

Other Facts

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE DOUGLASS PUBLIC SCHOOLS 1870-1983

By B. (Pete) Schreiner/Jim Keller editor

OTHER FACTS

1. In the first decade of the twentieth century, athletics were introduced into the Douglass High School. The main sports were track, baseball and football. Later, football was dropped, due to lack of finances.
2. Two literary societies were organized in 1910. They were the Ix Ipsilon and the Philomathean. They were rivals for honors in declamation, oration and debate.
3. The class of 1914 published the first school annual and established the "High School Reporter." The paper was not published continuously from 1914 to 1919. In 1919 the publication was again resumed.
In 1919, Mrs. Sadie Wilson organized the high school library under the Dewey Decimal System.
4. During the years that intervened between 1920 and 1930, wrestling was introduced; the Girls Reserves and Hi-Y clubs were organized and the High School Reporter has changed from an extra-curricular activity to the study of Journalism.
5. In 1921, one of the rules put into effect by the KSHSAA, was: "Any student who uses tobacco in any form during the season of a sport shall be declared ineligible to compete in high school contests in that sport."
6. In a hard fought game on a November day in 1921, Douglass was defeated by Southwestern College, by a score of 24 to 7.
7. Douglass defeated Augusta by a score of 20 to 8 on Friday, November 11, 1921.
8. Trip to Burns -1922: The girls' basketball team accompanied by Miss Barkley and Mr. Kastor, left Douglass on the ten twenty-five train, Saturday and journeyed to Burns to play the Burns' girls a game of basketball. The train pulled into Burns a little after twelve o'clock. The Burns team and coach were at the depot to meet the visitors from Douglass. The Douglass girls were entertained in various homes and received very nice treatment. The Douglass crowd met at the gymnasium at four and looked the court over and tried the baskets. They met again at the gymnasium at seven and began their game at seven-thirty. After the Douglass-Burns game the Burns and Coats boys played. After the game they separated to meet again at the depot at four a. m. The two who overslept were left in Burns to await another train, but the others came home, arriving in Douglass on the six o'clock train.
9. 1927: For the first time in history, Douglass High School is to have a wrestling team. It was organized under the supervision of Guy Elliott, who was a noted wrestler in this area.
11. 1923: A girls Athletic Association was organized.
A point system has been worked out by which the high school letter can be made by making 1000 points. The different activities are: Basket ball, Hiking, Calisthenics, Tennis and Horsemanship.
12. 1923: Under the leadership of Miss Dudley, an Orchestra was organized.
13. 1924: Poem -Lois Harris (age -9 yrs.)

Daisies

Out in the meadow daisies grow
Yellow as gold and white as snow.
They are so beautiful, white and fair
Nodding their heads in the summer air.
O, little child with golden hair;
You and the daisies both are fair.
Dear little child and flowers so white
God put you here to make things bright.

14. 1924: November 11- D. H. S. Commemorates Armistice. If there is any one thing I approve of in war, it is the fighting spirit, said the Rev. Mr. McNeal, of Bloomington (he was a veteran of World War I). The little white crosses which mark the graves of soldiers is significant of the manner in which Jesus died. At eleven o'clock the entire student body rose and stood silently with heads bowed for two minutes. Patriotic songs were sung by the school, and Miss Goldia Culbreath sang a solo.

15. 1925: The first mention of Junior High Football.
16. 1924: Hi-Y Boys Discuss swearing: On Monday morning at 8:00 o'clock the discussion and Bible study group of the Hi-Y met at the school building and discussed swearing." Several verses of the Bible were read in connection with the subject.
17. 1926: Name of school news changed from "High School Reporter" to Douglass School News." Of the nineteen students who graduated in the class of '26, nine are attending various colleges, six are working, one is staying home and three are teaching school. New Football Regulation: A penalty of 5 yards in addition to loss of a down is imposed on a team for each incomplete forward pass in a series of 4 downs after they have already had one incomplete forward pass in that series. The road in front of the school was graveled. The road had needed repairs for some time, for the students who came to school from the country in cars, sometimes became stuck on this street.
18. 1927: The Douglass Junior High School has been reorganized this fall, and is now under the supervision of the State instead of the County. Bi-Monthly and County Exams, are no longer to be given. A new system has been established in Douglass High School by which students are enabled to see all school activities by a regular system of payment. It is organized so that each member pays \$3.20, to be paid all at once, or in weekly installments of 10 cents. Those who are not paid up are not allowed to attend the various events.
A feature of the Armistice Day program was the appearance of the mixed quartette. The program began with singing of patriotic songs by the students. A speech was given by Mr. Greer, the Superintendent. Attention was called to the fact that we have three ex-soldiers on the Douglass High School Faculty: Mr. E. Floyd Greer, Superintendent; Mr. Newton E. Terrill, Principal; and Mr. Ralph Collins, industrial arts instructor.
19. 1928: William Doyle, a former Douglass high student, has been hired in the Douglass Junior High and will assist in the direction of high school athletics. Pep Band Organized for first time in D.H.S. A pep band, under the supervision of Miss Gladys King, has been organized in Douglass schools. Its purpose is to play at special assemblies and athletic events. Douglass and Cathedral High School teams battled to a 6 to 6 tie, at Island Park, Wichita. The Douglass Bulldogs came to the front again November 7, and defeated the Belle Plaine Applepickers by a 3-0 score.
20. 1929: Kindergarten discontinued due to increasing enrollment of the first grade and the extra time needed for supervision. Before the largest crowd out to any wrestling contest this season, the Douglass High School wrestling team overcame the Wichita Aces in a dual match on the local mat by the score of 18-13.
For the first time since 1917, the alumni association will entertain the graduating class with a banquet, to be given May 17.
21. 1930: When visiting teams come to Douglass, they naturally expect to see in a town of this size, better accommodations than we are able to furnish. If, however, the spectators and residents of Douglass treat the visiting teams well, we feel sure that they will overlook the poor accommodations that they are forced to contend with while they are here. The school should be a place where the talents of the pupils are to be developed and trained. It is certain that we can not give plays at the Dunagan Theatre because of the little stage and the small amount of money derived. We must have some place to present our talent.
Advertisement in School Paper, March 26th:
Five-cent Hamburgers
Ten-cent Chile
TRY THEM
SMI TH'S QUICK LUNCH
When still young learn to save, and
when you are old no one will have to
pass the hat for your benefit.
EXCHANGE STATE BANK
22. 1934: The Douglass High School was admitted to the National Honorary Society of Secondary Schools. A recreation room was provided for the high school students. It was in one of the rooms in the addition to the Manual Training complex. Games for dominoes, ping-pong, and shuffle board will be placed there. Pupils from the country are to eat their lunch there. The Girls

Reserve, Hi-Y, Quill and Scroll, National Honor Society, and all inside class parties will be held there.

For the first time in several years Douglass has developed a junior high school track team.

23. 1935: The Douglass High School was one of the best in the area, and the big game was one of the best in the area, with Augusta, held on "Turkey" day each year. Feelings became so strong that the games were discontinued because of fights (not only the players, but also the spectators), and other problems. During the twenties and early '30's, both boys and girls basketball teams practiced and played their games in the old park Pavilion. In either 1930 or 31, Glada Strode fell during a game and ran a 6" splinter into her leg, and shortly thereafter, basketball for both boys and girls was discontinued. The school was unable to provide adequate equipment for the football players, and it was so worn out by the end of the '34 and '35 seasons that it was discontinued.
24. 1935: In 1928 the now famous Detention Hall was organized. This class is still popular judging from the number of students who attend now. Thirteen years ago, on October 13, Douglass defeated Leon 99 to nothing in football. We won games from Arkansas City and Augusta, but were defeated by such teams as Mulvane, Atlanta and Winfield.
 - Mr. Cromer -How does your little cheering section make so much noise?
 - Roberta Bush-We give them all a cheering drink?
 - Mr. Cromer- What?
 - Roberta Bush-Root beer.
25. 1936: This year a year-book "The Bulldog," will be published in place of the last issue of the Douglass School News. This will be the first time since 1914 that a yearbook has been published by Douglass High School. The price of this annual will be approximately 75 cents.
26. 1940: Students Must Salute The Flag: The United States Supreme Court handed down a decision in June 1940, stating that the local school board has the power to enforce the flag salute in schools. J. S. Parker, Attorney General of Kansas suggests the following procedure in case a student refuses to give the flag salute: He may be suspended for a period not to exceed 60 days. If at the end of this period, he still refuses to salute the flag, his parents are notified by the truant officer. Should this not bring the desired response, parents may be proceeded against, unless they state in writing that such children are beyond their control.

"Sports is the only activity in school that doesn't pay for itself," replied Mr. Terrill, when asked the yearly cost of the three sports sponsored here. At least \$425.00 is spent on basketball, baseball, and track. The gross income from these is always around \$100 less than the cost. Shortages are made up by the series of one-act plays and the senior play. For the benefit of "Doubting Thomases" an itemized account of the various expenses is given. Transportation for from two to five cars for all three sports, \$128; out-of town officials must be hired, \$60; suits and warm ups must be replaced and \$40 a year isn't too much for this. Basketballs must be replaced at the rate of two a year, costing \$25.00, Balls and bats also cost money. Twenty dollars must be laid aside for these. Track equipment amounts to around \$20; and repairs on backstops for basketball and baseball cost \$12. The application of simple addition will show this cost. Maybe these figures will show why the school is encouraging the sale of activity tickets and why the boys must buy their own letters.
27. 1941: Boxing in Douglass got started in grand style as a large crowd turned out to see the first thrill packed match in the Community building. The Douglass Junior High basketball team has set a nice record for itself by winning 10 out of 11 games. At least one school bus probably will be used next year. Two rural school districts have expressed the desire to send their pupils to Douglass next year. The school board has started holding monthly meetings. This has not been done in the past.
28. 1942: Grade school children have taken up a new sport during recess, boxing. Rules are as follows: no hitting in the back; no hitting a person when down; if the fighters cry, they are not permitted to box any more; if either of them get mad, they are barred from further competition.
29. 1968: The Leonard C. Seal Elementary School was dedicated, named after Mr. Leonard Seal, who retired in 1968.
30. Wrestlers who received National attention:
 - W. L. "Bill" Doyle -NCAA Champion 145 lbs. 1931
 - Big 6 Champion 1931 & 32.
 - John Richardson -NCAA Runner-up 155 lbs. 1931
 - Big 6 Champion 1931

Patrick Doyle (Nice Guy)
State Champion -165 lbs. 1954 & 1955, Big 7 Champion -157 lbs. 1957
All Army Champion -1964 & 1965, All Military Service Champion -1964 &
1965

31. The following former students of Douglass High School, became Doctors:

Dr. C. A. Ogg, B.D.
Dr. Raymond House M. D .
Dr. Jerry Perisho M. D .
Dr. Edward Bare M. D.
Dr. Marlin Chauncey E. D.
Professor -Oklahoma A & M
Dr. Jerry O. Schreiner E. D.
Executive Director, Kansas
United School Administrators

SOURCES:

Marvin Sisk
Robert Swigart
Vivian Woody
K.S.H.S.A.A.-- Historical Notes
Douglass School News
Daisy Lamb
Daisy Lamb
Inez Graves

Douglass H. S. Curriculum -1983
Elementary Curriculum -1983
The Douglass Story 1869-1969

Unknown
El Dorado Times
El Dorado Times
H. I. French
Unknown
High School Reporter
B. Schreiner

Douglass Schools
History of the Douglass Schools
Transition From Old School House
To New -1912
Early Douglass Schools
History of Douglass School System
History of Butler County
Butler County Schools
Butler County's Eighty Years

Interviews made in 1954:
Leon Broyles -Douglass High School Teacher
Lillian Dedrick -Butler County Superintendent
Joe M. Guyot -Guyot's Market ,
Leonard Seal -Douglass teacher and administrator

Competitive Sports In The Elementary Schools of Butler County

Interviews made in 1983
Marvin Sisk -Douglass Schools Superintendent
Leonard Seal -Former Douglass administrator
Herman Ogg -Douglass City Mayor

A special thanks to Mr. Sisk for his time, and the tremendous amount of school records he provided for the writer.

A special thanks to Mrs. McCluggage and Mrs. Elswick, the school secretaries, for reproducing the materials for the writer. -- B. (Pete) Schreiner

We hope that everyone has enjoyed this 7 part series on the history of Douglass' Schools. Our hopes are to bring that history up to present day over the summer and share our findings with the community next school year. We wish you all a very fine summer.

