

1930-1939

Mansfield Independent School District celebrates a century of education



1936 Mansfield Girls Basketball Team

lection valued \$25 million to the American people to be in the gallery.

■ Monopoly by Parker Brothers is introduced and 20,000 sets are sold in one week.

■ "Mutiny on the Bounty" wins best picture at the Academy Awards.

April 11: Newly elected school board members W.E. Marshall and Polie Perry join Dr. R. M. Thomas, H. L. Watson, Burl Ray, L. C. Galloway and J. W. Patterson.

May 30: The school board agrees that vocational agriculture be placed in the high school curriculum and that a teacher be chosen for the position. Ben A. Barber is elected to the position for a term of one year to begin July 1 at a salary to be determined by the supervisor and the district superintendent.

Aug. 14: The Social Security Act creates a pension program for the elderly and benefits payments to dependent mothers, crippled children and others.

Aug. 20: The school board accepts the bid of Pete Foster, representing Lawrence Motor Company of Mansfield, and two school buses, consisting of a Ford chassis with the Big Chief of the American Body Co., are ordered.

Fall: Agriculture classes teach about the production of cows and crops, but are only open to male students in Mansfield.

Nov. 21: The Woman's Study Club is organized with 18 members to develop an interest in history and an appreciation of music, art and literature. C. P. Holland is elected president for 1935-1936.

Fall: Texas Christian University football team wins the national championship in football.

1936

■ Government spending increases from \$697 million in 1916 to more than \$9 billion in 1936. This amount is an increase of 1,100 percent in the budget. The taxes were the heaviest on the rich

■ Fair Park Stadium in Dallas is renamed the Cotton

Bowl.

■ At the Summer Olympic Games in Berlin, the first relay of the Olympic torch is held, basketball is held for the first time with the United States defeating Canada (19-8) and the games are televised for the first time all over Berlin. Jesse Owens of the United States wins four gold medals, the most any individual had won at the time, shaming Hitler's Aryan supremacy message. Hitler refuses to award him his medals because he is black.

■ In Seymour, the temperature hits 120 degrees, the hottest day ever recorded in Texas.

■ "The Great Ziegfeld" wins the Academy Award for best picture.

■ The electric guitar debuts.

■ Dale Carnegie writes "How to Win Friends and Influence People."

March 24: The school board orders tuition for the grades below the high school be set at \$2 per month for pupils living in other districts and whose grades are taught in their home school. Those unable to pay are to be allowed to make a note for the tuition due.

April 29: E. C. Watson and Olen C. Green are re-elected and join W. E. Marshall, Polie Perry, J. W. Patterson, L. C. Galloway and Burl Ray on the school board.

June 6 - Nov. 29: The Texas Centennial Exposition is built at Fair Park in Dallas. This World's Fair is created to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Texas's independence from Mexico. More than 50 buildings are constructed for the Exposition. The Hall of State Building is one of the best examples of Deco Arts in Texas. The exposition draws more than 10 million visitors. The cost is astronomical for the Depression, costing almost \$25 million.

■ Two traffic lights are operating in downtown Mansfield at Water (now Main) and Broad streets and at Water and Oak streets.

1937

■ "Gone With the Wind" written by Margaret Mitchell

wins the Pulitzer Prize.

■ Walt Disney's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" is the first animated film.

■ Amelia Earhart, who is flying around the world in a solo flight, is lost somewhere over the Pacific Ocean.

■ Frank Lloyd Wright's architectural masterpiece "Falling Water" is completed.

■ Cook County Hospital in Chicago operates the first blood bank where stored blood given by live donors is kept for transfusions.

Jan. 20: Franklin D. Roosevelt is sworn in as president of the United States for a second term.

March 18: More than 300 students and teachers are killed in a natural gas explosion at the school in New London in Rusk County.

April 10: Lyndon Johnson, who eventually becomes a president of the United States, wins his first election to the U.S. House of Representatives.

April 14: Charlie Nichols and C. B. Hogan are elected to the school board. The school board elects W. E. Marshall as president and Olen C. Green as secretary. Burl Ray, Polie Perry, W. L. Johnston and E. C. Watson are the other board members. T.A. Howard is re-elected as superintendent for 1937-1938. Also rehired are O. W. Davis, Gertrude Fowler, A.S. Johnson, Alice Ponder, Roberta Tipps, Charlotte Anderson, Marguerite Rutledge, J.A. Whitener, Erma Nash, Edna Musgrave and Hannah Ann House.

May 6: The Hindenburg, a German airship, bursts into flames near Lakehurst, N.J., as millions listen to Herb Morrison as he chronicles the voyage on live radio.

June 12-Oct. 31: The Greater Texas and Pan American Exposition is developed on the site of the Texas Centennial Exposition due to its huge popularity in 1936.

Nov. 3: School board member C.B. Hogan, having moved from the district, is automatically disqualified to serve as a trustee. A motion carries appointing C.R. Conway to succeed him.

■ PTA president Audrey Galloway is sent to ask about two rooms at the back of Sam Morris's property that are near the railroad track. Jay Grow, who owns the lumber company, moved the rooms to the Mansfield campus with a team of mules.

■ The lunchroom meals cost 15 cents.

1938

■ Fair Labor Standards Act outlaws child labor for those younger than 16 and establishes the first minimum wage at 25 cents an hour.

■ The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation is organized to protect the farmers in certain situations of loss.

■ "War of the Worlds" by Orson Wells is broadcast on the radio causing panic to more than a million listeners as many thought the Martians were invading.

■ "You Can't Take It with You" wins the best picture at

the Academy Awards.

■ Woody Guthrie travels the United States in a project of the Federal Music Project in support of the labor unions and writes 26 songs such as "I Ain't Got No Home."

■ Concert singer Marian Anderson wins the Spingarn Medal for the highest achievement by a black person. She goes on to become the first black person to perform at the Metropolitan Opera Company of New York in 1955.

March 1: The school board agrees to cooperate with the City Council to erect a recreation center, and agrees that it might be constructed on the school campus, if possible.

April 16: J. M. Galloway, F. S. Gilstrap and J. Mandelstamm are elected to the school board. W.E. Marshall is elected president.

Aug. 31: The school board agrees to cooperate with the Bludworth school district to have a survey made of the line between the two districts, each district to pay half the cost, not to exceed \$75.

Sept. 9: Trustees agree to pay J.W. Middleton \$5.50 for mowing the campus, and that C.H. Grow be paid \$5.04 for 28 gallons of floor oil.

Oct. 26: The school board orders that all boys must have a written order from their parents or guardian to be allowed to smoke under the direction of the teachers.

Fall: Texas Christian University football team wins the national championship. Quarterback Davey O'Brien wins the Heisman Trophy. He is the first player to win the Heisman Trophy, the Walter Camp Award and the Maxwell Award in the same year. He is the first player from the Southwest Conference and Texas Christian University to win the Heisman.

Nov. 30: Trustees order teachers not to give any pupil permission to smoke on the school grounds or in the building.

1939

■ New York's World's Fair opens with a glimpse of the future in "The World of Tomorrow," where 25.8 million visitors get to see the first television set in the RCA exhibit.

■ Albert Einstein contacts President Franklin D. Roosevelt and recommends atomic bomb development.

■ Germany overtakes Denmark, Norway, The Netherlands and Belgium before defeating France. Great Britain stands alone.

Jan. 3: A motion is made to retain T. A. Howard as superintendent. A secret ballot is taken. The motion doesn't pass. A motion to make it unanimous carried. A.G.

Weaver was called and later elected superintendent for the fall.

Jan. 17: Flour salesman Wilbert Lee (Pappy) O'Daniel is sworn in as governor of Texas. While working for Burrus Mills, he takes over the radio advertising, writes songs and forms the popular band, the "Light Crust Doughboys." Texan Bob Wills will get his start with O'Daniel.

Feb. 1: The school board agrees to buy 26 second-hand school desks from the American Seating Company for \$2 each delivered.

April 19: Newly elected school board members are Charles J. Neely, W. L. Johnston and J. C. Hill.

April 19: Architects C.M. Love and Company are instructed to finalize the plans for the Rock Gym and file an application for it as a W.P.A. Project.

July 11: The City Council cuts taxes from \$1.25 per \$100 of property value to \$1 per \$100. The council also agrees that taxes could be paid in installments.

Aug. 12: Voters approve paying \$4,000 to help construct the Rock Gym, a W.P.A. project, for the school district. The vote was 102 for and five against.

Aug. 23: The board instructs C.M. Love to complete the plans and to file the application with the W.P.A. for the gymnasium.

Aug. 30: The following resolution was passed: Whereas, the state and county and rural aid funds are received at such times and in small amounts that the board is unable to meet the monthly payroll of the teachers. The president and secretary of the board are authorized to sign notes in behalf of the district to the State Bank of Mansfield in amounts necessary to take care of each monthly payroll. It is also ordered that hereafter 90 percent of the salaries for each month are to be paid until further notice.

Fall: There are 190 students in the high school, 140 in the grade school and 40 in the Colored School with 12 teachers.

Sept. 1: German forces strike Poland in a fierce invasion and two days later Great Britain and France declare war on Germany.

Sept. 5: The United States declares neutrality in the European conflict as Hitler continues aggression.

Dec. 15: "Gone With the Wind," a film based on Margaret Mitchell's Pulitzer Prize-winning book, premieres in Atlanta starring Vivien Leigh and Clark Gable. The movie goes on to win best picture at the Academy Awards.



The teaching staff in the Mansfield school district in 1936

References: "The History of Mansfield, Texas Mid 1800-1965" by the Mansfield Historical Society; Texas Almanac; Mansfield Independent School District school board minutes; Bartleby.com; National Geographic News; infoplease.com; state master.com; encyclopedia-titania.org; firstworldwar.com; archives.gov; science-daily.com; utexas.edu; history.com; absoluteastronomy.com; Star-Telegram archives; city archives; City of Mansfield election register; Texas State Library and Archives; www.wsu.edu; Brief Timeline of American Literature, Music and Movies; factmonster.com; Lone Star College - Kingwood; World Book Encyclopedia