

1930-1939

Mansfield Independent School District celebrates a century of education

The Mansfield Independent School District celebrates its 100th anniversary this year with a look at the past century. Each month in *Mansfield Life*, the *Mansfield News-Mirror* will print a decade in the life of the district. The first decade, 1909-1919, appeared in the Oct. 23 edition and the second, 1920-1929, ran in the Nov. 20 section. This month features the 1930s.

1930

■ Great Depression: More than 12 million Americans lose their jobs, 5,000 banks fail, more than 32,000 businesses fail and farm prices fall lower than ever in the nation's history. Survival is the key word as the land of hope suddenly becomes full of despair.

■ As money was very scarce during the Depression, people learned to do different things to make life happier — movies were the rage, parlor and board games became very popular, Big Bands boomed, and all ages escaped into reading mystery novels.

■ The "Golden Age" of Hollywood continued through the 1930s. Moviegoers swooned over movie idols Clark Gable, Errol Flynn, Greta Garbo and Bette Davis. They laughed at the antics of comedians Bob Hope, the Marx Brothers and W.C. Fields.

■ Shirley Temple sang and tap danced in "The Good Ship Lollipop."

■ The movie version of the "The Grapes of Wrath," written by John Steinbeck, portrayed a family who moved from the Dust Bowl of Oklahoma to California hoping for a better life in California's agriculture.

■ Radio broadcasts were at the height of popularity as approximately 80 percent of the American population owned radios. Jack Benny, Fred Allen, George Burns and Gracie Allen, Fibber McGee and Molly and Amos and Andy were some of the comedy performers who entertained the American public through the radio.

■ Thrillers such as *The Green Hornet*, *Jack Armstrong*, and *The Lone Ranger* kept young and the old listening to the radio and buying boxes of cereal.

■ Baseball became immensely popular because of the radio broadcasts and fans followed Joe DiMaggio and Lou Gehrig.

■ Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC) was created by the Hoover Administration with \$2 billion and helped to rescue the banks, railroads, farms and factories.

■ The Federation Interna-

tionale de Football Association held soccer's first World Cup in Uruguay.

■ The Mansfield School had a lunchroom in the main building. The ladies attending it were Sudie Stewart and Leona Hamil.

■ The school board members at the beginning of 1930 are H. G. Hogan, O. W. Meeks, C. E. Hamil, H. H. Hogg, W. M. Lowe and O. W. Sanders.

Feb. 18: The planet Pluto is discovered by astronomers.

April 7: Four board members are elected: H. H. Hogg, B. F. Gibson, W. E. Marshall and T. E. Blessing. The first three were present and took the oath of office.

April 15: T. E. Blessing refuses to qualify for trustee, and W.S. Lamb is appointed to serve in that place.

May 6: This is the worst single day in Texas for tornadoes as reported by the Weather Bureau as 82 people die and \$2.5 million in damage occurs in tornadoes from West Texas to East Texas.

May 17: Rockefeller Center, a huge Art Deco style complex, begins construction in New York City, which would last until 1939.

May 28: The Art Deco Chrysler Building, the tallest building in the world for 11 months measuring 1,046 feet and 77 stories, opens.

September: The Nazi Party makes large gains in German elections.

Sept. 10: School opens in Mansfield.

Sept. 25: E. C. Hamil resigns from the school board and M. D. Beasley is appointed to fill the vacancy.

Oct. 3: The East Texas Oil era blows in with the Daisy Bradford No. 3 well drilled by Dad Joiner near Turnertown in Rusk County. The East Texas Oil Field eventually covers 140,000 acres and includes parts of five counties. More than 30,340 oil wells are drilled, making it the largest oil field in the United States outside of Alaska.

Oct. 30: The school board hires Jewel Margaret Rollins as assistant teacher of the Colored School.

Nov. 25: A bill for three cords of wood for the Colored School is paid.



Charlotte Anderson's third-grade class in 1938

Dec. 1: Compulsory school attendance begins.

1931

■ The Dick and Jane books are published and these primers with only one new word per page taught millions of young children to read for several decades.

March 3: A Congressional resolution names "The Star-Spangled Banner" the national anthem.

April 6: School board members are W. E. Marshall, W. S. Lamb, H. H. Hogg, M. D. Beasley, who was appointed after B.F. Gibson resigned, Burl Ray, A. G. Blessing and W. A. Speer

April 14: The salaries for school personnel are Superintendent T. A. Howard - \$1,800 per year, Principal S. J. Hall - \$125 per month, Helen Scott, high school teacher - \$100 per month, Lillian Jo Bledsoe, high school teacher - \$100 per month, Moreland Smith, librarian - \$65 per month, Faye Yarbrough, grade school teacher at \$80 per month, Erma Nash, grade school teacher at \$90 per month, Girline Dane, grade school teacher at \$80 per month, Charlotte Anderson, grade teacher at \$80 per month, Alice Ponder, grade teacher at \$90 per month, and Thelma Jones, principal of the Colored School at \$70 per month.

May 1: The Empire State Building, an example of art deco, opens and is the tallest building in the world for 40 years at 1,250 feet and 102 stories.

May 4: Samuel O. House becomes the mayor of Mansfield and serves for a decade.

July 1: Wiley Post, an aviator born in Texas, completes

his flight around the world.

Aug. 11: The Texas State Highway 34 is renamed U.S. 287.

Oct. 25: The world famous Texas Prison Rodeo is born.

Dec. 11: Another huge Texas Oil Field blows into the Conroe area — developed by a Texan from Houston - George Strake Sr.

Dec. 21: The board of trustees moves that the superintendent be instructed to notify all persons loitering on school premises or creating any disturbance in or around the building to leave, and upon refusal to call the officers of the law.

1932

■ Income for the average American family drops 40 percent to \$1,500 a year — down from \$2,300.

■ At the Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, N.Y., the U.S. bobsleigh team wins the gold medal with boxing champion Eddie Eagan, who had won the gold in 1920 as a boxer, on the team. He is still the only person to win gold medals in both the Winter and Summer games.

■ At the Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, Texan Babe Didrikson earns gold medals in hurdles and javelin.

■ "The Good Earth" by Pearl S. Buck wins the Pulitzer Prize.

■ "Grand Hotel," starring Greta Garbo, John Barrymore, Lionel Barrymore and Joan Crawford wins the Academy Award for Best Picture.

■ The big bands of Duke Ellington, Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman and Tommy Dorsey cause ballroom dancing to flourish in popularity across the nation. Ellington's

"It Don't Mean a Thing (If it Ain't Got That Swing)" symbolized the '30s.

Jan. 12: Hattie Wyatt Caraway of Arkansas is the first woman to be elected to the Senate of the United States and is re-elected twice.

April 7: W. E. Marshall, C. V. Back, J. E. Smith and O.C. Green are elected and take oaths to join board members W. A. Spears, Burl Ray and A.G. Blessing.

April 22: The school board orders that one grade teacher, one high school teacher and librarian be dropped, and that eight teachers be employed at salaries 10 percent less than the present year.

May 21: Amelia Earhart is the first woman and second person to solo a nonstop transatlantic flight.

Sept. 12: School begins in Mansfield.

Nov. 25: The committee appointed to arrange for the removal of the Colored School reported having arranged for the purchase of two acres of land from Jack Rattikin for \$35. It was ordered that this purchase be made and for the committee to proceed with the work to complete it.

Dec. 5: Compulsory school attendance begins.

Dec. 27: Radio City Music Hall, home to the famous "Rockettes," opens.

1933

■ The population of Mansfield was 635.

Jan. 17: Miriam Amanda "Ma" Ferguson is sworn in for a second term as Texas governor. In 1925, she was the first woman elected governor of Texas. In this second term an amendment was authorized to give \$20 million in "Bread Bonds" to feed the hungry in Texas.

Jan. 23: The Twentieth Amendment is ratified to move the presidential inauguration from March 4 to Jan. 20.

March 4: Franklin D. Roosevelt is sworn in as president of the United States as the country demands the changes he promised in a "New Deal" in his optimistic campaign speeches.

March 9-June 16: Congress passes history-making bills and acts in a 99-day session with FDR's New Deal Measures, including: the Federal Emergency Relief Administration paid more than \$3 billion to workers for relief or wages on public works; Civil Conservation Corps gave jobs to 3 million young men and built ski runs on public land and national park recreational facilities; Home Owners' Loan Corporation helped homeowners; Tennessee Valley Authority developed river resources; and the National Recovery Administration helped industry.

April 5: School board members are C. V. Back, W. E. Marshall, W. A. Spears, Burl

Ray, A. G. Blessing, Dr. R. M. Thomas and H. L. Watson. Thomas and Watson are newly elected.

Dec. 5: The 21st Amendment to the Constitution was ratified, ending Prohibition, in repealing the 18th Amendment.

1934

■ The Federal Housing Administration is established to work with private industry to provide good housing and to insure loans for various types of housing.

■ Federal Communications Commission is created to regulate radio and television within the United States.

■ Federal Credit Unions are established to organize and examine the conditions of credit unions throughout the United States.

April 12: C. V. Back, W.F. Mayfield, W. E. Marshall and H. L. Watson are elected to the school board. W. F. Mayfield refuses to qualify and J.W. Patterson is appointed to take his place.

May 23: Outlaws Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow are gunned down by Texas and Louisiana state police near Sailes, La.

May 28: The famous Dionne quintuplets, the only known identical set to survive, are born in Canada and all survive infancy to become adults.

Sept. 18: The school board orders that the district purchase an International School bus at a total cost of \$1,559.80, provided that the contract should be approved by the deputy state superintendent. The bus has a 13-foot steel body and C20 chassis.

1935

April 8: The Works Progress Administration is established.

■ The Wagner Act of 1935 allows workers to unionize.

■ American Federation of Labor organizes workers by crafts and skills and creates the CIO or Congress of Industrial Organizations, which John Lewis organized to help workers in mass-production factories.

■ The Securities and Exchange Commissions names Joseph P. Kennedy as chairman.

■ The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation is created by the Banking Act of 1933 and made permanent in 1935. It insures the deposits of its member banks.

■ Adolf Hitler becomes the fuhrer and chancellor of Germany.

■ Richard E. Byrd conducts an expedition from 1933-1935 to research Antarctica and also explores the Arctic.

■ Andrew Mellon gives \$10 million for the National Gallery of Arts to be constructed on the mall of Washington D.C. He also gives his art col-



The Mansfield School Female Society Club 1934