

1950

El Paso High School 1884-1902

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EL PASO HIGH SCHOOL

1884 - 1902

History 390

Dr. Strickland

Anne Kelly

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EL PASO HIGH SCHOOL

1884 - 1902

1. Buildings
2. Principals
3. Courses of Study
4. Activities
5. Commencement Exercises

On January 26, 1884, the School Board entered into a contract with Ben Schuster to build a school house of 8 rooms for \$17,500.00. The new school was ready for occupation on September 27, 1884, although some of the furniture had not arrived and difficulty was found in seating the 222 pupils in attendance.¹

Mr. Calvin Esterly, the first Superintendent of the El Paso Public Schools, gives the following description of the new school:

"This house is a fine building of a plain massive type of architecture, two stories high, containing on the first floor four ordinary sized school rooms, and a large hall with two stairways leading to the second floor. On this floor is a hall, two hat and cloak rooms, three rooms used as recitation rooms, library and superintendent's office, one ordinary sized school room, and the high school room, and also an assembly room. The building, with its furnishings, has cost over \$20,000.00, is handsome and convenient, and favorable for the most successful school work. It is centrally located. - - - -"²

The second location of El Paso High School was on Arizona Street, between Kansas and Campbell. This building was intended, from the time of construction, for high school work. In January, 1901, the plans for the new school were submitted to the Board of Trustees, by Edward Kneezel, the Architect. Immediately, a heated discussion of the plan developed, and occupied the front page of the newspapers. The following questionnaire was run on the front page of

Footnotes

1. The Lone Star, El Paso, Texas, Sept. 28, 1884
2. Report of Public Schools, 1886 - 1887, p. 5

the Herald for a week, beginning January 8, 1901 ;

THE SCHOOL BOARD WANTS TO HEAR FROM THE PEOPLE

WHAT IS YOUR PLAN ?

The Herald's plan is this:

Drop the high school project
for the present;

Build a 4th Ward school (\$10,000);

Make additions to the Aoy and

Douglass schools (\$9,000);

Heat all the school buildings by
steam or hot water (\$19,000);

Buy sites for the high school and
4th Ward school (\$11,000);

This makes \$49,000; Retain

\$25,000 worth of the authorized

bond issue in the treasury

unissued; then next fall, or at

some future time issue \$20,000 or

\$25,000 more bonds in addition to

these, and build a high school.

Write your
views to The
Herald To-Night,
and sign your name
for publication.

The plans as submitted by Architect Kneezell at the
School Board meeting "showed the building to be an elaborate and
imposing structure of two stories and 12 rooms, to cost \$45,000.00.

"Professor Putnam¹ said he liked the plans. - - - He liked the idea of piling the hats and coats instead of hanging them up, but the architect asserted that hanging them up in the wardrobes was much more satisfactory than piling them up.

"The superintendent also urged plenty of doors and recommended that a small rostrum be provided for school exercises. He suggested that the Board determine which way the building was to face and place the boys on the side furthest from Hotel Dieu, as they were the noisy pupils. He was told that the building would face South, and it was decided to put the boys on the East side. It was recommended that one room would be built and reserved for manual training, although there was no immediate demand for it for that purpose. It was decided to put a book-case in each class room.

'The size of this building,' said the architect, 'is just about double the size of the Alamo School and is practically three stories high. You can, therefore, see where the additional cost comes in.'

'Yes', said Mr. Martin,² 'but \$45,000 is a powerful lot of money.'

- - - Secretary Pew³ called attention to the resolution that had been adopted to expend only \$50,000 for a high school

Footnotes

1. Professor Genie Price Putnam was Superintendent of Schools from 1894 to 1908
2. Mr. W.R. Martin, a member of the School Board.
3. Mr. E.C.Pew, a member of the School Board and Secretary of the Board for the year 1900 - 1901.

building including the lot. (The site for the high school cost \$8,000.00).¹ He said he didn't see why the cost of the building couldn't be cut down. He said if the cost of the building was not above the amount originally specified there would be money enough to go around. - - -²

The discussion concerning the new building "was cooled" by the Mid-Winter Carnival, which was held in El Paso from January 16th to January 20th, and was pushed off the front page. However, in the Herald for January 22, 1901, the following item is found :

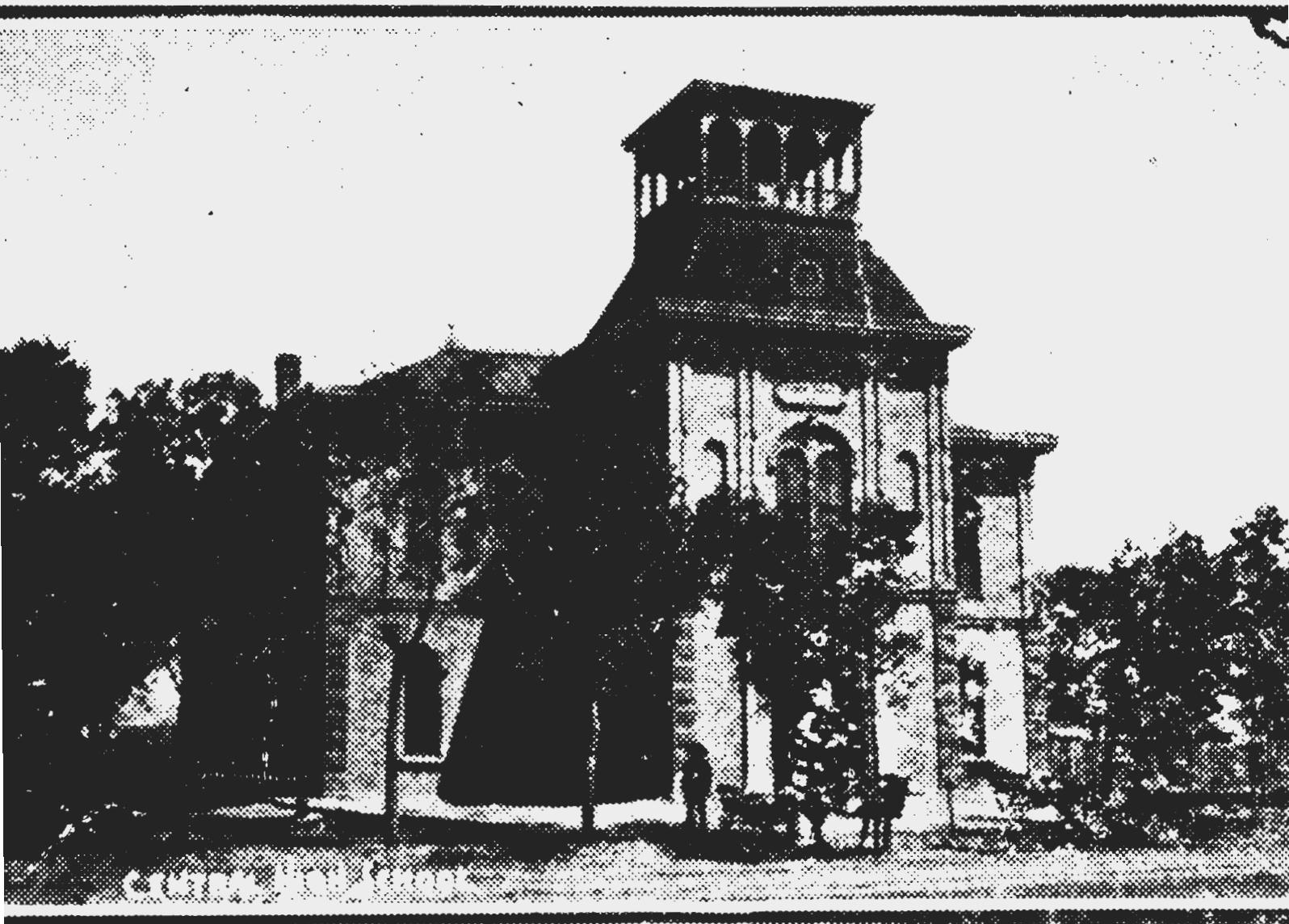
" - - - The Carnival put a temporary quietus on all kinds of building; Edward Kneezel is preparing a report (about the new high school) for the school board. A special meeting will be called."

Finally, in May 1901, the school board closed a contract with the contractors³ and the building was completed in 1902. The school had twelve rooms, an auditorium which would seat 300 people, hooks on which to hang hats and coats, no rostrum, and no room "reserved for manual training". But, El Paso had the same Superintendent, although it had seemed at times that a change was inevitable. On Friday afternoon, February 21, 1902, the school was dedicated.⁴

After 1916, this building was used as a grammar school and called Morehead School. In 1894, an unusual occurrence in school affairs happened. Mr. John Philip Deiter of the firm of

Footnotes

1. 2. El Paso Herald, Jan. 8, 1901
3. El Paso Herald, May 16, 1901
4. El Paso Herald, Feb. 19, 1902



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Reproduced from REPORT OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF EL PASO, TEXAS.
1894 - 1895

Property of Mrs. C. E. Kelly

EL PASO HIGH SCHOOL

1884 - 1902

For sixty-six years, El Paso High School has been a part of the life of the city, both social and political. In later years, she has added another interest to the life of El Paso in the form of athletics. The Thanksgiving turkey, for the El Paso High School student, has to be cooked on the Sunday before "the last Thursday in November" or on the Sunday after "the last Thursday". The student and his family will have to get to the stadium where the Thanksgiving football game is being played, by one-thirty PM, or there are no seats available.

And the regulation supper, for the El Paso High School student, between the middle of January and the middle of February, is hamburgers. The student and his family will have to get to the gymnasium where the basketball series is being played by seven-thirty PM or they will miss the first game.

In a paper of this length, it would be impossible to cover the complete history of El Paso High School; therefore, the discussion will be limited to its life in the Central School.

BUILDINGS

El Paso High School has had three locations during its' existence. The High School became a definite institution, during the superintendency of Mr. Calvin Esterly, in 1884. It was established on the second floor of the Myrtle Avenue School. At the regular meeting of the School Board, in June, 1891, all of the schools in El Paso were named ; the "Myrtle Avenue School", "Central"; the school North of the Southern Pacific Railroad, "Mesa"; the new school in the First Ward, "Franklin"; and the colored school, on South Kansas Street, "Douglas".¹

The site for the Central School, consisting of 6 lots, had been purchased for \$3,000.00. This was the first important action of the first school board which was elected in December, 1882. Early in 1883 a two-room temporary wooden structure was built, at a cost of \$750.00.² Later, another room was added and the statement is made that it leaked like a sieve.³ Even the school officials admitted "This building, owing to shrinkage and warping of lumber, was too cold in winter, too warm in summer, too wet during rains, and too open during sand storms, and was therefore a very unfavorable building for successful school work."⁴

Footnotes

1. El Paso Times, June 3, 1891
2. El Paso Herald, Jan. 18, 1883
3. The Line Star, El Paso, Texas, Dec.15, 1883
4. Report of Public Schools, 1886-1887, p. 6

Hank and Deiter, refused to pay his taxes and brought suit on the grounds that the city election of 1882, placing the schools under exclusive control of the city, was illegal. The Supreme Court of Texas in 1898 upheld Mr. Deiter, and the election was reheld, placing the schools under the exclusive control of the City and the School Board. During this period, from 1894 to 1898, the schools had no legal organization, and the entire system might have been disrupted except for Mr. C. R. Morehead, President of the State National Bank, and a School Board member, who financed the schools during this period.¹

The third location of El Paso High School is the present site. During the summer of 1912, the Board of Education purchased the four block site for \$28,560.00.² Bonds had been issued and sold during the summer of 1914 to the amount of \$200,000.00, and in the fall of 1915, \$500,000.00 was realized from a further issue of bonds. In December, 1914, the firm of Trost and Trost was chosen as architects. This building is of classic architecture, four stories high, built of brick, tile and concrete. It is as nearly fireproof as a school can be.³ The building was opened for school work on September 18, 1916.

Footnotes

1. Information from a teacher in the High School during this period, Miss Willie Word (Mrs. C.E. Kelly).
2. Report of Public Schools, 1915 - 1916, p. 87
3. Report of Public Schools, 1915 - 1916 p. 89.

PRINCIPALS

During the period from 1885 to 1902, El Paso High School had three principals : Miss Emma Seabough, 1885-86, Miss Ella B. Meekins, 1886-1898, and Mr. G. W. Roach, 1898-1902.

Very little information seems to be available about Miss Seabough. She taught the sixth and seventh grades at least one year before she was made principal of the High School.¹ She is not listed as a member of the faculty of the Central School in 1886-87²; however, the City Directory for this year lists her as a teacher and living in the home of Colonel James S. Marr. Colonel Marr was the owner of the El Paso Transfer Company.

Miss Meekins came to El Paso in 1886. Her Mother's home was in Rockdale, Texas, but the Meekins were natives of Alabama. She held the position of Principal of El Paso High until 1898. In this year, she married Mr. G. H. Wilkins and moved to Dallas to live. Mr. Wilkins was a girlhood sweetheart of Miss Meekins and it is said he courted her all the time she was in El Paso.

Miss Meekins was well liked by the patrons of the school and she made a great many friends in El Paso. Her work was

Footnotes

1. The Lone Star, El Paso, Texas, Sept. 9, 1885
2. El Paso Herald, Sept. 2, 1889

thoroughly satisfactory to the School Board. Her opinion on any policy of the school was respected by both the Superintendent and the Board of Trustees. Her pupils accepted her ability, but were in awe of her as a teacher.

Early in Miss Meekins' career in El Paso High School, an entire grade played hookey. They spent the day under the bridge between El Paso and Juarez. The day was delightful, playing in the river, and there were plans made for repeating it at some future time. When they returned to school the next day, Miss Meekins' only reaction was that the time must be made up. It never occurred to anybody to refuse to do anything Miss Meekins told them to do, so the time was made up, every minute of it.

However, Miss Meekins did have another side to her nature, other than "the firmness" she exhibited on occasion in the school room. She never refused to sign a birthday book, which was the fad of the High School youths of this period; but, under "Date" she always wrote "Montgomery, Alabama", explaining that the place of her birth was more important than the day. She left El Paso in the Spring of 1898, and sent each of the seven graduates that year a gift. Indeed, characteristic of Miss Meekins was the gift - a copy of MARCUS AURELIUS with an appropriate inscription in each one.¹

Footnote

1. Information secured in personal interview with Florence Vilas, ex - 1891 (Mrs. H.E. Stevenson).

Mr. George W. Roach was elected principal of the El Paso High School in 1898.¹ He graduated at Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College in 1884. He taught classes in history while he was acting as principal. He was not a dynamic teacher but was liked by the student body. Mr. Roach was a dark, spare man, with a black mustache.² Later, he was elected Superintendent of County Schools, and held this office several years. He died in El Paso in June, 1906.³ His family continued to live in El Paso and his grandson is a resident of Las Cruces, New Mexico, at the present time.

No paper on El Paso High School would be complete without the mention of Professor Calvin Esterly. With the superintendency of Mr. Esterly, beginning in 1884, the El - Paso High School became a definite institution, and to Mr. Esterly is due the credit for the real organization of the school system of the El Paso schools.

Mr. Calvin Esterly, the first superintendent of the El Paso Public Schools, was born at Middletown, Ohio, the second child and oldest son of Benjamin and Mary Esterly. His father was a strong abolitionist who maintained one of the underground stations in Ohio for escaping slaves. It was a common thing for Calvin as a small boy to drive a wagon with a slave hidden under the load of farm produce many miles to the next safety station. At the age of 16 he

moved with his family to Ottawa, Kansas.

He prepared for entrance to Harvard, but when he received an appointment to West Point, he entered the Military Academy instead. He graduated June, 1877; in September, 1877, he married Miss Alice M. Olin at Ottawa, Kansas. He was sent on frontier duty to Fort Concho, Texas, where he served until May 10, 1878. From this time until May 26, 1882, he did scout work at Fort Concho and Fort Stockton, Texas. From June 29, 1882, to July 15, 1882, he was stationed at San Antonio, Texas, which ended his active service. He was on a leave of absence from July 15, 1882 to June 30, 1883, when he resigned because of his wife's failing health.

He was superintendent of Schools at Ottawa, Kansas, for the session of 1883-1884. In 1885 he moved his family to El Paso, Texas, to accept a like position there. This, he resigned in 1889 in order to accept the presidency of the Los Angeles Baptist College. His health proved unequal to the strain of the position, and he resigned. He always followed the development of the institution with interest, however, and was glad to know that after the closing of its doors/^{for}a few years, it was received into what is now the Baptist University of Redlands, California.

From 1880 to 1897 he lived quietly on his orange grove at Pomona, California. In 1897 he became manager of the

Fisk Teachers' Agency at San Francisco and moved his family to Berkeley, California. A year later he sold this, and ^{with} C.C. Boynton of Los Angeles, established the Boynton - Esterly Teachers' Agency, with offices in Los Angeles and San Francisco. He remained actively connected with the San Francisco office until October, 1921, when failing health compelled him to remain at home. He continued the management of his business from his sick bed until two days before his death.

During the Spanish - American War, he was a Commissary Inspector under civil appointment, stationed in San Francisco, and it was a great pleasure to meet his former friends among the officers of the Army as they came and went between the United States and the Philippines.

In 1913, he married the widow of his youngest brother, Mrs. Maybell C. Esterly, who survived him, as do his two sons by his first marriage, Dr. Calvin Esterly of Occidental College, Los Angeles, and Ward B. Esterly of Berkeley, California.¹

Professor Esterly taught mathematics in the High School and was an excellent teacher, especially in geometry.² His

Footnotes

1. Morrel, Elaine Lewis, THE RISE & GROWN OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN EL PASO, TEXAS - El Paso, 1936 - pp. 77-78.
2. Information secured in personal interview with Mr. Maury Kemp.

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method of signing the popular birthday books of that day, was:
"Calvin Esterly, Born in the year of the death of Daniel
Webster."¹

Superintendent Esterly managed the Central School with efficiency. He was a rigorous disciplinarian, so much so that in 1890, he was brought before the School Board for undue punishment of John Chriss, eight year old son of L.C. Chriss.² Upon Mr. Esterly's exoneration by the School Board, Mr. Chriss carried his charges of cruelty to the city courts. In that trial Superintendent Esterly was again exonerated. The following is a part of the editorial printed in the El Paso Times of May 17, 1890, "---If the boy's story is true, the Professor is certainly out of place as Superintendent of Public Schools. If the boy has deliberately falsified, having received the bruises in some other manner, than the one alleged, then great injustice has been done him who has so long and, to a great extent, satisfactorily presided over the public schools of El Paso." However, the unpleasant publicity, "irreparably injured his usefulness as an instructor..."³

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees on June 17, 1890, the Board adopted a resolution accepting the resignation of

Footnotes

1. Information secured in personal interview with Florence Vilas (Mrs. H.E. Stevenson).
2. El Paso Herald, May 17, 1890
- 3, El Paso Herald, June 4, 1890.

Superintendent Esterly, "---- having finally resolved to change his residence, and having declined to accept the position longer, ---- "1 As the closing act of this meeting, Mr. W. H. Savage of Kentucky, often called "Judge" Savage, was elected Superintendent.

Footnote

1. El Paso Times, June 18, 1890.

COURSE OF STUDY

The high school course of study prepared the graduate for examinations for teaching or for entrance into colleges. From 1884 to the present, El Pasoans have wanted to go to college. In fact, over the stage in the auditorium of the High School building (now Morehead School) is a Latin inscription which, translated into English means : " From here to the University of Texas." This was the aim of the school, and the theme of the dedication services of the building on February 21, 1902.

According to Article 5 of "Rules and Regulations of Board of Trustees" for the year 1884, the school consisted of a primary department, a grammar school, and a high school, but the latter was not in operation due to the fact that there were "no pupils needing such advanced education."¹ Under Mr. Calvin Es-terly, Superintendent of the Schools from 1884 to 1890, the school of the city was divided into the primary department, consisting of the first, second, third and fourth grades; the intermediate department, consisting of the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades; and the high school, consisting of ninth, tenth and eleventh grades. Each grade was one year's work.

The school year was nine months in length, divided into two terms. The first term began on the first Monday in September

Footnotes

1. E.L. Morrel, The Rise and Growth of Public Education in El Paso, Texas, p. 44

and lasted until the Christmas holidays; the second term began immediately after the Christmas holidays and continued until late in May. There was a vacation of two weeks at Christmas, unless there had been an interruption of the work during the term.

There were two sessions daily in the schools. The morning session began at nine o'clock, and closed at twelve o'clock noon with a recess of 15 minutes. The afternoon session was from 1:30 o'clock to 4:00 o'clock, with a 10 minute recess.¹

In 1885 - 1886, a high school was established on the second floor of the Central School, with Miss Emma Seabaugh as Principal.² Miss Seabaugh taught history and English, and Professor Esterly taught mathematics and science.³

In the fall of 1886, Miss Ella B. Meekins became Principal of the High School. Miss Meekins taught history and science. The mathematics was taught by Professor Esterly, and Miss Fannie Echols taught English and Latin. Miss Mary I. Stanton taught penmanship to all the grades in the Central School and bookkeeping in High School. Miss Nancy Lee Hill taught drawing to all the grades, and Mrs. A.E. Smythe was the music teacher for the school.⁴

Footnotes

1. Report of Public Schools, 1886-87 p. 21
2. See Appendix for program at Dedication of High School
3. El Paso Herald, Jubilee Number, May 12, 1923
4. El Paso Herald, Sept. 2, 1888

By 1889, the graduates of El Paso High School were admitted to the State University without examination. "---(The) following is extracted from the Catalogue, 1889-90, of the University of Texas:

"The graduates of approved high schools will be admitted to the University without examination, provided they have reached the required age, and provided they present themselves for admission at the beginning of the scholastic year next succeeding their graduation from the high school.

"The following have already been approved and are now auxiliary to the University"....Next follows a list of approved high schools, in the State, 21 in number, of which one is :
" The El Paso High School; Miss E.B.Meekins,Principal"¹

In an interview with a Times reporter, Professor Esterly listed some of the colleges, outside of Texas, attended by El - Paso High School students : "---George Prentiss Robinson, class of 1887, entered the State University of California; Chris Fewel, entered the United States Naval Academy one year before the end of his course; Zeke Newman, class of 1888, entered the Brown University at Providence, R.I.; Misses Fannie Schutz, Sudie Beall and Josie Kauffman entered institutions,---in Boston."²

Footnotes

1. El Paso Times, May 28, 1890
2. El Paso Times, May 28, 1890

During the superintendencies of Mr. Esterly (1884-1890) and of Mr. W.H.Savage (1890 - 1894) all high school students sat in the high school room and "reported down the hall"¹ to the English Room or to the Penmanship Room,etc., These rooms were on the second floor of the Central School. Miss Meekins taught the classes under her supervision in the front of the High School Room, and"her personality kept the rest of the room quiet while she was teaching."² All student desks in the rooms on the second floor of the Central School were single desks. The teacher's desk and chair were on a raised platform. There were very few books, which were the property of the school, and these were kept in the Superintendent's office.³ A pupil was promoted on an average of 75 in all studies.⁴

In September, 1894, Mr. Genie Price Putnam became Superintendent. He immediately began raising the level of the faculty by employing the teachers who were graduates of some college or university. He established the policy of city certificates in lieu of state certificates. The city examination for certificates was given each year. Teachers who had taught successfully in El Paso schools for four years and made a general average of 90 on the examination were granted a permanent city certificate.

Footnotes

1. Information secured from interview with Mr. Maury Kemp
2. " " " " " " " "
3. " " " " " " " "
4. Report of Public Schools, 1891-92, p. 39.

This certificate became void if the teacher withdrew from the system for even a year. Any teacher who had a degree from a college or university of the first class or a diploma from either of the State Normals, was eligible to teach in the Public Schools, without examination.¹

By 1901, requirements for graduation from High School had become sixteen units of required work. Each unit consisted of a year's work in one subject, or its equivalent in two half-year subjects.² There were five department heads : Latin, science, English, mathematics and Spanish.³ Mr. G.W. Roach, the principal, taught history.⁴

Footnotes

1. Report of Public Schools, 1901-02, pp. 58-59
2. " " " " " 1901-02, p.6
3. El Paso Herald, May 21, 1901
4. Information secured from interview with Annie Kemp, 1901, (Mrs. Hugh White).

ACTIVITIES

EL PASO CADET GUARDS

"In the latter part of March, 1888, Professor C. Esterly divided the high school room pupils into drill classes for the closing entertainment of the term. One of these classes was in tactics, and preparations were accordingly made by furnishing them with wooden guns for a drill.

"The patrons were so well pleased with the introduction of tactics in the school that a subscription fund inaugurated by Mr. W. J. Fewel, was raised to furnish real guns and accoutrements, ---"¹ The fund amounted to \$250.00 and the new rifles were ordered from New York."²

"At the school board meeting, April 2nd, Professor Esterly was formally authorized to form a company of cadets in the school and permission was given to take them to --- (the) dedication (of the capitol in Austin on May 16th) --- providing preparations could be made in the six weeks intervening."³

On the evening of May 8, 1888, the High School gave a benefit entertainment "Music and Drill" at the Myar's Opera House. It was to aid the cadet corps meet the cost of the guns, uniforms and other expenses of the proposed trip to Austin.⁴ Admission to "Parquette and Dress Circle" was 75¢ and to "Balcony", 50¢ and all seats were "reserved at Mr. Walz's."⁵

Footnotes

1. El Paso Tribune, May 26, 1888
2. El Paso Times, Apr. 6, 1888
3. El Paso Tribune, May 26, 1888
4. El Paso Times, May 8, 1888
5. A program of the entertainment "Music and Drill" is found in the scrap-book of Doctor H.F. Stevenson.

The following numbers were given during the evening :

Two Pianos - - - - - March Hongrois
Calisthenics - - - - - Miss Meekins' Class
Chorus - - - - - Sweet May Advances
Wand Drill - - - - - Miss Echols' Class
Chorus - - - - - River's Laughing Song
Broom Drill - - - - - Miss Stanton's Class
Duet - - - - - Coronet and Piano
Tactics - - - - - Prof. Esterley's Company
Chorus - - - - - This Happy Land of Mine
Fan Drill - - - - - Miss McKie's Class
Chorus - - - - - Flowers that Bloom in Spring

Combination

Two Pianos - - - - - Galop de Concert

The chorus was composed of pupils and teachers, and was under the direction of Mrs. A.E. Smythe, the teacher of vocal music in the Central School. Wilbin Bridges and Claude Miner played the duet.¹

"The most tantalizing delays occurred in furnishing the necessary uniform articles and equipments and in securing transportation for the company; but the boys kept on drilling, hard, and were becoming proficient in spite of all the discouragements,

Footnote

1. El Paso Tribune, May 26, 1888

1888

and finally, only one day before the time for starting, all the hopes of the careful planners and assiduous workers were realized."¹ "---The question of the expense was at last settled by the granting of free transportation by the Southern Pacific Company, for which generous action, the cadets, their friends and indeed all citizens of El Paso have reason to be very grateful."²

"The Cadet Guards left at 2:30 P.M. on May 12th, thirty-three strong, in the best of spirits, with banner waving, friends cheering, mothers anxious, but delighted, all trusting that the auspicious beginning was only an introduction to a successful trip and a happy termination."³

" --- The El Paso lads had the honor of being selected as the Governor's escort of honor, marching at the head of the column in the Grand Parade, and being stationed at the side of the Governor's carriage when he reviewed the rest of the troops. The Governor invited the Cadets to an audience after the ceremonies were completed, shook hands with the lads and said some very kind words to them - - -.

" - - - The Cadets (on the way home) had to lie over at San Antonio from Saturday night till Monday noon. Professor Esterly

Footnotes

1. El Paso Tribune, May 26, 1888
2. El Paso Times, May 13, 1888
3. El Paso Tribune, May 26, 1888

gave some of them permission to go to the river for a bath and the Station Agent sent a darky to show them where to go. Several - - - extended their bathing operations over so much space that they unwittingly got within the city limits and were taken in hand by a policeman, who marched them away and turned them over to Professor Esterly, to the alarm and disgust of the boys and amusement of the professor."¹

On Saturday evening, May 26, 1888, a reception was given "for the 'bold sojer boys', who have so recently proven worthy of their school privileges, their indefatigable and competent Superintendent and Commanding Officer, their homes, their friends and the entire community in which they 'live, move and have their being'."² It was held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Newman, on Magoffin Avenue. The party was given by "the graceful young ladies who composed (the) high school 'Broom Brigade' to Captain Esterley's Cadet Company.

"In front of the house and in the lawn and above the veranda hung many colored Chinese lanterns --- The parlors --- were thrown open and in the dining room --- as rich a banquet as ever tempted the eyes of men. Hardly had the moon made its appearance in the East --- when all were gathered within the house to witness --- the presentation (of a gold badge to Professor Esterly.)"³

Footnotes

1. El Paso Times, May 26, 1888
2. El Paso Tribune, May 26, 1888
3. El Paso Times, May 27, 1888

" The badge, which was presented by Miss Kie Kneeland on behalf of the Pass City Cadets, was "an exceptionally fine piece of workmanship. It was designed by W.E. Kneeland and procured from P.E. Kern's jewelry establishment. The badge consisted of two bars with pendant star and shield, making four separate pieces, united by gold chains. The inscription reads:

Captain Calvin Esterly

El Paso, Texas

Presented

by the

Pass City Cadets

As a souvenir of their trip made under his protection to the dedication of the capitol building at Austin, Texas,

May 18, 1888

On the back of the shield are engraved the names of the members of the Cadet Company." ¹

"Dancing was enjoyed before and after supper, and it was a pity that such a bright and cheerful scene should ever end." ²

In April, 1889, Colonel F.B. Chilton urged Professor Esterly to take the Cadet Guards and join the American militia to attend the World's Exposition at Paris. ³ Everybody agreed that it would be a big advertisement for El Paso for the Cadets to make the trip,

Footnotes

1. El Paso Times, May 29, 1888
2. El Paso Times, May 27, 1888
3. Information secured from a clipping in the scrapbook of Doctor H. E. Stevenson.

but New Orleans, the sailing point, was a long way from El Paso. The trip was not made by the corps.

After Professor Esterly moved to California in 1890, the Cadet Guards continued in existence until 1896. On May 23, the cadets paraded "in compliment to their captain (Alward H. White) who soon intends to go amongst a large army - that is, the world."¹ After the close of the commencement exercises the following week, "the high school cadets gathered around Captain White, at the rear of the stage, and wishing him every success in his future experiences, presented him with a watch chain with this inscription, "E.P.C. to A. H. White, '96." Captain White thanked his friends for this marked exhibition of their good will."² However, the cadets seem to have had no organization during the next two years.

Early in the school year of 1898 - 99, a movement arose among the high school boys favoring a military corps -- "Accordingly one of the number started out, enrolled some twenty boys and called a meeting that evening after school. The school authorities refused to recognize it, unless it would warrant their giving up a portion of their time. The defect was remedied, however, and with the assistance of Professor Roach, who had had experience in tactical instruction, the boys soon became proficient in minor movements.

"The boys uniformed themselves in navy blue coat and cadet gray cap, ---. The first officers (were) Jack Hubbard, Capt.,

Footnotes

1. El Paso Herald, May 22, 1896
2. El Paso Herald, May 28, 1896

Albert Wilcox, 1st Lieut., George Sweeney, 2nd Lieut., with (Sargeants) Bruce Seeton, 1st., Harry Kelly, 2nd, Ira Huggett, 3rd, and Carl Longuemare, 4th; and (Corporals) John Borlow, 1st, John Taylor, 2nd, Robert Bias, 3rd, Max Voss, 4th; and Bert Hedges, Bugler."¹ The company had about fifty members and was known as the High School Cadets.

"The boys of the High School Cadets have decided to keep up their organization during the summer months (1899). They expect to attain a state of perfection that will entitle them to the admiration of all."² This enthusiasm lasted through the year 1900 but, apparently, was not reorganized in the fall of 1901.

THE SENIOR CLASS LITERARY CLUB

Early in the fall of 1899, the Senior Class Literary Club was organized in the English room in the Central School. The object of the newly organized S.C.L.C. was "to separate itself from the society of the emerald-complexioned classes below it, --- having long since discarded the nursing bottle of the 'Freshy', the knickerbockers of the 'Soph' and the unsophisticated ingenuousness of the 'Junior', and being ripe for 'the dignity of full clubhood'."³

The outstanding undertaking of the club was the publication of QUIEN SABE. " The history of this magazine has been in many respects unique in amateur journalism. It is the only school

Footnotes

1. Quien Sabe, Vol. I, No. 8, May 1900
2. El Paso Herald, May 23, 1899
3. Quien Sabe, Vol. I, No. 8, May, 1900

magazine published by one high school class. --- It has been supported entirely by subscriptions and advertising patronage. --- It has never missed an issue. This number has near 700 paid circulation, and we have printed 1,000 copies, expecting the issue to be exhausted within a month. As we are now in the first year of our existence, we think we have done very well. We hope to see the class of 1901 gain over this, and confidently expect to see QUIEN SABE, within a few years one of the leading school journals of America."¹

The magazine contained about fifty pages, including articles such as "Life and Character of Olivas Villanueva Aoy", " El Paso Kindergartens", a column "Sixteen Years Ago", prize-winning essays of High School students on Texas History, etc., QUIEN SABE was published through the year 1903.²

FIELD TRIPS

The following news item is found in the Times of March 11, 1890 :

" Misses Meekins, Beall, King and Miller and Messrs. Harry Oldham, Will Ewers, F. Carter, Charles Higgins, Charles Newman and Calvin Esterly spent Sunday in New Mexico hunting geological specimens. " Field trips seemed to have been

Footnotes

1. QUIEN SABE, Vol. I, No. 8, May 1900
2. Information secured from a personal interview with Inez Dwyer 1903 (Mrs. Hal Christie).

a part of the science classes from the beginning of El Paso High School.

HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

On June 21, 1890, a number of the graduates of El Paso High School met at the Light Infantry Armory and organized an Alumni Association. Miss Meekins presided over the meeting "with characteristic grace and firmness."¹ The following officers were elected :

Kate Moore - President

H. L. Oldham - Vice - President

Daisy Daniels- Secretary

This organization was active for only two or three years.²

SENIOR DANCES

On the evening of May 23, 1894, a reception was held for the graduates in Hibbert's Hall³ on El Paso Street." --- There must have been nearly 100 couples present, largely, of course, young people, and older friends of the graduating class. Members of the class acted on different committees. --- The dancing was under Mr. Hibbert's direction, and a suitable orchestra furnished music. --- There were a number of handsome toilettes, and a number of prominent ladies of Juarez's best society were present -- These ladies were elegantly dressed and wore diamonds.

Footnotes

1. El Paso Times, June 22, 1890
2. Information secured from personal interview with Mr. Maury Kemp.
3. Mr. Hibbert was a dancing-master and held classes in Hibbert's Hall

" --- Both Franklin and Hibbert Halls were handsomely decorated --, and the graduates deserve much credit for overcoming difficulties and making the affair the success it was."¹

Apparently the dance for the graduates became an annual affair. They continued to be invitation dances, but became more informal as time went on. The dance held at the Court House in May of 1898 was most successful." - - The young ladies dressed in white, and the young men dressed in negligee style; were out to dance, regardless of the temperature of the evening. There were about 30 couples in attendance - - -."²

PICNIC DAY

San Jacinto Day was known as "Picnic Day". The entire High School student body and the teachers went in wagons to the grove of cottonwood trees across from Hart's Mill, on the Mexican side of the river. Each student brought his or her lunch, and a barrel of water was always included in the contract for the wagon on a picnic.³

MUSICAL ACTIVITIES

El Paso High School was very fortunate in the three music teachers of this period; Mrs. A.E. Smythe, 1884 to 1890; Miss Kate Moore, 1890 to 1899; and Miss Lelia Trumbull, 1899 until several years after the High School moved into the new building

Footnotes

1. El Paso Herald, May 24, 1894
2. El Paso Herald, May 31, 1898
3. Information secured from a personal interview with Sarah Annie Edward, 1898 (Mrs. L. H. Tucker)

(Morehead School). These teachers were good pianists; the last two, were good looking; and all three could "make anybody sing".¹ There was duet, quartet, glee club and chorus singing. Holidays were always observed by some form of entertainment in the High School room, besides the benefit programs that were usually given to raise money for the library fund.²

Footnotes

1. Information secured from a personal interview with Mr. Maury Kemp.
2. El Paso Herald, May 25, 1895

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

The first Commencement of El Paso High School was on Friday, May 20, 1887. It was held in the District Court Room at 10 o'clock in the morning. This program set the pattern for future commencements up to the year 1894.¹ The exercises were opened with an Invocation, followed by vocal music furnished by the students of the High School. Each boy graduate delivered an Oration, and each girl graduate an Essay on some worthy subject. These were followed by more musical numbers and an Address to the Graduates. After another selection by the High School Chorus, or, later, by the Glee Club, came the Presentation of Diplomas and more music. The Benediction concluded the exercises.

However, at the first Commencement, Miss Katie Moore had developed measles and her essay had to be read by Miss Seabaugh, the Principal of the High School. Since Miss Moore was half of the graduating class, and the only "sweet girl graduate", she was missed a great deal. The rest of the exercises was given as announced on the program.²

The second Commencement was held on Tuesday, May 8, 1888, at 10 A.M. "The exercises --- were held in Myar's Opera House, and that beautiful structure was duly appreciated when thus brought into comparison with the District Court room where the

Footnotes

1. See program for First Commencement of the El Paso High School in Appendix.
2. This information was secured in an interview with Mr. Maury Kemp.

commencement exercises were held last year."¹ About 400 or 500 persons were present in the audience, which was much "smaller than ought to have been seen on such an occasion."² However, the work of the school was not completed for the year. The examinations were still in progress. The following Friday was "promotion day", upon which day certificates of promotion were issued. The Sunday edition of the El Paso Times, May 13, 1888, carried a complete list of the promotions in the Myrtle Avenue School.

On the left of the stage, the morning of the Commencement, were seated Superintendent Calvin Esterly, members of the faculty, the Reverend H.M. Wholing, members of the Board of Trustees, and the Reverend W.P. Corkle. The graduates were seated on the right of the stage. The program consisted of music, four essays by the four girl graduates, and an Oration by the boy graduate. The Rev. Wholing gave the address to the Graduates, and the Rev. Corkle, the Invocation and Benediction. The music for this Commencement was furnished by a Teachers' Quartette, assisted by Mr. Calvin Esterly, his brother L. H. Esterly, Stanley Bevin and Charles Rokhar. The accompaniments were played on two pianos by Mrs. A.E. Smythe, teacher of vocal music, and John Krause.

The school was closed early this year, due to the fact that Mr. Esterly and the Cadet Corps attended the inauguration of Governor Ross, and the dedication of the State Capitol in Austin.

The Commencement of 1889 took place at 2 o'clock on Friday, May 24th, in Myar's Opera House. " The house was crowded with

Footnotes

1. 2. El Paso Times, May 9, 1888.

the parents and friends of the graduates. It was a lovely sight, and one which few cities of the size of El Paso could produce."¹ The music on this occasion was furnished by the Fort Bliss orchestra. There was no Address to the Graduates this year as the seven essays of the seven seniors furnished sufficient food for thought for the afternoon. The expediency of omitting the address to the Graduates is borne out by the Times of May 25, 1889;"The next essay, 'Heraldry' by Flournoy Carter, could not be heard by the reporter and more than two thirds of the people in the building because of the din and noise made by the little boys in the gallery and a bevy of little girls in the parquet, who were chasing each other through the building and climbing over seats, but from those who were near enough to hear Mr. Carter, the reporter learned that his paper was a very able and brilliant effort."

The class of 1890 was the first class to have a motto, "Esto quod esse videris" -- Be What you Seem to Be -- and to hold the Commencement exercises in the evening at the Opera House. "The stage was handsomely decorated with floral designs. One side of the stage was occupied by the graduating class, and on the other side were seated Professor Esterly, Miss Meekins, Consul Sampson (Gen. A.J. Sampson, U.S. Consul, Paso del Norte), Rev. Mr. Moore and the members of the Board of School Trustees, and in the center of the stage sat a little boy and girl, who took care of the floral offerings to the graduates. The splendid Fort Bliss orchestra discoursed sweet music during the intermissions. ---- Each essay

Footnote

1. El Paso Herald, May 24, 1889.

referred to the motto (Esto quod esse videris) in some way; in - directly, if not directly. ---- Each of the graduates received handsome floral offerings of approval."¹

This was the last Commencement under the superintendency of Mr. Calvin Esterly. He had established a high school on the second floor of the Central School and it was to grow and flourish...

"The Fifth Commencement of the El Paso High School (May 27, 1891) was held at Myar's Opera House. The exercises were rendered before a large and appreciative audience, who showed their appreciation of each and every number by vigorous applause. --- The essays read by the graduates were all deserving of merit, but the one delivered by William A. Julian is worthy of more than casual mention. The young gentleman had selected for a subject, " And Still It Moves", and he handled the same with the ease of an old deliberator. ---- The Superintendent (Mr. W. H. Savage) and teachers who worked so tirelessly for the success of last night's entertainment are entitled to the thanks of the public, but special mention must be made of Miss Katie Moore, the efficient teacher of music,² who unassisted, trained the scholars in all the choruses, quartettes and solos."³ The election of teachers for the year 1890 - 91, at which time Miss Moore was selected as the teacher of music, brought forth the following news item in the paper : ---

Footnotes

1. El Paso Times, May 30, 1890.
2. This was Miss Moore's first year with the El Paso Public Schools as teacher of music.
3. El Paso Times, May 28, 1891.

"The action of the School Board was received with enthusiasm by the many who were uptown awaiting the results, and two young men were happy enough to offer to lease an ice cream establishment for the special use of the Members of the School Board."¹

The exercises of 1892 were unique in the history of El Paso High School because there was only one graduate, and only one essay. "---the building (Myar's Opera House) was packed from pit to gallery by the best people in the city. --- The Mc Ginty Orchestra, under the leadership of Professor Max Hester, furnished the music, and it was good. --- The first number of interest on the program was an essay by Miss Lillian Cole, on the "Uses of Ideals". The fair graduate handled her subject in a most graceful and intelligent manner, and succeeded in convincing all present that there was usefulness in an ideal.

"Judge C.V. Buckler made a short address and Professor Savage presented to Miss Cole her diploma in a few complimentary remarks."² The rest of the evening was devoted to "that charming little operetta, 'Tyrolean Queen.' --- The reporter was not in possession of the names of all the young ladies taking part, and cannot therefore give them the favorable criticism they deserve."³

Footnotes

1. El Paso Times, June 10, 1890.
2. El Paso Times, May 25, 1892.
3. El Paso Times, May 25, 1892.

The Commencement of 1893 was "the calm" which precedes "the storm", the Commencement of 1894.¹ "--- Last night's commencement exercises made an occasion not to be forgotten, even when life in El Paso has become ancient history. Myar's Opera House was filled from front row to rear wall and from parquet to gallery. The whole town was interested in the three graduates. --- The boxes and the stage were bright with color --- the yellow adopted as the class color, and God's own green. There were flowers in profusion -- yellow daisies, carnations, cape jasamines and callas. These flowers were fairly interwoven with the white gowns of the fair young graduates and their friends on the stage.

"---The first essay was that of Miss Jessie Duke Keith - 'Education'. This paper bore the unmistakable marks of school-girl composition, but it contained wholesome thought, frequently expressed in strong, crisp sentences that shone like gems.

"Miss Marie Shelton, in her own winning way, then sang 'Jamie, Dear', to the delight of the audience. When the long continued cheering had somewhat subsided, Miss Stella Goodman read an essay on: 'To Thine Own Self Be True; and It Must Follow, as the Night the Day, Thou Canst not then Be False to Any Man.' The way in which this young lady treated her subject could not have been other than a matter of pride to her friends.

" 'Sleep, My Love, Sleep' was then sung by Miss Emma Ullman, whose rich contralto caught the audience, as it always does.

Footnote

1. El Paso Times, May 24, 1893.

"Next came Miss Susannah Cherry with 'Character and Achievement' -- an essay polished as to style and delivery, and characterized by continuity of thought and expression.

"Miss Leila Trumble sang 'Angels Serenade' and Captain T. J. Beall followed in a brief but beautiful and well-timed address. After a thoughtful eulogy of the public school, the speaker most tactfully reviewed the essays and urged the young graduates to live up to the thought of their papers.

"Superintendent Savage then delivered the diplomas and the high school quartette rendered 'Home, Sweet Home'. Reverend (J.E.) Jones then pronounced the benediction, and a most important event passed into the history of El Paso."

The class of 1894 was the largest class to graduate from El Paso High School up to that time. There were nine members of the class, and this presented a problem which had far reaching results.

" --- Judge Savage and certain of the school ma'ams could not agree on matters, and methods of administration; and the ma'ams in question seemed to have a pull with the Board of Education, while the Superintendent lacked those aggressive powers necessary for successful self-defense. These differences of opinion have been growing and growing from the size of a man's hand until they covered the entire local education firmament, and culminated in Miss Meekin's determination to have Dr. Baldwin come here and divide commencement honors with the graduating high school class. This raised a row, and was opposed by the class and by Superintendent

Savage, and the Herald is assured the row came near being the bright and early death of the Class of '94. But Miss Meekins carried her point, and Dr. Baldwin came.

"It was proposed to have each graduate read a brief essay and give the class the whole evening. But no, Doctor Baldwin must be given a good part of the evening, and it was only self-sacrifice and the desire for peace that kept the volcano from breaking loose before the opera house entertainment took place."¹

On Tuesday, May 22, 1894, the commencement exercises took place. "--- Shortly after 8 P.M., the McGinty Club Orchestra took seats on the stage with applause,"² and gave two selections.

"Superintendent Savage arose to thank J.C. Newland for mounting the attractive decorations, the Evergreen Cemetery Company for furnishing decorating material,"³ and a number of others, who had helped with the decorating of the stage.

"The graduating class then appeared on the stage -- the girls all in white grenadines and satin and holding bouquets trimmed with crimson ribbons,"⁴ and the Eighth Annual Commencement of the El Paso High School was underway; after the Invocation and two

Footnotes

1. El Paso Herald, May 25, 1894.
2. El Paso Herald, May 23, 1894.
3. El Paso Herald, May 23, 1894.
4. El Paso Herald, May 23, 1894.

selections, by the High School Chorus, Miss Victoria Wood, one of the graduates, read an essay "The Influence of Wealth". --- "So many bouquets were sent up to the stage that it took two little girls, who acted as bouquet tenders, some moments to carry them off.

"A young man then sang a tenor solo 'Tis all that I can Say', which fitted him about as well as his grandfather's pants, and called down the criticism of the gallery gods in such shape that it was some minutes before order was restored. However, it must be said that the fault is laid at the door of others, for the singer has the making of a good voice. The Times' musical critic says the solo was well sung.

"A pretty duo between the Misses Estella Jones and Gertrude Windsor made a pleasant variation here. They were deservedly well received."¹

An essay, "Our Debt to the Orient" read by John Tarrant, the only boy graduate in the class, was the next number on the program. "---the ideas advanced by the different speakers were highly commendable, but were given in a subdued, conversational pitch of voice, so that hardly half of the audience had any idea what was being said. However, El Paso has lots of company in this, for a majority of school commencements in all parts of the country lack sadly elocution. Commencement speakers should be drilled carefully, persistently before speaking."²

After a solo by Miss Marie Shelton, one of the graduates, the time had come for the address by the Reverend Doctor Baldwin.

Footnotes

1. 2. El Paso Herald, May 23, 1894.

"The doctor had only got as far as 'I am glad to be with you this evening,' when a bouquet with a string attached to it was fired at Superintendent Savage. That good man straightway rose to grasp the touching tribute, unmindful of the string. Immediately the bouquet traveled away, with the professor after it, and a hoodoo was started in the galleries that brought the lecture to an abrupt stop. Superintendent Savage had by that time caught on, and explained 'on the side' to the speaker, who gave a graveyard smile and started in again.

"The doctor spoke on 'Success from an Educational Standpoint', an excellent subject, but better fitted to an older audience, especially considering the restless youth in the galleries."¹ He congratulated El Paso on it's good kindergarten; regretted the fact that there was only one young man in the graduating class; stated that the schools here compare favorably with schools in the East and presented a new definition for Education.

"...Education means to be most, rather than to know most."

"Here the galleries became decidedly restless, so the speaker, taking warning, closed by stating that the other two conditions were purity of heart, and achievement, the latter being complete living.

"Superintendent Savage delivered the diplomas to the graduates, when there was another outbreak of bouquets, this time for those who had NOT taken public part. It seemed as every greenhouse in El Paso

Footnote

1. El Paso Herald, May 23, 1894.

County and the State of Chihuahua had been cleaned out. Mr. Savage made the farwell address, giving much good advice to the blushing graduates, calling on them to offer their ablutions on the altar of truth and purity. This was followed by Choral singing behind the scenes -- and ensemble singing from the graduating class -- Benediction by Rector Cabel Martin.

"It is a matter of justice to state here that much dissatisfaction is reported among parents and pupils because Doctor Baldwin was brought here to occupy the greater part of the evening, instead of giving all the graduates a show (so) to speak. The doctor is all right in his way, but he is not a 'local issue' and El Paso people were more interested in those 'sweet girl graduates' than in the doctor."¹

Mr. Genie Price Putnam was elected superintendent at the meeting of the Board of Education held in the City Hall on the evening of June 4, 1894.²

The class of 1895 marked the beginning of the really "elaborate" commencements in the history of El Paso High School while located in the Central School. These exercises marked the first appearance of a chorus composed of the student body of the High School."---at a chord, nearly sixty students marched out on the stage, making three ranks deep across the proscenium. --- the singers all seemed much interested, and the girls were dressed in white.

Footnotes

1. El Paso Herald, May 23, 1894.
2. El Paso Herald, June 5, 1894.

"The exercises were now handed over to the graduating class which consisted of - - - "1 five essays, one oration and a number of musical selections. The performers were "overwhelmed with flowers. The Herald reported started to keep track of the aromatic deluge, but shortly gave up in despair. The pages (on the stage) were kept on the jump, and in a few moments the surroundings resembled a presidential reception."² The only discordant note occurred during the reading of the essay on "The Power of Habit" by Miss Susanna Look. As the graduate made the statement that 'the snuff dipping habits were also excoriated habits that foul the breath, ruin the teeth' a loud 'Amen!' came from one of the boxes.³ This rather upset the young lady, but with fine self control she was able to go on."

At the Commencement in 1896, the high school student body sat in three rows at the back of the stage." --- the girls dressed in shades of cream and white, and looked very pretty. The boys were dressed in conventional black and did their best to look handsome."⁴ Three innovations in the exercises were the appearance of a Glee Club, composed of boys, the naming of a Salutatorian and the naming of a Valedictorian. The boys sang well 'but were not buried alive like the rest in a tomb of flowers; however, as one of the club exclaimed, 'We've got Miss Moore on our side, so we don't care for flowers;' that is to say, Miss Moore is more attractive than a whole raft of flowers."⁵

Footnotes

1. El Paso Herald, May 25, 1895
2. El Paso Herald, May 25, 1895
3. El Paso Herald, May 25, 1895
- 4.5. El Paso Herald, May 28, 1896

The reporter for the Commencement from the Herald did a wonderful piece of work in describing the bouquets sent to the graduates. Flowers were taken to the stage eleven times during the evening, and he used a different phrase each time. These varied, from ---- "A big wreath of jasimines was the reward." or "A wreath of floral display was carried to the stage by the might of 5 enthusiastic youth, and were picked up at the stage front by two tiny, prettily dressed pages, who deposited the flowers at the feet of the speaker;" or, "It also drew flowers"; or "With a small stack of flowers"; or "A brilliant consignment of flowers was awarded the orator."; or "A small express wagon-load of flowers was given to Miss Spencer"; or "swamped in a world's fair floricultural display"; to the word "Flowers."¹

A news item, at the end of the list of pupils promoted for the year, which appeared on the front page of the Herald of May 30, 1896, stated that each of the eight essays of the evening would be printed on successive days, beginning with the issue of June 3, 1896.

The class of 1897 broke away from the conventional form of commencement exercises. Four of the graduates gave recitations and three read essays. " --- The high school pupils were arranged in four semi-circular rows at the rear of the stage, rising one above the other; ---. The graduates were grouped to the left, and the faculty with the officiating clergymen and Dr. Race² to the right, ----.

Footnotes

1. El Paso Herald, May 28, 1896.
2. Dr. C. T. Race, President of the Board of Trustees

"---The auditorium part of the house did not need special decoration. The pretty faces and summer toilets amply sufficed.

"---The boxes were filled with parties; one party being army officers, whose special interest in the event lay in the fact that the son of Capt. Augur of the 5th Cavalry was to graduate."¹

The new type of program was well liked by the audience "and the little pages, daughters of Lt. Britton Davis and Al Howard, had their hands full in carrying the flowery tributes."² The last recitation of the evening was "Ben Hur's Chariot Race" delivered by Christopher Colon Augur."---- He spoke too fast, but he was filled with enthusiasm, and entered fully into the spirit of the 'Chariot Race', the description of which he had well committed. He was well received, and a bouquet was thrown at him from the box above by the girls up there."³ Then the High School pupils sang two numbers, 'Night's Shade' and 'My Old Kentucky Home'. "Both numbers were well given, and with animation. ---- The audience had reason to be pleased with the second song; in fact, everybody might have joined in the last refrain -- the reporters did anyhow."⁴ With the Address to the Graduates by Reverend H.W. Moore and the Presentation of Diplomas by Dr. Race, the exercises were closed.

Footnotes

1. El Paso Herald, May 25, 1897
2. El Paso Herald, May 25, 1897
3. El Paso Herald, May 25, 1897
4. El Paso Herald, May 25, 1897

This was the last Commencement planned by Miss Meekins. She married Mr. G. H. Wilkins in the spring of 1898 and moved to Dallas to live.

The spirit of the Eleventh Annual Commencement (1898) of the El Paso High School is well given in the following statement made by Mr. G. W. Roach, the new principal : "On Friday morning the young people will begin the decoration of the Opera House with flowers and the colors, red, white and blue, of the graduating class. The colors have been very well selected, for they remind us of our flag in the present time of war, when patriotism is instilled in the hearts of all America's young people."¹

The class selected as its motto, "My Country, may she ever be right, but right or wrong, My Country". However, due to the mixed feelings concerning the Spanish - American War and the mass meetings that were being held in El Paso at this time, the motto was shortened to "My Country" on the advice of the teachers.²

For the first time in the history of El Paso High School, the graduating class had "a neat invitation, which will be used principally to send to their friends away from the city. Some few will be used at home, but a general invitation is here extended to the public."³

The stage background was an immense American flag. There was arranged in the center of the stage a large pyramid, upon which were seated the 8th, 9th and 10th grades of the high school. The graduates were "all prettily dressed in white and each carried a large bouquet of white roses, the class flower.

Footnotes

1. El Paso Herald, May 24, 1898
2. Information secured from Miss Gertrude Higgins '98.
3. El Paso Herald, May 24, 1898

"One of the prettiest features of the occasion was the four little flower children, two of whom sat on either side of the stage. Their services were continually needed during the whole evening.

"The exhibition of true patriotism in the hearts of these young people was very gratifying."¹

"This class also made changes in the conventional form of commencement program. Besides the essay read by the Salutatorian, the oration delivered by the Valedictorian, two additional essays and a recitation, one of the graduates read the "Class History, A Poem" and the seventh graduate read the "Class Prophecy".

"Hon. J.M. Carlisle, state Superintendent of Schools, had promised to deliver the closing address, but he was unable to come on account of sickness, so that part of the entertainment had to be dispensed with. Superintendent Putnam made a brief address and delivered the certificates of graduation."²

The class of 1899 had seventeen graduates. As a result the following notice was found in the Herald of May 15, 1899 :

"This year the program (on commencement night) is an unusually long one, and it has been deemed best by those in charge to discontinue the usual practice of passing up flowers and presents to the graduates over the footlights. This action is taken to avoid loss of time and those desiring to give flowers, etc., to the graduates will send them to the stage before the entertainment begins."³

Footnotes

1. El Paso Herald, May 24, 1898
2. El Paso Herald, May 28, 1898
3. El Paso Herald, May 15, 1899

The program consisted of 24 numbers. This gave each graduate a chance to be "the center of attraction" with the exception of Harry Schutz and Arthur Kerr, who divided "the lime-light" in a debate, subject: "Judging by the times, is the United States as a mighty power among nations destined to come to an end?" There were the usual number of musical selections and "to the audience, outside of special pride in special graduates, the music was the pleasure of the evening.

"Four brave boys and thirteen sweet faced young girls, clad in spotless white with the light of expectancy in their eyes, stood in a semi-circle on the stage of Myar's Opera House last night and received diplomas from the hand of Superintendent Putnam.

"----Observing the rule that no flowers or gifts be presented during the exercises, small boys were kept busy before the exhibition began conveying hundreds of bouquets and baskets of flowers to the stage, where they were banked in front of one of the boxes.

"---The evening's entertainment passed off without a single hitch and not one of the participants required prompting.

"----The reporters got a square deal last night for once. They were provided with a table and chairs of their own, and an incandescent light. It is true that several thoughtless persons had to be reminded that the table was not intended to be sat upon.

"Pete Wehner is to be congratulated for his expressed intention to burn his electric lights all night in the Opera House if the school exercises required. Pete's weakness is children, and he was determined that they should not be inconvenienced by the lights going out too soon.

"Much credit --- (is) due to the indefatigable care of Miss Thornton, who arranged the program, drilled the scholars, superintended the decorations and kept everyone working for success, and good tempered in spite of the many trials of the time --- for 'commencement' means hard work all around ---"¹

The class of 1900 was faced with one big problem from the beginning of it's existence and which problem it was never able to solve. "Was it the first class of the new century, or was it the last class of the old century?" However, on Friday evening, May 18, 1900, "Myer's Opera House was crowded to overflowing with the wealth, wit and beauty of El Paso, who turned out to witness the graduation of the High School Class. --- and was much greater than in former years, showing that the interest in the schools does not diminish with the increase of the size of the town.

"----- Attention (was) called to the fact that this was the first time in the history of El Paso where the number of boys exceeded the number of girls in the graduating class. This was a source of congratulation, not that the boys were more important than the girls, but it was a more difficult matter to keep the boys in school than the girls. Therefore, this fact was a source of congratulation to all."² There were eleven boys and ten girls in the class.

The last class of High School to complete it's work in the Central School was the Class of 1901. There were 18 members of

Footnotes

1. El Paso Herald, May 20, 1899
2. El Paso Herald, May 19, 1900

the graduating class, all of whom were girls with two exceptions.

"----Unlike the exercises of former years, the exercises --- will not be elaborate. There will be no essays, no orations. After the invocation there will be a few songs, and after the diplomas have been delivered the graduating class will be addressed by Reverend H.W. Moore, the eloquent pastor of the Presbyterian Church. The class song will be sung, and the crowd will disperse."¹ The program was given as outlined above and ---- "Although the crowd was great, the heat was not as insufferable as on many former occasions, for a thousand Japanese fans containing programs had been provided by Tuttle and Company for distribution to all comers and the electric fans donated for the occasion by the Electrical Supply Company and the International Power Company kept the air in motion. ---- A storm of applause greeted Reverend Moore, when he came before the footlights to deliver the address to the eighteen graduates. The most eloquent pulpit orator in the city spoke as follows;

'Members of the Graduating Class -

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I ceunt it somewhat an honor to be thought capable by the Class of 1901 to be at once tonight 16 essayists and 2 orators, to make all the gestures for 18 graduates, and to endure 18 distinct stage-frights. I am a combination seldom seen, and I feel that I am like the buffalo, in a class all by myself ---.²

Footnotes

1. El Paso Herald, May 17, 1901
2. El Paso Herald, May 19, 1901

A new type of commencement exercises had been presented to El Paso, and it had been accepted.

At the present time, there are four additional high schools in El Paso, the Thomas Jefferson High School, the Stephen F. Austin High School, the James Bowie High School and the El Paso Technical Institute. However, to a great many El Pasoans, "the High School" means El Paso High School; and, even the "High School" is confusing at times. At the commencement exercises held in May, 1950, at El Paso High School, the young friends of one of the graduates became quite confused: the "High School", to this graduate's grandfather and great-aunt meant the Central School; the "High School", to his uncle meant the Morehead School; and the "High School", to his father and himself meant El Paso High School.¹

After sixty-six years, and in spite of the gray hairs and wrinkles brought by hundreds of graduates and ex-students, the student body of El Paso High School still stand in assembly and sing :

"By the silv'ry sand of the Rio Grande,
The Orange and Black floats high;
She's a grand old rag, the fairest flag
That floats in the Western sky.

Footnote

1. Clifford M. Irwin, 1950.

For loyalty, for courage true,
For love she'll never lack
While the Tigers strong, and the Tigers brave
Defend the Orange and Black.

Then wave on high the banner,
May her spirit never die,
And give a rousing Rah! Rah! Rah!
For old El Paso Hi.

Then wave on high the banner,
May her spirit never die,
And give a rousing Rah! Rah! Rah!
For old El Paso Hi. "1

Footnote

1. THE ORANGE AND BLACK - Words by Pauline Bryan, Mary Robertson, Robert Mullin - Music by Francis L. Moore.

APPENDIX

1. Names of Pupils Promoted in High School - (Printed in El Paso Herald, May 30, 1896.)

From 10th to 11th, Miss Meekins, Teacher.

Misses Ethel Shelton; Marguerite Ainsa; Lithy Beall; Bessie Johnson; Jessie Johnson and Gertrude Windsor; Randolph Terry and Christopher Augur.

From 9th to 10th, Miss Sexton, Teacher.

Misses Mabel Falvey; Ladorna Compter; Arlene Blacker; Myra Newman; Katy Marr; Rachel Goodman; Nettie Ball; Annie Edwards; James Hogan; Harry Goodman; James Smith; Solomon Wolf; Carl Gaither; John Dulaney; Herbert Cole; Lee Holmes.

From 8th to 9th, Miss Word, Teacher.

Alice Marwin; Emma Hoffman; Grace Allen; Minola Lemly; Clara Cox; Grace Cobler; Agnes Redmond; Alice Shelton; Albert Wilcox; Herbert Bishop; Arthur Kerr; Maurice Kayser; Louis Hubbard.

From 7th to 8th, Miss Mc Kie, Teacher.

Paulina Cohen; Mazie Cole; Ethel Cottin; Lily Dyer; Concepcion Dominguez; Rebecca Payne; Hattie Schloss; Alice Maple; Hollie Irwin; Bessie Mitchel; Mary Hardin; Lotta Jessup; Rosamond Windsor; Constance Windsor; Bessie Spencer; Sam Rosenwasser; Edgar Kayser; Bruce Seeton; Gabriel Escejeda; Willie Shutz; George Sweeney; Alwin Dix; Johnnie Brunner; Cruger Chase; Jesse Wildmann; Selby Townsend; Joseph Brick; Ralph Loomis; Fred Kiefer.

2. Alumni of El Paso High School - 1887 - 1901

1887

George Prentiss Robinson

Kate Moore

1888

Daisy Danielle

Fannie Schutz

Ezekial S. Newman

Mable Stoddard

Nora Mottwiler

1889

Jessie Kellogg

William V. Ewers

Belle Snyder

Sudie Beall,

Herbert E. Stephenson

Lotta Witt

Flournoy Carter

1890

Harry Lee Oldham

Lilly D. Coker

Vivian V. Clark

M. Claude Miner

Maud B. Doane

1891

Lena Biggs

Bessie Cole

Agnes Williams

Eileen Windsor

William Julian

Arthur Williams

1892

Lillie Cole

1893

Susie Cherry

Jessie Keith

Stella Goodman

1894

Ida Maria Catlin

Grace Del Buono

Elizabeth Wright Edwards

Alice Maud Miller

Alice Jane Nolan

Fannie Bismarek Smith

Marie Hobson Shelton

John Whitmore Tarrant

Victorie Louise Wood

1895

Emma Irene Ullman
Josephene Servera Escontrias
Antonio Anselmo Escontrias
Susanna Look
Effie Price
Emmilie Marie Rush

1896

Alice Philena Hubbard
Lillie Gertrude Smith
Margaret Anastacia Heid
Mary Grant Blacker
Mada Moselle Spencer
Alward Hamilton White
Margaret Joice O'Keefe
Owen Payne White

1897

Jessie Judith Johnson
Marguerite Lacile Ainsa
Randolph Saxton Terry
Christopher Colon Auger
Ethel Petrie Shelton
Bessi Bailes Johnson
Gertrude Mabel Windsor

1898

Mabel Maria Falvey
Ailene Blacker
Sarah Annie Edwards
James Franklin Hagan
Solomon Wolff
Gertrude Higgins
Mary O'Keefe

1899

Alice Lee Shelton
Emma Helene Hoffman
Alma Keturah Jones
Grace May Allen
Alice Ethiet Marvin
Harry Solomon Schutz
Albert Louis Wilcox
Louis Herman Hubbard
Arthur Thomas Kerr
Margaret Henrietta Martin
Bertha Belle Ford
Pearl Estelle Ford
Myrtle Maud Keifer
Belle Zora Holmes
Mamie Winifred Dunne
Cleopatra Grace Cobler
Winona Sama Lemley

Alumni of E.P. High Cont'd.....

1900

John S. Barlow
Ethel Ophelia Catlin
William Cruger Chase
Mary Louise Cole
Mary Parks Hardin
Jay G. Holman
Lillian Gertrude Huggett
George William Hare
Harry Ray Irvin
Lillian Latta Jessup
Edgar William Kayser
David Henry Kelly
Alice Scott Maple
Bessie Mitchell
Robert Bailey Phillips
Willie Schutz
Bruce William Seeton
Georgie Adeline Smith
John P. Taylor
John Selby Townsend
Rosamond Marston Windsor

1901

Alice Davis
Paula Evans
Lena Falvey
Alma Johnson
Annie Kemp
Isabel Kelly
Faustina Look
Olivia Lockhart
Daisy Millican
Minnie Phinney
Harriett Small
Erma Whitley
Louise Wilcox
Frank Hughes
Willie Marr
Clara Mundy
Laura Mundy
Anna Shelton

3. COURSE OF STUDY

(A) - High School Course - Report of Public Schools, 1891-92:

Ninth Grade

- First Term - Algebra.
Physical Geography.
English Lessons.
Arithmetic.
(Optional) - Latin or Spanish.
- Second Term - Algebra.
Physiology.
English Complete.
Latin (Spanish)

Tenth Grade

- First Term - Algebra - Completed.
Physica.
Geometry.
Latin (Spanish).
Studies in English.
- Second Term - Geometry.
Physics.
Latin (Spanish).
Studies in English and History.
Lessons in Botany and Zoology.

Eleventh Grade

- First Term - Geometry, complete.
Chemistry.
Latin or Spanish.
General History.
English Grammar and Literature.
Lessons in Geology and Mineralogy.

Original composition through the grades. Music and drawing through the High School course. Drawing in the High School is mechanical and freehand, the time being equally divided.

WRITING - Based on Spencerian system.

MUSIC AND DRAWING - Under supervision of special teachers.

PHYSICAL EXERCISE - To be selected by the teachers and given in all the grades.

Greek taught if desired. Latin may, by special arrangement, be dropped. Spanish may be substituted for Latin in Grades IX and X, or by special arrangement may be made a supplementary study. For Grade X and XI the course in Literature will be that required for entering the State University. Elementary Psychology is provided for in Grade XI for pupils desiring to prepare for teaching.

(B) - High School Course of Study - Report of Public Schools, 1894 - 1895;

Eighth Grade

READING

FIRST TERM. Evolution of Expression, Vol. I. Commit to memory, "The Ocean," "Adams and Jefferson," and "Cheerfulness."

SECOND TERM. Evolution of Expression, Vol. II. Commit to memory, "Thanatopsis," "Supposed Speech of John Adams," and "The Temperance Question."

In addition to the above this grade will read during the year, five or more selections from Irving's Sketch Book, and will commit to memory, Longfellow's "Psalm of Life" and Gray's "Elegy".

GRAMMAR

FIRST TERM. Begin with the Modifications of the Parts of Speech, and complete the book.

SECOND TERM. Review the entire book, and complete.

ARITHMETIC

FIRST TERM. Review White's Complete Arithmetic from page 212 and complete book.

SECOND TERM. Algebra. Milne's Elementary, as directed.

HISTORY

FIRST TERM. English history as directed.

SECOND TERM. As directed.

SPELLING

As directed.

PHYSIOLOGY.

SECOND TERM. Complete the book.

LATIN

FIRST TERM. Callar & Daniel's first book. As directed.

SECOND TERM. Complete and review.

Ninth Grade

LITERATURE AND READING

FIRST TERM. Evolution of Expression, Vol.III. Also read Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar."

SECOND TERM. Evolution of Expression, Vol. IV. Also read McCaulay's "Warren Hastings."

RHETORIC

FIRST TERM. Lockwood's English to page 118.
Study the biography of Washington Irving. (See directions given in the text.)

SECOND TERM. Lockwood's English from Page 118 to 257. Study Live of Longfellow.

ALGEBRA

FIRST TERM. Complete and review Milne's Elementary Algebra.

SECOND TERM. Wentworth's Complete to chapter X.

HISTORY

FIRST TERM. Ancient history, as directed.

SECOND TERM. Go through Roman history.

LATIN

FIRST TERM. Read two books of Caesar; Latin Grammar twice a week.

SECOND TERM. Read third and fourth books of Caesar. Latin Grammar twice a week.

GEOMETRY

FIRST TERM. Hill's Elementary Geometry half through.

SECOND TERM. Complete book and review.

Tenth Grade

LITERATURE AND RHETORIC

FIRST TERM. Review punctuation (Lockwood's Eng.) and go to page 335. Study biography of Hawthorne, Lowell and Bryant. Study carefully three good selections from each.

SECOND TERM. Read and study carefully the biography of Shakespeare. Read "Hamlet", "Merchant of Venice," and "Othello."

ALGEBRA

FIRST TERM. Wentworth's Complete, from chapter X to chapter XXII, and review.

SECOND TERM. From chapter XXII to chapter XXXI and review.

PHYSICS

FIRST TERM. Gage's Elements of Physics, to page 212.

SECOND TERM. Complete book and review.

BOOK-KEEPING.

As directed.

GEOLOGY

By special arrangement, pupils may discontinue Algebra the second term and take up Geology.

GEOMETRY

FIRST TERM. Wentworth's Plane Geometry, to Book III. Pupils are expected to solve at least 75% of the original problems given in the text.

SECOND TERM. Complete book and review. Continue original work.

HISTORY

FIRST TERM. Shelton's General History, as directed.

SECOND TERM. Complete book and review.

LATIN

FIRST TERM. Sallust - As directed.

SECOND TERM. Sallust - As directed.

Grammar twice a week.

Eleventh Grade

LITERATURE AND RHETORIC

FIRST TERM. Study "King Lear," Pope's Essay on Man, and at least one of Emmerson's Essays.

SECOND TERM. Physical Geography. - Complete book; Maury's.

Note. During the entire course in literature pupils are expected to write essays, biographical sketches, etc. Teachers are urged to see that this part of the pupil's work is not neglected.

GEOMETRY

FIRST TERM. Complete Solid Geometry.

SECOND TERM. Algebra.

Review factoring, the more difficult problems in fractions and fractional equations. Simultaneous equations. Involvement and Evolution. Quadratics, equations and radicals.

CHEMISTRY

FIRST TERM. Williams' Introduction to Chemical Science to Chapter XXXV.

Second Term. Complete book and review.

UNITED STATES HISTORY, MENTAL ARITHMETIC, CIVIL GOVERNMENT and PARLIAMENTARY LAW

FIRST THREE MONTHS. United States History.

SECOND THREE MONTHS. Mental Arithmetic.

THIRD THREE MONTHS. Civil Government and Parliamentary Law.

LATIN

FIRST TERM. First two books of the Aeneid; Grammar twice a week.

SECOND TERM. Third and fourth books of the Aeneid; lessons in Grammar twice a week.

COURSE IN DRAWING

EIGHTH GRADE : White's Drawing Book for eighth year. Geometric problems; construction of solid forms and objects; designing from natural forms; object drawing.

NINTH GRADE : White's Drawing Book for ninth year. Geometric problems; construction of geometric solid forms and objects; decorative designs; object drawing.

10TH and 11TH GRADES : Working drawings of objects, machinery, etc., object drawing; illustrating poems, etc.

COURSE IN MUSIC

EIGHTH, NINTH, TENTH AND ELEVENTH YEARS :

Study "Cecilian," Book 4.

Study the history of music and the lives of eminent musicians.

Develop four-part singing.

Pupils should be able to write the major, minor and chromatic scales; to give intelligent answers to any questions asked on transposition, modulation and time.

The purpose of High School work is to study the best writers of the past and present; to bring together voices and harmonize them for the artistic rendering of such music as will broaden their culture, and thereby assist musicians in establishing a high standard of music in El Paso.

COURSE IN SPANISH

Four Years.

FIRST YEAR - EIGHTH GRADE - First Reader - Norman & Mansanto's Elements of Spanish grammar. Translations. Conversations. Verbs.

SECOND YEAR - NINTH GRADE - First Reader. Spanish prose and composition. Spanish grammar. Sight reading. Conversations. Irregular verbs.

THIRD YEAR - TENTH GRADE - Reader. Sight reading. Spanish grammar. Prose compositions. Conversation.

FOURTH YEAR - ELEVENTH GRADE - Second reader. Letter writing. Conversation. General review.

WRITING in all grades, as directed by Superintendent.

MUSIC AND DRAWING under supervision of special teachers.

PHYSICAL EXERCISE to be selected by teachers and given in all grades.

GEOLOGY. In the latter half of the tenth year, by special arrangements, pupils may drop algebra and take up geology.

LATIN and SPANISH. Pupils may exercise their choice between Latin and Spanish, or take both, but must pursue one through the entire course.

Explanation: If a pupil begins Spanish he must pursue it until he completes the course, or as long as he remains in school. If he begins Latin, he must pursue it in the same manner.

4. PROGRAM AT DEDICATION OF HIGH SCHOOL on February 21, 1902 (Printed in El Paso Herald, Feb. 19, 1902.) :

P R O G R A M

SONG America
INVOCATION Rev. J.F. Kellog
SCRIPTURE READING Rev. E. P. Ryland
FIVE-MINUTE ADDRESS, "What Should the State
Expect of the High School" . Rabbi Martin Zielonki
GIRLS' QUARTET "Rock-a-bye"
FIVE-MINUTE ADDRESS, "Relation of the High
School to the University" . Rev. H. W. Moore
SOLO "Hugh, My Little One"
FIVE-MINUTE ADDRESS, "A University Education -
What it Means" Rev. R. B. Smith
BOYS' QUARTET "A Dream of Home"

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN EL PASO Capt. T.J. Seall
(Representative of School Board)

SOLO Miss Emma Ullman

MIXED CHORUS Rev. M.C. Martin.

5. El Paso Cadet Guards (Pass City Cadet Corps)

(A) Rules for the guidance of the cadet corps were as follows :

The boys of the High School room may be formed into a military company under the name of the El Paso Cadet Guards.

This shall be considered a select body to which none but boys of good deportment and reasonable proficiency and scholarship may be admitted.

The rules of the school shall govern the conduct of the members of this body while on duty or in uniform, and the same punishment be inflicted for infraction of discipline as for other school offenses.

Members of this body when once qualified shall be excused from duty only by permission of the highest ranking authority present with the company and shall be permanently dropped from the rolls only by authority of the superintendent of schools, commanding.

The members of the company shall elect their own officers to serve for the current scholastic year and until their successors are selected -- but such officers may be reduced to the ranks at any time for cause by the superintendent commanding, he to judge the sufficiency of the cause.

Vacancies may be filled at any time. Only members of the Senior class shall be eligible to the position of captain,

but any cadet member of the High School is eligible to any other official position. Cadets below the High School shall be eligible only to position of corporal.

(B) The uniform shall consist of :

One forage cap, dark blue, letters E.P.C.G. of pattern provided.

One coat, cadet gray, West Point cadet style, Texas buttons, pattern provided.

One pair knee pants, cadet gray, black stripe, pattern provided.

One pair black stockings.

One pair ankle boots, black leather.

One pair white cotton gloves.

The first three articles to be provided at a cost of not more than \$15.00 and the last three to be selected and purchased to the tastes of the wearer or his sponsors.

The uniform shall be worn at all times in school and shall be considered a badge of distinction.

Everyone in the company must deposit \$15.00 for uniform or in some way give assurance of making immediate possession for such uniform.

The regular drill shall be as nearly as practicable that of the U. S. Army Tactics, but special drill may also be provided.

Every cadet on joining the company shall sign these rules for his government and shall be fully qualified only after

securing the signature of at least one of his parents or sponsors.

(C) A list of the members of the Cadet Corps follows :

Captain - H. E. Stevenson
First Lieutenant - Flounoy Carter
Second Lieutenant - Walter V. Evers
First Sergeant - Chris C. Fewel
Sergeant - Joseph Loving
Corporal - Edward Pew
Corporal - Harland Irwin

Privates :	Bower, Leon	Kaufman, Alfred
	Campbell, Harry	Kneeland, Edward
	Ehildress, Urbham	Loira, George
	Clark, Verd	McKie, Van
	Edward, Samuel	Newman, Charles
	Fay, William	Nicholson, James
	Ferbysibm, Hanes	Sanger, Paul
	Franklin, Joseph	Stevenson, Fred
	Hammett, Aubrey	Tarrant, John
	Handsdell, Charles	Tell, Fred
	Julian, William	Thumm, Howard

(D) A list of the officers of the "Broom Brigade" follows :

Miss Fannie Schutz, Captain
Miss Jessie Kellogg, 1st Lt.
Miss Sudie Beall, 2nd Lt.
Miss Katie Vilas, 1st Sgt.

21 Privates.

6. Program of First Commencement of the El Paso High School :

Graduates.

George Prentiss Robinson.
Kate Moore.

Invocation.

SONG, "As Pants the Hart," High School Chorus.

Address

ON AN EDUCATIONAL SUBJECT,
HON. W. M. CHANDLER.

SONG, "High School March," High School Chorus.

ORATION, "The Spirit of the Times,"
George Prentiss Robinson.

ESSAY, "Not what we do but what we are,"
Kate Moore.

SONG, "Hark They Come," High School Chorus.

Presentation of Diplomas,

SONG, "On Life's Journey," High School Chorus.

Benediction.

*Original in International Museum
El Paso, Texas*



First Commencement

OF THE

EL PASO

HIGH SCHOOL

Friday, May 20th, 1887,

AT THE

DISTRICT COURT ROOM,

10 O'CLOCK A. M.

EL PASO TIMES PRINTERS.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

NEWSPAPERS :

El Paso Times, El Paso, Texas

April 6, 1888
May 8, 1888
May 9, 1888
May 13, 1888
May 22, 1888
May 27, 1888
May 29, 1888
May 28, 1890
May 30, 1890
June 10, 1890
June 18, 1890
June 22, 1890
May 28, 1891
June 3, 1891
May 25, 1892
May 24, 1893
June 19, 1906

The Lone Star, El Paso, Texas

December 15, 1883
September 28, 1884
September 9, 1885

The El Paso Tribune, El Paso, Texas

May 26, 1888

El Paso Herald, El Paso, Texas

January 18, 1883
September 2, 1888
May 24, 1889
September 2, 1889
May 7, 1890
June 4, 1890
May 23, 1894
May 25, 1894
June 5, 1894
May 25, 1895

El Paso Herald, El Paso, Texas, Cont'd.

May 22, 1896
May 28, 1896
May 25, 1897
May 24, 1898
May 28, 1898
May 31, 1898
May 15, 1899
May 20, 1899
May 23, 1899
May 19, 1900
Jan. 8, 1901
May 16, 1901
May 17, 1901
May 19, 1901
May 21, 1901
February 19, 1902
Jubilee Number, May 12, 1923

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF EL PASO, TEXAS :

1886 - 1887
1892 - 1893
1895 - 1896
1903 - 1904

QUIEN SABE - (Published and maintained by the Graduating
Class, El Paso High School)

Volume I, Number 8 - May, 1900.

THE RISE AND GROWTH OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN EL PASO, TEXAS

Morrel, Elaine Lewis - El Paso, August, 1936

PERSONAL INTERVIEWS WITH THE FOLLOWING :

Florence Vilas (Mrs. H.E. Stevenson)
Annie Kemp, 1901 (Mrs. Hugh White)
Maury Kemp
Sarah Annie Edwards, 1898 (Mrs. L.H. Tucker)
Ynez Marie Dwyer, 1903 (Mrs. H.E. Christie)
Alberta Heep, 1903 (Mrs. Alberta H. Morse)
Miss Gertrude Higgins, 1898