History of Alamo School

Ruth Cummings

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HISTORY OF ALAMO SCHOOL

- Ruth Cummings

El Paso, Texas
January, 1951

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Superintendent of Schools
1919-1951
HOWARD A. AYCOCK

Principal, Alamo School
HISTORY OF ALAMO SCHOOL

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INTRODUCTION

BEGINNING OF ALAMO SCHOOL

The Alamo School of El Paso, Texas, is located at 500 South Hills Street. It is one of the oldest schools in town. Although Alamo School was not constructed until 1899, its history really began when Magoffin addition came into the city on April 5, 1882.¹

¹From the Original Files and Maps of the City of El Paso in the Public Works Department.

By 1895, Magoffin Addition was the elite part of town. The beautiful and expensive houses built there were the homes of many of the most prominent and wealthy citizens of El Paso.

As early as November 4, 1895, the minutes of the El Paso School Board state that there was agitation for a school in the Magoffin Addition. The finance committee of the board was ordered to see to the matter of securing building sites for a Public School in Magoffin Addition, and to report at the next meeting.²

²School Board Minutes, November 4, 1895, p. 81.
At the next meeting, the finance committee reported progress in the matter of school building sites.  

3 School Board Minutes, December 2, 1895, p. 82.

Now El Paso in 1895 was more like a beehive buzzing in activity. Thus agitation for a new school could easily get lost in the excitement—and did! All this activity caused one prominent gentleman to complain that El Paso was

"...trying to get too many things at once. There is the artesian well, the Corbett-Fitzsimmons fight, the McGinty Carnival, the international dam, the White Oaks and Coralitos Railroads, and about a dozen other enterprises.....all in one big haul..... Our people are too flighty. They will not confine their efforts to pushing one thing through before flying off in a whirl of enthusiasm after a new scheme."  

4 El Paso Daily Times, Thursday, October 17, 1895, p. 3. c. 3.

There seems to have been no further effort made toward getting a new school building until five months later, when the finance committee of the School Board went before the City Council to ask for money due the
the Public Schools from the sale of the Merrill property. 5

5School Board Minutes, May 4, 1896, p. 89.

When school opened at the fall session of 1896, again, the crowded conditions of the schools became the big problem.

The El Paso Daily Times stated that the population of the city had doubled in the last nine years; that there were two hundred seventeen more pupils in the schools now than ever before; that the schools were something for El Paso to be proud of; and that it was the duty of the City Council to increase their popularity and enhance their value in every way possible.

A week later, at a City Council meeting, Alderman Buono said that he had offered a resolution two weeks before providing for the sale of the city's house on Utah Street, and the appropriation of the money to build a school house, as the present school houses could not accommodate all of the children. But it was later agreed that the matter must come through the School Board. 7

7Ibid., September 11, 1896, p. 3, c. 4.
Still greater pressure was brought two days later, when another article appeared in the paper:

"A School For The Second Ward"

The resolution introduced at the last Council meeting to sell the city's Utah Street property and devote the proceeds to building a school house in the Second Ward (Magoffin Addition) has attracted general attention, and the residents of the ward are taking the matter up in earnest. It is surely nothing but a matter of justice that the most populous ward in the city should have a school house. At present there are children of that ward attending the Mesa school, and it is seriously objected to by the parents; that they are in constant dread of accidents at some of the railroad crossings. Instead, it is quite certain that many small children of the Second Ward are now kept from school by this very fear for their safety on the part of their parents.

"If the city can thus dispose of this undesirable property and thereby secure additional and much needed school room, this change ought certainly to be made.....from an interview with Professor Putnam.....Central and Franklin schools are over crowded,.....(any new students) will have to be turned away and deprived of school privileges altogether. This would be a public calamity as well as an injustice to the citizens who are paying taxes to provide for the education of their children. It is doubtful if the City can issue bonds for school purposes now, but here is a chance to provide a school house without the necessity of bonds."8

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Another item appeared in the same paper:
"Speaking to a Times reporter relative to Alderman Del Buono's request for a school house in the Second Ward, Professor Putnam said that it would become necessary for the School Board to bar all out of town pupils.....that there should be a school building in the Second Ward; that they could get along for the present with a one story, three room building so constructed that a second story could be added at any time." 9

9 Ibid., September 13, 1896, p. 2, c. 4.

It was only about two weeks later that the Circus and Menagarie of Farepaugh and Sells Brothers came to town. The City was in a gay mood and the public schools closed so the children could see the big parade and show. 10

10 El Paso Daily Times, October 1, 1896, p. 3, c. 3.

Things returned to normal four days later when the School Board, in a stern mood, requested the external committee to make a written request to the Honorable City Council of El Paso to give assistance to build school houses in the Second Ward.....At the same time,.....notice was given that teachers tardy would be required to give written excuses to the board; that they should open their schools punctually at the appointed times and devote themselves during school hours exclusively to the discipline
and instruction of the pupils.

School Board Minutes, October 5, 1896, p. 104.

On October 9, 1896, Dr. C. T. Race, president of the School Board, appeared at a meeting of the City Council. He stated that the public schools lacked one hundred and fifty seats of having enough to accommodate the pupils; that many were "stored away in corners." And that the School Board desired a school house in the northeast corner of the Second Ward. He also said that the increased attendance on the part of the schools was owing, in part, to the fact that the authorities of the Catholic Church had decided to send Catholic children to public schools. Dr. Race urged prompt action by the City Council.

Mayor Campbell asked Dr. Race to prepare a statement of what was due the schools and the City would try to raise the money. This remark brought about a bit of argument from Alderman Coldwell and attempted comedy by Mayor Campbell.

Alderman Coldwell pointed out that the public schools had legal rights and interest in the property recovered from Merrill; that the city was acting as trustee for the schools and therefore should pay the schools the money due them.
Mayor Campbell corrected Alderman Coldwell, saying, "you have the cart before the horse. The School Board is trustee for the City."

Alderman Coldwell said that in a court of equity the City would appear as trustee for the schools.

The Mayor remarked that that was probably too high for his button.

A remark from Mr. Coldwell to the effect that Dr. Race should stand on his legal rights, brought from Mayor Campbell the retort that what Dr. Race wanted now was a house and seats and not so much legal rights.

Then Alderman Coldwell moved that the building committee be authorized to confer with the School Board and ascertain the indebtedness of the city thereto and whether or not that the same can be settled by a transfer of a portion of the city's real estate. Motion carried. ¹²

¹²El Paso Daily Times, October 9, 1896, p. 3, c. 2.

A week later at a City Council meeting, Dr. Race presented a statement of the amount owed by the City to the public schools, and it was generally agreed that the School Board should take the Utah Street property as an offset of what Merrill was short on the school fund. Dr. Race said that it was his opinion that the city was justly indebted to the School Board in the sum of at least $5,000.
At the same meeting Mayor Campbell was authorized to arrange with the School Board to accept the Utah Street house in payment of all school money recovered from the Frank Merrill estate.\textsuperscript{13}

\textsuperscript{13}\textit{Ibid.}, October 16, 1896, p. 3, c. 2 and 3.

But this did not meet with the approval of the School Board, for later the Secretary of the Board was instructed to notify the City Council of El Paso "that the tender of the property on Utah Street on December 11, 1896 in payment in full of all indebtedness on the part of the city was refused. But they were willing for the City Council to sell the property and to accept the proceeds in part payment of the debt due the Board by the City."\textsuperscript{14}

\textsuperscript{14}\textit{School Board Minutes, January} 1897, p. 110.

There was no record of the stand taken by the City Council after this action of the School Board was made known. However, the School Board Election three months later showed there was great political opposition, when, only two days before the election, petitions were circu-
lated for other candidates—"some whose names were used without their consent."

The El Paso Daily Times carried this item:

"The Dead Mutton Crowd
Fail to Get Any Candidates

The blackmailers have made a desperate effort to induce respectable men to run on their blackmailing ticket for school trustees. Two of the most prominent citizens they have suggested for the office have declined to be used as tools to satisfy personal spite. Judge T. A. Falvey and E. Kohlberg, whose names the blackmailers hoped would rally the entire German vote to their support, and whose name would give a solid business significance to their ticket, but both refused to run. So, this morning finds the gang with nothing to pin their faith to except one honest man (Mr. Bias) and the windys who are always ready to accept any office in sight.

El Paso can do no better than elect today Messrs. W. R. Martin, Dr. C. T. Race, and E. C. Pew. These gentlemen are pledged to build another school house in the Second Ward, south of the railroad tracks, to employ as teachers bona fide residents of the city—when possible.  

15 El Paso Daily Times, January 19, 1897, p. 3. c. 2.

It turned out that the men recommended by the Times were elected. And the Times congratulated El Paso on her excellent choice so emphatically expressed, it being a condemnation of the methods adopted by a "blackmailing sheet....." and the agitators.
The next few months showed the School Board concerned over "the hard times," and the question of salaries, which was "a distressing one," because a survey had shown that teachers' salaries were much lower in El Paso than anywhere else in the State. Then lack of sufficient money caused great concern about the length of the school term for the next year.  

At the beginning of the fall term of 1897, Miss Marie J. Gallagher was unanimously elected "Principal of the Sixth Grade School." The board minutes did not state the definite location of this school. But Chopan Hall, which was built in 1895, housed some of the younger pupils from the overflowing schools and from Magoffin Addition.  

So it is likely that this could be considered the beginning of the first school held in the Second Ward or
Magoffin Addition. Later the Board minutes refer to the San Francisco Street School. With the opening of the school, the School Board received $2,400 from the City, which they decided to hold until the report of the External Committee at the next regular meeting.19

19School Board Minutes, September 6, 1897, p. 132.

Two weeks later Mayor Magoffin and the City Council recommended that bonds be authorized for the erection of a school house in the Second Ward for $15,000, and as usual there were other items tacked on to this bond issue—which were $5,000 for improvements in Mesa School house; $30,000 for a new City Hall; and $30,000 for funding the outstanding debt.20

20The Monday Graphic, El Paso Weekly, September 27, 1897, p. 6, c. 3.

A few days later, the External Committee of the School Board was authorized to purchase one-half block of ground in the Second Ward for a school building.

It was also decided that the Board go in a body before the City Council and request that they donate the
balance of the "Geree Fund" to the Board for building a school in the Second Ward.\footnote{School Board Minutes, October 4, 1897, p. 132.}

But once more all efforts toward the new school for the Second Ward were dropped, when a week later--because of a Supreme Court ruling, the purported organization of the Public Free Schools of El Paso, Texas, March 1883, was held illegal and declared null and void. So it immediately became necessary to reorganize the Public Schools and the Board became duly concerned with the calling of an election for January 4, 1898, at which time the school system would be properly voted into the city.\footnote{The Monday Graphic, El Paso Weekly, December 6, 1897, p. 5, c. 3.}

Since the schools had no legal organization at this time, the Board was struggling to get sufficient money to keep the schools running. But this same week the Board accepted the kind and generous offer of Mr. C. R. Morehead, president of the State National Bank, and Mr. U. S. Stewart, cashier of the First National Bank, to
loan up to $4,000 to pay the December salaries of the teachers, principals, and janitors, if that Board would stand for re-election. And this they did after signing notes for this loan.  

23 School Board Minutes, December 10, 1897, p. 140.

So the year 1898 started off gloomily for the School Board. Many problems faced them, and the chances looked rather slim for a new school house in the Second Ward. However, the election on January 4, for the reorganization of El Paso's Public Schools, was a sweeping victory; but the school bonds were defeated.

A delegation from the Second Ward appeared at a Board meeting held five days after the election, at which time the reports and the recommendations of the External Committee concerning the proposed new school buildings were heard. There was lengthy discussion by the Board and the delegation from the Second Ward--with the same Committee being asked to report on January 16th.  

24 School Board Minutes, January 9, 1898.

An editorial in the *El Paso Daily Times* stated:
El Paso's growth has been so rapid that the city's public school facilities are totally inadequate. As a result fifty-two children have been refused admission. Several weeks ago while smarting under the decision of a court of appeals, which demoralized our entire public school system and irritated public patience to the verge of reckless indifference, the people of El Paso voted against the issuance of bonds for school house purposes. the city held an election, at which time the voters authorized the city to assume control of all schools within its limits.

This action on the part of taxpayers removes all doubt as to the right of the City of El Paso to issue bonds for public school purposes. the City can now go ahead to increase its capacity to educate every child in the city. schools large enough to accommodate all of the children. and a Second Ward school to cost $5,000 should be erected in the southeastern end of the Second Ward to accommodate the many little children in that part of the city.

Something must be done to meet the demands of El Paso's rapidly increasing school population and the Times submits the foregoing suggestions to the consideration of the School Board.25

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A February 8th editorial urged every citizen of El Paso who had "at heart" the interests of their public schools to go to the polls to vote for Dr. C. T. Race, E. C. Pew, W. R. Martin, Allan Blacker, A. G. Foster, and
E. A. Shelton for school trustees. That there were no politics in the election, but that it was necessary to re-elect those gentlemen trustees so they could carry out arrangements made by them in the interest of their schools.26

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26El Paso Daily Times, Tuesday February 8, 1898, p. 2., c. 1.

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The trustees were re-elected, and there was a sweeping majority favoring the Tax Levy for the support of the schools.27

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27El Paso Daily Times, Wednesday February 9, 1898, p. 3., c. 2.

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The "Internal Committee" urged the Board the absolute necessity of seriously considering the matter of additional room for school purposes. The report signed by W. R. Martin and A. Blacker was approved but the Board took no action.28

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The following article appeared in the Times August 3:

**More School Room Needed**

...capacity of the public school buildings are totally inadequate to demands made by the steadily increasing scholastic population of the city....Last year when the City Council submitted a proposition to vote bonds for school buildings purposes....a few obstructionists opposed the issuance of school bonds....and it is alleged the obstructionists sent ______, with money, to the polls to defeat the bonds. As a result money levied and collected from the people for the maintainance of the city schools had to be paid out in rent for school rooms.

It was never intended that the school maintainance fund should be drawn on to pay house rent and the school fund cannot get out of debt as long as such a practice is followed. It is necessary to vote bonds for more school buildings and we are confident they will be voted. But there has been unnecessary delay occasioned by the crowd that defeated the bonds last year.  


Further agitation was shown in announcements made by Superintendent Putnam on Thursday September 1:

**Public Schools Overcrowded**

...The 5th and 6th grades will from necessity be located on San Francisco Street in the building occupied by these grades last year....We regret to be compelled to force the children to attend school in that building, but it is the only one we can get.
A new building in the Second Ward would enable us to remove the lower grade from the Central School and thereby make room for pupils now compelled to attend the San Francisco Street School.

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30 Ibid., Thursday, September 1, 1898, p. 4. c. 4.

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At a "called meeting" of the Board, September 10, 1898, the treasurer, Mr. A. G. Foster, was authorized to purchase seven lots (Lots 14-20 in Block 59, Magoffin Addition, at a cost of $950.00) for a school building site in the Second Ward.31

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31 School Board Minutes, El Paso, Texas, September 10, 1898, p. 163.

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Thus, after four years of pressure, agitation, "dirty politics," charges of dishonesty, and delay, the lots for the Second Ward School were finally purchased.

At the election on November 29, 1898, the school bonds all carried.

The following article appeared in the Times:

Eighty percent of the taxpayers of the city are absolutely indifferent to the public interest of the community....Thank God there are 173 men
in El Paso who felt enough interest in the prosperity of the city to go to the polls yesterday and vote...only 10 men voted against the bonds...there are about 1500 tax payers in El Paso... (this was before woman's sufferage, of course.)


Two months passed after the bonds had been voted--yet no school buildings had been started. So, at the Board meeting of January 9, 1899, a delegation from the Second Ward appeared. And "a lengthy discussion was held by the Board and the delegation."


Mr. A. G. Foster and Dr. Charles T. Race, the "External Committee," reported at the January 16th meeting that because of the numerous complaints from parents regarding "the over-heating of school rooms with the present system of stoves and giving the children colds" that a system of hot water heating be placed in the schools beginning with the Second Ward School. The report was accepted as finally amended--that eight rooms instead of six rooms be secured for the $8,000 or $9,000 or less mentioned.
in the report. 34

34Ibid., January 16, 1899, pp. 172-175.

At the April 3rd meeting, Edward Knezell, newly chosen Architect for the School Board, was authorized to advertise for sealed bids on the new school buildings. 35


Three weeks later the Times carried the following items:

Who is President of the School Board?

School Matters

The unfortunate disagreement between the members of the school board is regretted by all those interested in the public schools of the city.... The people are anxious for the school improvements.....and urge the gentlemen.....to push the matter to a speedy and proper settlement. 36

36El Paso Daily Times, Friday, April 21, 1899, p. 3. c. 3.

Three weeks later, on May 16, 1899, the School Board accepted the bid of Miss Buchanan and Powers for the
erection of the Second Ward School building, according to the plans and specifications of E. Knezell, at a cost of $12,777, the same to be completed by September 1, 1899.37


At the June 5, 1899 meeting the Board members "stripped off their coats and buckled down to work." Finally the "bid of W. G. Walz Company, for 350 desks and 12 recitation seats,.....of $935.00 was accepted.....on condition that any defects arising within 15 years be made good at the expense of the W. G. Walz Company."38

38 School Board Minutes, El Paso, Texas, June 5, 1899, pp. 195-196.

On September 4, 1899 the School Board transacted the following business:

That in consideration of the Contractors, Miss Buchanan and Powers, for permitting the school buildings to be used for school purposes, at once, before completion, that the Board relieve said Contractors of the forfeit of $5.00 per day for the uncompleted term after September 1, 1899. The motion was unanimously carried.39

Superintendent Putnam announced that the doors and windows had not arrived for the schools "on account of the crowded conditions of the factories," and, although "the carpenters were still at work in the new buildings that the schools would move in, organize, and begin work."

Thus Alamo School, with neither doors nor windows, opened for the first time on Tuesday, September 5, 1899. At this time it was called the Second Ward School. Its first principal was Miss Maria Gallagher, who had been principal of the San Francisco Street School for several years.40

40El Paso Daily Times, Wednesday, August 30, 1899, p. 8. c. 2.

The original Alamo School consisted of eight classrooms, which forms the south wing of the present building. Superintendent Putnam reported that this school opened with 249 pupils and that all the rooms were filled except three.

Miss Maria Gallagher was principal and fifth grade teacher; Miss Catherine Gorbitt, fourth grade; Miss Lillian Cole, third grade; Miss Ida Margaret Lockhart, second
grade; and Miss Lonnie Weaver, first grade.\textsuperscript{41}

\textsuperscript{41}Ibid., October 3, 1899, p. 7, c. 2, 3 and 4. School Board Minutes, El Paso, Texas, May 22, 1899, p. 192.

At an "adjourned meeting" of the Board, the teachers of the Second Ward School requested that the name be changed to "The Alamo" School (honoring Texas' Historic Alamo Mission, which is often referred to as "The Cradle of Texas' Liberty.") On motion it was adopted.\textsuperscript{42}

\textsuperscript{42}School Board Minutes, El Paso, Texas, November 7, 1899, p. 207.

The summer following the opening of Alamo School, the Board ordered the "External Committee" to furnish the remaining three rooms of the building.\textsuperscript{43}

\textsuperscript{43}Ibid., May 7, 1900, p. 219.

There is a skip in the School Board Minutes from April, 1902 to January, 1907. However, the newspapers carried numerous articles telling of the crowded conditions in the schools. The \textit{El Paso Daily Times} carried
the following item:

Five hundred pupils have no school room, are on waiting list. Total pupils in City now 4232, over fifty to the teacher.....need new schools and additions.....444 pupils in Alamo School.....44

44El Paso Daily Times, February 5, 1907, p. 3., c. 1 and 2.

February 4, 1907 the School Board purchased Lots 12 and 13, Block 59, Magoffin Addition, for Alamo School, and four months later awarded the building contract for an eight room addition and auditorium to William Rheimheimer for $24,400.00. Edward Knezell was the architect.45

45School Board Minutes, El Paso, Texas, June 17, 1907, p. 31.

On January 6, the Board purchased 70 feet of Lots 11-15 inclusive of Block 54 of Magoffin Addition.....as additional play ground at Alamo School.46

46School Board Minutes, El Paso, Texas, January 6, 1908, p. 64.
The addition to Alamo School of eight rooms and an auditorium was formally accepted by the Board on January 15, 1908.47

47 El Paso Herald, January 15, 1908, p. 2, c. 3.

And in 1915, an addition of four classrooms was made at 608 Hills Street. Attendance had grown and there were fifteen teachers teaching kindergarten through the sixth grade.48


Because of crowded conditions, Alamo School housed a sixth grade numbers of times, and for a few years the seventh and eighth grades.

The eighth grade was taken out in 1941, when a twelve-room addition was built at Bowie High School. The seventh grade was taken out in 1948, and the sixth grade in 1949. 49

49 From Permanent File on Membership in Records Department of El Paso Public Schools.
The highest grade taught at Alamo today is the Low Fifth—due to the efforts being made to cut down the class sizes from forty-five to thirty-five. Now the larger students can go a little farther to a larger school.

The present enrollment is 628—298 boys, and 330 girls.\(^{50}\)

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\(^{50}\)Personal interview with Mr. Howard A. Aycock, Principal of Alamo School, February 23, 1951.
II.

PHYSICAL PLANT

The Building

The original Alamo School Building of eight rooms was made of red brick with white trim. When the eight new classrooms and the auditorium were added in 1908, the old building became the south wing of the present building.

In 1915, four classrooms were added at 608 Hills Street--by converting a residence into school rooms--but these have been turned over to the Houchen Settlement Nursery.

In 1929, a building on the south end of the school grounds was converted into classrooms. This building was torn down some years later and the area used as a play center.\textsuperscript{51}

\begin{footnotes}
\end{footnotes}

Students attending Alamo often referred to these little buildings as "Los Gallineros" (The Chicken Houses.)\textsuperscript{52}

\begin{footnotes}
\item[52] Personal Interview with Mrs. Roxye Lee Waide, February 19, 1951.
\end{footnotes}
Today, Alamo School has sixteen classrooms, an auditorium, which is used by two classes, and the Alamo Cottage, which houses one class and the cafeteria. The cafeteria was installed in 1950, but it was discontinued this year, and only milk is served there now.

For a birthday present, Alamo was repainted and repaired inside and outside, giving the old red brick building a brand-new appearance. Some twenty elm trees were planted last year (1949) on the school grounds, and a cyclone fence was installed around the building.\(^5\)


On September 12, 1950, the School Board appointed Architects Davis and Foster to make plans for a new addition of six classrooms to be built at Alamo soon--at a cost of $50,000.\(^4\)

\(^4\)Personal interview with Mr. Howard A. Aycock, Principal of Alamo School, February 23, 1951.
The Grounds

The grounds of Alamo School are very small in comparison to those planned for the new schools of today. The report of the Evaluating Committee, made in 1950, stated:

.....that the school plant was not up to the accepted minimum standard of 5 to 6A. This is of course quite common to older schools in any community of considerable age. The inadequacy stems from earlier days when much vacant property was available for use, and open country lay close at hand. The earlier philosophy did not require a great deal of space. A cyclone fence has been set up; with most of the immediate school grounds being paved.\(^5\)


One-half block from the school is Alamo Park, which is used by the school for play grounds and as a background for outdoor programs and festivals, when the weather is warm. Each year the crowning of the May Queen usually takes place in the park.

Where once the school was surrounded by beautiful homes and orchards, today the well-planned community of Alimeto stands near by. It is a Government Low-cost Housing Project which is working out most satisfactorily.
Year before last, new trees were planted on the school grounds by the various rooms with the aid of Alamo's P.T.A.

Although the school grounds are small they are mostly paved, and the grass is kept pretty and green in the small parkways.
III.

HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS AND CONTACTS

The P.T.A.

It was a number of years ago, in 1934 or 1935, that one of Alamo's teachers, Mrs. Lucile Dickerson, suggested that a "Mothers' Club" be organized at Alamo School. Such a "club" was organized and it was active for a while.56

56 From Personal Interview with Miss Gertrude Higgins January 9, 1951.

But it was not until March, 1944 that the first Parent-Teacher Association was organized at Alamo School, with a few parents encouraged by Miss Gertrude Higgins, who was then principal of the school.

The first officers of Alamo's P.T.A. were: Mr. Jesus Gonzales, President; Mrs. Maria P. Ramirez, Secretary-Treasurer.

Two months later, May, 1944 Mr. Gonzales resigned because of the change in his working hours. Mrs. Maria P. Ramirez was then chosen President, and Mrs. Delfina Fierro, Secretary-Treasurer. By October, 1944 there were fifty members. The peak membership was reached in April, 1949 with two hundred and seventeen members. This organization
has been very active from its inception. Much has been accomplished during its short span of years.

A new floor covering and venetian blinds were bought for the school clinic which they had repainted.

Playground equipment was purchased for the school. The P.T.A. also has completely refurnished the teachers' lounge with attractive and comfortable furniture, new draperies, floor covering, and venetian blinds. New trees have been planted and venetian blinds were also installed in the library. The P.T.A. is making Alamo School a more beautiful and pleasant place for both the children and the teachers. 57

57 Personal Interview with Mr. H. A. Aycock, Principal of Alamo School, February 19, 1951.

The following presidents have served Alamo's P.T.A.:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>President</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Jesus Gonzales</td>
<td>1944 (Resigned)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Maria P. Ramirez</td>
<td>1944-1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Evadina Guevara</td>
<td>1946-1947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Delfina Fierro</td>
<td>1947-1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Manuel Jasso</td>
<td>1949-1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Luis Reyes</td>
<td>1951 (Incoming President) 58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

58 From: A Brief History of Alamo's P.T.A. by Mrs. Delfina Fierro and Mrs. Manuel Jasso.
Curriculum

The teachers and principals have seen that Alamo always kept up with the various phases of work in curricular and extra-curricular activities as prescribed by El Paso's Public Schools.

The students have measured very favorably with those from other schools.\(^{59}\)

\(^{59}\)Personal Interview with Miss Gertrude Higgins, January 9, 1951.

Art and music have enriched their school program. Several rooms are equipped with pianos, which were purchased through the efforts of the teachers and pupils. "They staged many plays, operettas, and shows to raise the money for their pianos."\(^{60}\)

\(^{60}\)Personal Interview with Mrs. Elma G. Ramirez, teacher of geography at Alamo for a great many years, February 26, 1951.

The Physical Education Department stages a demonstration each year during the month of May. Every child in Alamo takes part in the program. This department has produced different teams who have won many honors for the
school. There is a display case in the front hall filled with the trophies which have been won through the years.

Equipment and aids to teaching are more than adequate. On the following page there is a typical Physical Education Demonstration Program—the one given for the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration,
PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM
THURSDAY, MAY 4, 1950
2:00 O'CLOCK

L1 ....... Glow Worm and Narcissus
2L1A and B .... Children's Mazurka
H1A ........ Leaves
H1B ........ Rhythm Steps
12A and B .... Yankee Doodle, School Days, Welcome Sweet Spring Time
H2A and B .... Children's Polka
L3A and B ... (German Folk Dance) Hansel and Gretel
H3 and L4 .... Girls' Calisthenics
H3 and L4 .... Boys' Calisthenics
H4A and L5B ... Virginia Reel
H4A and L5B ... Boys Races
L5A and H5A Square Dance, Two Little Sisters Form A Ring
L5A and H5A .......... Pyramids
Library

Alamo School's Library was started by Miss Maria Gallagher, and Miss Gertrude Higgins kept it growing until it is now one of the best elementary libraries in the City of El Paso. 61

61 From History of Alamo School, Radio Program presented over KTSM, October 20, 1947, script by Roxye Lee Waide.

There are 9,000 books in this library. The books not only meet the curricular needs of the pupils, but they also meet the personal interest needs of the students. 62

62 Personal Interview with Mr. H. A. Aycock, principal of Alamo School, February 19, 1951.

Teachers' Library

Across the hall from the library is the teachers lounge, which has been newly decorated by the P.T.A. in a color scheme of gray, pale green, and raspberry. In this attractive room, there is a library of three hundred and eighty-seven books on child guidance, teaching methods,
and aids in teaching and presenting various subjects to children. There are books on travel and history, as well as a twenty-seven volume Library of the World’s Best Literature.

Conveniently displayed are twenty-eight different current educational magazines to help the teachers keep up-to-the-minute on the latest and best teaching methods.

The Bulletin Board carries the different notices and bulletins that are sent out by the Central Office.

Then there is the "rumpus room" in the basement where the teachers may eat their lunches.

School Activities

For years "Kite Day" was a very important day at Alamo. But their kites were so beautiful and the contest so popular that all the schools later participated.

There were prizes for the most beautiful kite, the largest kite, the strongest puller, etc.

The children made and worked on their kites for days. On "Kite Day" the teachers took the children to nearby vacant property to fly their kites. The teachers also used this experience to teach "safety" to the children—to keep away from power lines. But "Kite Day" has had to
be discontinued the past two or three years because there is not enough available space to fly them now.\(^{63}\)

\(^{63}\) Personal Interview with Mrs. Elma G. Ramirez, geography teacher at Alamo for years, February 26, 1951.

Alamo School crowns a May Queen each year. She is always chosen from the second grade. The ceremony is held at Alamo Park, or, if the weather is bad, in the auditorium.

All the students, including the eighth grade (when at Alamo) had to bow to the Queen. However, the "football boys" would have liked a Queen chosen from a higher grade much better.\(^{64}\)

\(^{64}\) Ibid.

During the depression years of 1929-34, when the children had so few luxuries and often not enough of the barest necessities of life, Miss Eddie May Duty, who has taught at Alamo since 1926, instituted a "Toy Nook" in her room. Toys of various kinds, dolls, and a doll buggy and a teddy bear were donated to her by friends or anyone interested in the project.
Then Miss Duty allowed these underprivileged children to carry home a toy for one night or for a week-end. The project was very successful. The children were made happy and it was a fine experience of "sharing" for them. The toys, dolls, and the big teddy bear were literally worn out over a period of time.\footnote{Personal Interview with Miss Eddie May Duty, February 26, 1951.}

Then there are The Crusaders of the Silver Shield sponsored by Miss Louise Wells. It began in 1930 and was for the whole school at first. Club meetings were held twice a year. The two best citizens, a girl and a boy of the senior class, were awarded a silver shield. Now this club is conducted "on a room basis only." The best citizen from each room is chosen to receive recognition.\footnote{Personal interview with Miss Louise Wells, teacher at Alamo since 1924, February 26, 1951.}
War Activities

Alamo School has passed through two World Wars. Both times the school whole heartedly assumed war work and war activities.

During World War I the school took part in parades to escort the men drafted into the Army to the depot. 67

67School Board Minutes, El Paso, Texas, Volume VI, September 18, 1917.

They also paraded for the Red Cross Drive in "Wake Up America," and bought "Thrift Stamps." 68

68Ibid., Volume VI, March 19, 1918.

Many impressive flag raising ceremonies were held in which the children took part. Thus, the children held a keener respect for the flag, a deeper appreciation of the democratic way of life and a better understanding of the true American spirit.

The children at Alamo were active in all the "drives" during World War II. They also bought stamps regularly at school.

They took part in the work of the Junior Red Cross, and made hundreds of favors for Army hospitals to use at Christmas, Easter, and Hallowe'en. Some of the favors
were sent to the William Beaumont Army Hospital.

The parents and teachers cooperated in issuing War Ration Books and Gasoline Ration Books.

Alamo School donated a great amount of clothing to be sent to Russia and also to European refugees.

Because paper was scarce, the children were careful to economize in their use of paper. They also collected books, magazines, and newspapers for the "paper drives."

The scrap metal drive was so successful that most of the school ground was taken up by the metal, and there was not enough space left for the students to play. An appeal had to be made to Superintendent Hughey to ask that trucks be rushed to haul the metal away. 69

69 Personal Interview with Miss Gertrude Higgins, January 9, 1951.

By 1929, most of the people of wealth had moved further out of town—because El Paso had grown so large that the older sections of town near Alamo School had become crowded by business houses. So by this time, most of the pupils at Alamo School were of Spanish-American descent. Today, Alamo School can boast of a one-hundred percent Spanish-American enrollment.
During the depression years of 1929-1934 this section of town, as well as others, suffered greatly. Numbers of children had no shoes to wear to school. It was during this time an appeal was made for shoes. And some local store when called upon said they had some sample shoes they would donate. As it turned out, when the package was opened, the teachers and children discovered that all the shoes were for the left foot only. 70

70 In conversation with Miss Eddie May Duty, February 23, 1951.

In 1931-1934, there was much unemployment and so many under-nourished children in the different city schools that the El Paso Woman's Club decided to help relieve the situation. Mrs. Otto Norwald, civic chairman of the club, organized soup kitchens. The food was prepared at the El Paso High School Cafeteria and then was transported from there to the different schools by members of the club. Alamo children shared in the benefits of this worthwhile civic project of the El Paso Woman's Club. 71

71 Personal interview with Mrs. Otto Norwald, February 8, 1951.
The El Paso Times carried the following item written by Cecilia Napoles:

Many Graduates Prominent in El Paso

There are many prominent El Pasoans who will recall pleasant school days when Alamo School celebrates its 50th anniversary May 4th and 5th.

An enrollment list for 1900 shows such well-known names as Percy McGhee, Charles C. Heid, J. Page Kemp, and E. W. Rheinheimer, all of whom have taken a prominent place in the community, and who were among the students attending Alamo.

At that time, early residents of the city recall, Alamo school was known as the 'silk-stocking' school and served the Magoffin Avenue area, which was then the best residential location of El Paso. 72

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Sneering politicians sometimes referred to the area as the "lily white" element. 73

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73 El Paso Daily Times, Friday, July 29, 1898, p. 3. c. 2.

As part of the celebration, the annual Physical Education Program was held on Thursday afternoon, May 4, 1950,
at 7:00 P.M. Alamo School then had "open house" for the parents and friends, and former teachers and pupils. They inspected the school and the work of the students.

At 8:00 P.M. the formal anniversary program was presented in the auditorium. Distinguished guests included: Superintendent of Schools, Mr. A. H. Hughey; former principal of Alamo School, Miss Gertrude Higgins; and other former teachers and students. Other platform guests introduced by Mr. Aycock were: Mr. J. F. Hulse, President of the El Paso School Board; Mr. P. L. Armour, Assistant Superintendent; and Supervisors Mrs. Minnie Clifton, Mrs. Alta Stowell, and Mrs. Ruby Smith.

The formal anniversary program is on the following page.
OPEN HOUSE
THURSDAY, MAY 4, 1950
7:00 - 8:00

PROGRAM
8:00

Flag Salute

Song - America (First Stanza)

Invocation

Song

Dance

Introduction of Platform Guests

Address

Greetings from the El Paso

Greetings from Alamo Parent-Teacher

Tribute to Principals and Teachers

Response

Songs

RECEPTION - 9:00 - 10:00
Miss Louise Wells, who has taught at Alamo School since 1924, wrote and directed a pageant, depicting the history of the school, as part of the anniversary program. It was written in verse form. The material was gathered by Miss Wells and Mrs. Waide, who has taught at Alamo sixteen years. Miss Wells' committee, who helped her stage the pageant were: Mrs. Roxye Lee Waide, Mrs. Ruth VanTrease, Mrs. Lillian Casso, and Miss Eddie May Duty.74


The program follows:

PAGEANT - FLOWERS OF MEMORY

Friday, May 5, 1950 7:30 P.M.

Prologue - Important Events of El Paso Since 1899
Scene I - First Day of School in Alamo, 1899
Scene II - Return of Four Former Pupils to Alamo, 1944

The Principals of Alamo School

Alamo School's history is unique in that there have been only three principals since the school was opened fifty-two years ago.
Miss Maria Gallagher

Miss Maria Gallagher was principal of Alamo School for twenty-three years, 1899 to 1922. She was greatly beloved by the students and by the teachers who continued to teach for years under her principalship.

She was born in Buffalo, New York; educated in New York State, having finished St. Joseph's College when she was eighteen years old. Even at that early age Miss Gallagher knew that she wanted to be a teacher. After teaching most successfully in several places in New York, Miss Gallagher spent nine years in the city schools of Omaha, Nebraska. So sympathetic and understanding was she that this unusual teacher was called upon to instruct in a school for the blind during her early teaching experience. Miss Gallagher was sixty-four years old when she left her position in Alamo School in 1922. She died in 1930.  

75 From information gathered by Miss Louise Wells, teacher in Alamo School, for Golden Anniversary Program.

Miss Gertrude Higgins

Alamo's second principal was Miss Gertrude Higgins, daughter of Dr. George H. Higgins, one of El Paso's pioneer families who came here in 1887. 76

76 Personal Interview with Miss Gertrude Higgins, January 9, 1951.

Miss Higgins, who attended Alamo as a pupil, went to Aoy as a teacher. In 1922 she came back to her Alma Mater
as principal until she retired in 1948.77

77 El Paso Times, Sunday, April 30, 1950, p. 17, c. 1-7

Miss Higgins had a radiant spiritual force within her. She worked so hard for and with the teachers to make Alamo the outstanding school in El Paso. She built up Alamo's library until it is one of the best and largest of the Elementary Schools. And she bought three or four pianos during her principalship, as well as many other educational aids.78

78 Personal Interview with Mrs. Lucile Dickerson, teacher at Alamo for eighteen years, February 11, 1951.

Miss Higgins believed in "extra-curricular" activities to help develop the child and she had lots of programs so that all the children had an opportunity to take part.

She still lives in El Paso and retains the love, respect, and esteem of those who know her.

Mr. Howard A. Aycock

In 1949, Mr. Howard A. Aycock became principal of Alamo School when Miss Gertrude Higgins retired.
He went to High School in Rochelle, Texas, then attended McMurry Academy and College, where he got his Bachelor of Arts degree. He received his Master of Arts degree from the University of Colorado.

Mr. Aycock began teaching at Central, Texas, where he served as grade school principal. For several years he remained there serving as principal and superintendent. Then, for four years, he was superintendent in Van Horn.

He has worked extensively with the Boy Scouts and has served as counselor at boys' camps.

He is a fishing enthusiast, is married and has two sons, Howard and Jimmy.

He thinks Alamo School is the best school in town, and that it has the most cooperative and the most enthusiastic P.T.A. in the city.79


It seems fitting that Mr. G. P. Putnam should be honored in Alamo's history, because, as Superintendent of El Paso Public Schools, he worked long and untiringly toward the building of Alamo School. "Professor" Putnam also brought honor and high recognition to El Paso Schools.
G. P. PUTNAM
Superintendent of Schools
1895-1908
The El Paso Times carried the following item:

Professor Putnam
Words of Praise from a University of Texas Professor.
Professor Taylor Says El Paso Supt. Is One of Those Who Lead the Entire State of Texas.

...Of all the High Schools in Texas whose students are permitted to enter the University without examinations, there are three that in my opinion lead all the rest, and El Paso is one of them.

My opinion is based on an actual survey of the ground, reinforced by your graduates here at the University.

Yours respectfully,

T. U. Taylor  
President of the Board of School Trustees, University of Texas

March 28, 1902

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The El Paso Times, April 6, 1902, p. 2. c. 2.

ALAMO'S STANDARDS

Motto

Do all the good you can,  
In all the ways you can,  
To all the people you can,  
In all the places you can,  
As long as ever you can.  

- John Westey's Rule
Colors

Alamo's colors are maroon and gray. They stand for:

- Loyalty
- Obedience
- Kindness
- Respect
- Ability to follow a leader
- Due consideration of others

Honesty
Scholarship
Cleanliness
Fair play
Good habits
Sportsmanship

The following poem is used as a guiding ideal:

You Can

Believe that you can--and you will not fail,
though great be the task begun
Believe that you can--though hard the trail,
and rugged the road you run.
Have faith in yourself, Just know you can
and you're simply bound to do;
And never a barrier, bar or ban can keep
you from carrying through.

Believe in your soul that you will succeed;
for as sure as you hold this thought,
You'll back your faith with the power of deed,
till the last hard fight is fought!
Aye, hold to that thought, and you'll do
your part in the way that it should be done.
Just start with a winner's confident heart,
and your battle is really won!

So go to it boy, and hit your stride,
at the crack of the starting gun,
And never falter or turn aside till
the whole long course is run.
You may not be brilliant, or clever, or smart;
You may not be fast of pace,
But if you have grit and a confident heart
You'll be there at the end of the race.
Alamo School Song

I
In our heart there is a feeling,
Alamo, Alamo,
When the sound comes gently stealing,
Alamo, Alamo,
As we hear it on the breeze,
Rustling through the leafy trees,
And the mellow tones are these,
Alamo, Alamo.

II
We pledge our loyalty to you,
Alamo, Alamo,
For you our heart beats ever true,
Alamo, Alamo
Hear, oh hear our joyous tears
For the happy, helpful years,
Full of joys and without fears,
Alamo, Alamo.

III
As we journey on through life,
Alamo, Alamo,
In our pleasures and our strife,
Alamo, Alamo,
We'll recall these happy days,
And in many different ways,
You will hear our endless praise,
Alamo, Alamo.

The words to the school song were written by one of
Alamo's students, Concepcion Salazar.
IV.

CONCLUSION

Alamo has always served the community creditably. This school is one of the oldest of the El Paso Schools. It has met the changing problems and educational conditions to maintain the high standards required by Superintendent A. H. Hughey in a most satisfactory manner.

Many of Alamo's former students are scattered over the world—some in far-away places, but many more are important business men and women of El Paso.

To Alamo's credit is the fact that the teachers have worked together so harmoniously that eight or ten teachers have continued to teach at Alamo School for years and years.

Alamo's new principal, Mr. Howard A. Aycock, is an enthusiastic educator. He is working to keep Alamo School ranking with the highest among other Elementary Schools, and to turn out students who are growing up in a well-balanced way. He and the teachers work unceasingly to accomplish this goal for Alamo School and our democratic way of life.
Alamo Forever

Alamo forever
We will sing to you
We'll defend your standards
In what e'er we do
Hail, Hail the gang's all here
Round thy colors gay
We'll stick together
For the maroon and gray.

Alamo forever
May we always be
Faithful, proud and loyal
In our love for thee
Hail, Hail the gang's all here
Round thy colors gay
We'll stick together
For the maroon and gray.
LOW FIRST GRADE STUDENTS

Mrs. Lucille Dickerson, Teacher

1946-47
Appendix

These items may add a little more color to Alamo's history:

The *El Paso Times* carried the following item:

**Claims Teacher Pulled Hair**

Alejandro Gomez, 8, yesterday exhibited to County Attorney David E. Mulcahy a hairless spot on his head, where he and his mother, Mrs. Soledad Gomez, 504 S. Virginia St. alleged his school teacher, Mrs. Eva Zumwalt, Alamo School, pulled his hair when he was late to school. Mrs. Zumwalt denied knowledge of the accident.\(^{81}\)

\(^{81}\) *El Paso Times*, May 2, 1936, 1.

Mrs. Zumwalt was acquitted for lack of sufficient evidence and conflicting testimony. \(^{82}\)

\(^{82}\) *El Paso Times*, May 6, 1936, p. 1, c. 6.

The first Girls Safety Patrol ever established in an El Paso Elementary School was set up at Alamo in 1927. \(^{83}\)


Several El Pasoans recalled the following incident about Miss Gallagher:
One day she did not get to school. Her home was called to inquire the reason for her absence. They were told that she had left for school, as usual.

After calling several places and being unable to locate her "a searching party was sent out." When they found Miss Gallagher she was still riding the street car, in righteous dignity!

It seems that the day before, there had been heavy rains, and "El Paso Streets were very muddy." The conductor had stopped to let Miss Gallagher off in "mud that was over her shoe tops." She refused to get off in the deep mud, and asked him to let her off at another place. The conductor refused to do that. Then, Miss Gallagher told him that she was going to ride until he let her off where she had asked to get off--and that she "would not pay him one cent more for fare." So she rode--until the searching party found her. 84

84 Personal Interview with Mrs. G. P. Putnam, wife of Superintendent Putnam, Thursday, February 8, 1951.

The following action of the School Board affected Alamo teachers: "On motion of Dr. F. W. Gallagher.....the Superintendent was instructed to request the lady-teachers,
as a precautionary measure against disease, not to wear dresses that touched the floor."  

85School Board Minutes, El Paso, Texas, September 5, 1900, p. 231.

When a circus or carnival came to town, it was the custom to give the school children a holiday during their stay in town. This custom was followed for years.  

86Ibid., January 6, 1902, p. 292.

A motion was made and unanimously carried that each pupil in the public schools of El Paso be required to provide himself with a drinking cup and requiring him to use same at all times while at school.  

87Ibid., August 3, 1908, pp. 110-111.

Mrs. F. W. Eagan was granted permission to establish a social center in one of the outer buildings at the Alamo School.  

88Ibid., July 11, 1916, "Special Meeting."
The Student Roll for 1899-1900, Alamo's first year follows:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>Percy McGhee</td>
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<td>Merced Garcia</td>
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Hubert Osburg  
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Leona Black  
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Vera Chenoweth  
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Medford Cole  
Edith Darcy  
Katie Murtha  
Enriqueta Owen  
Genevieve O'Meara  
Herminia Pedregon  
Lucille Pierce  
Carolina Provencio  
Edna Robinson  
Clara Rose  
Elsie Rue  
Ortensia Varela  
Margaret Lindsley  
Bessie Roe  
Blanch Robert  
Petra Smith  
Alpha Andrews  
Charley Kelly  
Isaac Klein  
Oree Landa  
Edward Lane  
George MacChesney  
Laurence Muller  
Raymond Murry  
Frank Nold  
Oscar Redmond  
Roy St. John  
John Schertz  
Henry Swearinger  
Joe Wadlington  
Gorge Wells  
Mae Faddis  
Annie Harper  
Etta Hitt  
Ida May Lansing  
Lizzie Myers  
Marie McGinnis  
Marion McClintock  
Virginia McKie  
Belle Gillespie  
Delfina Gonzales  
Florence Guerra  
Hazel Henderson  
Etta Heflin  
Leta Hunt  
Della Kiefer  
Fleta Kimber  
Beulah Malone  
Edith Millengton  
Estella Ochoa  
Edwin Andrews  
John Bryant  
Laltion Bunch  
Roy Clark  
Rae Clark  
Dwight Darcy  
Harry Erwin  
Earle Eccleston  
Clarence Fisher  
Thomas Heflin  
Julious Hawkins  
Freddie Hardiker  
Roy Hagan  
Fred Hunt  
Cerian Zwick  
Paul Bartles  
Harold Calback  
George Roberts  
Laura Armstrong  
Elizabeth Angerstein  
Petra Barela  
Tula Bryant  
Lena Baker  
Bessie Barrett  
Jessie Cameron  
Bell Clarkson  
Ossoli Davis  
Jessie Dutton  
Josie Goodwin  
Alice Goodrich  
Waldo Thorne  
Dona Roberts  
Katie Griffin  
Delor Broedersen  
Lewis Claire  
Willie Cooke
Margaret Marsh
Rosalind Patterson
May Pool
Leigh Rogers
Fannie Robinson
Myrtle Rice
Christina Schneider
Louise Swearingen
Stanley Good
Louis Herp
Eddie Hanway
Jack Held
Ray Hibbert
Claujd Jacqua
Ellis Kimber
Daniel Kelly
Willie Kendall
Solomon Mason
Charles McGowan
Frank McDermott
Forrest Major
Benjamin Maldonado
Charley Neil
Eddie Nix
Katie Jones
Bertha Kellar
Bessie Kilgore
Mollie Landa
Stella Lattner
Bessie Montague
Minerva Miller
Day March
Margaret Schertz
Lydia Schubert
Katie Smith
Leda Spivy
May Sayre
Charles Daniels
Henry Freeman
Gabriel Guerra
Bartlett Gillespie
James Gaskey
George Hibbert
Jesse Hitt
Joe Harold
Albert Jaqua
Herbert Johnson
Clifford Chenoweth
Allan Cole
Milton Cundiff
Lyndon Fruit
Herbert Fruit
Raymond Fisher
Julius Fichtner
Harry Gantt
Arthur Glenn
George Parker
John Pumphrey
Archie Shay
Henry Taylor
Irvin Watts
Everett Long
Carmen Aguirre
Grace Atherton
May Alger
Willie Altenbrugh
Celia Ball
Lula Bethea
Anna Davis
Mable Falcover
Mary Griffin
Pauline Held
Marie Jours
George Kendall
Louise Shryock
Carrie Schofield
Winnie Schofield
Alice Ward
Katie Werner
Jose Acuna
Charles Andrews
Adolfo Cairo
Walter Dehlinger
Paul Dehlinger
Arthur Donnelly
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Moses Landa
Howard Wellington
Jose Madrid
Unemecio Madrid
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Burton McKie
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<td>Hazel Lansing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emma Meyers</td>
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Some of the Faculties of the Second Ward School

September 5, 1899
Miss Maria J. Gallagher, Principal and Fifth Grade Teacher
Miss Katherine Gorbutt
Miss Lilly Cole
Miss Ida Lockhart
Miss Lonie Weaver

May 25, 1908
Miss Maria Gallagher, Principal
Miss Eleanor Humphries  Miss Mae Quarterman
Miss Nellie Witt  Miss Bertha Pool
Miss Eleanor Preston  Miss Lilla Thomas
Miss Elizabeth Howell  Miss Mamie Young
Miss Hallie Long  Miss Evelyn Boone
Miss Annie Grady  Miss Emily Giddings
Miss Ella Noonan

April, 1909
Miss Maria Gallagher, Principal
Miss Virginia Thomas  Miss Annie Grady
Miss Nellie Witt  Miss Ella Noonan
Miss Hallie Lang  Miss Mae Quarterman
Miss Sallie Walthall  Miss Bertha Pool
Miss Eleanor Preston  Miss Evelyn Boone
Miss Emily Gittings  Miss Mamie Young
Miss Elizabeth Howell  Miss Ella Thomas

June, 1917
Miss Maria Gallagher, Principal
Miss Eleanor Preston  Miss Kathleen Perkins
Miss Bertha Pool  Miss Alice Sneed
Miss Emily Giddings  Miss Loula Erwin
Miss Patsy Clark  Miss Mamie Young
Miss Nellie Witt  Miss Madge Steele
Miss Alice Wilson  Miss Evelyn Boone
Miss Annie Grady  Miss Lula Howell
Miss Ola Daniel  Miss Anne Trotter
Miss Aida Barnes  Miss Maud Neal
Miss Dorothy Gillespie  Miss Elizabeth Lucas
Miss Louisa Moon  Mrs. Bess Bomar
### Faculties of the Alamo School

#### 1925-26

**Miss Gertrude Higgins, Principal**

<table>
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<td>Stearns, Alice</td>
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#### 1926-27

**Miss Gertrude Higgins, Principal**

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<td>Chapman, Maggie</td>
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<td>Taff, Abby</td>
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<td>O'Neill, Susie</td>
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<td>Weghorst, Julia</td>
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#### 1927-28

**Miss Gertrude Higgins, Principal**

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<td>Ivey, Rosalie</td>
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#### 1929-30

**Miss Gertrude Higgins, Principal**

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1929-30 (Cont'd)
Zlabovsky, Vera
Leuty, Emma
Scarborough, Eugenia
Henderson, Jeannette
Hughes, Lucile
Cook, Frances
Rigdon, Dorothy
McCarty, Katie Mae
McKnight, Mary
Lyons, Velma
Burge, Mabel
Zumwalt, Eva
Shumate, Elizabeth
Galentine, Elma

Lefkovitz, Mildred
Stanfield, Dometra
Chapman, Maggie
Wells, Louise
Duty, Eddie Mae
Zlabovsky, Ada
Lane, Marguerite
Black, Louise
Amstater, Matilda
Ivey, Rosalie
Hammer, Mary
Goodman, Josephine
Rodehaver, Katherine
Rupkey, Gladys

1930-31
Miss Gertrude Higgins, Principal
Boone, Lucy
Hanson, Dorothy
Zlabovsky, Vera
Hughes, Lucile
Keays, Elizabeth
McCarty, Katie Mae
Light, Ellen
Haight, Louise
Scarborough, Eugenia
Zumwalt, Eva
Cook, Frances
David, Opal
Moore, Mary
Burge, Mabel
McKnight, Mary
Lyons, Velma
Goodman, Josephine
Henry, Hugh T., Jr.

Henderson, Jannette
Galentine, Elma
Shumate, Elizabeth
Sullivan, Caroline
Duty, Eddie Mae
Stanfield, Demetra
Foulkes, Dorothy
Lefkovitz, Mildred
Chapman, Maggie
Black, Louise
Guenter, Mabel
Wildstein, Ida
Amstater, Mathilde
Leuty, Emma
Wells, Louise
Lane, Marguerite
Wickerson, Ina
Rupkey, Gladys

1931-32
Miss Gertrude Higgins, Principal
Boone, Lucy
Hanson, Dorothy
Steele, Julia
Hughes, Lucile
Zlabovsky, Vera
Wildstein, Mildred
Morris, Dorothy
McCarty, Katie Mae
DeFeé, Lettie
David, Opal

Scarborough, Eugenia
Light, Ellen
Nay, Ruby
Aronstein, Margaret
Henderson, Permelia
Cook, Frances
Shumate, Elizabeth
Sullivan, Carolyn
McKnight, Mary
Dickenson, Helen

(Cont'd)
1931-32 (Cont'd)
Burge, Mabel
Zumwalt, Eva
Moore, Mary
Galentine, Elma
Lyons, Velma
Henderson, Jeannette
Elliott, Daisy
Black, Louise
Amstater, Mathilde
Lane, Marguerite
Leuty, Emma
Wells, Louise
Rupkey, Gladys

Stanfield, Demetra
Canday, Ada
O'Neill, Susie
Lefkovitz, Mildred
Chapman, Maggie
Duty, Eddie Mae
Wildstein, Ida
Nickerson, Ina
Goodman, Josephine
Davis, Charles W.
Diamond, Sadie
Fitch, Margaret

1932-33
Miss Gertrude Higgins, Principal
Boone, Lucy
Hanson, Dorothy
Hughes, Lucille
Yarbrough, Ida Lee
Zlabovsky, Vera
McIntyre, Jessie
Hamilton, Margaret
Dockray, Grace
Zumwalt, Eva Mae
David, Opal
Burge, Mabel
McGurn, Anna
Moore, Mary
Galentine, Elma
Lyons, Velma
Shumate, Elizabeth
Lefkovitz, Mildred
Chapman, Maggie
Henderson, Jeannette
Duty, Eddie Mae
Amstater, Mathilde
McDaniel, Pauline

Stanfield, Demetra
Steele, Julia
Wildstein, Mildred
Henderson, Permelia
Scarbrough, Eugenia
DeFee, Lettie
Hunter, Dorothy
Rosenblum, Bertha
Aronstein, Margaret
Dickenson, Helen
McKnight, Mary
Sullivan, Carolyn
Goodman, Josephine
Nay, Ruby
Elliott, Daisy
Rupkey, Gladys
Wells, Louise
Light, Ellen
Wildstein, Ida
Wilson, Mildred
Davis, Charles

1933-34
Miss Gertrude Higgins, Principal
West, Georgia
Steele, Julia
Hughes, Lucille
Duty, Eddie Mae
McGurn, Eva
Zlabovsky, Vera

Sullivan, Carolyn
Dickenson, Helen
Stanfield, Demetra
Nay, Ruby
Burge, Mable

(Cont'd)
1933-34 (Cont'd)
DeFee, Lettie
Dockray, Grace
Hamilton, Margaret
Aronstein, Margaret
Galentine, Elma
Lefkovitz, Mildred
Hunter, Dorothy
Moore, Mary
Light, Ellen
Elliott, Daisy
Lane, Marguerite

Henderson, Jeannette
Shumate, Eva
David, Opal
Lyons, Velma
Chapman, Maggie
Wilson, Mildred
Amstater, Mathilde
Black, Louise
Wildstein, Ida
Wells, Louise

1934-35
Miss Gertrude Higgins, Principal
Allen, Ruby Nay
Amstater, Mathilde
Burge, Mabel
Carson, Julia
Chapman, Maggie
David, Opal
DeFee, Lettie
Dickenson, Helen
Dockray, Grace
Duty, Eddie Mae
Elliott, Daisy
Frazier, Sarah
Galentine, Elma
Hamilton, Margaret
Henderson, Jeannette
Hughes, Lucile
Hunter, Dorothy

Lane, Marguerite
Lefkovitz, Mildred
Lyons, Velma
McGurn, Anna
Moore, Mary
Scarborough, Eugenia
Sharp, Addie Jo
Stanfield, Demetra
Sullivan, Carolyn
Waide, Roxye
Walton, Lucy
Wells, Louise
Wheeler, Helen
Wildstein, Ida
Wilson, Mildred
Zlabovsky, Vera
Zumwalt, Eva

1935-36
Miss Gertrude Higgins, Principal
Amstater, Mathilde
Barns, Marguerite
Burge, Mabel
Carson, Julia
Chapman, Maggie
Davis, Margaret
DeFee, Lettie
Dickinson, Helen
Dockray, Grace
Duty, Eddie Mae
Galentine, Elma
Gibb, Daisy
Hamilton, Margaret
Henderson, Jeannette

Levy, Frances
Lyons, Velma
McGurn, Anna
Moore, Mary
Patterson, Margaret
Smith, G. Knox
Sullivan, Carolyn
Teel, Lewis
Waide, Roxye
Walton, Lucy
Wells, Louise
Wheeler, Helen
Wilson, Mildred
Wingo, Mary

(Cont'd)
1935-36 (cont'd)
Hughes, Lucille
Hunter, Louise
Keelin, Cora
Lefkovitz, Mildred

1936-37
Miss Gertrude Higgins, Principal
Hughes, Lucille
Carson, Julia
Hornedo, Consuelo
Duty, Eddie Mae
Moore, Mary
Burge, Mabel
DeFee, Lettie
Henderson, Jeannette
Wingo, Mary
Woods, Dorothy
Redfield, Dorothy
Davis, Margaret
Clifford, Marjorie
Lyons, Velma
Sullivan, Carolyn
Wells, Louise
Wilson, Mildred

1937-38
Miss Gertrude Higgins, Principal
Dickerson, L.
West, B.
Zlabovsky, Vera
Duty, Eddie Mae
Breeding, N.
Dockray, Grace
Drake, H.
Burge, Mabel
Jones, Louise
Sullivan, Carolyn
Hornedo, Consuelo
Dickenson, Helen
Dodson, W.
Sanchez, F.

1938-39
Miss Gertrude Higgins, Principal
Lyons, Velma
Hornedo, Consuelo
Dickerson, Lucille

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1938-39 (Cont'd)

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1939-40

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1940-41

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(Cont'd)
1940-41 (Cont'd)
Sword, Lucille
Thomas, Dorothy
Van Trease, Ruth
Waide, Roxye
Wells, Louise

1941-42
Miss Gertrude Higgins, Principal
Harrlacker, Mary
Dickerson, Lucille
Zlabovsky, Vera
Watson, Wanda
Barlow, Emily
Duty, Eddie Mae
Jones, Louise
Dockray, Grace
Van Trease, Ruth
Bradon, Barbara
Burge, Mabel
Sword, Lucille
Wilson, Lorraine
Savage, Margaret
Sullivan, Carolyn
Wingo, Mary
Lyons, Velma
Willis, Florence
Wilson, Lorraine
Wilson, Mildred
Wingo, Mary
Zlabovsky, Vera

1942-43
Miss Gertrude Higgins, Principal
Barlow, Emily
Beall, Emily
Braden, Barbara
Bradshaw, Elizabeth
Burge, Mabel
Chapman, Maggie
Cummings, Alice
Dickenson, Helen
Dickerson, Lucille
Dickson, Margaret
Dockray, Grace
Duty, Eddie Mae
Galentine, Elma
Graves, Eva
Hungerford, Betty
Lyons, Velma
Pollitt, Florence
Rodriguez, Carmen
Shipman, Ruth
Spence, Mary
Sullivan, Carolyn
Sword, Lucille
Tyner, Frances
Van Trease, Ruth
Waide, Roxye
Watson, Lynne
Wells, Louise
Willbern, York
Wilson, Lorraine
Zlabovsky, Vera
Zumwalt, Eva

1943-44
Miss Gertrude Higgins, Principal
Emily Barlow
Ruth Boyt
Barbara, Braden
Elizabeth Bradshaw
Margaret Dickson
Grace Dockray
Eddie Mae Duty
Eva Graves

(Cont'd)
1943-44 (Cont'd)

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<td>Roberta Humphries</td>
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<td>Helen Dickenson</td>
<td>Carolyn Lowenstein</td>
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<td>Lucille Dickerson</td>
<td>James Lundy</td>
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<td>Velma Lyons</td>
<td>Roxye Waide</td>
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<td>Ruth Shipman</td>
<td>Louise Wells</td>
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<td>Lucille Sword</td>
<td>Vera Zlabovsk</td>
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<td>Ruth Van Trease</td>
<td>Eva Zumwalt</td>
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1944-45

Miss Gertrude Higgins, Principal  
Enrollment 999

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<tr>
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<td>Ruth Boyt</td>
<td>Rosemary Harris</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barbara Braden</td>
<td>Carolyn Lowenstein</td>
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<td>Maggie Chapman</td>
<td>Maude Sexton</td>
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<td>Anne Clark</td>
<td>Lessie Starkey</td>
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<td>Ruth Van Trease</td>
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<td>Dorothy Coleman</td>
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<td>Wilma Walls</td>
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<td>Louise Wells</td>
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<td>Grace Dockray</td>
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<td>Eddie Mae Duty</td>
<td>Mary Etta Wright</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carrie Ford</td>
<td>Vera Zlabovsk</td>
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1945-46

Miss Gertrude Higgins, Principal

<table>
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<tr>
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<td>Carolyn Lowenstein</td>
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<td>Helen Dickenson</td>
<td>Hazel MacLennan</td>
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<td>Ruth Van Trease</td>
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<td>Vera Zlabovsk</td>
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<td>Rosa York</td>
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1946-47

Miss Gertrude Higgins, Principal  
Enrollment 1050

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<td>Dee Heatly</td>
<td>Mrs. Carolyn Loewenstein</td>
<td>Mrs. Aleta Phelps</td>
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<td>Teresa Lyon</td>
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<td>Vera Zlabovsky</td>
<td>Mrs. Eva Graves</td>
<td>Mr. Armand Cuen</td>
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**1946-47**

Miss Gertrude Higgins, Principal
Mrs. Lula Brient
Mrs. Ruth Van Trease
Mrs. Alice Cummings
Miss Vera Zlabovsky
Miss Eddie Mae Duty
Mrs. Grace Dockray
Mrs. Lorraine Crawford
Mrs. Mabel Burge
Miss Dixie Boling
Mrs. Aleta Phelps

**1947-48**

Mr. Howard Aycock, Principal
Mrs. Nell Gramm
Mrs. Alice Cummings
Miss Vera Zlabovsky
Miss Aurelia Varela
Mrs. Ruth Van Trease
Miss Eddie Mae Duty
Miss Dorothea Peterson
Mrs. Grace Dockray
Miss Beverly Ann Hines
Mrs. Katherine Harris
Mrs. Faye Gracey

**1948-49**

Mr. Howard Aycock, Principal
Mrs. Ruth Van Trease
Mrs. Alice Cummings
Miss Carmen T. Carbone
Miss Vera Zlabovsky
Miss Aurelia Varela
Miss Eddie Mae Duty
Mrs. Grace D. Grimshaw
Mrs. Faye Gracey
Mrs. Maggie Chapman
Miss Louise Wells
Mrs. Roxye Waide

**1949-50**

Mr. Howard Aycock, Principal
Mrs. Ruth Van Trease
Mrs. Alice Cummings
Mrs. Carmen T. Carbone
Miss Vera Zlabovsky
Miss Aurelia Varela
Miss Eddie Mae Duty
Mrs. Grace D. Grimshaw
Mrs. Faye Gracey
Mrs. Maggie Chapman
Miss Louise Wells
Mrs. Roxye Waide

Enrollment 727
Enrollment 730
1950-51
Mr. Howard Aycock, Principal Enrollment 648
Mrs. Alice Cummings Miss Mary Johnson
Mrs. Ruth Van Trease Mrs. Stella Trambley
Miss Vera Zlabovsky Mrs. Consuelo Silva
Miss Aurelia Varela Miss Sallie Bell
Miss Eddie Mae Duty Mrs. Carolyn Lowenstein
Mrs. Grace Grimshaw Mrs. Maggie Chapman
Miss Alma Acevedo Mrs. Roxye Waide
Mrs. Faye Gracey Miss Louise Wells
Mrs. Aleta Phelps Mr. Joe Karr
Miss Gloria Armijo Miss Mirian Kahn
Mrs. Anne Barrett Mrs. Agnes Adams
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Mr. A. H. Hughey's Bulletins to Principals and Teachers, 1924-1925.
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Mr. Howard A. Aycock  
Miss Gertrude Higgins  
Mrs. G. P. Putnam  
Mrs. Lucille Dickerson  
Mrs. Roxye Lee Waide  
Miss Eddie Mae Duty  
Mrs. Elma G. Ramirez  
Mrs. Jeane M. Frank  
Mrs. Otto Norwald