 East Washington *(Biltmore School)* in 1963 with Dr. Robert E. Foster as principal. The John F. Miller School was adopted as an extension of Variety School under the direction of Howard Marr in 1984. Helen J. Stewart School moved to its present location at 2375 East Viking in 1972, and is of a design specially adapted for education of the handicapped.

The following 1956 Report on Education for the Handicapped provides some basic statistics and a vivid, comprehensive overview of progress in special education endeavors over the ensuing years.

1. Education of physically handicapped:
    a. One group of 14 pupils, age 6 to adolescence, with I.Q.'s of 70 and above was organized for children of normal intelligence whose physical disabilities make participation in the regular classrooms impractical or impossible.
    b. Housed at Variety School under one teacher.
    c. The Society for Crippled Children retains a physical therapist in Clark County and the school district provides a room at the Variety School for her work. She works closely with the teacher of the physically handicapped.
2. Education of emotionally disturbed:
    a. Thirty-three children are presently enrolled under two teachers.
    b. These classes are for children with normal or near normal intelligence of ages 6 to 14 but those whose emotional conditions are such that they need special attention.
    c. Approximately half of these children housed at the Variety School are under two teachers *(each teaches one-half day)*. The other half, under a third teacher, are housed at the Helen J. Stewart Elementary School.
3. Education of slow learners:
    a. Four classes with a total of 71 pupils — one each at the Kit Carson, Westside, Madison, and Helen J. Stewart Schools.
    b. The classes are organized for children, ages 6 to 16, who can be taught most of the ordinary skills expected of the elementary school but whose

intelligence and/or environment cause them to need special attention. The I.Q. range is very flexible but, generally speaking, hovers around 70.

4. Education of deaf:

   The school district makes space available at the Variety School. Currently, there are only five children enrolled. The teacher is paid by the parents; however, the Service League assists and will continue to aid parents who may not be able to afford the service.

5. Remedial reading teachers:

   Several remedial reading teachers are employed who take poor readers out of regular classes and work with them in small groups. The pupils benefitting from this program are, for the most part, of normal intelligence; but, because of the environmental and/or personal factors, have not developed reading skills commensurate with their ages or grade placement.

6. Homebound teachers:

   Presently, there are two teachers in the Las Vegas attendance area and one at Henderson who work with children who must be out of school for a long period of time because of illness or injury. The children receiving this service are of normal intelligence and will return to regular classes when well.

7. Speech therapist:

   The speech therapist works with children who have speech defects. Some of this work is individual therapy and some the training of teachers and parents to help children with speech defects.

8. Education of mentally retarded:

   a. The district employes two teachers at Henderson who are working with about 30 children. The ages are from about 6 to 16 and the I.Q. range is from about 20 to 70. This is the group which the Variety Club originally wished to accommodate in additional rooms at the Variety School.

   b. The parents of this group are well organized, for they originally hired the teachers and operated the school as a private enterprise.

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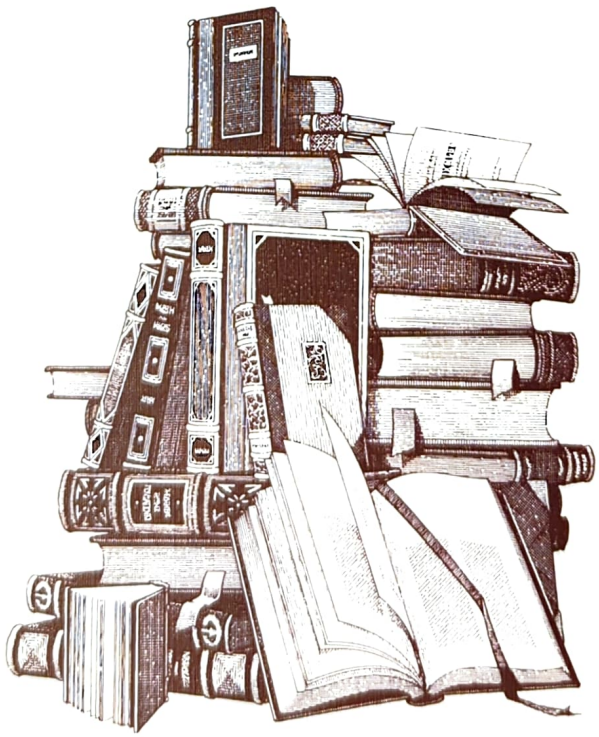
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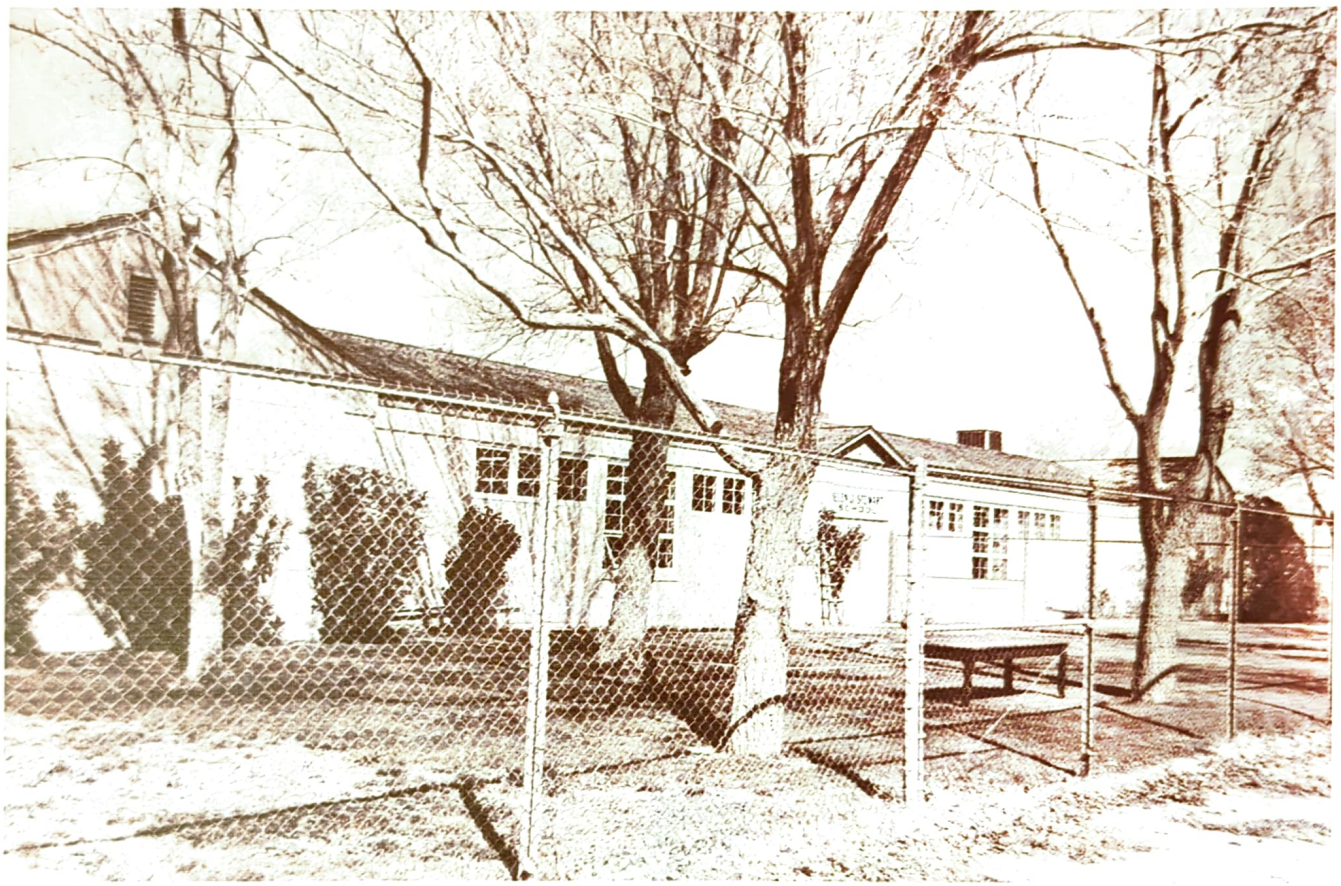
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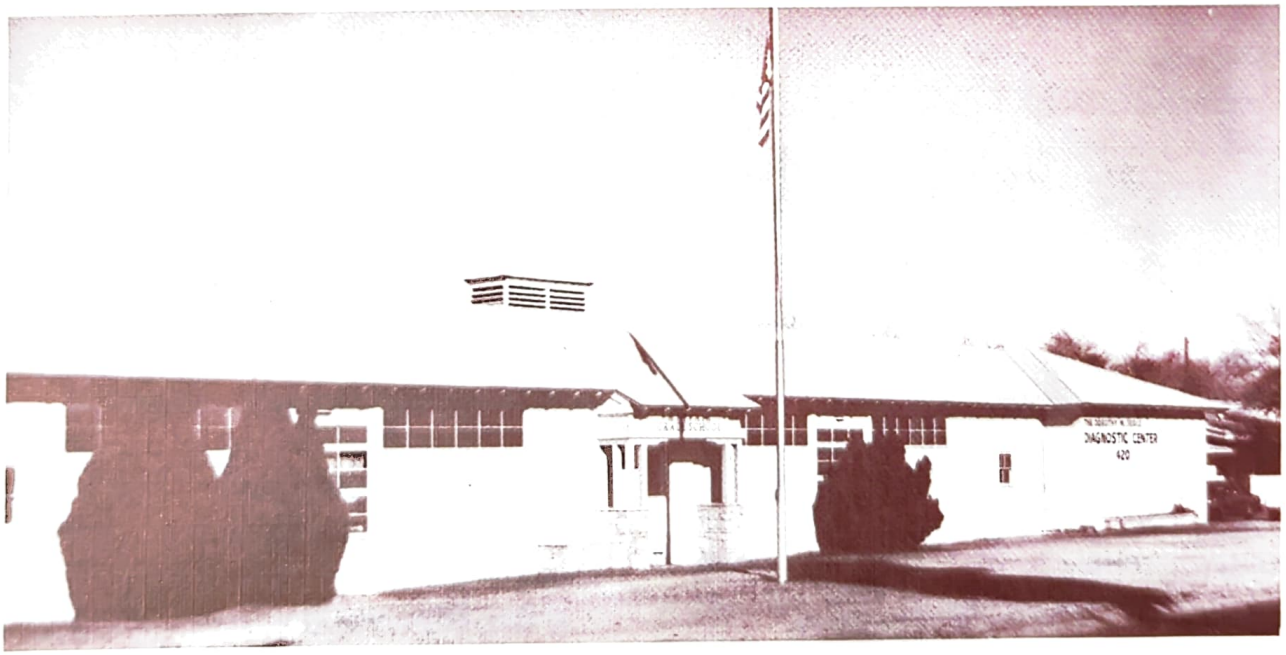
Helen J. Stewart School - 1965

Located at 201 E. Washington, this was the first school building designated for mentally handicapped students. It opened in 1963 with Dr. Robert Foster as principal. Helen J. Stewart, member of a pioneer Las Vegas family, served as a county school board clerk. Later, a new Helen J. Stewart School was built at 2375 E. Viking in Las Vegas.



Variety School - 1958

This building was constructed by the local Variety Club members in 1952 at 2601 East Sunrise for handicapped students. One year later, the school was given to the Las Vegas Union School District. Additional wings have been added since to accommodate student enrollment needs.



Dorothy Seigle Diagnostic Center - 1977

This building was formerly Mayfair Elementary School from 1942-71.

Chapter XIII
INTEGRATION COMES TO CLARK COUNTY

Because of World War II activities in the Las Vegas Valley, greater numbers of black citizens moved into the area, most of whom made their homes in the Westside *(Old Town)* section of Las Vegas. Development of a ghetto area, because of housing patterns, resulted in segregated elementary schools on the Westside. On the secondary level, schools in the Clark County School District have always been integrated by wish of the Board of School Trustees. The neighborhood school concept was retained in the elementary schools. As a result, by 1968 six Westside elementary schools, C. V. T. Gilbert, Kermit Booker, Sr. *(Highland),* Jo Mackey, Kit Carson, Madison, and Matt Kelly had enrollments consisting of more than 95 percent black students.

Segregation of schools in Las Vegas became a reflection of a move for basic segregation of housing. In the wake of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and United States Supreme Court decisions prohibiting racial segregation in public schools, desegregation lawsuits became numerous. Such groups as the NAACP *(through the Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.)* and the League of Women Voters expressed one point of view, while opposition was organized under the banner of such groups as "Parents Who Care" and "Operation Busstop."

Legal action was eventually initiated to enforce desegregation of the elementary schools. In October 1968, the United States District Court for Nevada *(Judge Bruce R. Thompson)* ruled that the Las Vegas elementary schools were unlawfully segregated, and the court ordered the school board to submit an integration plan. The Clark County School District set about to establish a program of voluntary integration with the basic premise that de facto segregation could be overcome by volunteer methods.

Voluntary integration programs put into action in 1969 consisted of three major phases: (1) attract a substantial number of white students to previously all black elementary schools, (2) attract additional black students to predominantly white elementary schools, and (3) increase the opportunities for black and white elementary students to interact in social and educational activities. Enrollment records of Clark County elementary schools indicated a substantial shift of black students from de facto segregated schools as a result of voluntary integration programs known as "The Prestige Schools," "Expanded Skills Centers," and "Programs of Social Enrichment, POSE."

Under the voluntary integration plan, C. V. T. Gilbert and Jo Mackey schools were designated as "prestige" or "magnet" schools to attract white students. District court approved the integration plan for the 1970-71 school year and requested a progress report of the plan to be filed with the court.

In December 1970, the judgement and decree of U.S. Disrict Judge Bruce R. Thompson ruled that the court had found that the school district plan had not resulted in integration. The court said:

> The neighborhood school concept must be abandoned to accomplish integration in a racially segregated residential area. Because of the demonstrated reluctance of white parents to volunteer their children for education in the Westside schools, the burden of accepting busing to accomplish elementary school integration has been placed on the black parents. While the latter have evinced an increasing acceptance of such busing for their children, it cannot be inferred from the evidence before the Court that the present plan will ever eliminate an almost one hundred percent population of black students in the Westside elementary schools so long as such schools are maintained and operated.

Thus, the court ordered the district to devise a plan that would desegregate the schools in the Westside area. The enrollment of black students, the court said, "shall not exceed fifty percent of the total student enrollment . . ."

The school board, early in March 1971, decided to ask the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals for a stay order delaying enforcement of the federal district court mandate stipulating that not more than 50 percent of the enrollment in any class or grade be black, until after the Clark County case had been reviewed by the U.S. Supreme Court. However, on April 8, the board approved the Sixth Grade Center Integration Plan which the court then accepted. In February 1972, the Appeals Court denied the school board's appeal, affirmed Judge Thompson's desegregation decision, and ordered the school district to comply by September 1972.

After much deliberation and consultation with community organizations and consideration of suggestions from county residents and various business and professional groups regarding ways the Westside schools could be desegregated, the Sixth Grade Center Plan became a reality and an extensive busing plan went into operation.

The Sixth Grade Center Plan created sixth grade centers out of the black elementary schools in Westside Las Vegas. This plan meant that all white students in the sixth grade would be bused to one of the centers, while all black sixth graders would attend their neighborhood school *(now a sixth grade center),* if they lived within the environs of the Westside. Black sixth graders who lived outside the perimeter of the Westside were to be bused to the cluster of sixth grade centers just as their white counterparts were transported by bus. All black students in grades 1-5 would be bused out of the neighborhood, while white students in grades 1-5 would attend their neighborhood schools.

Three modifications of the plan were allowed by the court. First, an additional school, Quannah McCall, was added to the six elementary schools designated as sixth grade centers. This school was selected because it lay on the fringe of the Westside, and its student population was 35 percent black. Future enrollment statistics for Quannah McCall projected an increase of black students attending the school that would exceed the 50 percent enrollment in any one school or grade stipulated by the court. Second, kindergarten children would attend school in their own neighborhoods. School officials felt that since kindergarten children attended school for only two and one-half hours a day, it was unreasonable to transport the children out of their neighborhood. As a third modification to the plan, the board, at the suggestion of parents, exempted schools already integregated through integrated housing: Rex Bell, Marion Cahlan, Lois Craig, Lomie Heard, Mabel Hoggard,

Lincoln, J. E. Manch, C. P. Squires, Sunrise Acres, Myrtle Tate, and one year-round school, Faye Herron. Children living and attending school in the outlying areas of the school district also are exempt from the sixth grade center plan in consideration of the great distances involved in transportation. The areas include: Henderson, Boulder City, Moapa Valley, Virgin Valley, Indian Springs, Mt. Charleston, Blue Diamond, Goodsprings, and Searchlight.

While the December 2, 1970, decision of the court applied to the elementary schools within Westside Las Vegas, the effect of the decision also was to integrate all elementary schools previously all-white in Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, and the unincorporated areas bordering Westside Las Vegas. Black children in grades 1-5 are bused out of the Westside to previously all-white schools. White students in grades 1-5 are not bused but attend the schools in their neighborhood.

Thus, under the Sixth Grade Center Plan the burden of busing falls almost entirely upon the black student population. Under the plan, white children are bused during only one of their six elementary years, while black children are transported five of six years.

In September 1972, an attorney for "Operation Bus Out," a parent anti-busing organization, filed a plea in Clark County District Court requesting a preliminary injunction to prevent the school district from putting the Sixth Grade Center Plan in operation. The injunction was granted by District Judge Carl Christensen. The following day, District Superintendent Kenny Guinn closed all county elementary schools under the U.S. District Court's two-year old ruling of 1970 until the court dispute was settled. Robert Petroni, the school district's attorney, petitioned the Nevada Supreme Court to resolve the issue. Justice David Zenoff then ordered schools reopened on September 18 and scheduled a hearing on the case for October. In October 1972, the Nevada Supreme Court dissolved Judge Christensen's injunction, enabling the school district to continue operating the mandated integration program of sixth grade centers. The Nevada Supreme Court ruled for the school district, ordering that a state court cannot interfere with a federal court order.

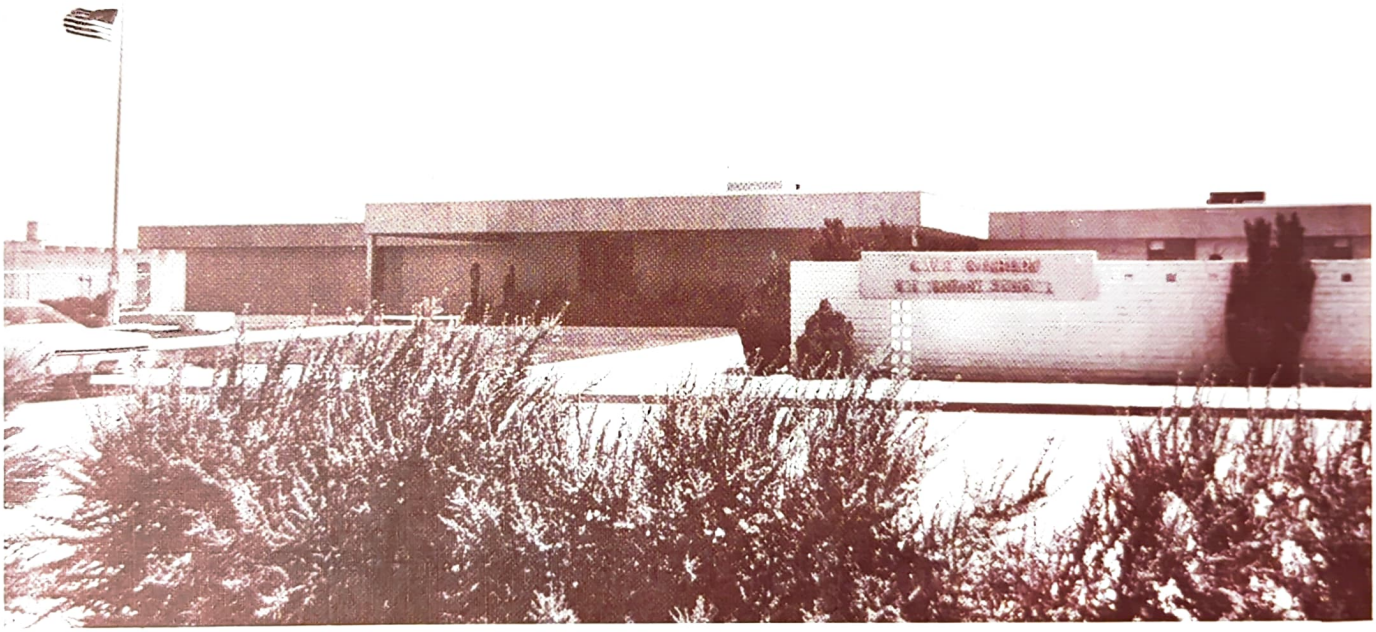
"Operation Bus Out" parents complained that the desegregation plan violated the Nevada Constitution which provided for a "uniform system of common schools." The state court agreed and issued the injunction which closed the elementary schools and affected all the elementary school children in the county under the U.S. District Court's two-year old ruling. The school district was put in the position of defending the federal court's right to retain jurisdiction of the school case, and the school board appealed to the Nevada Supreme Court to lift the injunction imposed by the lower court. While awaiting for the opinion of the state Supreme Court, the school district inaugurated the Sixth Grade Center Plan despite the injunction. In October 1972, the Nevada Supreme Court ruled for the school district ordering that a state court cannot interfere with a federal court order.

In addition to "Operation Bus Out," organized by parents active in litigation, another parent group, "Parents for Neighborhood Schools," was in the forefront of protesting the busing plan. Leaders of both groups claimed they were not against integration but only opposed to busing

as a means of achieving desegregation. In March 1973, legislation to end busing in the schools was introduced in the Nevada State Assembly, but the effort was defeated. Protests against busing and the desegregation policies continued but the Sixth Grade Center Plan continued, as a part of the Clark County School District educational program.

Mabel Hoggard Elementary School, originally named Bonanza School, was converted to a sixth grade center beginning with the 1982-83 school year. By that time, the Mabel Hoggard black enrollment had reached 95 percent and was the last neighborhood school in the Westside.

Because forced busing for integration is a mandate of a federal court, the state of Nevada on its own cannot rescind any orders for such busing. Such orders must come from the federal level. The program is not perfect but likely will not change soon. As a court-approved plan, it has basically succeeded in what it was intended to accomplish.



C. V. T. Gilbert Sixth Grade Center

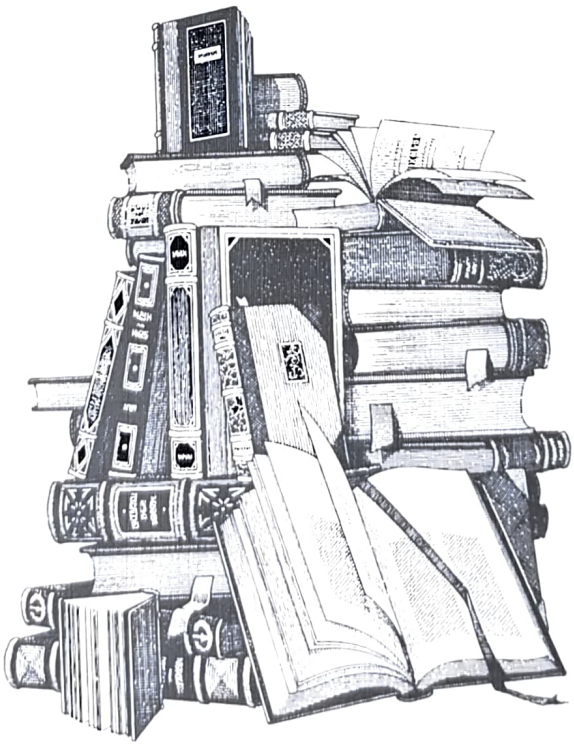
C. V. T. Gilbert Sixth Grade Center, 2101 West Cartier, North Las Vegas, is an example of schools created as sixth grade centers in Westside Las Vegas as part of the Sixth Grade Center Plan accepted by federal court in 1972. This school is named for C. V. T. Gilbert, pioneer, merchant, and community leader.

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Chapter XIV
COUNTY SCHOOLS: NAMES, NAMES, NAMES

Early District Administrators Before County Consolidation

Well-known state historian, author and educator, **Elbert B. Edwards**, served as superintendent of the Boulder City School District, Educational District No. 3, from 1940 to 1956. He then served as area administrator for the Clark County School District until his retirement.

Edwards insisted on quality in education and exhibited a global viewpoint. He served on many educational committees and was a state leader in administration including service as staff member of the Nevada State Department of Education.

Elbert B. Edwards Elementary School was named in his honor.



Elbert B. Edwards



Seymour P. Fish

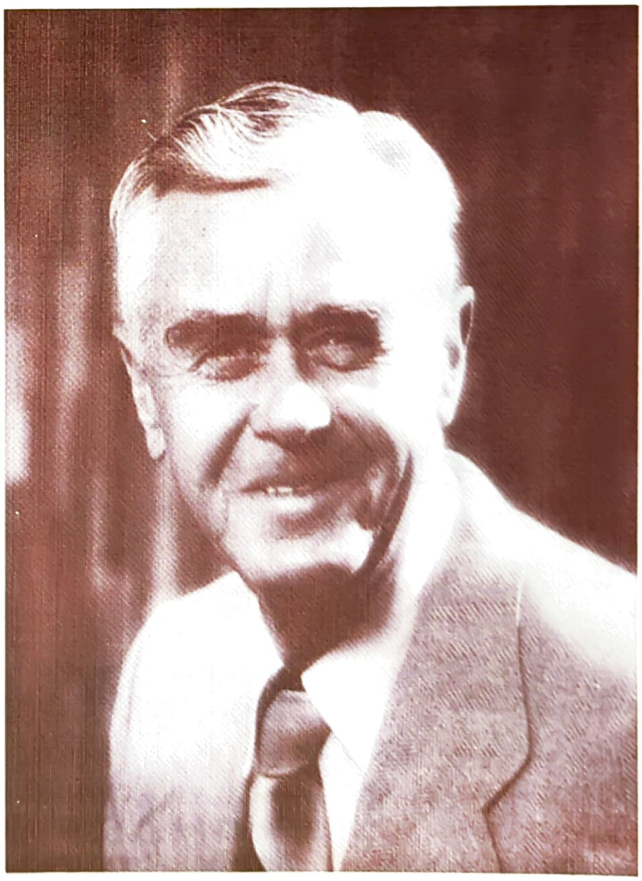
Seymour Fish served as superintendent of both Virgin Valley and Moapa Valley schools in Educational District No. 1 from 1944 to 1956. He was an area administrator for the Clark County School District after consolidation. He worked for equalization in funding and undertook construction projects as well as improved transportation for rural students.

Lincoln Liston, an early Clark County school administrator, served as principal of Paradise Valley School at a time when there were eight separate rural districts.



Lyal W. Burkholder

Lyal W. Burkholder, educator and Henderson community leader, served as superintendent of Henderson School District from 1951 to 1956 and, after county consolidation, he was an area administrator for the district until he retired. During his time at Henderson School District, he secured several large federal grants for the district. He is remembered for his innovations in education, administrative abilities, and building projects. Lyal Burkholder Junior High School is named in his honor.



R. Guild Gray

R. Guild Gray served as superintendent of Las Vegas Union School District No. 2 from 1953 to 1956; then he was selected to serve as the first superintendent of the reorganized district, a position he held until 1961. He worked with area administrators and developed the transitional administrative plan and long-range goals for the new Clark County School District. R. Guild Gray Elementary School is named in his honor.



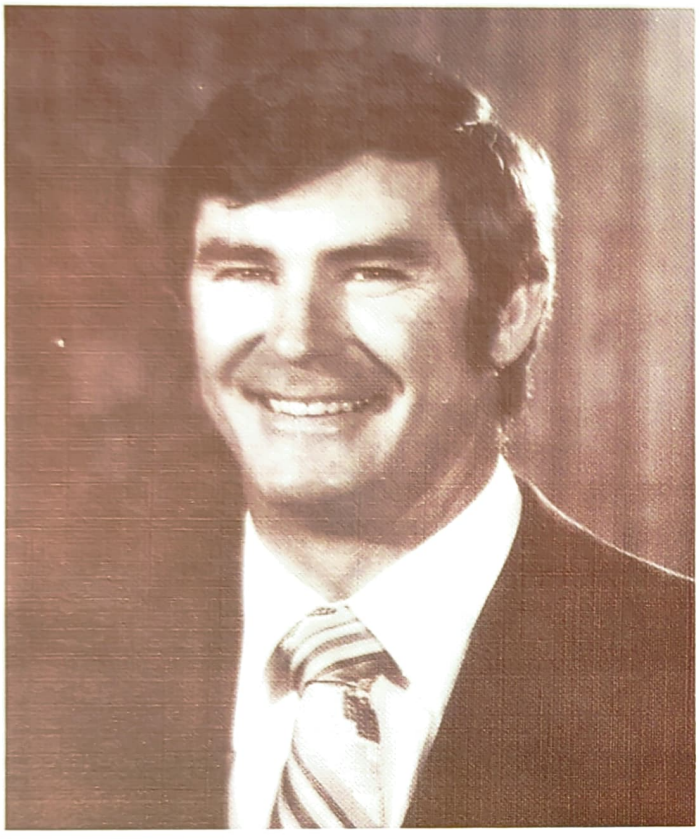
Leland B. Newcomer

Leland B. Newcomer served as second county superintendent of Clark County schools from 1961 to 1965, providing leadership in comprehensive curriculum development and classroom teaching techniques.



James I. Mason

James I. Mason served as the third superintendent for Clark County schools from 1966 to 1969, with emphasis on public information and local educational projects.



Kenny C. Guinn

Kenny C. Guinn, educator and civic leader, was the fourth county superintendent of schools under the new county system. He provided strong leadership during a time of rapid growth and the massive building period from 1969 to 1978. Leaving for a corporate position, Kenny C. Guinn Junior High is named in his honor.



Claude G. Perkins

Claude G. Perkins, first black person to serve as Clark County superintendent of schools, worked to improve instruction and the status of teachers. He served from 1978 to 1981.



Charles A. Silvestri

Charles A. Silvestri, teacher and district-level administrator for 23 years, responded to a request by the Board of Trustees to serve as interim superintendent in 1981-82. Utilizing personnel experience, he was a vital facilitator between teachers and administrators. He currently serves as associate superintendent, Personnel Services Division.



Robert E. Wentz

Robert E. Wentz, superintendent of Clark County schools since 1982, currently administers the Clark County School District of over 95,000 students, 77 elementary schools, 19 junior high schools, four special schools and centers, and 8,700 employees. A goal of quality and excellence in education is reflected by 65 percent of teachers with master's degrees.

Moapa and Virgin Valleys

Paul C. Miner — 1911
First teacher of high school classes at Virgin Valley.

A. L. Kelly — 1919-29
Principal of Virgin Valley High School and first superintendent of Educational District No. 1. Lead the movement for consolidation.

F. Edgar Mineer — 1929-35
Second superintendent. Worked for enlargement of facilities, improved transportation, curriculum enrichment, expansion of arts programs.

Paul Thurston — 1935-43
Third Educational District No. 1 superintendent. Struggled with federal government for building funds. Added gyms and metal shop building. Replaced many poor buildings.

Seymour P. Fish — 1944-56
Fourth Educational District No. 1 superintendent. Struggled for state equalization in school funding, further consolidation, improved transportation, new construction. All Virgin Valley students moved to Mesquite. In 1956, under county consolidation, served as area administrator.

Grant Bowler — 1935-68
Superintendent in 1943; 1935-68 was principal of Logandale Elementary School and principal of Moapa Valley High School and Overton Elementary School.

Boulder City Schools

Robert O. Weede — 1932-33
First principal of Boulder City schools when became state-operated in 1933.

Elton Garrett — 1933-42
First vice-principal of Boulder City schools when became state-operated in 1933.

Leila Tilley — 1931
Teaching principal of private school.

Elbert B. Edwards — 1940-56
Superintendent of Schools, Boulder City District.

Wayne Kelley — 1942-53
Principal of Boulder City Elementary School.

Andrew J. Mitchell — 1954-78
Principal of Boulder City Elementary School, later named Andrew J. Mitchell Elementary School.

William J. McCormack — 1952-75
Principal of Boulder City High School.

Henderson *(Railroad Pass)* District

Roy G. Petrie — 1942-46
First superintendent of Henderson *(Railroad Pass)* District.

Ben Church — 1946-50
Second superintendent of Henderson District. Expanded facilities and curriculum.

Lyal W. Burkholder — 1951-69
From principal of Basic High School to superintendent of Henderson District. After consolidation, served as area administrator until retirement in 1969.

John Dooley — 1951-71
Principal of Basic High School.

Gordon McCaw — 1943-66
Elementary school principal.

Robert L. Taylor — 1948-73
Elementary school principal.

Henry C. Bryant — 1942-44
Principal of Railroad Pass *(Henderson)* District.

Estes McDoniel — 1971-74
Principal of Basic High School.

Las Vegas Schools and Original Clark County High School

A. S. "Bert" Henderson — 1910-13
Superintendent of first Las Vegas schools and first high school *(Clark County High School).*

H. A. Whiteneck — 1921-27
Principal of high school 1921-25; first superintendent of Las Vegas Union School District, 1925-27 *(district consolidated in 1925).*

Helen J. Stewart
Board member for high schools; first woman high school board member.

Maude Frazier — 1921-46
In 1921 deputy state superintendent for Fifth Supervision District *(Southern Nevada);* superintendent of Las Vegas Union School District 1927-46.

K. O. Knudson — 1926-59
Principal of Fifth Street Grammar School; director of audio visual education.

Walter D. Johnson — 1946-52
Replaced Maude Frazier as superintendent of schools.

J. Harold Brinley — 1952-53
Superintendent of Las Vegas Union School District.

School Names: From Whence?

Most of the schools in Clark County have been named in honor of school board members, administrators, teachers, and pioneer citizens. Following is a list of those schools which have so honored persons in the community over the years:

O. K. Adcock Elementary School
Pioneer merchant and civic leader of Las Vegas and long-time member and president of Board of Education.

Will Beckley Elementary School
One of the first merchants to open a store in Las Vegas in the early 1900's, active in many civic projects as the city grew — a real pioneer citizen.

Rex Bell Elementary School
Former lieutenant governor of Nevada who owned land near Searchlight; active on many civic projects in growth of Las Vegas; former movie star and husband of movie star Clara Bow.

Grant Bowler Elementary School
One of the leading educators in Moapa-Virgin Valley; teacher, principal, acting superintendent, and outstanding civic leader in the valley and Clark County.

Walter Bracken Elementary School
One of the first railroad representatives; came to Las Vegas in 1905, ran water district, encouraged education, and served as southern Nevada's representative on State Board of Education for many years.

Marion Cahlan Elementary School
One of the first graduates of University of Nevada, Reno; devoted her life to teaching when not raising her family, ending her teaching career in the Clark County schools.

Lois Craig Elementary School
Businesswoman and courthouse employee; promoted education in Clark County and donated some land for school named after her.

Paul Culley Elementary School
Builder of Hoover Dam with a continued interest in civic affairs, especially education; served on Las Vegas Board of Education for several terms.

Laura Dearing Elementary School
Teacher and school principal; devoted her life to education, especially in Las Vegas and other Nevada schools.

Clarabelle Decker *(Hanley)* Elementary School
Teacher who came to Las Vegas in 1930; instrumental in development of libraries in both elementary and high schools, wrote a librarian's guide, opened new libraries, taught library classes, and supervised the library system.

P. A. Diskin Elementary School
Outstanding physical education teacher and coach; came to Las Vegas in 1934, organized health and physical education programs, and produced winning athletic teams.

Harvey Dondero Elementary School
Began as teacher at Las Vegas High School; served as school principal; from 1952-84 served in superintendent's office both in the Las Vegas District and the Clark County School District as assistant to the superintendent.

Ira J. Earl Elementary School
Long-time Las Vegas merchant and civic leader; spent several terms as member of the Las Vegas Board of Education in the 1930's and 1940's.

Elbert Edwards Elementary School
Taught in the Las Vegas schools, served in the State Department of Education, superintendent of Boulder City School District, area administrator for Clark County School District, and outstanding author of Nevada history.

William E. Ferron Elementary School
First mayor of city of Las Vegas upon incorporation in 1911; active in many civic projects which helped develop the city.

Doris French Elementary School
Dedicated her life to children as teacher and principal, especially on the Westside where she worked to improve living conditions of children in area schools and for all citizens.

Ruth Fyfe Elementary School
Came to Las Vegas in 1924; dedicated her life to education by teaching and serving as principal in several schools including some in deprived areas of the city.

Fay Galloway Elementary School
Long-time director of maintenance for Las Vegas schools and Clark County School District; a most valued employee in keeping equipment in order and supervising upkeep of facilities.

Oran Gragson Elementary School
A former mayor of Las Vegas for 16 years; involved in many civic projects and community affairs which resulted in continued progress for Las Vegas and Clark County.

R. Guild Gray Elementary School
Originally teacher at Las Vegas High School but left; later returned to become superintendent of schools in 1952; became the first county superintendent of schools upon county consolidation and successfully molded 14 independent school districts into one county unit.

E. W. Griffith Elementary School
One of Las Vegas' early businessmen; established several businesses, promoted education, and was a leader in the growth of Las Vegas.

Doris Hancock Elementary School
One of the beloved kindergarten teachers who came to Las Vegas in the 1920's; devoted her life to teaching the small children who later became local businessmen and professional people.

Harley E. Harmon Elementary School
Civic leader; came to Las Vegas in the 1920's, was active in many civic projects, served as district attorney and as leader in growth of the community.

George E. Harris Elementary School
Began as teacher at Las Vegas High School in the 1920's; served as principal of Las Vegas High School and assistant superintendent of Las Vegas Union School District; devoted his life to education in and welfare of Clark County schools.

Lomie Gray Heard Elementary School
Came to Las Vegas as a primary teacher; became principal of the school established at Nellis Air Force Base, and devoted her life to education of youngsters.

Fay Herron Elementary School
Came to Las Vegas as teacher; worked diligently with deprived children; appointed principal in Las Vegas Union School District.

Halle Hewetson Elementary School
First doctor to arrive in Las Vegas with the building of the railroad and for many years served all population of the area.

Robert E. Lake Elementary School
Arrived in Las Vegas in 1904; promoted establishment of the first schools; as first president of Board of Education, worked on getting first school building opened; active in other civic responsibilities.

Walter V. Long Elementary School
Came to Las Vegas to teach at old Las Vegas Grammar School; served many years as principal of Las Vegas High School; devoted his life to the education of young people.

Nate Mack Elementary School
Long-time civic leader and businessman; education and programs for young people his major interests.

J. E. Manch Elementary School
Outstanding Air Force pilot trained at Nellis, once member of famous Doolittle Raiders.

Gordon McCaw Elementary School
Came to Henderson to serve in schools during World War II; became principal of elementary school; spent remainder of education career in administration in Henderson.

J. T. McWilliams Elementary School
An early-day surveyor who in 1903 purchased barren land to develop what is now known as the Westside — which was known as Old Town or McWilliamsville — the original Las Vegas.

John F. Miller Elementary School
A businessman who helped develop the downtown area of Las Vegas, built a hotel, involved in several civic projects which promoted the growth of Las Vegas.

Andrew Mitchell Elementary School
Began as a teacher in Virgin Valley, became principal of the Boulder City elementary school which eventually was renamed in his honor.

John S. Park Elementary School
Was the first man to establish a bank in Las Vegas, a civic leader for many years; donated much of the land on which the Huntridge School, later named the John S. Park Elementary School, was built.

Vail Pittman Elementary School
A former governor of Nevada who made his home in Las Vegas after his term in the governor's mansion.

C. C. Ronnow Elementary School
A businessman who came to Las Vegas in the early days, a true pioneer interested in education, served as a member and president of the Board of Education.

Bertha Ronzone Elementary School
A businesswoman who came from Tonopah to establish a dry goods business in Las Vegas, a leader in community affairs and other civic enterprises which contributed to the growth of the city.

Lewis E. Rowe Elementary School
Came to Las Vegas High School to teach art and music, developed outstanding programs in the schools, a cultural leader in the community as it grew.

Chester T. Sewell Elementary School
An industrialist from Henderson who served for many years on the Henderson School Board, a member of the first Clark County School District Board of School Trustees for several terms.

Helen M. Smith Elementary School
Devoted her life to teaching and school administration, most of it in the Las Vegas School District.

C. P. Squires Elementary School
One of the first pioneers to arrive in Las Vegas when lots were sold to start the city, built a hotel and other businesses, started the first newspaper, a leader in getting Hoover Dam built in this area.

Myrtle Tate Elementary School
Was a prominent civic leader and maintained a home to care for young people who needed help and care, being one of the first social workers in the community.

Robert L. Taylor Elementary School
Was a teacher at Henderson, became principal of a school later renamed in his honor; devoted his career to education, primarily in Henderson.

Ruby S. Thomas Elementary School
Joined Las Vegas faculty in 1931; became principal of newly established John S. Park *(Huntridge)* School in 1942; devoted her life to educating young people, most of them in Las Vegas.

Bill Y. Tomiyasu Elementary School
First oriental family to move to Las Vegas area, developed barren land south of city

and made the "desert bloom," providing much of vegetable and fruit needs of valley for many years.

J. M. Ullom Elementary School
One of Las Vegas' pioneers, involved in civic enterprises; held public office and served on many community projects.

Gene Ward Elementary School
Famous as grocery store merchant during depression days when he often extended much credit to many in need and was never repaid; later elected county sheriff.

Rose Warren Elementary School
Prominent matron and pioneer in the community, involved in many civic growth activities; as a nurse and midwife often delivered babies without help.

Howard Wasden Elementary School
Product of Las Vegas High School and University of Nevada, Reno; devoted his life to education as teacher and principal; opened new West Charleston School in 1953, later renamed in his honor.

Cyril Wengert Elementary School
Pioneer banker and businessman in forefront of civic enterprises in development of the city of Las Vegas.

Tom Williams Elementary School
Bought land in present North Las Vegas area in 1918; active in development of North Las Vegas; donated land to use for school bearing his name and for other civic projects.

Kermit R. Booker Sixth Grade Center
Highland School renamed in honor of Booker; one of the first black teachers in Las Vegas; devoted his life to education and was beloved by all children he served.

C. V. T. Gilbert Sixth Grade Center
Pioneer merchant whose store was located on Bonanza Road; served as civic leader, elected to serve on the Las Vegas Commission.

Mabel Hoggard Sixth Grade Center
Came to Las Vegas as the first black teacher; in addition to teaching, became leader on Westside in promoting better welfare conditions and establishing school lunch programs.

Matt Kelly Sixth Grade Center
Custodian for Las Vegas schools and also excellent musician; organized elementary student band which for many years was highly respected and much appreciated; honored by the school board for his work.

Jo Mackey Sixth Grade Center
Concerned with handicapped and underprivileged; worked to obtain federal funds for community to provide programs for people in need of help; social work endeared her to community.

Quannah McCall Sixth Grade Center
Dentist who served the state health department and worked constantly with children; member of Las Vegas School Board for many years providing much free work to help children.

Helen J. Stewart
Came to the Las Vegas area in 1882; bought Old Fort; interested in education and provided a tutor for her own children when there were no schools; active in promoting first schools

in Las Vegas in 1905 and in getting high school classes started; in 1916 first woman elected to first high school board of education; donated lands on which first Biltmore school, later named Helen J. Stewart, was built.

Variety School
Derived its name from the Variety Club which sponsored building of Variety School in 1952 and since has invested many resources in development of the school.

J. Harold Brinley Junior High
Came to teach at Las Vegas High in the 1920's; served as principal of Las Vegas High School and assistant superintendent of county schools after consolidation; a noted civic leader.

B. Mahlon Brown Junior High
Product of local schools and leader in many civic projects; served for 25 years as Clark County's senator in state legislature.

Lyal Burkholder Junior High
Came to Henderson in the 1940's; principal of Basic High School and superintendent of the Henderson schools, serving as area administrator after county consolidation.

Helen C. Cannon Junior High
Served as member and president of Clark County Board of School Trustees for 20 years; active in PTA and many other civic projects and community services.

James E. Cashman Junior High
Early-day pioneer who came to Las Vegas from the Searchlight area; involved in almost every growth and development activity for Clark County and Las Vegas for half a century.

Elton M. Garrett Junior High
One of first persons involved in Boulder City activities when Hoover Dam started; served as administrator of first schools; a newspaperman; involved in many civic projects which resulted in growth of Boulder City.

Frank F. Garside Junior High
Newspaperman who owned the Review-Journal and served as Las Vegas postmaster for many years; involved in many civic projects and community activities which promoted growth of Las Vegas.

Robert O. Gibson Junior High
Deeply interested in education, served for four years on St. Thomas school board; member of the school board of Las Vegas Union School District before consolidation; served as state legislator and in many civic enterprises in growth and development of Virgin and Moapa Valleys and Las Vegas area.

Kenny C. Guinn Junior High
Joined Clark County School District staff in 1964; superintendent of schools 1969-78.

K. O. Knudson Junior High
Came to Las Vegas in 1926; principal of Las Vegas Grammar School until retirement; spent his entire life in school work as one of the most respected and highly revered educational leaders in Nevada; community leader, builder, and member of many civic organizations for more than 50 years.

Roy W. Martin Junior High
One of the first doctors to come to establish practice in Las Vegas in 1905; spent a lifetime administering to needs of Las Vegans; active in many civic enterprises and community

organizations; respected as physician, legislator, and promoter of education; built Las Vegas' first hospital.

William E. Orr Junior High
Came to Las Vegas in 1919; first district judge of Clark County; state Supreme Court justice; first federal judge in Las Vegas in 1932; judge of U. S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco; a widely respected jurist in western United States; "made the law a symbol of strength in this state."

Dell H. Robison Junior High
Served on school board of Educational District No. 1 *(Moapa and Virgin Valleys)* for eleven years; upon consolidation of Clark County School District in 1956, became area representative on new county school board until 1970; active in many civic affairs and community projects.

J. D. Smith Junior High
Came to Las Vegas in 1927; active in community affairs and expanded his dental practice; served 18 consecutive years as member and president of Las Vegas Board of Education, retiring in 1953; served on Clark County Selective Service Board and active in veterans' affairs.

Ed Von Tobel Junior High
Von Tobel was an early pioneer, arrived in Las Vegas in 1905; through the years played an outstanding role in growth and progress of the city; opened Von Tobel Lumber Company in a 240 square foot shack and continued to build and move ahead; served on first city commission and involved in many progressive civic projects.

C. W. Woodbury Junior High
Moved to Las Vegas in 1932; a lifetime involvement in medicine, education, and civic affairs; in 1954 elected to Las Vegas Board of Education and, in 1956 upon consolidation, one of first members of Clark County School Board; president from 1966 to 1969 and served as trustee for 20 years.

Ed W. Clark High School
Civic leader; came to Las Vegas in 1905; pioneer in promoting growth of southern Nevada and development of its history; established Clark Forwarding Co; first county treasurer; founded power and telephone companies; president of First State Bank; long-time member of the Colorado River Commission and member of the board of education; moving force in getting Hoover Dam located in Clark County; active pioneer Las Vegan in community projects in growth of Las Vegas and Clark County.

(Clark High School is the only high school in the county named for a person.)

Schools not named for local pioneers, educators, or community leaders include:

Biltmore — For Biltmore subdivision *(now alternative programs).*

Jim Bridger — Famous explorer, U.S. history *(explored in early-day Nevada).*

Kit Carson — Famous explorer, U.S. history *(explored in early-day Nevada).*

Crestwood — For subdivision.

Blue Diamond — For town.

John C. Fremont — Famous explorer, U.S. history *(explored in early-day Nevada).*

Goodsprings — For town.

Hyde Park — From subdivision for developer, Carl Hyde.

Indian Springs — For town *(ranch).*

Jefferson — For President Thomas Jefferson *(now alternative programs).*

Lincoln — For President Abraham Lincoln.

Madison — For President James Madison.

Mountain View — From location.

Mt. Charleston — From location.

Paradise — From location, Paradise Valley.

Red Rock — From view/location of Red Rock.

Sandy Valley — From location.

Searchlight — From location.

Twin Lakes — From location/subdivision.

Spring Mountain — From location *(Mt. Charleston).*

Sunrise Acres — From location.

Vegas Verdes — From subdivision/location.

Virgin Valley — From location.

Washington — For President George Washington *(now alternative programs).*

Whitney — From location *(East Las Vegas).*

In addition, a number of portions of school plants have been named in honor of school personnel or citizens whose contributions to education have been recognized by having their names given to facilities at certain schools.

Paul Arenaz Athletic Field, Rancho High School, dedicated October 15, 1970, honoring long-time Rancho principal and Clark County School District planning coordinator for 21 years. He died in May 1970.

Angelo Collis Football Stadium, Clark High School, named in March 1979, honoring long-time teacher and administrator, Angelo Collis *(after 29 years in the Las Vegas system)* who became assistant principal at Clark in 1965.

Bruce Eaton Athletic Field, Boulder City High School, honoring long-time citizen and city manager, Bruce Eaton. He died September 27, 1985.

Richard Empson Baseball Field, Basic High School, named July 9, 1981, to honor coach Empson, who coached and taught at Basic for 19 years.

Clayton Farnsworth Library, Southern Nevada Vocational-Technical Center, named in honor of Clayton Farnsworth, principal of several high schools and SNVTC before retiring. The library was dedicated February 15, 1985.

James Nelson Gymnasium, Boulder City High School, named in honor of James Nelson's 27 years of service.

Dessie Bailey Wing, Variety School, dedicated July 14, 1977, to honor long-time supporter and present leader of education for the handicapped.

Frazier Hall, Las Vegas High School *(1949),* named in honor of Miss Maude Frazier.

Len Frederick Food Service Center, dedicated March 2, 1981, to honor Len Frederick, director, 1972-80.

Dorothy Seigle Diagnostic Center, named in 1977 to honor Dorothy Seigle who served the Clark County School District with distinction, 1965-77.

Edward R. Knapp Humanities Building, Las Vegas High School, dedicated to the memory of Ed Knapp on December 17, 1975. Mr. Knapp taught at Las Vegas High School for 10 years and prior to that time at Rancho for 13 years. He died in 1975.

Howard J. Marr Natatorium, Variety School, dedicated October 18, 1981, in honor of Variety principal *(1958-85)* who retired September 25, 1985.

Wayne H. Robertson Science Wing, Moapa Valley High School, named May 13, 1982, to honor science teacher Wayne Robertson who taught at Moapa Valley High School, 1942-82.

Gregg Sylvester Memorial Field, Western High School, named May 13, 1982, to honor student/athlete Gregg Scott Sylvester *(born October 8, 1963; died March 11, 1981).*

Post Hall, Las Vegas High School, dedicated in 1958 and named for Dennis Post, an outstanding athlete *(to have graduated with the class of 1960 but died in 1958).* The student body had granted him the "Champion of Champions" award before his death.

Raymond L. Sturm Vocational Wing, Southern Nevada Vocational-Technical Center, named October 23, 1985, and dedicated on February 10, 1986, in honor of prominent vocational educator, Raymond L. Sturm, who joined Clark County School District in 1955 as a distributive education coordinator and in 1959 became the first full-time director of vocational education until his retirement in 1974.

Murray L. Petersen Public Television Center, Channel 10 building, 4210 Channel 10 Drive, named in 1979 in recognition of Murray Petersen's support of Channel 10 and public broadcasting during his lifetime and in honor of the continued support of Channel 10 by the Murray Petersen Foundation established by the family since his death.

Future Schools' Names

In February 1986, four additional schools to be built were given names by the Board of School Trustees.

Clyde C. Cox Elementary School, named for church bishop Clyde Carson Cox who since 1941 had been a popular pastor of a Westside church. For 28 years, he was a leading figure in the black community. In 1966, he was named "Man of the Year" by the Religious Workers Guild. A community leader, he served on many committees and was committed to public education projects. He died in 1969.

Marion Earl Elementary School. Marion Earl taught in Clark County in 1922 and 1923. In 1932, he was admitted to the bar, being the longest practicing full-time attorney in Clark County. He pursued many activities in the growing community: a 53-year Rotarian, director of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, Justice of the Peace 1935-38, and president of the bar association. Active all his

life in Boy Scout work, Earl was a much-in-demand speaker on patriotism and citizenship.

Edna F. Hinman Elementary School. Dr. Hinman joined the Clark County schools in 1960, serving as an elementary teacher, assistant principal, principal, teacher corps coordinator, and elementary zone director. As principal, she opened three schools and was the prime mover in the district's voluntary integration program. She retired in May 1985. Words such as "professional," "tireless," "trailblazer," and "leader" describe her attributes.

Stanford Elementary School. The name honors Harvey and Mary B. Stanford who came to Las Vegas in 1936. Harvey taught and coached at Las Vegas High School from 1937 to 1954 and was assistant principal from 1954-64. He later taught at Fremont Junior High School and Valley High School until 1966. His consistent excellence as a teacher, coach, parent, and community and church leader made indelible impressions on those exposed to his influence. Mary Stanford taught at Las Vegas High School from 1941 to 1970. She taught English, counseled students with dedication, and helped students prepare themselves for their future lives in the best possible manner. For more than 35 years, Harvey and Mary Stanford have been a major influence in education and community life.

Estes M. McDoniel Elementary School, named for former Henderson mayor, Basic High School principal, and teacher. He is a native of Arkansas who came to Henderson in 1943. Served in the Navy two years and returned to teach and coach in Henderson. McDoniel served as principal of Basic High School from 1971 until his retirement in 1974. He was elected mayor of Henderson in 1969 and served a four-year term.

Doris Reed Elementary School, named for Doris M. Reed, native of England who moved to Henderson in 1952. She was unable to teach in Nevada because of a state law prohibiting teachers from other countries from working in public schools. With Maude Frazier, she worked to pass the Immigrant Teachers Bill in 1955 and became the first such teacher in Nevada in 1955. Her first assignment was at Henderson Junior High School. She moved with the school to the renamed Lyal Burkholder Junior High School where she taught until her retirement 31 years later.

EARLY EDUCATORS



Photo courtesy of UNLV collection, UNLV Library

Maude Frazier — Pioneer Clark County Educator

Miss Frazier served Clark County education for 45 years. She was named deputy state superintendent for southern Nevada in 1921 and from 1927 to 1946 was superintendent of the Las Vegas Union School District. Frazier Hall at Las Vegas High School was named in her honor as was Frazier Hall at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She served on the Nevada State Legislature and was appointed to serve a six-month term as the state's first woman lieutenant governor after her retirement from the school district.



K. O. Knudson

K. O. Knudson, highly revered pioneer educator, came to Las Vegas in 1926 and served as principal of Las Vegas Grammar School and director of audiovisual education until 1959. He was an outstanding leader and builder of the Las Vegas community. K. O. Knudson Junior High School was named in his honor for his many years of dedication to education.

Grant M. Bowler, long-time educator and civic leader in Moapa Valley, Overton. He served as principal of Logandale Elementary School from 1935 to 1945 when he was appointed principal of Overton High School *(Moapa Valley High School).* He was well known for his dedication to the integration of school and community. Grant Bowler Elementary School in Logandale is named in his honor.



Grant M. Bowler



Dedication of Helen Marie Smith Elementary School - 1975

Principal James Becker, School Board President Helen Cannon, school's namesake Helen M. Smith, Superintendent of Schools Kenny Guinn, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Harvey Dondero, school board members Earl Evans and Connie Larsen.



Helen C. Cannon - 1986

Helen C. Cannon visiting a classroom at Helen C. Cannon Junior High School, named in honor of her many years of service as a dedicated member and officer of the Clark County School District Board of Trustees.



Doris Hancock Visiting School Named for Her in 1981
Mr. Kirk Adams, principal of Doris Hancock Elementary School, and Mrs. Gail Lovaas presented Miss Hancock with a "T-shirt" bearing her name and school logo.

Selected References

Edwards, Elbert B., ***Maude Frazier — Nevadan,*** Southern Nevada Retired Teachers Association, undated.

Harvey, J. M., ***Knudson, K. O.,*** Publishers, Inc., Las Vegas, 1972.

Schank, Pat, "Maude Frazier," ***Nevadan, Las Vegas Review-Journal,*** Part One, May 16, 1982 and Part Two, May 23, 1982.



Chapter XV
CHANNEL 10: BEGINNING AND HISTORY

A Nevada State Educational Television Advisory Committee had been working under the direction of the State Department of Education on plans for a state instructional and Public Broadcasting System *(PBS)* since July 1962. The project, known as Project INNOVATE *(Initiate the Nevada Network Operation and Vigorously Advance Television Education)*, was described as "A method of procuring statewide planning and involvement in explaining the potential educational, cultural and informational needs of Nevada's public and non-profit schools, communities and universities" which were to be accommodated through Educational Television *(ETV)* under the umbrella of the technically solvent and educationally well-researched Nevada Instructional Television Network.

On April 18, 1966, the United States Office of Education *(HEW)* announced an award of $302,911 under Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act *(P.L. 89-10)* enabling the state of Nevada to inaugurate Project INNOVATE. The grant award by the federal government provided the financial support for one year for the ETV Advisory Committee to make the concept a reality by creating essential salaried positions for professional television experts, consultants, and technicians and providing for equipment rental, office materials, production supplies, and employee mandatory benefit obligations.

The ultimate goal was the establishment of ETV in Nevada's seventeen counties and activation of VHF Channel 10 in Las Vegas, Winnemucca, Elko, Ely, and Tonopah. The primary objectives of Project INNOVATE emphasized the concepts of involving teachers and school administrators in the use of ETV and the potential of the medium to education. Although ETV was the first move in Nevada's master plan to transmit TV programs to schools and the general public statewide, it would be necessary at the end of the first year for a Nevada state entity to continue the fiscal subsistence in order to establish a statewide system.

In 1963, the Clark County Board of School Trustees commissioned a two-year ETV feasibility study for Clark County. This action resulted in educational and community benefits which ETV might provide to the county and school system, as well.

Since the Clark County School District was the largest recipient of state funding, Clark County was the largest state population center and was experiencing "a prosperous and precipitated growth note" and the Clark County board, since 1962, had recognized that Nevada was one of only three sites not utilizing ETV in some fashion, the Clark County School District was considered the logical entity to sustain the project. The two-year study investigated cost factors and potential utilization of television services which could be made available through commitment by the school district.

Helen C. Cannon, Clark County School Trustee Clerk, was supportive of ETV in Clark

County, and was influential in conveying her conviction to fellow Board Members — Chester T. Sewell, President; Dr. Clare W. Woodbury, Vice President; Eloise Blue, Member; Dell H. Robison, Member; Walter A. McCall, Member; George W. Wilkinson, Member; and Dr. James I. Mason, Superintendent. Through the persuasive influences of Helen C. Cannon, the Board readily adopted a positive attitude toward ETV.

When "Prospectus ETV for Clark County," a two-year study, was prepared for the Board of School Trustees as an informational agenda item December 16, 1965, the board members encouraged the ETV committee to pursue the required procedures to procure the necessary groundwork prerequisite for licensing. The board also indicated a willingness to sustain the obligation necessary to establish ETV in Clark County so that certain advantages would be provided both the schools and the community.

On June 23, 1966, the Clark County School District filed mandatory licensing requirements with the Federal Communications Commission *(FCC)* and completed the necessary paperwork for federal construction assistance with the Department of HEW under the ETV Act *(P.L. 87-44)* for the amount of $309,911.

The district, in proof of ability to support the initial first-year outlay of $1,495,607, committed $1.2 million of its 1965 General Obligation Building Bonds to the ETV project. This commitment satisfied the federal matching funding provisions required by the ETV Act. During the 1967 Nevada legislative session, the legislature passed Senate Bill No. 306 into law, providing ETV legislation for Nevada. In order to minimize construction costs and eliminate additional expenditures the first year of television operation, KLVX was to be housed in the recently constructed $15 million Southern Nevada Vocational-Technical Center *(SNVTC)*. A school antenna system was to be installed at each of the district's 88 school sites.

The KLVX call sign was developed by Jim Horkey and Rita Hogue. Respectively, "K" was the FCC categorization of broadcasting stations west of the Mississippi River; "LV" indicated the geographic location of Las Vegas, Nevada; and "X" was the Roman numeral "ten" *(Channel 10)*. The Channel 10 VHF allocation had been set aside by the FCC in 1952 for ETV licensing in southern Nevada. ETV range operation of VHF occurred in Channels 2 through 13 nationally and on ultra high frequency *(UHF)* range Channels 14 through 83.

Channel 10 received licensing under the tax-exemption code of the Internal Revenue Service making all contributions and property of the station tax-deductible or exempt. KLVX would be subject to the same programming rules as commercial stations and would be required to address controversial issues, grant equal time for political candidates, and have responsibility to editorialize. However, under a noncommercial license, the station would not be permitted to generate funds by airing television commercials.

With the scope of the project educationally oriented, it was decided that in order to facilitate learning objectives for both the district's schools and the community, the district should intermingle the newly created Department of Educational Television Services into the existing Department of Media Services which was subordinate to the district's Division of Instruction.

In addition to the groundwork being developed by the Project INNOVATE staff, construction permits and equipment specifications for KLVX were being developed and written by the school district Division of School Facilities. Specifications for transmitter construction, studio equipment, and building construction were put out for bid to interested contractors and engineering companies. Radio Corporation of America was awarded $680,000 in contracts to furnish the transmitter and studio equipment for the project.

The 100-foot TF 12AH superturnstile transmitter was to be installed atop Black Mountain, Nevada, located two miles southwest of Henderson, Nevada, on property to be leased from Charles Vanda at a cost of one dollar per year. The transmitter equipment was hauled piecemeal up the mountain by 4-wheel drive vehicles and caterpillar tractors with on-site installation 1,200 feet above the average southern Nevada terrain. The 192-198 megahertz frequency *(MHz),* as licensed by the FCC in June of 1966, was positioned in close proximity to the KHBV Channel 5 transmitter, which at the time was the lone MHz frequency on the soon-to-be "antenna farm" atop Black Mountain.

The FCC granted the district four additional sites in the county. Licenses were granted for K02FJ at Overton, K02FN at Mesquite, K07JC at Indian Springs, and K02FM at Goodsprings. The FCC also granted additional channel allocations to increase the district's capability of providing ETV program delivery to its 88 schools.

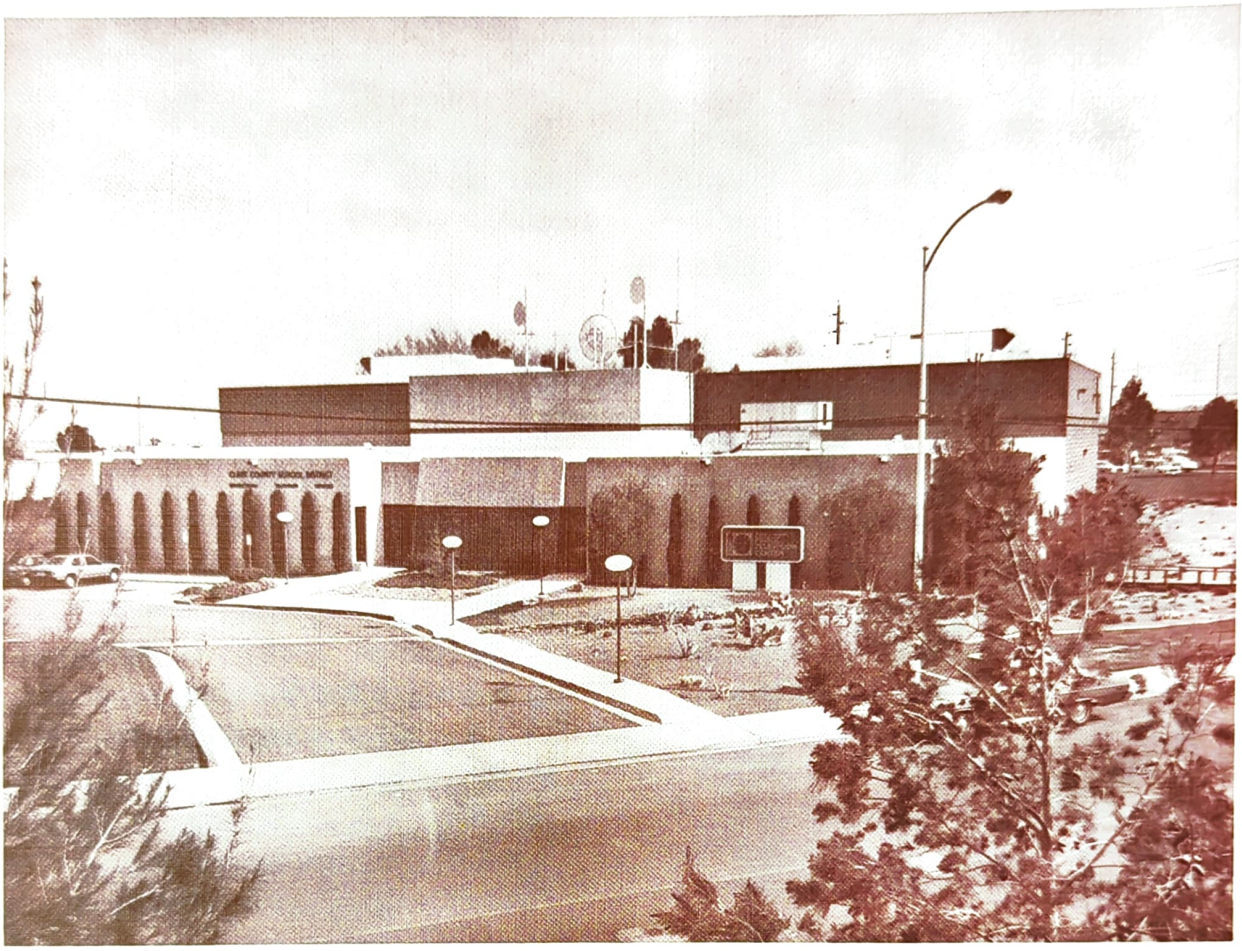
By early March 1968, Channel 10, Las Vegas was ready to go on the air. Actual station sign-on took place March 25, 1968 when KLVX went on the air at 5:30 p.m. with the test pattern; at 5:58 p.m. the KLVX identification slide appeared and at 6:00 p.m. "What's New" was on the air, followed at 6:30 p.m. with "Mister Roger's Neighborhood," "French Chef" at 7:30, "NET Journal" at 8:00, and sign-off occurring at 9:00 p.m.

On-air delivery of ETV programming to the district schools did not occur until six months later. On October 14, 1968, ITFS was activated on ITFS Channels 2, 4, 7, 9, and 11 with a sign-on and featuring "Math, Grade 1," "Math, Grade 2," "Music Story," "American History," and "French I."

The objectives of Project INNOVATE were completed. Instructional TV had made its statewide debut "preceded by six years of ascertainment studies, money acquisition, legislative action, application filing, construction permits, technical bids, installation, and FCC adherence."

The present home base of Channel 10 at 4210 Channel 10 Drive, Las Vegas, was built on land obtained from the Bureau of Land Management at a most reasonable price. Channel 10 Drive was specially named for Channel 10 television. The facility was named the Murray L. Petersen Public Television Center and dedicated in December 1979.

Beginning in 1966, several persons served as administrative head of the ETV program under the different titles, when ETV services were placed by the school board under the district's Division of Instruction in 1966. Ronald D. Hawley was appointed project director in 1968 and served until 1981. John K. Hill became general manager and presently holds this position.



Educational Television Station - Channel 10

Clark County School District Educational Television and Public Television facility located at 4210 Channel 10 Drive, Las Vegas, was dedicated in December 1979. Land for the building was purchased from the Bureau of Land Management. The building was named in honor of Murray L. Petersen for his determination to make educational television a reality for Clark County students and residents.

Selected References

Kimball, Ira G., ***Project INNOVATE, KLVX, Channel 10,*** research paper submitted as a requirement for Communications Studies 520, UNLV, December 17, 1982.



Chapter XVI
COUNTY NORMAL SCHOOL PROGRAM
A Teacher Training Program

The Nevada Constitution, Article Eleven, Section 5, provided that the state legislature should be empowered to establish normal schools for training teachers in any county requesting a normal school. The 1887 legislature followed the provision and created a state normal school as a part of the University of Nevada at Reno in 1888. In 1915, the legislature provided for county normal schools and normal *(teacher)* training in high schools for rural teachers "under the control of the state board of education which considered any properly filed county petition."

In 1917, the State Board of Education granted 22 county normal training school diplomas to graduates of Clark, Nye, and Storey Counties. The state board fixed salaries of all county normal instructors at $1,800. In July, normal training schools were approved at Tonopah and Eureka and on September 25, 1918, the first Clark County Normal School was established at Bunkerville with Miss Mina Connell as the teacher. In 1921, a Clark County Normal School was started at Overton with Miss Edith Harris as teacher. In May 1922, nine county normal elementary certificates were granted from Clark County. County normal schools provided additional training for teachers.

Students planning to go into rural school teaching took a one- or two-year course after high school graduation and on completion of the course could be certificated to teach in the state. Usually, there was only one instructor in the high schools for the normal school work and he/she prepared six to nine graduates to begin teaching.

County normal school training, often called "practice teaching," was the original name for the higher education teacher preparation schools, and many programs evolved into parts or divisions of four-year colleges and universities. Nevada normal schools sponsored by the state department were absorbed by the Department of Education of the University of Reno. A College of Education building at Reno was built within the state. The county-normal plan evidently gave a too narrow opportunity for teacher training and the cost per teacher trained was excessively high, according to W. J. Hunting, state superintendent of public instruction, in his biennial report for 1919-20.

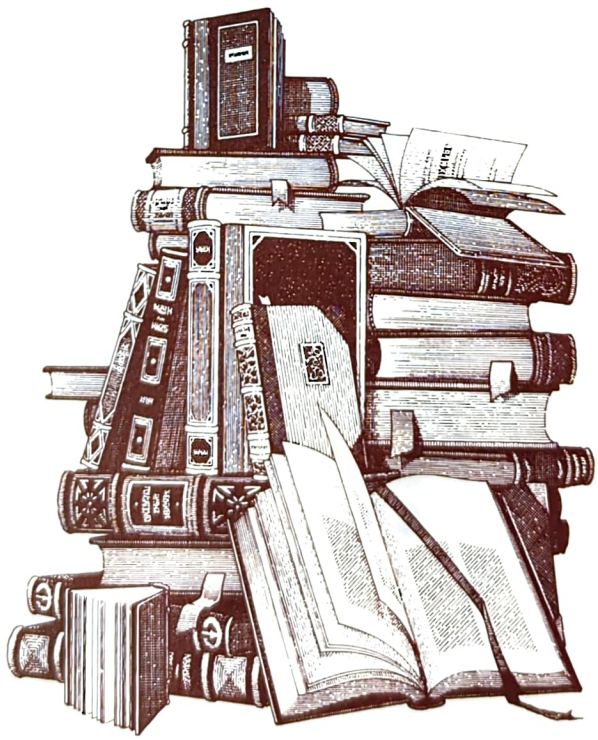
One-year courses were reported in 1918, 1919, and 1922-23 in Bunkerville and in 1923 at St. Thomas.

The Normal School *(later called the Department of Education at the University of Nevada, Reno)* served many high school graduates of the programs well and faithfully in their training as prospective teachers in the rural schools of Clark County.

Selected References

Hulse, James W., ***The University of Nevada, A Centennial History***
University of Nevada Press, Reno, 1974.

Reports of Superintendents of Public Instruction
1913, 1915, 1917, 1919, 1920.



Epilogue
FOOTNOTES TO HISTORY

The history of the Clark County School District has been traced from 1856 to 1986. Very few school districts in the United States have experienced such extensive growth in such a relatively short time. A true picture of this growth emerges from the historical events chronicled in this book. It is fascinating to compare what we started with and what we have now.

The disparity between the first Mormon missionary teachers and the district teacher of today is not merely a matter of personal freedom or mode of dress. A significant difference lies in their preparation for the teaching profession. A background of basic Mormon doctrine contrasts sharply with the stringent four-year university foundation demanded of today's teachers.

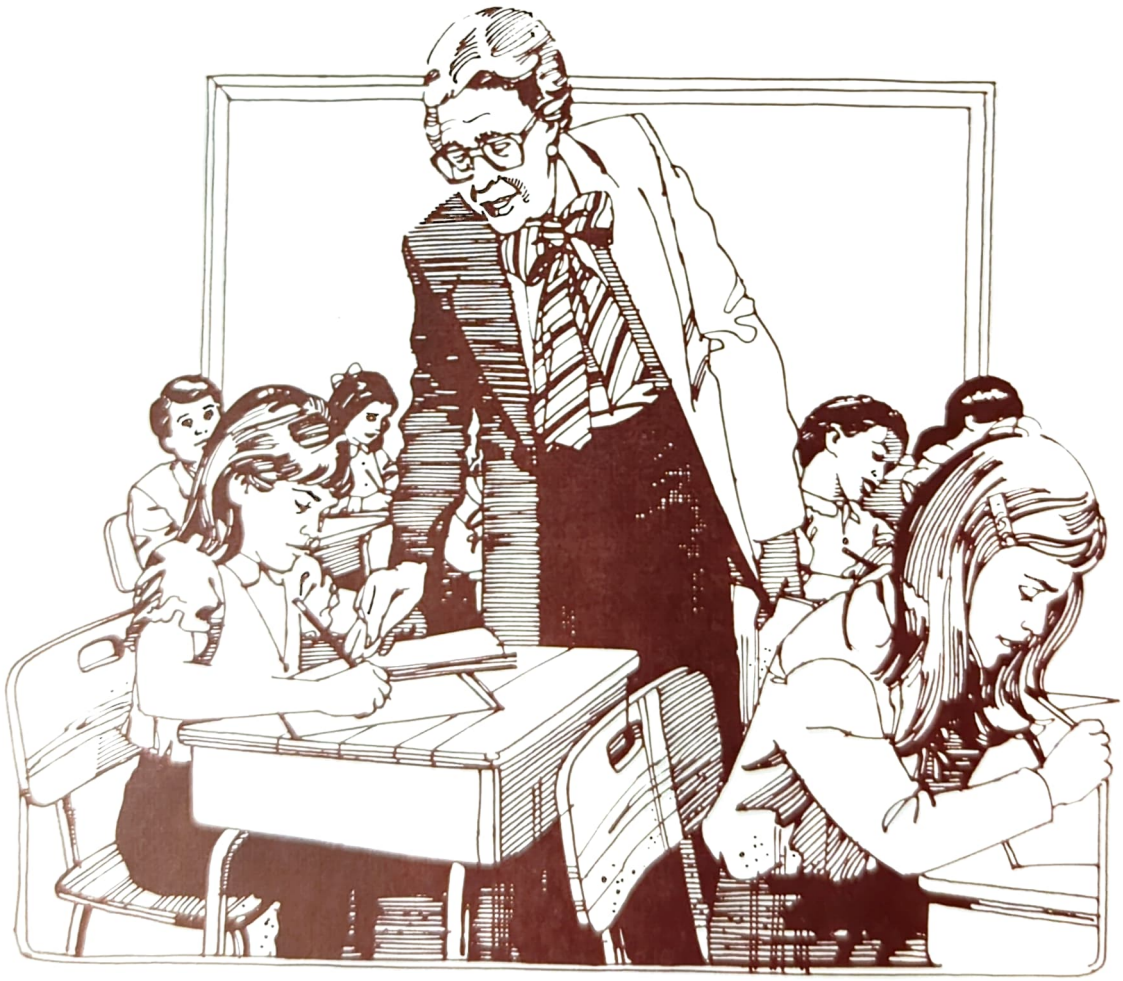
The difference in teachers' salaries provides another interesting contrast. In 1986, the average Clark County teacher earned $28,256, not including benefits. A teacher in 1856 could expect a sixty-dollar annual salary, payable in "produce or work." However, it is important to consider the difference between the rural community of that time and the present Clark County population of over six hundred thousand.

The increase in population provides another benchmark. The district's current seventy-seven elementary schools and thirty-five junior and senior high schools stand in vivid contrast to the single elementary school established in 1856. The first high school in 1911 boasted seventeen students, four of whom graduated three years later. Present attendance at district high schools is approximately 27,366 and of these, 5,463 graduated in the spring of 1986. The total student population is over 95,000, and by the year 2000 it is expected to exceed 129,000.

Classes in the 1860's were taught on the banks of the Muddy River, in the one hundred and fifty-square-foot Fort, or in Mrs. Cox's one-room adobe hut. Classes in the 1980's are taught in beautifully landscaped and architecturally unique schools throughout Clark County. Schools house student populations that range from 600 - 1,000 in elementary schools and up to 3,000 in the high schools.

However, in spite of enormous changes, the deepest values have remained constant. In many ways the early educational innovations match the instructional challenges of today. Educators in the mid-1800's banded together for what they described as the "diffusion of useful knowledge," an excellent definition of any school's primary objective and one which stands equally well with our present administration's promise of a "commitment to excellence." The passing years have not diminished the strong sense of pride felt by early educators and citizens of the community and their modern-day counterparts. Both cultivate pride in their educational efforts, pride in their respective communities, and pride in the spirit which causes members of an educational community to aspire to a larger and better world for both themselves and their students.

It is this final common denominator that emphasizes the concept of evolving growth; it is the dedication of the people involved in education. Contrasts and comparisons of sites and buildings, teachers' backgrounds and salaries, classrooms and facilities all pale beside the sustained dedication of teachers, administrators, support staff, community citizens, and volunteers. Over the years, they have given of their time, effort, and their lives in making the educational dreams of the Clark County School District become realities.



APPENDICES

I. *Naming of Nellis Air Force Base*

II. *List of Old School Buildings*

III. *Early-Day Teachers' Examinations*

IV. *Sample of Clark County Rural Teachers' Contracts*

I. Naming of Nellis Air Force Base

Nellis Air Force Base is named in honor of a Clark County resident and former student of Las Vegas High School. The base is named in honor of First Lieutenant William Harrell Nellis.

> . . . who was killed in action over Luxembourg on December 27, 1944. A fighter pilot with 69 missions behind him, he was 28 years old when he died. A son, Gary William, and a daughter, Joyce Lynn, reside in Las Vegas.
>
> Lt. Nellis was born in Santa Rita, New Mexico, but his family moved to Clark County, Nevada shortly thereafter. Bill Nellis spent his boyhood years in Searchlight, Nevada, and grew to manhood in Las Vegas. Old timers recall with pride that he was a model boy in his younger years and have graciously commended the Air Force for having bestowed this distinctive honor upon a man who so rightly deserves it. These settlers agree wholly that William H. Nellis represents the spirit of men who would gladly give up their lives for the freedom that is the basis of our nation.
>
> He distinguished himself in the field of athletics while at Las Vegas High School and remained active in sports until he entered the service.
>
> William H. Nellis enlisted in the Reserve Corps December 9, 1942, and reported for active duty March 2, 1943. Aviation student Nellis was honorably discharged January 6, 1944, to accept an appointment as flight officer. He reached the rank of first lieutenant by November 22, 1944, and in a little more than a month was killed in action. He was serving as a member of the 513th Fighter Squadron, 406th Fighter Group, at the time of his death.

The base, known as the Gunnery School on the Las Vegas Air Force Base, was officially named and dedicated as Nellis Air Force Base on May 20, 1950.

II. List Of Old School Buildings

Following is a list of old school buildings still utilized as schools or for other purposes.

School	Built
Biltmore *(now Alternative Programs)*	1942
Boulder City *(converted to City Hall)*	1933
Bunkerville *(now County Recreation Center)*	1916
Fifth Street Grammar *(now Courthouse Annex)*	1936
Goodsprings *(still in use)*	1916
Jefferson *(now Special Programs)*	1942
Las Vegas High School *(main building and gym)*	1930
Logandale School *(now Special Programs)*	1935
Mayfair *(four rooms on 16th Street; name officially changed to Dorothy M. Seigle Diagnostic and Treatment Center, July 1977)*	1942
North Ninth *(now Curriculum and Instruction)*	1942
Searchlight *(still in use)*	1942
Washington *(two-room front building; now Alternative Programs)*	1932
Westside *(Old Town)* *(now Economic Opportunity Board)*	1922

III. Early-Day Teachers' Examinations

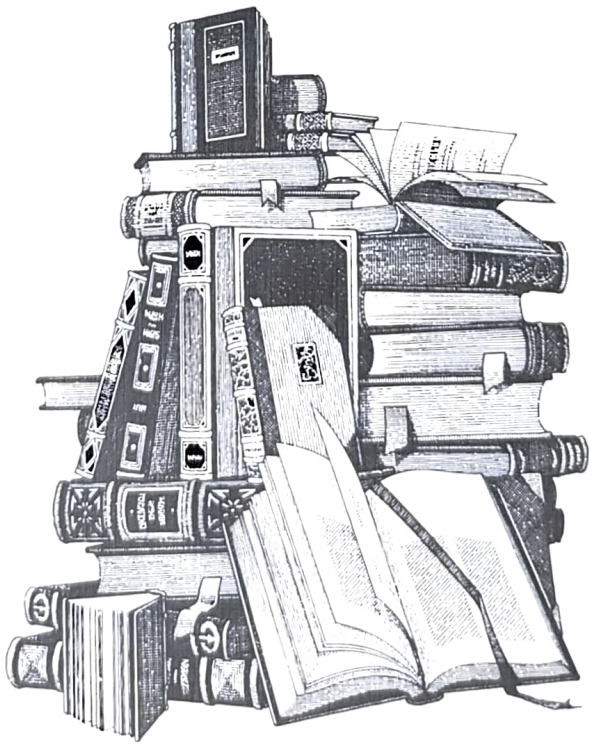
In 1885, the Nevada State Board of Education was authorized to certify teachers. Qualifications were often determined by requiring those wishing to earn a teacher's certificate or to renew certificates already held to take the teacher's examination.

Before Clark County was formed from Lincoln County, teachers from southern Nevada went to Pioche to take the examination given by an appointed supervisor. Five or more applicants were required before the examination would be given in each county. No special qualifications were required to take the examination, but a candidate had to be eighteen years of age to receive a teaching certificate. The tests sometime lasted for four days. Subjects in which candidates were tested were: arithmetic, both oral and written; geography; American history; civics; English and American literature; grammar; spelling; art; handwriting; and physiology.

The candidate needed to attain a general average of 85 percent or higher, or better than 65 percent in any one subject to be granted a "first grade" certificate. Records indicate that of ten persons taking the examination, one qualified for a "first grade" certificate and six were eligible for a "second grade" certificate; "third grade" certificates were also granted. Candidates could avoid taking the examination if they had satisfactorily completed a normal school course.

IV. Sample Of Clark County Rural Teachers' Contracts

On the following pages are samples of Clark County Rural Teachers' Contracts used over 50 years ago and furnished by the Nevada State Department of Education. Large districts devised their own contracts.



Form CONTRACT—5-6-37—600

DUPLICATE—FOR TEACHER

CONTRACT BETWEEN TEACHER AND TRUSTEES

THIS AGREEMENT, made and entered into this ..... day of August, 1937, by and between the Board of School Trustees of Eldorado Canyon School District, Clark County, Nevada, the party of the first part, and Eva D. Peterson, of Nelson, Nev., the party of the second part,

WITNESSETH: That the said party of the first part does hereby covenant and contract with the said Eva D Peterson, who has heretofore been granted and is now holding ~~a Nevada State Certificate or~~ Life Diploma of the ..... Grade, to teach in the aforementioned district for the period of nine months, beginning on the ..... day of September 1937, in accordance with the School Laws of Nevada and the rules and regulations prescribed in pursuance therewith by the State Board of Education and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, at the yearly salary of eleven hundred, seventy Dollars ($1170), payable in 9 equal monthly installments.

This contract may be abrogated only for good and sufficient cause by either party hereto upon thirty days' notice in writing to the other party; or at any time by mutual consent.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said parties have hereunto subscribed their names in due execution hereof the day and year first above written.

Signed F. W. Allcock, President
John S. Sartain, Clerk
Board of School Trustees

P. O. W. A.
Signed Eva D. Peterson, Teacher

Notes—1. No changes are to be made in the form of this contract.

2. If a teacher is to teach *on Certificate*, a line should be drawn through the words "or Life Diploma"; if on a Life Diploma, a line should be drawn through the words "Certificate or."

3. No teacher can be legally employed in the public schools unless he or she is a citizen of the United States and holds a Nevada Certificate or Life Diploma.

(OVER)

DUPLICATE

TEACHER'S CONTRACT

For teaching in the

Eldorado Canyon School

at Nelson, Nevada

Department, Elementary or High School

Elementary

Grades or Subjects:

eight grades

Name of Teacher:

Eva D. Peterson

Clerk or Secretary of Board:

Jno. S. Sartain

Blanks above are to be filled by the Clerk or Secretary.

Original of contract is to be filed with board; the duplicate is to be given to the teacher.

TO SCHOOL OFFICIALS AND TEACHERS

The within form of contract has been drawn by the Superintendent of Public Instruction in pursuance of the provisions of the School Code to enable the Boards of School Trustees and County Boards of Education to comply with the law requiring contracts with teachers. See paragraph 12 in Section 6 of Chapter 2; also paragraph 11 in Section 67 of Chapter 6.

The within contract-form has been submitted to the Attorney-General of the State, and has been approved by him.

Chauncey P. Lewis

Superintendent of Public Instruction.