

Stewart Verckler's Abstracts of Abilene Newspapers

1890

- Mt. St. Joseph Academy—Tuition is \$75.00 [\$1744 today] per term, includes board, washing and bedding. Day students of both sexes are charged \$1.50 [\$35 today] per month. Classes taught: German, Latin, short hand, typewriting, oil painting, fancy work [fine needlework], organ, guitar, piano, vocal. 12 to 20 Sisters reside.

1891

- Description of County High School: Students may find good board and room for \$2.50 [\$58 today] per week; unfurnished rooms rent for \$1.50 [\$35 today] per month. 137 enrolled in 1889-90; no tuition for county students; others \$4.00 [\$93 today] per term.
- Central Kansas Free Fair at Hope, Sept, 2, 3, 4, 5.
- The Buckeye School and old stone school will be closed and two rooms made available in City Hall [new location for the high school]. (School population of County, 8,043)
- Central College in Enterprise charter filed July 22, 1891, operated by the United Brethren.
- Abilene to have the fair, \$6000 [\$139,535 today] in prizes for horse racing, 200 horses will be here. \$4000 [\$93,023 today] in other premiums.

1894

- 12 graduated from Abilene High School.
- Big 4th of July celebration—baseball, speakers, band music, parade with 4 out of town bands, 6 out of town fire departments, fireman's race, bicycle race, fireman's ball.
- 2 boys broke into depot at Detroit, sentenced five years in penitentiary
- 931 students in Abilene Schools, 5296 in all of County.

1895

- Central School was named Garfield and South Side School named Lincoln. High School left to struggle along without a name, also the West Side School [later to be named McKinley].
- Abilene School system is now free of all debts.

1897

- Accidental deaths from loaded guns, one 10 year old boy. . . .
- W.S. Anderson begins the manufacture of soda pop at his ice & coal business (April 22, 1897)

1898

- School Board decides to use State School Books next fall. 18 graduate from [Abilene] high school.
- 4 county high school students die of typhoid fever, many more sick. Several parents remove their children from school.

1902

- Ball park to be constructed on old Fair Grounds, south of town.
- Daughter born to Dr. Bergstresser.
- Library Assoc. has secured room over McInerney's.

1903

- 200 pupils took examination for admittance to County High School.
- Parker Carnival planned to open June 10 – 13. Will have a captive balloon and an airship—Now has 20 railroad cars in all.

1904

- 9 young farm boys fined \$25 [\$595 today] for damages to T.C. Leming, also received \$1120 [\$26,667 today] in damages.
- Feb. 11, Lease Duckwall married Retta White of Wakefield.
- April 14, C.W. Parker orders 50 wild animals from Carl Hagenback of Germany—Already has cinnamon bear from the Rocky Mtns.

1905

- Series of articles about the crowded conditions of schools.
- Feb. 15—Grover Shook sentenced to 30 days for stealing chickens, was 16 years old.
- Raver & Darnaby will open their new carnival in Abilene in June.

1906

- Daughter born to A.L. Duckwall's
- School bond election is to be Feb. 8--\$35,000 [\$833,333 today].
- High School will be located at end of Spruce St. and East of Garfield.

- W.A. Stacey to be Supt. of Abilene Schools, salary is \$1300 [\$32,000 today].
- C.W. Parker announces that he will build skating rink in 2nd floor of building one block east of factory. Distance around rink will be 377’.

1907

- 899 pupils in Abilene Schools.
- R.L. Broughton to open music store in old Tuft’s rooms.
- 25 graduate from [Abilene] high school . . . 26 from county high school [Chapman].
- May 9—Carnegie will give city \$12,500 [\$284,090 today]. City must provide \$1250 [\$28,409 today] per year for operation.

1908

- Jan. 23 paper—Bicycles need license to ride on sidewalks but not downtown, cost \$5.00 [\$116.28 today].
- Jan. 30 paper—Dwight Eisenhower gave toast at Football Team banquet.
- Editorial asking that all schools be protected with fire escapes, suggests that other tall buildings in town be also equipped.
- U.P. [railroad company] offers to give dirt and rock to make a park west of depot.
- 11 graduate from 8th grade at St. Joseph
- School yell for Abilene High School:
“Orange and Black
Orange and Black
We are the class that nothing lack
We’re no bait, we’re up to date
The grand old class of 1908.”
- Aug. 13—Bessie Coulson, daughter of EE Coulson, will drive a large Buick touring car around the track at the fairgrounds during the fair by herself, she is six years old.
- Aug. 27—Lawsy Lou Camp #2 (boys camping out) on Lyon’s Creek—D. Eisenhower, Ames Rogers, Edward Crawford, John Gleissner, Bruce Hurd, etc.
- Edison theater run by Kubach, Miss Lucier sings, show had 1000 feet of hand colored film, was war drama.
- Dec. 31—Bernie and Imogene Tolliver received a foot-powered Cadillac for Christmas. Paul Brown got a foot-powered Rambler.

1909

- Dwight Eisenhower elected to make the “Hat” speech on Senior Class Night, but did not make it.
- Bruce Hurd is editor of “The Helianthus”, high school yearbook. The seal of the senior class was designed by Lois Harger, articles were by Paul Royer, Dwight Eisenhower, Ward Barber. Will sell for 50 cents [\$11.62 today] each.
- Otto Smith & Charles Sexton, both 14, broke window at Tufts & Gish, they were scuffling, cost them \$60 [\$1395 today].
- May 27—Paul Royer gave the Senior Class prophecy, Edgar Eisenhower had the lead in the Senior play, satirical Merchant of Venice. Dwight was also in play. Bruce Hurd had second lead.
- Abilene won Central Kansas Baseball League-High School.

1910

- Fair starts on Sept. 29 through Oct. 1. Diving horses every afternoon.
- Baby show at Fair, each winner got a \$5.00 [\$111 today] gold piece. 25 entered.
- Sen. Bristow made appointments: D. Eisenhower to West Point, Edward E. Hazlett, Jr. to Annapolis.

Courtesy of Dickinson County Heritage Center