

# Beginning Of Local Public Schools

There were no public schools in the colonies during Mexican rule. The colonists asked for a system of schools, but the country was poor and there was little favorable sentiment among Mexican leaders toward popular education. In the first convention ever held by the people of Texas, that of 1832, a delegate from San Felipe presented a petition, to be sent to Mexico, asking for a donation of land for a public school system.

One of the causes given for a declaration of independence from Mexico was the failure of that country to establish a system of education in Texas. In the constitution of the Republic of Texas, which was written in 1836 while Santa's army was besieging the Alamo, a clause, reading: "It shall be the duty of Congress, as soon as circumstances will permit, to provide by law a general system of education," was included.

When Lamar was president (1838-1841), he urged Congress to do something for the schools. He was so earnest in his recommendations that he has become known as the patron saint of the Texas educational system. In 1838, Congress passed a bill providing that every county should have three leagues (13,284 acres) of land set aside for the purpose of establishing schools. But the counties were slow in surveying the land and it was not until after the War between the States that Texas really began to organize and improve its school system.

In 1854, during Pease's administration, the legislature passed a

most important school law. This act set aside \$2,000,000 of the money received from the United States as a permanent school fund. Texas, as you know, received \$10,000,000 for the settlement of her boundary claims. This was the beginning of our present permanent school fund which has now grown to over \$100,000,000.

One public school for each county seems a humble provision, but it was a beginning, and after a hundred years, we are still trying to improve our school system. In 1865 a man named Jarret Dean and his family left Alabama in search of good farm lands. They traveled through Mississippi, Louisiana, and into East Texas where they found the land that they wanted. It was fertile, and well supplied with water from a nearby creek.

Other families moved near the Deans, and soon a community was formed. The new settlers, and the Texas & Pacific Railway Company, in about 1872, jointly named the new community "Gladewater." There was established a station near Glade Creek, from which spring water was used to fill a water tower serving locomotives.

Gladewater grew and prospered as an agriculture center, and in time schools and churches were built. In 1894, J. Henry Smith taught a one-teacher school in a frame building. He served as superintendent, principal, and classroom teacher for less than 50 pupils. Smith later became County Superintendent in Gregg County.

The enrollment had grown to 81 in 1897. T. A. Coleman, father of Grady Coleman, succeeded Smith as head of Gladewater School, which had now a total of two teachers, Miss Minnie Foshee, later Mrs. Minnie Barker, and the other teacher. These two taught in a frame school house in the block now enclosed by Dean, Quiltman, Ferry, and Upshur streets.

An expanded enrollment made it necessary to provide more adequate room. In 1902 the townspeople bought the land where the elementary school now stands and built a two-story building which had four classrooms downstairs and a single large room upstairs.

September 20, 1920, the president of the school board, A. D. Palmer, reported that the board had hired four teachers. The names and salaries agreed upon were as follows: Louis F. Benson of Mt. Pleasant, as principal, at a salary of \$166.65 per month; Mrs. Louis F. Benson, primary teacher, \$85.00 per month; Miss Lola Jackson for first intermediate grades at a salary of \$100.00 per month; and Miss Margaret Monroe of Longview, for second high intermediate grades at a salary of \$100 per month. Three colored teachers were also employed.

In November of 1920, the crowded conditions of the school made it obligatory that all children under school age withdraw from school. This year children were transferred from Point Pleasant Community to the Gladewater School.

On May 19, 1921, the school board voted to call an election for floating bonds to build a brick building. The voters went to the polls and cast their votes for the bonds. As the results of the election, a pretty red brick school house at the elementary school site was completed in 1922. A. J. Sanders was superintendent from 1921-24, and Charles A. Shelby served from 1924-25. With W. H. Lewis, superintendent from 1926-31.

The Gladewater Independent School District was incorporated May 8, 1920, and established August 3, 1920. In 1923 the Gladewater County Line Independent School District became the name of the local school district.

The magic touch of oil put Gladewater on the map. At the time oil was discovered near the town in 1930, slightly more than 500 people lived in the then unincorporated town. It was dependent upon timber and agriculture. Then oil came—almost overnight the town's population jumped and the boom was on. Board sidewalks and muddy streets were busy places. As the huge East Texas field developed, civic-minded citizens banded together to build a city. It was 1936 before Gladewater settled down and from that time until the present day it has continued to build for permanence.

By September, 1931, the red brick could not house all the school children. It was inadequate for the educational task. Single wall frame class rooms soon covered every available space of the campus. While waiting for some of the first buildings, classes were held in busses. Some classes were held in two shifts with children attending only a half day.

In 1932 the school had grown to the extent that commencement exercises had to be held out-of-doors.

From 1933 forward have been golden years of the school in Gladewater. In that year the present high school building was completed in time for the commencement to be in the new auditorium. Mr. J. W. O'Banion was superintendent in 1931-33. The school board members in 1933 were: J. W. Dickson, G. C. Dunaway, J. A. Godfrey, J. E. Hawkins, J. C. Jackson, Fred Jeter, L. A. Jeter,

L. L. Jeter, T. W. Lee, A. H. Phillips, T. T. Sturdivant, S. D. Todd, Crawford Vernon and Robert Wood, secretary.

S. V. Perritte served the Gladewater Schools in 1933-34. Following Perritte was D. T. Smith, 1934-39.

In 1935, the main building of the elementary school was built. Also the junior high part, the boys gymnasium, and the tower were added to the high school building. The tower now stands visible from miles away on every approach to the city, and people who survived the boom days and refused to settle back into obscurity. The Agriculture building was added to the high school, and the kindergarten primary annex was added to the elementary building.

Gladewater Public Schools' "Alma Mater" words and music by Cuthbert Madison O'Neal, who was band director in 1935 and 1936, was given us. It was published in the 1936 annual.

F. C. McConnell in 1939-42 (Mrs. McConnell finished out McConnell's last term. He went into the service); J. J. Traugher in 1942-45; Nat Williams in 1945-47; E. D. Cleveland in 1947-50 served the schools as superintendents.

Dana Williams came to the public schools of Gladewater as superintendent in 1950.

The courses of study and the co-curricular activities offered by the Gladewater Schools are among the best offered by any public school of the State of Texas. Its summer program for both adults and children is excellent.

The administrative staff and the faculty are well prepared for their work and strive at all times to be of service to the school, the church, and the community of which they are a part. Included in the present administrative staff are Dana Williams, superintendent, J. A. Jones, administrative assistant, George Lipscomb, principal of the junior-senior high school, J. K. Kearns, director of student activities, and Calvin Brannen, principal of the elementary school.

Work is under way for a new elementary school building, a new gymnasium for the high school, and a new school building, and swimming pool for the colored people.

## Local Libraries Adequately Filled

The Gladewater Public Schools have been exceedingly fortunate in having library-minded administrators who have made possible adequate library facilities in all the system. Throughout the state of Texas there are many schools which do not have the library services that are necessary to enrich the school curriculum and to furnish the recreational reading needs of their students. The maintenance of high standards in up-to-date libraries and the employment of well-trained librarians have gained for the Gladewater school system a very high rating by the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges.

From a few books placed in classrooms the libraries of the Gladewater schools have grown to four well-organized, well-administered book collections.

### PRECOCIOUS PERCUSSIONIST

WHEELING, W. Va. (U.P.)—The youngest member of the Wheeling Symphony Orchestra will not be shaving for several years. Donald Morehead, 13, was taken into the regular orchestra as a drummer as soon as he tried out for the training orchestra. He has played with the Benwood Union High School band for three years, although he did not enter the school until this year.

## GHS Business Education Department Celebrates 20th Birthday This Year

Twenty years ago, September, 1934, the Business Education Department came into being in the then new building of the Gladewater High School. Miss Elizabeth Benson of Galveston, armed with a Bachelor and a Master of Business Administration Degree from the University of Texas, and J. D. Bryant, with a Bachelor of Science in Commerce from North Texas State Teachers College, were the first teachers in this new department. Miss Benson is better known in Gladewater at the present time as Mrs. Harold Victory, 404 Live Oak. Miss Benson and Bryant laid a foundation in launching this new department and how wisely they built it is still very evident 20 years later. They set up and followed a standard of work of such high quality

that the courses in shorthand, typing, bookkeeping and salesmanship quickly received accreditation from the State Department of Education. In the school year 1935-36 secretarial training was added, as was business law, and these two courses were given accreditation. This meant that the work done by the students, under the supervision of these teachers, was of such quality that it would be accepted by colleges throughout the country for college entrance. Miss Benson taught in the Gladewater Business Education Department from 1934 through May, 1938. Bryant was here from 1934 to May, 1941.

Miss Emily Ferguson, with a Bachelor's Degree from East Texas State, joined the department in 1937 and remained until 1941. On

## Printing, Photography Departments Installed At High School In 1939

In 1939 Superintendent E. C. McConnell with the school board setting out to enlarge the vocational field, installed in the high school two additional departments, the printing department and photography department. The purpose was designed to teach the latest type of printing and give the students practical experience in printing the school paper and yearbook through the offset method and printing school forms by the letter press method.

The first teachers in the departments were printing instructor A. F. Campbell and photography instructor C. L. York. They printed the 1939-40 yearbook in the school shop. At that time there was one printing, one photography, and one annual class. The paper was rewritten and edited by English classes taught by Miss Maude Hall.

In 1940-41 the departments grew to include York, who taught one class of journalism (school annual) and two classes in photography. Robert Chambers taught one or two classes in journalism, which consisted in the writing and making up the Bear Facts, the school paper.

The paper, football program, yearbook, and most office and school district printing was done by the N. Y. A. and T. & L. classes with the two high school printing classes under the direction of Charles E. Woodson who came from Denton, where he had been a printer pressman for T. S. C. W.

Twenty students attended classes half a day in the N. Y. A. and T. & L. classes. The printing classes grew from one class of ten students to two classes of 14.

When war was declared in December, 1941, six months later, these departments saw another great change. Having lost all three instructors, they had to start out reorganizing the classes and courses. A. Bryant then took Wood-

son's and York's classes and cut them to one class of photography, one of printing, and one of annual work. He taught from the fall of 1942 to September 1944, when Woodson was again employed.

The end of the war saw another change in which the printing, photography, and journalism (annual) classes grew from one to two classes each. Woodson taught up until mid-semester of 1949. J. T. Cruse filled out that year and taught until spring of 1950. R. I. Washburn was then employed and the printing department went through another change. The art work and layout of the school annual was given to the Art Department under the direction of Bill Neale. The printing and picture taking and developing remained in the printing, photography, and annual classes.

Old and worn out equipment was replaced under the supervision of Superintendent Dana Williams and Principal George Lipscomb present administration heads. They have also overseen the installation of a plant annexed in the state as means of offset printing. The offset press that was purchased in 1947 was completely rebuilt, and new photography equipment purchased to help give a more complete course.

J. L. Rowe, a former student of C. E. Woodson, is now teaching the printing and photography classes.

### AMNESIA VICTIM

LISBON, Portugal. (U.P.)—Manuel Henriques, 30, was cleared of charges of murdering his wife when she was found alive but suffering from loss of memory, in a Lisbon hospital. Henriques had been arrested in his country home and imprisoned for more than a month on suspicion of murder after his wife had wandered off and he was unable to account for her whereabouts.

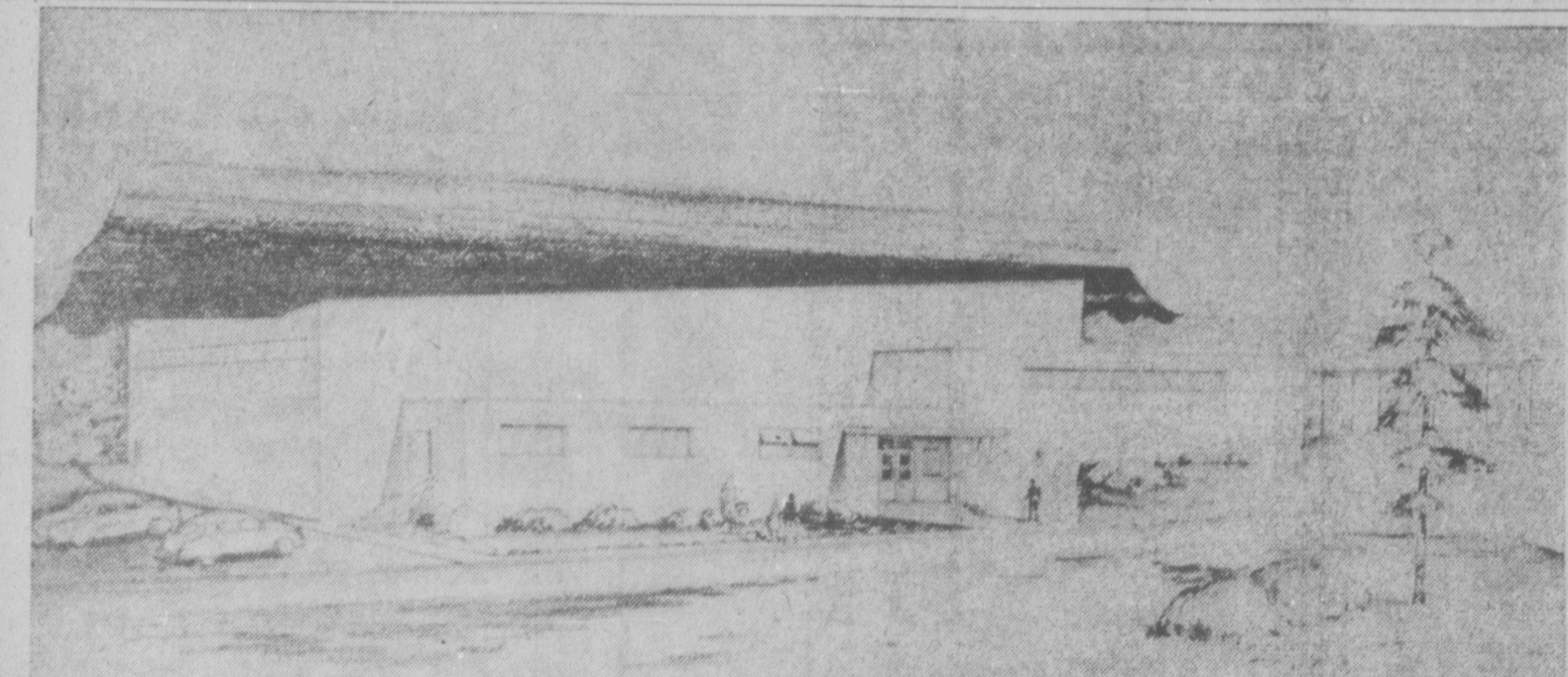
1938, Miss Woodie Mae Anderson, from the University of Texas, was added to the staff, having a tenure of only one year. In 1941 Robert W. Chambers, from North Texas State, joined the staff as teacher of Journalism II, Business English, and Commercial Law. Chambers was on the faculty only that one year. William Garland Button, from East Texas State came into the department in 1941 as teacher of bookkeeping and typing. Button was a member of the faculty from 1941 to 1943. Miss Kathleen Nichols was added to the staff in 1941 and remained until 1944. Miss Kathryn Cummings replaced Miss Nichols in 1944, severing her connection with the school in 1948. In 1948, E. C. Pennington, from

East Texas State, took over the Business Education Department and is on the staff at the present time. In 1950 a new field of business education was added, known as distributive education, with Fred Faulkner as instructor. After two years, Faulkner resigned, and was replaced by John Blevins, who is at present the instructor of that field of work and who also teaches bookkeeping.

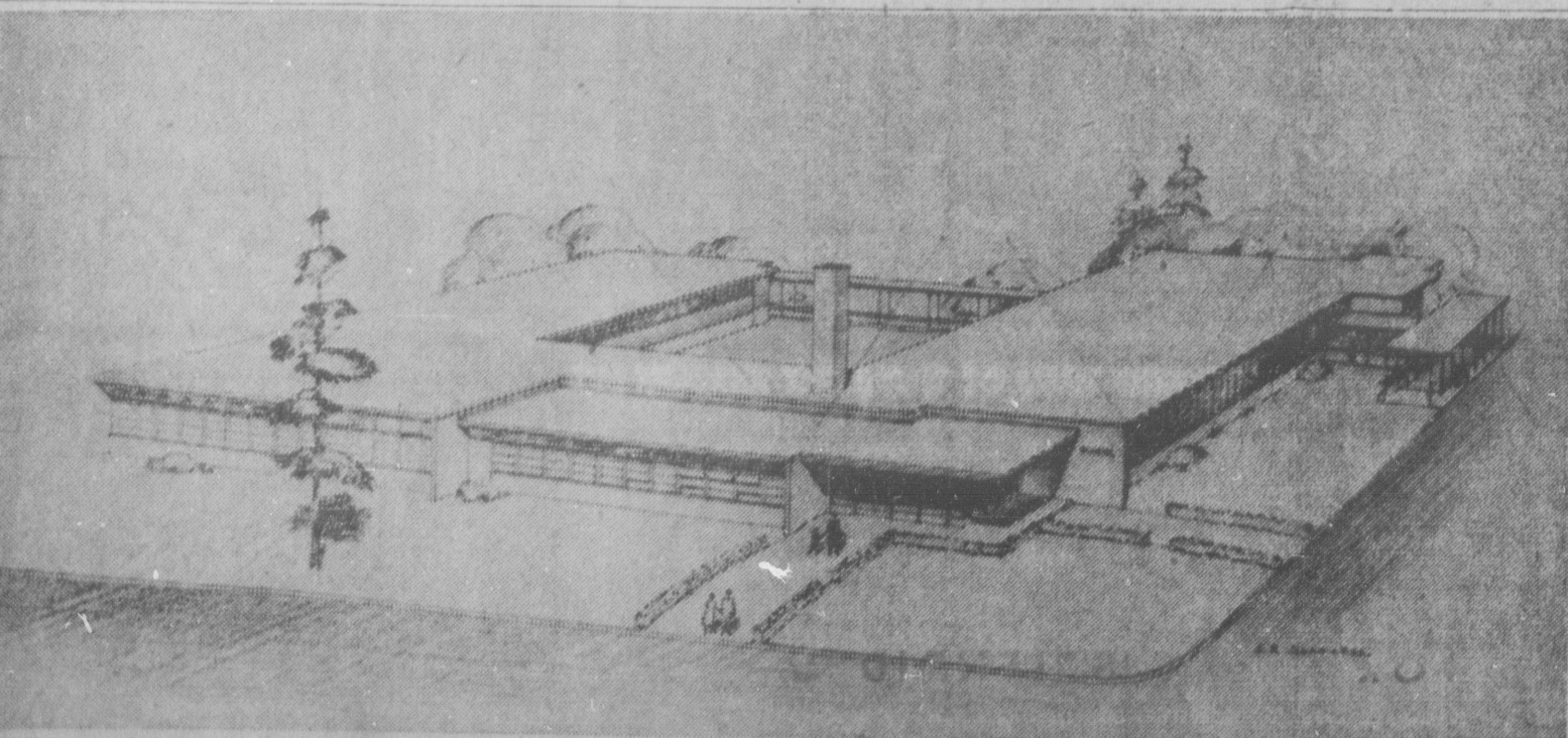
All of these courses in the Business Education Department are taught strictly from the vocational standpoint. The work is of such nature that the students who come through the department are able to make use of it in gaining a livelihood after leaving school.



LUTHER KENDALL moved to Gladewater in 1931 and served the school board for several years beginning in 1937. He and his wife reside at 823 N. Main and he is retired from the Magnolia Oil Company, having served with this company for 31 years. He now runs a small gun shop, mainly as a hobby. The Kendalls have reared two sons who both attended the Gladewater schools.



GLADEWATER'S NEW and modern high school gymnasium will be located just east of, and across the street from, the agriculture building. Above is the sketch of the new gym.



THE NEW WELDON SCHOOL will be located on the site of the previous building. Pictured above is the architectural drawing of the new building which is scheduled to be ready for students the next school term.

ANY WAY YOU WANT TO FIGURE IT

$$\begin{array}{r} 4 \times 3 = 12 \\ 9 \times 6 = 54 \\ \hline 43 \\ + 3 \\ \hline 46 \\ \hline 12 \\ \hline 15 \end{array}$$

We're Proud OF OUR GLADEWATER SCHOOLS!

We Are Proud Of The Gladewater School System Because

Of its outstanding educational program.

Of its modern and up to date facilities.

Of its highly trained and efficient faculty.

**FIRST STATE BANK**