

## The other half of education

# Extra-Curricular Activities find a place

Extra-curricular activities have been a part of the Douglass schools, since their early beginning. However, at first, the activities were confined within the confines of each individual school. "In 1911 and 1912 the superintendents of the Barnes Schools organized the Barnes High School League, for contests in debate, oratory reading and track. The first meet was held at El Dorado. This became an incentive to the intellectual development as well as to the physical development of all pupils in these High Schools." The first attempt made statewide to organize and control activities was made in 1910, when the State High School Debate League and the State High School Athletic Association were formed. The Athletic Association has been under the exclusive direction of Superintendents and Principals since its organization in 1910. It grew from a small, voluntary group of fewer than 50 high schools in 1910 and 1911, until the early 1920' s when as many as 500 high schools were members. At this particular time, membership was voluntary. At the annual meeting of the Board of Control, in 1927, they were authorized to employ a full-time executive officer and to establish permanent headquarters in Topeka. The first executive secretary was S. A. Thomas.

In the early 1930's, a movement was started to organize an association to embrace all existing associations dealing with interschool events and with authority to supervise and regulate all interscholastic activities. And, in 1937, the Activities Association came into being. Speech and music activities were organized including speech clinics, debate tournaments and music festivals. During the year plans were also made to institute an Athletic Accident Benefit Plan to provide a schedule of benefits for students injured in athletic contests and practice periods. Additional services have been instituted until at the present time all high school activities involving students from member schools are carried on under the supervision of the administrative staff of the Activities Association. These include Kay-Kayette leadership conferences and camps, student council conferences and workshops, Speech and drama festivals, and all types of clinics for students interested in athletics, speech, music and cheerleading. In 1925, the Kansas State High School Activities Association specified that all high schools must belong to the State Association and the penalty for competing with non-member schools is disbarment from the Association. A closer supervision of high school activities, especially athletics was planned under the new constitution.

There is no record available that shows whether the Douglass High School was a member of the Association prior to 1925. There was however the Southern Butler County League. In 1927 the Butler County League was organized. Members were: Andover, Benton, Burns, Cassoday, Douglass, Latham, Leon, Potwin, Rose Hill, Rosalia, Towanda and Whitewater. It controlled all extra-curricular activities of an interschool nature. Some of the activities, besides athletics, were music festivals, Speech contests, Scholarship contests and one-act plays. This did not include the elementary activities until 1945.

The Elementary Class "B" League existed in name rather than in fact prior to its official organization in 1945. All business concerning the elementary schools was acted upon by the representatives of the high School league, which as was stated above was organized in 1927. Only one elementary principal, from Oil Hill, was represented in the group. Since this principal, "was the only representative from the elementary schools, the superintendents delegated to him the authority of operating the elementary activities. These were similar to the activities supervised by the administrators of the high school league. During the 1944-45 school year, Miss Lillian Dedrick, the Butler County Superintendent, suggested to the superintendents that an elementary league be organized under the jurisdiction of the superintendents but directed by the elementary principals. This met with a great deal of opposition from some of the superintendents. A special meeting of the superintendents was called in January of 1945 at El Dorado, to prevent the organization of the elementary principals group. However, the following month the elementary principals met at El Dorado and decided to meet alone if not allowed to meet with the superintendents. The new group met each month the remainder of the school year. In May of 1945 the superintendents decided to recognize the elementary principals organization and incorporate it into the league. The two groups met together for an evening meal, and then adjourned to separate rooms for individual meetings. At the first few meetings, the superintendents did not allow the elementary principals to carry on any business. Through the persistent efforts of Miss Dedrick and James Strange, superintendent of schools of Rosalia, the other superintendents were won over. When this writer arrived on the scene in the Fall of 1947, there was harmony and fellowship between the groups. The following schools became members of the new league, Andover, Benton, Burns, Cassoday, Douglass, Haverhill, Latham, Leon, Oil Hill, Potwin, Rose Hill, Rosalia, Towanda and Whitewater. Haverhill and Latham participated in the extra-curricular activities, but discontinued athletic competition with the exception of track, in 1954. In 1952 or 1953, the Douglass Schools withdrew from the Butler County League, and became a member of the South Central Kansas League. Activities supervised in this league were similar to the ones in the Butler County League. Members of the League were: Douglass, Bluestem (Leon), Belle Plaine, Oxford, Central Burden, Argonia, South Haven, and Udall. In 1980, the Douglass Schools withdrew from the South Central Kansas League and became a member of the Central Plains League. At the present time, Douglass is still a member of this League. Members were: Douglass, Belle Plaine, Cheney, Garden Plain, Medicine Lodge, Conway Springs, Maize, Rose Hill and Leon. Members who withdrew from the League were Maize, Rose Hill and Leon. South Barber (Kiowa) was later added to the league. Activities were approximately the same as those in the Butler County and South Central Kansas Leagues. Since the beginning of the Douglass Schools, there have been a large number of extra-curricular activities (athletics excluded). The students, school personnel and community are so proud of the accomplishments of the various groups throughout the years. Douglass has always been at or the top in these activities. Many trophies, plaques, medals and ribbons brought home from these group activities give credence to the abilities of our students. Not only have many of these activities been participated in on an interschool basis, but students of all levels have entertained the community, through their exceptional abilities

in many areas. Some of these activities, to name a few, have been one-act plays, class plays, boys, girls and mixed chorus, vocal and instrumental solos, Band, Orchestra, operetta, debate, oration and even spelling contests.

As near as could be ascertained, the following activities have been an important part of the schools' life: Girls Reserves, Hi-Y, Home Ec. Club (domestic science}, drama club, H.S. Commerce Club, Pep club, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts(Jr. Hi.), Forensics Club, Quill & Scroll(Journalism Class), Archery Club, 4-H Garden Club, Ionian Literary Society, Elocution, Weekly Chapel, Street Fairs, Scholarship Contests, Boys Chorus, Girls Chorus, Mixed Chorus, Debate(competition on interschool basis), Extemporaneous Speaking, Public Speaking, Pep Band, Cheerleading, Pom Pon, D-Club, Women's Athletic Club and Horsemanship. Activities at present (1983) are: Speech and Drama, Vocal and Instrumental Music, Student Council, Future Home Makers of America, D-Club, and Women's Athletic Club, along with Pep Club, Cheerleading and Pom Pon.

#### FINANCING OF THESE ACTIVITIES

"In 1924, the Student Activity fund was established under the supervision of Miss Alma Wadlow, the Commercial Instructor. Under this new system, all classes and organizations of the school, pay their money to Miss Wadlow. She then deposits the money in the bank in the hands of the school activity fund. Any organization wishing to draw out money, must present its bill with the signature of the person who sponsors the activity. Miss Wadlow writes them a check for its amount designated. No organization can write a check for more than the amount they have deposited. At the end of each month the books are to be balanced." During the past four or five decades, these activities have been subsidized from the General Fund. At first the amount was small, but as times changed, activities increased, and with the rising costs' this amount has continued to grow. At present (1983) financing all activities for both Junior High and High School, are financed from the General Fund. The expenses are as follow: travel, equipment, supplies, dues, assessments, supplemental salaries and insurance. There is an Activity Fund separate from the tax monies, but the cost of securing officials uses almost the entire fund.

**\*\*Next month's series will deal with athletics through 1983.**