

Mount Pulaski Schools Always Rated High

Graduates Entering College Appreciate Fine Preparation.

The present Mount Pulaski High School District was organized in 1912 and will be enjoying its 50th year of occupancy in part of its present building in 1962.

On Jan. 20, 1912, the board of education was elected for the new district and it was during 1912 that the old part of the high school was erected at a cost of \$45,000. In 1929 the last addition was made to the building at a cost of \$59,000.

At eight o'clock on Wednesday evening May 21, 1913, in the Opera House at Mt. Pulaski, the First Annual Commencement Exercises were held. Graduates of this class were: George Meister, Gretchen Flegenschuh, Grace Griffin, Paul Gruber, Nicholas Hubbard, Elmer Alspach, Guy Scroggin, Webster Purviance and Clarence DeFrees. The high school faculty in 1913 consisted of G. E. Clendenen, Eva A. Perrin, Marie Dean and R. V. Lindsey. The Board of Education lists C. T. Anderson, President; O. W. Mayer, F. W. Meister, August Unland, H. S. Buckles, C. E. West and Charles Muncie.

Preceding the enactment of the community high school law in 1919, Mount Pulaski High School was one of the three fully recognized high schools in the county, and when the reorganization of all the other county high schools occurred in 1920 and the following years, Mt. Pulaski continued to operate as organized in 1912 and today, 1961, is still operating under the title of Mount Pulaski Township High School.

Four Graduates in First Class
Available records show the first high school graduates to have been the class of 1888 with four graduates; Mary Douglas, Martha Douglas, Frank Gay and Lorah Muldoon. In 1889 there were four more graduates and in 1890 there was one graduate, Katie Seyfer. Again in 1891 there were four graduates and except for 1897 when there was no graduates, the number of graduates has shown a gradual increase to the present classes of near 50 or more graduating each year.

Sound Curriculum

The curriculum at the high school has always been sound and as the years brought changes in requirements from the North Central, the state and the colleges, the curriculum changed to meet the new standards. The success of the graduates in taking their places as citizens in the society of the United States is a point of pride in which all people of the community may share. Not only in the academic field have the students been able to compete successfully, but in athletics, music and other activities they have held their own, against larger schools in many cases.

The faculty has of course seen a turnover and the first principal following Mr. Clendenen was L. F. Fulwiler who became principal in 1913. Following Mr. Fulwiler has been: Ira M. Wrigley, L. L. Hargis, and the present principal, L. H. Taylor. The present faculty of 15, with two men sharing music duties between the grade and high schools, has members who will be starting their 30th year in 1962. The remainder of the faculty range down in years of teaching at the high school to three young teachers who have just completed their first year of teaching.

Valuation Today is \$31,000,000

A comparison of the district in 1930 and the present shows that in 1930 there were 13 elementary districts with buildings located within the high school district. Today there are five public school districts and one private school district within the high school district. In 1930 the assessed valuation of the district was \$5,463,622, the tax levy \$27,000 and the tax rate 51 cents. Today the assessed valuation is \$31,000,000, the levy \$120,000 and the tax rate is 43.9 cents. The high school enrollment

in 1930 was 145 compared to 105 in 1920 and 205 in 1961. A projection based on current elementary enrollment within the present district shows a growth to 260-280 by 1966 and 1967.

West of the high school are three modern blacktop tennis courts surrounded by a high wire fence. These courts are as modern as any in the state and are used by the tennis teams coached by Don Olsen.

A baseball field at the city park, constructed and maintained by the high school, is used for the spring and fall schedules of the Hilltoppers teams.

The district recently acquired the Scroggin property just south of the school. The large residence on the land was torn down to make way for future expansion. A small baseball field used by the Little Leaguers has been constructed on the west part of this property.

The home economics department at the high school was modernized a short time ago and is one of the finest in the state.

PRINCIPAL



LEE H. TAYLOR

1960-61 HIGH SCHOOL FACULTY MEMBERS

The staff at the high school for the term was as follows:

Mr. Atchison, Spanish and German
Dale Broughton, Commercial
Mrs. Richard Edwards, English, and Speech
Mrs. Floyd Kelly, Home Ec
James Koch, Coach and Drivers Education
Harry Lucas, Science
Harry Manes, History
Miss Mansfield, Girls PE and Commercial
Miss Clara Martin, Latin and Library
Dan McNabb, Vocal Music
Don Olsen, Biology and Ass't. Coach
Herbert Stivers, Shop and Industrial Arts
Claus Tanner, Band
Mrs. William Tate, Typing and Office Secretary
Herschel Vandevender, Math
Mr. Willison, English
The janitors are Harve Robinson and Darrell Knauer. The bus drivers are Mike Koehler and Carleton Drake.

MPTHS DISTRICT ANNEXES 9,960 ACRES

(June 23, 1955)

Meeting in Lincoln on Friday, June 17, the Logan County Board of School Trustees at 10:45 p.m. voted 5 to 2 in favor of a petition with 91 signatures, asking to disconnect 9,960 acres of land from the Warrensburg-Austin-Latham-Kennedy Community Unit School District No. 11, and annexation to the Mount Pulaski township high school district. The action was taken in executive session.

The trustees favoring the petition were Clem Garton, Edward Schmidt, Charles Maaks, Commodore Sparks and Austin W. Schaffnacker. Voting against approval of the petition were: William Bock and Ray Thompson.

MOUNT PULASKI HIGH PLACED ON ACCREDITED LIST OF U. of I.

The following letter was received Wednesday:

Urbana, Illinois,
Dec. 23, 1913

Prin. L. F. Fulwiler,

Mt. Pulaski, Ill.

Dear Mr. Fulwiler:

It so happens that I am able to gratify your wishes in regard to accrediting your school. I take pleasure in enclosing a copy of the schedule of credits recently approved by the Council of Administration. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a successful year in your new school, I am

Yours very sincerely,

H. A. Hollister.

High School Visitor U. of I.
The Schedule of Credits referred to shows a total of 19 credits awarded the local school. Sixteen only are required for graduation here, and 15 for entrance to the University of Illinois.

It seems that fortune is smiling from all direction upon our new school. The recent decision of the Supreme Court, removing our legal complications, the victory last week in basketball, and now comes the best of all, the report that our class room work has passed the inspection of the high school visitor, and we have been placed on an equality as far as the standard of our work is concerned with the best high schools in the state.

Mr. Hollister inspected the work of the school about a month ago, and recommended to the Board of Administration of the State University that the work of the Mt. Pulaski Township high school be recognized as up to the standards required by the University. The credits awarded are as follows:

Algebra, one and one-half.
Plain Geometry, one.
Solid Geometry, one and one-half.
English Composition, one.
English Literature, two.
Latin, four.
Ancient History, one.
English and United States History, one.
Civics, one-half.
Business Law, one-half.
Commercial Geography, one-half.
Physiography, one-half.
Physics, one.
Chemistry, one.
Botany, one-half.
Zoology, one-half.
Physiology, one-half.
Mechanical Drawing, one-half.
Agriculture, one.

1923 TRACK TEAM MADE FINE SHOWING

According to the Logan County Messenger, Mount Pulaski high school tracksters made a fine showing in the county meet in 1923. Some of the winners were:

Roman Romer, who was second in the 50-yard dash, and third in the 100-yard dash. He also won third in the 220.

Zelle won the 440-yard dash in 58 1/5 seconds.

Keith Tomlinson won the 880-yard dash in 2 minutes 15 3/5 seconds. Also third in high jump.

Bob Keck placed second in the 220 low hurdles.

Lane placed second in pole vaulting.

J. Foster Morris won third in shot put.

Billington won third in the javelin throw.

Mount Pulaski's relay team of Keck, Romer, Zelle and Lane, won the event in 1 minute 43 2/5 seconds. It was a half mile event.

MUSIC INSTRUCTORS FROM SPRINGFIELD

(April, 1918)

The Board of Education has a contract with the Springfield Conservatory of Music by which they furnish rooms, etc., for the instructors to give private instructions in music and the music instructors in turn train the orchestra. Prof. Paul Vernon from the Conservatory gives from 1 1/2 to 2 days per week instruction to the orchestra and Miss Kennedy, private instruction on the piano and plays piano at public entertainments for the school. Mr. Vernon gives private instruction on the violin.

—Lo. Co. School Messenger

LATHAM APPROVES SCHOOL MERGER

(Oct. 17, 1946)

In a special election held at Latham, Saturday, Oct. 12, 1946, the organization of a community consolidated school district in the Latham area was approved by a vote of 68 to 31. There were four rural districts which voted 35 to 30 in favor of the proposition, and the Latham grade district vote was 33 to 1 for the merger.

Districts involved are Two Mile Grove, Colvin, Deavers, Walnut Grove and Latham grade.

FIRST SCHOOL BUS SERVICE OFFERED

(Sept. 16, 1937)

Mount Pulaski high school will have the services of a school bus at their beck and call this present school term, following a decision by the board of education at a Friday night meeting.

An agreement was reached with Virgil Hooe of Illiopolis, whereby he furnishes and operates the bus in carrying pupils in the rural areas to and from school each day. This will be done at a charge of \$1.00 per week, which is much cheaper than driving one's own car. Grade school pupils will also be hauled on the same basis.

The bus will be used exclusively for extra curriculum activities such as basketball trips, glee club and other group activities which require transportation. This step of the board is a forward looking one and will eliminate the problem of finding suitable transportation to carry out these essential services.

HONOR SOCIETY FORMED AT MPHTS

(March 21, 1957)

Monday of this week, the Hilltop Chapter of the National Honor Society was formed at the Mount Pulaski High School. This is the first time that the local school has had an Honor Society.

Members of the Chapter chosen from the Senior Class were: John Ey, Lowell McKinley, Marjorie Ulmer, Sonja Weller, Donna Ayers, Linda Stivers, Elizabeth Ann Roos, and Ann Hargrave.

Junior class members are Bill Stoutenborough, Gayle Miller, Judith Schahl, Janet Rohlfis and Carol Biesemeier.

Miss Clara Martin is their advisor.

TEACHERS SALARIES \$90 A MONTH—1939

The average salaries paid to teachers in Logan county for the school year of 1939-1940, were:

Rural teachers: \$727.20 or \$90.00 per month; Village Elementary teachers, \$818.52; Village Elementary principals, \$995.66; City Elementary teachers, \$1,157.10; city elementary principals and superintendents, \$1,704.28; high school teachers, \$1,520.23; high school principals \$2,085.00.

Welcome to the Mount Pulaski Sil-Tennial Celebration July 22-29



LIBRARY AT MPHTS is now quite modern in every respect and has been improved and rearranged in recent years to make it a very pleasant part of the student's research at the fingertips. —Times-News Photo.