History of Crocket School

Maude Maddox

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HISTORY OF CROCKETT SCHOOL

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El Paso, Texas
January, 1951
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I.

INTRODUCTION

Beginning of Crockett School

The first El Paso Public School supported by money assessed on taxable property was opened on March 5, 1883. Fifty-three children were enrolled on the first day and the attendance increased to one hundred in May.¹

¹El Paso Herald, Jubilee Number, May 12, 1923, p. 6-D.

As the population of the city increased so the school enrollment grew, and by the year 1915 the enrollment reached 9,696.²

²Records of the Administrative Office of the Public Schools of El Paso, Texas.

At this time a new addition in the city was showing much activity in the building of homes. This was in the northeastern part of the city and was known as Manhattan Heights. There was a definite need for an elementary school in this rapidly growing district. The School Board took steps to provide this section with educational facilities,
as shown by the Minutes of the Board of March 31, 1916.

Be it Moved: That the School Board buy a block of land in Manhattan Addition with the understanding that the School Board will pay down at least $3,200.00 for eight lots in said block, and that owners of said block enter into a written agreement to hold the balance of said block for a period of one year, at the same price.  

3School Board Minutes, El Paso, Texas, March 31, 1916.

At a special meeting of the Board May 1, 1916, a motion was made and unanimously carried to purchase block 12, Manhattan Heights Addition.  

4Ibid., May 1, 1916.

It is here in the 3200 block, Wheeling Street, that Crockett School is located. It occupies a unique vantage point at the top of a gradual slope. For about four blocks down this slope is beautiful Memorial Park. The panoramic view from this site is unsurpassed. To the north and west is a lovely view of Mt. Franklin. To the east are Fort Bliss and the Municipal Airport. To the south are the Lower Valley, a part of the City of El Paso, and Juarez, our neighboring city across the Rio Grande.

Although the ground was obtained in May, 1916 it was not until December 16, 1919, that the School Board voted unanimously to designate Messrs. Beutell and Hardie the architects for the new building.  

5Ibid., December 16, 1919.
The Board at a regular meeting transacted the following business:

Moved and carried that, if the Finance Committee, after investigation believe the funds of the Board sufficient, the contracts for Manhattan Heights School be awarded as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contract Type</th>
<th>Contractor</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>R. E. McKee</td>
<td>$105,950.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plumbing</td>
<td>James Brennan</td>
<td>8,830.00</td>
</tr>
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<td>3,580.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each contractor to furnish satisfactory bond.6

6Ibid., March 16, 1920

At a regular meeting of the School Board, Mr. Hughey, who had become Superintendent of Public Schools of El Paso in 1919, reported the Manhattan building almost ready for occupancy. He requested permission to move in gradually as various floors were made ready if the contractor was entirely willing to have the building used. However, he said such occupancy would not mean an acceptance of the building.7

7Ibid., October 19, 1920.

The doors of Crockett School were opened for the first time on November 29, 1920. At this time the school was called Manhattan Heights School. Its first principal was Miss Alice Fitzpatrick, who for years had been principal of Lamar School.
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INTRODUCTION

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The doors of Crockett School were opened for the first time on November 29, 1920. At this time the school was called Manhattan Heights School. Its first principal was Miss Alice Fitzpatrick, who for years had been principal of Lamar School.
When the new building was opened only part of its rooms were ready for occupancy. The building, which is now only the front section, was rectangular in form and made of buff brick.

The El Paso Herald carried the following item:

The new Manhattan Heights School opened with an enrollment of 360 pupils and a teaching staff of 8 instructors.

Classes in the kindergarten and first six grades being conducted in the finished rooms of the school and as soon as the second floor of the building is completed, additional classes will be started.

The congested conditions of the Grandview, Highland Park, and Alta Vista Schools have been greatly relieved by the opening of the new school.8


The summer following the opening of the Manhattan School the Board planned additional classrooms and an auditorium to the building. At a meeting of the Board on March 21, 1922, a motion was made and carried to build the addition.9

9School Board Minutes, El Paso, Texas, March 21, 1922.

When school opened September 1921, Mr. Walker served as principal, since Miss Fitzpatrick had married at the end of the first year and resigned. During this year the school was a Junior High.
At a special meeting of the School Board the following resolution proposed by Judge Isaacks was passed:

Resolved that the new schools under construction and to be constructed, as well as the schools already built that are not named for some El Pasoan or Texan, or for some place cherished in the memory of Texas people, be named for some Texas hero, statesman or jurist......

That the school in Manhattan Heights be named to commemorate the life and death of David Crockett, one of the heroes of the Alamo, who gave his life that Texas might be free.10

10Ibid., May 8, 1922.

It is only fitting that something be inserted here about the man so honored.

On the 17th of August, 1786 in a cabin in Rogersville, Tennessee, a son was born to John and Rebecca Crockett, their fifth son. He was named for his grandfather, David, and he became the famous Davey Crockett of American history and legend.11


David Crockett was reared in the backwoods and suffered many hardships. He had very little formal education. In his seventeenth year he arranged with a Quaker's son, who kept a school, to work for him two days in the week for board and tuition and go to school the other four days. This plan was followed for six months.

"In this time," says Davey, "I learned to read a little in my primer, to write my own name, and to cipher some
in the first rules of figures. And this was all the schooling I ever had in my life."

David Crockett did some farming, a great deal of hunting, and moving from place to place. The move always was farther into the wilderness. In one particularly wild section he was made colonel of a regiment of militia. A few months later he was elected magistrate as well.

"This will be a hard business for me," he told those who urged him to take office. But he practiced handwriting and, though it was slow work, he made progress. It was at this time that he began to inscribe a motto at the end of the documents. "Be always sure you're right, then go ahead."

He was elected to the legislature twice and in 1827 was sent to the United States Congress from Tennessee.

"Make room for Colonel Crockett!", said the usher at the White House one evening when the famous Congressman from the backwoods presented himself with a number of other callers.

"Colonel Crockett makes room for himself!", was the exclamation of the Member as he strode into the room.
The incident is typical of the man. Gifted by nature with an exhaustless fund of humor, trained not in the school of books, but in the severer one of experience, he exhibited true manliness, honesty and bravery in all his words and actions. Rough and uncultured though he was, his career contains much that is commendable and worthy of imitation. Of no man can it more truly be said that he preferred being right to being President.\footnote{Ellis, Edward S., The Life of Colonel David Crockett, Philadelphia: Porter and Coates, 1884, p. 1.}

When Stephen F. Austin issued an appeal for volunteers in the cause of the Texas Republic in 1835, Crockett made a quick decision to join the Texans. He presented himself to Colonel Travis in the Alamo and is credited with bravely defending the fort until his death.

Children who returned to the Manhattan School in September 1922 found not only a new name, but a new auditorium, eight new class rooms and a new principal to delight them. The new name was Crockett and the new principal W. O. DeWees.\footnote{El Paso Herald, September 7, 1922, p. 4.}

At the beginning of the school year in 1922 we read in the \textit{El Paso Times}:  

Attendance at Crockett, formerly Manhattan Heights School, W. O. DeWees principal, slumped from last year's total of 785 to 486. This decrease is due school authorities say to the fact that last year Crockett accommodated eight grades,
while this year only six grades are taught at the school. The crowded condition of the school last year is relieved by the Austin Junior High School building opened for the first time this year.16


Mr. DeWees served as principal for one term, being succeeded by Mr. Berry Cobb.

In 1923 Miss Alicia Swann became principal and served until her retirement in the spring of 1948. Miss Mabel Keeney is the principal at the present time.
II.

PHYSICAL PLANT

The Building

When the eight new classrooms and the auditorium were added to the original twenty-two rooms, they were built around a patio.

This patio is truly a show place. English ivy clings to its walls, making a lovely frame for the classroom windows which look out into this inner court. There are evergreens, shrubs with bright berries, flowers and grass. Stone benches and a bird bath certainly add to its beauty. It makes a picturesque and unusual setting for the tea which the P.T.A. gives in the fall. The children looking from the windows appreciate its beauty, and art classes sketch there, trying to reproduce something of its loveliness.

Over the main entrance of the building there are five terra cotta shields. In designing these shields the architects had in mind the symbolizing of some of the good qualities and ideals that everyone should strive for, and they chose the emblems for this purpose.
Starting with the shield at the left of the main entrance, the Roman battle ax with staves is used to signify courage. The old Romans were noted for making the bravest soldiers; and, because they were such good soldiers, they conquered the whole world. To die in battle for his country was the greatest thing a Roman soldier could do. To stand up for what is right in the face of ridicule and to play the game fair even when we are losing are two ways of showing courage.

The open book with the rising sun above it on the next shield represents learning or enlightenment. It has not been so very many years that an education was to be gotten by any but children of the wealthy. The poor boy had to struggle along the best he could without the advantage of any schooling. Most of us are familiar with the picture of Abraham Lincoln stretched on the floor before the wood fire with an open book lying in front of him. He had to study late at night after a hard day's work on the farm. Learning is to the mind what sunlight is to the body. It gives strength and enjoyment.

The fleur de lis on the checkered background in the center is used to represent loyalty. Life is sometimes called a game, and the lily of France suggests loyalty in the game of life—loyalty to one's self first and then loyalty to school, parents, country and God. One way to show loyalty to the school is to take good care of the building, never marking on its walls or damaging it in any way.

The cog-wheel on the next shield signifies industry. In this day and time when almost everything is done by machinery the cog-wheel is indispensable to industry. Industry is the opposite of idleness, and the boy who is industrious in the classroom as well as at home is the one who will succeed in later life.

The shield at the right with the single star and the diagonal strip stands for endeavor of high ideals. As the star is high in the heavens, our aim in life should be high. We should strive to be generous, kind, clean, and honest. By trying to follow the example of great men and women who have gone before us we can make our own lives nobler.17

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17Examination by Bradford Hardie, Jr., Architect, (filed in Crockett School).
Over the side and rear entrances there is a sixth shield. These shields show the football, which represents physical training, and the Greek lamp, which signifies learning. This combination indicates that the building of physical health and good sportsmanship go hand in hand with knowledge.

Sketches of these emblems are on the following page.
SHIELDS ON THE CROCKETT SCHOOL ENTRANCE

Beutell and Hardie - Architects
In memory of Crockett's gallant boys and girls who served in the armed forces of our country, Crockett placed a memorial window around the front entrance of the building. The window is made up of twenty-five sections. Medallions, showing the insignia of different branches of the service and pictures depicting men and women who answered the call of their country, are made of beautiful colored glass. "We live in the lives of those we love; we do not die," is the inscription in the center medallion, a tribute to the boys and girls who gave their lives that we might enjoy the democratic way of life.

The El Paso Herald Post gave the following account of the dedication of this memorial window:

A. H. Hughey, Superintendent of El Paso Schools, today dedicated the memorial window at Crockett School.

The service, which was held in the school auditorium, honored men and women in the armed forces who attended Crockett.

Pledge of allegiance to the flag opened the ceremony. Students sang "The Star Spangled Banner" and "Faith of Our Fathers".

Following the dedication by Mr. Hughey, students sang "Onward Christian Soldiers", "V for Victory", "When Johnny Comes Marching Home", and "America the Beautiful".

Students, teachers, parents, and guests marched to the outside front entrance. Facing the huge stained glass memorial window over the entrance, they sang "God Bless America".

Miss Thalia Gillett, music department head at Crockett, was in charge of singing.
The program was arranged by Miss Swann, principal of Crockett.

The memorial window is made up of 25 sections and 30 medallions (circular glass pieces).

Miss Swann conceived the idea for the memorial. Ralph Baker of the Baker Glass Co. helped in designing and constructing it.

Library fees, proceeds from programs presented at the school, cafeteria surplus money and a contribution by R. E. McKee made up the purchase price. Miss Swann has been saving for the fund since Pearl Harbor was attacked.\(^{18}\)

The next year after Crockett opened every effort was put forth to get a cafeteria and on November 28, hot lunches were served for the first time in the domestic science department.

Quoting from the School Paper:

Mrs. Brown runs Crockett's cafeteria. She is the new manager. Everything is clean. They have good cooks and good things to eat.

The price of things:

- Sandwiches: 5¢
- Soup: 5¢
- Peas: 5¢
- Cookies: 5¢
- Potatoes: 5¢
- Chili: 5¢
- Cones: 5¢
- Price's milk: 5¢

They have only things that are good for children and teachers.\(^{19}\)


\(^{19}\)Crockett Sun, October 20, 1925, p. 2.
A cafeteria report states that the Crockett School Cafeteria earned $567.02 already this year. $313.23 was spent for library books, $139.98 for slides, and the rest was spent for assembly books, a curtain and a mirror for the sewing room, and a victrola.\(^{20}\)

\(^{20}\)Ibid., February 15, 1926, p. 2.

A few years later a partition between two rooms in the basement was removed and a modern cafeteria was installed.

All the classrooms are well equipped to make learning attractive, interesting and valuable.

The library is unusual in its scope of materials for the elementary school.

The art and music rooms are attractive and are provided with everything necessary for the teaching of these subjects.

This past year the whole interior of the building has had new paint. There are soft colors in green, pink, blue and yellow. These pretty colors make an attractive background for the display of school work and create a pleasant atmosphere for the children in their learning process.
The Grounds

The location of the school being close to Mt. Franklin means that there were lots of rocks and sand on the playground.

At a meeting of the School Board, Mr. Walter E. Stockwell discussed with the Board plans being developed under Mr. Kessler and the City Planning Commission for civic improvement, where such projects affected the schools. Drawings were shown for developing the school grounds and the vicinity of Crockett School. The engineers proposed changes in streets and railway tracks that benefited the school.21

21School Board Minutes, El Paso, Texas, November 21, 1922.

An article in the school paper states:

Crockett School wishes to thank Alderman Poe for his assistance in improving our playgrounds. This work was made possible by our P.T.A. and was paid for by money made at the Hallowe'en party.22

22Crockett Sun, Thanksgiving No., 1927, p. 2.

The children did much to help improve and beautify the grounds. They spent many hours picking up rocks. Many a pair of shoes were worn out before the rocks were carried away.
Arbor Day each class planted a tree, as told in the Crockett Sun:

In the afternoon of February 22, each room in Crockett had a tree planting program. Chinese elm trees and Arizona ash trees were planted which are to take the place of the cottonwoods that were about to die.

We are indebted to Mr. Hugo Meyer, who gave us the elm trees, and Crockett wishes to thank him for them. We hope they will grow well and add beauty to Crockett for many years to come.²³


A student wrote a "thank you" note to the P.T.A. as follows:

We have to thank Crockett P.T.A. for another great improvement on the grounds of Crockett. They have installed a sprinkling system which will keep the terrace green all summer. . . . . .

Let us try to show our appreciation and do our little bit by keeping the grounds clean.²⁴

²⁴Ibid., April 30, 1931, p. 3.

The following poem was written by Dorothy Guynes, a student in the sixth grade.

Crockett's Grounds

Have you ever thought as you looked around, On the city's most beautiful school playground, That here indeed on every side, is something We can view with pride.
For out of the desert's waste and sand,
Has risen a campus, large and grand,
It is our thought and one ambition,
To keep this school in perfect condition.

On cool green grass, by a shady tree,
Is not a place to park debris.
So when you have the urge to throw,
Your paper where the wind will blow,
Please keep this one thought in your head,
To throw them in the garbage instead.
Then you can say to yourself aloud,
"This is my school, of which I'm proud."
III.

HUMAN RELATIONSHIP AND CONTACTS

P. T. A.

The Parent Teacher Association was organized February 25, 1921. It has been a very active organization from its inception. Through the years it has helped make Crockett School a more beautiful and pleasant place for children and teachers.

One of its outstanding projects of the year is the annual Hallowe'en Carnival. This not only provides entertainment for both children and parents, but funds which are used for the school's benefit.

The organization has worked tirelessly for the betterment of the school.

A student writes in the Crockett Sun:

An Appreciation

Since the organization of the Crockett Parent Teacher Association in 1921, Mrs. O. H. Palm has been a most devoted worker for its success. She was the first president of the association and has taken an active part in all of Crockett's activities. The success of our Hallowe'en Carnival was due largely to Mrs. Palm, who planned and had charge of the last three carnivals. All of Crockett knows Mrs. Palm and is grateful to her for always backing
us. We are sorry that none of her children will be in Crockett after this year but we hope she will always remember us as we will remember her.\(^{25}\)

\(^{25}\)Crockett Sun, November 8, 1928, p. 1.

The following presidents have served the Crockett P. T. A.:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>President</th>
<th>Term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. O. H. Palm</td>
<td>1921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. George Brunner</td>
<td>1921-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. E. C. Wade</td>
<td>1922-23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. George Evans</td>
<td>1923-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Victor Anderson</td>
<td>1924-25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Charles Leavell</td>
<td>1925-26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. John Clary</td>
<td>1926-27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Hugo Meyer</td>
<td>1927-29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. W. E. Casteel</td>
<td>1929-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. George Turner</td>
<td>1931-33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. E. W. Wotipka</td>
<td>1933-35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. R. A. Nelson</td>
<td>1935-36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. M. L. Burleson</td>
<td>1936-37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Tom Davis</td>
<td>1937-38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. H. S. Lide</td>
<td>1938-39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. J. H. Jagoe</td>
<td>1939-41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. R. P. Langford</td>
<td>1941-42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. J. J. Kaster, Jr.</td>
<td>1942-43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Don Thompson</td>
<td>1943-44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Carl Hertzog</td>
<td>1944-45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. J. Leighton Green, Jr.</td>
<td>1945-46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. R. B. Homan, Jr.</td>
<td>1946-47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Robert H. Hoy</td>
<td>1947-48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. R. Neill Walshe</td>
<td>1948-49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. T. S. Curry, Jr.</td>
<td>1949-50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The School Paper

The Crockett Sun, a student newspaper, was started by the high fourth grade in October, 1925. It became so popular and useful that it was continued regularly for several years. The upper grade students soon took over
the editing of the paper.

Many quotes have already been taken from the paper, but the following tend to show something of the life in Crockett:

Radio Heard in Crockett School

Miss Coffin brought her radio to school on the ninth. She set it up in her room. Miss Swann let all the children that had never heard a radio go and hear it. Later she let the others go and hear the report of the baseball game. Every child in the building heard the radio for five minutes.26

26Crockett Sun, October 20, 1925, p. 2.

Miss Swann had the thirty-nine pictures bought with the money made in the Art Exhibit hung in the hall by the art room. Mrs. Jackman's class went to see the pictures.27

27Ibid., January 21, 1926, p. 2.

Friday, March 19, 1926, we went in the auditorium. There we were surprised to see two new plaster casts, one on each side of the stage. On the right hand side is the "Spirit of 1917" and on the left is the "Spirit of 1776". They Each cost $66. Each cast is 48 inches wide and 62 inches long.28


Every room in Crockett was 100% in Red Cross memberships. This is the standard that Crockett has always reached, and we are glad that she is keeping up her standard again this year.29
Thursday is stamp day in Crockett. Since the 27th day of January the children have purchased $2,584.35 worth of stamps to aid our country.

Curriculum

Crockett has always kept up with the phases of work in curricular and extra-curricular activities.

The students of Crockett have measured very favorably with those from other schools. The basal subjects have always received necessary emphasis. Aides to teaching these subjects are adequate and even more so.

Art and music have been fitted into the program, even during the stress of depression days.

Physical Education has been stressed, and the different teams have won many honors for the school. A display case in the front hall is filled with trophies which testify to this.

In May of each year every child in Crockett takes part in a demonstration put on by this department. The setting for this program is ideal. It takes place in the
street directly in front of the building. This is a dead-end street and little used except by school patrons. On the following page there is a typical Physical Education Demonstration Program.
PHYSICAL TRAINING DEMONSTRATION
CROCKETT SCHOOL

Friday, May 14, 1926, 5:30 P. M.

1. May Day Exercise .................. Low First
2. Squirrel and Tree .................. High Third
3. I See You .......................... Low Second
4. Ribbon Relay......................... Low Fifth
5. The May Basket ...................... Kindergarten
6. Spoke Tag Relay ..................... Fourth Grades
7. (a) Hey Little Lassie
    (b) Swiss May Dance .................. Low First and High First
8. Wand Drill .......................... Low Fifth and High Fifth
9. Kinderpolka .......................... High Second
10. (a) Seven Jumps
    (b) Irish Lilt ......................... Folk Dance Class
11. An Indian Fiesta .................... Low Third and High Third
12. Dumbbell Drill ..................... Sixth and Seventh
13. May Pole
    High Fifth
War Activities in Crockett School

During the war years many impressive flag-raising ceremonies were held in front of the building. Children had a keener respect for the flag, a deeper appreciation of the democratic way of life and a better understanding of the true American spirit.

War work and war activities consumed the greater part of Crockett's time and effort. The slogan "A Jeep a Week for Crockett" was adopted and fulfilled.

Crockett was the first school in El Paso to be privileged to fly the Schools at War Minute Man Flag showing that at least 90% of the student body regularly bought war stamps and bonds.

Mr. Harry Owens, field director of the Texas War Finance Committee at Dallas in a letter to Miss Swann wrote:

Your school is entitled to fly the Schools at War Minute Man Flag, and this is your authority to purchase and fly this flag during every month that your school continues to maintain this fine record.

Crockett School is entitled to a citation as well as the authority to purchase and fly the Minute Man School at War Flag. These citations are due to be sent to this office by December first, and please be assured that one will be inscribed with the name of your school and sent to you as soon as they are received.31

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31 Letter from Harry Owens, October 23, 1943 (filed in Crockett School).
In an impressive ceremony Mr. R. E. Sherman presented the flag to Crockett.

Parents and teachers cooperated in issuing War Ration Books and Gasoline Rationing Books.

Children donated toys for the Mesa Terrace Housing Project Toy Exchange.

Through the work of the Junior Red Cross, the pupils made and donated hundreds of Hallowe'en, Christmas and Easter favors. These were sent to hospitals, some going to William Beaumont Army Hospital.

Paper became a war scarcity. Children not only economized on new paper, but collected books, magazines and paper of all kinds. Great piles were collected in the patio and sold for a total of $245.00.

Thousands of buttons were collected on "Button Day" and grease was collected regularly one day a week.

The metal scrap drive was a huge success. Children were dismissed at noon to go home and collect scrap and bring it back to the school grounds. The pile grew to an unbelievable size and it took several trucks to carry it away.

European refugees were in need of clothing. Crockett did her part by collecting four truck loads for the United Nations Clothing Drive, and one truck load for Russia. Many calls were made for Russian Relief and Crockett donated more money and more boxes filled with supplies than
any other school in the city.

In the early Spring of 1947 the War Department brought to Fort Bliss a number of German scientists to work on rocket research. Their children were placed in Crockett. They were given a ten weeks preparatory course in the summer. English was taught with the aid of pictures, songs, and rhymes. No interpreter was used.

There were many problems to face. How would the American children receive them? How would the parents react? Would there be unpleasant incidents?

The Rocky Mountain Empire Magazine carried the following:

The following September when school opened Miss Swann awaited the arrival of the children with bated breath. One question was uppermost in her mind. Would they mix with the American children? ... Bill, James, John, Mary--from El Paso. Juan, Maria, Consuelo, Jesus--from Juarez in Old Mexico. And now here, from Germany, were Helga, Ingebord, Klaus, Rolf.

In a week's time, Miss Swann's faith in children knew new heights. She watched them in the schoolroom and at play. There were no class barriers, and the language barrier was rapidly disappearing. Here was real true democracy carried on in a natural free manner.32


The progress of these children was truly remarkable. There was no doubt that they were eager to learn and very happy in doing so.
A Memorial Fund

On January 20, 1944, a tragedy came to Crockett. As three teachers were on their way home from school, their car was struck by an Army truck. This accident took the life of Miss Sybil Shedd and caused the serious injury of the other two. Miss Shedd was the only teacher on the Crockett faculty who was there when school opened in 1920. A beautiful memorial service was held for her by the teachers and student body.

Mrs. I. A. Shedd created a memorial fund in her daughter's memory. In a letter to Miss Swann she wrote:

I am writing you to ask if I can have a Sybil Shedd scholarship of $100 per year, $50 in January and $50 in May for the outstanding pupil in the graduating class that started school with Sybil?

Beginning this year and continuing until Sybil's last class of 1943 graduates, I would like to put a fund in the State National Bank to be used for each year's outstanding pupil in scholarship, good citizenship and loyalty to our Flag.

Have you any suggestions to offer and do you think as I do that it may be an incentive to good work among the pupils who learned their first lessons in these fundamentals from Miss Shedd? I believe Crockett can help me fulfil those fascinating written words of Sybil's: "We live in the lives of those we love, we do not die." 33

33 Letter from Mrs. I. A. Shedd, July 27, 1944 (filed in Crockett School).

The teachers, with the help of Miss Swann, chose the outstanding student in each class according to the wishes
of Mrs. Shedd.

The following were chosen:

- Jackie Bramble  January 9, 1945
- Jean McGregor  May 26, 1945
- Jack Prather  January 18, 1946
- Martha Ann McNutt  May 24, 1946
- Patricia Spires  January 17, 1947
- Nancy Sue Miles  May 30, 1947
- Eulaie Williams  January 23, 1948
- John Satterfield  May 28, 1948
- Carolyn E. Gumper  January 21, 1949
- David Green  May 28, 1949
- Fred Nations  January 23, 1950
- Tommy Hoy  May 26, 1950

Crockett's Standards

Motto

"Each for the Other and All for Crockett."

A student explains the motto:

"Each for the Other and All for Crockett."

This simply means cooperation. Every person in
the school should try to help the other pupils
and teachers. If everyone works together the
school will be a better one and we will all do
dbetter work.34

34 Crockett Sun, September 13, 1929.

Colors

Crockett's colors are gold and white. Their symbolism
is beautiful, for the gold stands for success and the white
for honor and purity. The colors convey this message: May
you achieve the success which is golden with the honor which
is white. The challenge of the gold and white is "Success
achieved with honor."
Emblem

The last shield on the right above Crockett's front entrance was chosen as the school emblem. It has a single star above a diagonal band.

A student writes:

We have chosen this shield for our "Achievement Emblem" for playground work. It is made in yellow and white, our school colors. It means that we should aim as high as the stars.35


Crockett School Song

There's a grand old school in Texas
That's very dear to us all.
She stands for all that's noble,
We must list to her call.
She teaches us the wisdom,
We need to make our learning whole
With her to guide our footsteps,
We are sure to reach the goal.

This dear old school is Crockett
Hailing her symbol we stand,
And feel with all our hearts
That she's the best in the land.
We love our dear old Crockett
And feel that she's the best,
She's truly like her namesake
And will nobly stand the test.

The words to the school song were written by a student, Christine Nelson. It is sung to the tune of "The Long Long Trail."
IV.

CONCLUSION

Although Crockett is not one of the oldest El Paso Schools, enviable records in both academic and extra-curricular subjects have been made.

Crockett has a definite place in El Paso, and especially in the district it serves. It has met and always will meet its obligations.

Many of its former students are now scattered over the world in far-away places, but many others are important business men and women of El Paso.

The history of Crockett would not be complete without a few words about Miss Alicia Swann, who served faithfully as principal from 1923 to 1948.

She worked tirelessly for Crockett School and for the welfare of the whole district which it serves. The school and its needs came first in her life and she gave unselfishly of her time. When school was over for the day, children and teachers leaving, she was always there to bid them goodbye. She would say, "Now my work begins."

It was remarkable how she knew all the children by name—not only their names, but also their backgrounds. She probably knows as many people, both young and old, by name as anyone in El Paso.
Emblem

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\begin{flushright}
\textsuperscript{35}Ibid., May 27, 1927, p. 1.
\end{flushright}

Crockett School Song

There's a grand old school in Texas
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It was remarkable how she knew all the children by name—not only their names, but also their backgrounds. She probably knows as many people, both young and old, by name as anyone in El Paso.
When Crockett was represented in any contest, Miss Swann was right there to congratulate the winner or console the loser.

The building and grounds stand as a real testimony to her artistic planning and hard work to make them attractive and comfortable.

In 1923 the building had the barest necessities for teaching school and almost no special equipment or decorations. Now there are many copies of famous paintings and sculptures; many devices to make learning interesting and impressive.

The grounds are well surfaced and surrounded by grass terraces and trees. Playground equipment is plentiful.

Miss Swann was always eager to improve the school conditions for both children and teachers and worked unceasingly to accomplish this task.
APPENDIX

FACULTIES OF MANHATTAN SCHOOL

November 20, 1920
  Alice Fitzpatrick, Principal
  Sybil Shedd           I. Smith
  Arsinia Gribble       W. R. Welch
  Eva Stapleton         Lotet McCulloch

September 6, 1921
  E. T. Walker, Principal
  Sybil Shedd
  Sylvia Rivers
  Arsinia Gribble
  Rowena Bridgers
  Lillian Reid
  Virginia Kirkpatrick
  Emma Ligon
  A. Lovelady
  M. A. Babcock
  S. B. Jones
  Lelia Tiller
  Lucy Walton
  L. M. Lawrence

FACULTIES OF CROCKETT SCHOOL

September 7, 1922
  W. O. DeWees, Principal
  Sybil Shedd
  Sylvia Rivers
  Maude Denney
  Arsinia Gribble
  Edda O. Thompson
  Elizabeth Spence
  Grace Shannon
  Estelle Redding
  Lelia Tiller
  G. Chandler
  Selma Stamper
  D. Stanfield
  Agnes Sackett
  Virginia Kirkpatrick
  May Jackman

  Mamie Craddock
  Lillian Reid
  S. B. Jones
  M. Donovan
  P. Frankenfield
  K. L. Jones
  D. McCue
  W. S. Valentine
  M. Moore
  Aline Moody
  Aline Humphreys
  Lucy Walton
  May Leech
  Annie Powell
September 6, 1923
Alicia Swann, Principal
Sybil Shedd
Amelia Harper
Arsinia Gribble
Maude Denney
Lottie Smith
Della Kiefer
Marguerite Iverson
Grace Shannon
G. Chandler
Selma Stamper
A. Groseclose
Agnes Sackett
Mamie Craddock

May Jackman
S. B. Jones
Lillian Reid
D. McCue
Lucy Walton
Clyde Duncan
Sallie Phillips
Maude Maddox
A. Powell
Erline Sadler
W. S. Valentine
Mary A. Coffin

September 9, 1924
Alicia Swann, Principal
Sybil Shedd
Amelia Harper
Arsinia Gribble
Maude Denney
Lottie Smith
Della Kiefer
Grace Shannon
Marguerite Iverson
Selma Stamper
A. Groseclose
Erline Sadler
Agnes Sackett
May Jackman
S. B. Jones
Mamie Craddock
Minnie Clifton
Gertrude Balmar
Lucy Walton
Maude Maddox
Clyde Duncan
Sallie Phillips
C. Carter
H. W. Casson
Mary A. Coffin
Estelle Safford
Olive E. Laurie
Ruby Cole
Maude Pritchard

September 9, 1925
Alicia Swann, Principal
Sybil Shedd
Frances Palmer
Maude Denney
Arsinia Gribble
Lottie Smith
Marguerite Iverson
Grace Shannon
Ruby Cole
Amelia Harper
A. Groseclose
Della Kiefer
Agnes Sackett
Selma Stamper
S. B. Jones
May Jackman
Mabel Gray
Lee Walton
Gertrude Belmar
Willie H. Herbert
Lucy Walton
Minnie Clifton
Clyde Duncan
Sallie Phillips
Maude Maddox
Olive E. Laurie
Mary A. Coffin
Elizabeth Watson
Winnie Brown
Maurine Mark
Lola Brown
September 2, 1926
Alicia Swann, Principal
Sybil Shedd
Sadie Palmer
Maude Denney
Arsinia Gribble
Ruby Cole
Lottie Smith
Grace Shannon
Sybil Johnson
Selma Stamper
Sally Hardy
Agnes Sackett
Hallie Irvin
S. B. Jones
Amelia Wyler
May Jackman
Marguerite Iverson

Mamie Craddock
Gertrude Belmar
Mabel Gray
Eleanor Thaxton
Willie H. Herbert
Della Kiefer
Minnie Clifton
Margaret Harper
Maude Maddox
Sallie Phillips
Thalia Gillett
Olive E. Laurie
Winnie Brown
Naomi Blocksom
M. L. Buchanan
Lois Masten

September 7, 1927
Alicia Swann, Principal
Frances Palmer
Sybil Shedd
Maude Denney
Arsinia Gribble
Ruby Cole
Lucile Dodson
Lottie Smith
Sybil Johnson
Grace Shannon
Marguerite Iverson
Naomi Blocksom
Agnes Sackett
Hallie Irvin
Selma Stamper
May Jackman
Winnie Brown
H. R. Babcock

Virginia Hardy
Mamie Craddock
Eleanor Thaxton
Della Kiefer
Lucy Walton
Mabel Gray
Maude Maddox
M. L. Buchanan
Margaret Harper
Lee Walton
Sallie Phillips
Minnie Clifton
Marian McClintock
Olive E. Laurie
Thalia Gillett
Lois Masten

September 5, 1928
Alicia Swann, Principal
Marian McClintock
Aileen Haley
Maude Denney
Arsinia Gribble
Lucile Dodson
Vilo Williams
Isola Lawry
Lottie Smith
Ruby Cole
Anita McGregor
Naomi Blocksom
Marguerite Iverson
Freda Powell
Hallie Irvin
Selma Stamper
May Jackman

Eleanor Thaxton
Mamie Craddock
Mabel Gray
Lucy Walton
M. L. Buchanan
Maude Maddox
Margaret Harper
Lee Walton
Sallie Phillips
Minnie Clifton
Olive E. Laurie
Marguerite Blocksom
Thalia Gillett
Winnie Brown
F. R. Tapper
Della Kiefer
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September 2, 1931 (Cont'd.)
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Irene Duncan  
Hallie Irvin  
Olive E. Laurie  
Della Kiefer  
May Jackman  
M. L. Buchanan  
Maude Maddox  
Minnie Clifton  
Lee Walton  
G. Zuren  
L. Mahony  
F. M. Roberts  
Doris Pridham  
Mabel Gray  
Freda Powell

September 7, 1932
Alicia Swann, Principal  
Aileen Haley  
Marion McClintock  
Maude Denney  
Arsinia Gribble  
Lottie Smith  
Lucile Martin  
Grace Shannon  
Ruby Cole  
Inez Foster  
Naomi Luhm  
Irene Duncan  
Olive E. Laurie  
Hallie Irvin  
Nora Powell  
Mabel Gray  
Maude Maddox  
Mamie Craddock  
May Jackman  
Marguerite Iverson  
Lucy Walton  
M. L. Buchanan  
Sallie Phillips  
Della Kiefer  
Lee Walton  
Winnie Brown  
Marguerite Blocksom

September 11, 1933
Alicia Swann, Principal  
Aileen Haley  
Maude Denney  
Arsinia Gribble  
Lucile Martin  
L. Moore  
Lottie Smith  
Ruby Cole  
Grace Shannon  
Naomi Luhm  
Olive E. Laurie  
Hallie Irvin  
Marguerite Blocksom  
Mabel Gray  
Winnie Brown  
Nora Powell  
Mamie Craddock  
Maude Maddox  
Lucy Walton  
May Jackman  
Marguerite Iverson  
Della Kiefer  
R. Shaw  
Lee Walton  
Sallie Phillips  
Thalia Gillett

September 10, 1934
Alicia Swann, Principal  
Sybil Shedd  
Louise Bagge  
Maude Denney  
Arsinia Gribble  
Lucile Martin  
Lottie Smith  
Grace Shannon  
Mabel Gray  
Nora Powell  
Thalia Gillett  
May Jackman  
Marguerite Iverson  
Maude Maddox  
Irene Duncan  
(Cont'd)
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<th>September 10, 1934 (Cont'd.)</th>
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<td>Ruby Cole</td>
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<td>Naomi Luhm</td>
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<td>Hallie Irvin</td>
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<td>Olive E. Laurie</td>
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<td>Marguerite Smith</td>
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<td>Winnie Brown</td>
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<td>R. Shaw</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mamie Craddock</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sallie Phillips</td>
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<tr>
<td>Della Kiefer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee Walton</td>
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| September 9, 1935           |          |
| Alicia Swann, Principal     |          |
| Sybil Shedd                 |          |
| Maude Denney                |          |
| Louise Bagge                |          |
| Arsinia Gribble             |          |
| Lottie Smith                |          |
| Lucile Ponsford             |          |
| Grace Pearson               |          |
| Ruby Cole                   |          |
| Naomi Luhm                  |          |
| Olive E. Laurie             |          |
| Hallie Irvin                |          |
| Winnie Brown                |          |
| Marguerite Smith            |          |
| Irene Duncan                |          |
| Mabel Gray                  |          |
| Thalia Gillett              |          |
| Nora Powell                 |          |
| Marguerite Iverson          |          |
| Maude Maddox                |          |
| Della Kiefer                |          |
| R. Shaw                     |          |
| Sallie Phillips             |          |
| May Jackman                 |          |
| Mamie Craddock              |          |
| Lee Walton                  |          |

| September 8, 1936           |          |
| Alicia Swann, Principal     |          |
| Sybil Shedd                 |          |
| Maude Denney                |          |
| Arsinia Gribble             |          |
| Louise Bagge                |          |
| Lottie Smith                |          |
| Lucile Ponsford             |          |
| Grace Pearson               |          |
| Naomi Luhm                  |          |
| Ruby Cole                   |          |
| Hallie Irvin                |          |
| Olive E. Laurie             |          |
| Winnie Brown                |          |
| Mabel Gray                  |          |
| R. Shaw                     |          |
| Thalia Gillett              |          |
| Nora Powell                 |          |
| Irene Duncan                |          |
| Marguerite Smith            |          |
| Beatrice Sims               |          |
| Maude Maddox                |          |
| Marguerite Iverson          |          |
| Sallie Phillips             |          |
| Della Kiefer                |          |
| May Jackman                 |          |
| Edith Pridgen               |          |
| Lee Walton                  |          |

| September 7, 1937           |          |
| Alicia Swann, Principal     |          |
| Sybil Shedd                 |          |
| Maude Denney                |          |
| Adele Bigelow               |          |
| Louise Bagge                |          |
| Lucile Ponsford             |          |
| Lottie Smith                |          |
| Grace Pearson               |          |
| Ruby Cole                   |          |
| Naomi Luhm                  |          |
| Olive E. Laurie             |          |
| Hallie Irvin                |          |
| Winnie Brown                |          |
| Mabel Gray                  |          |
| R. Shaw                     |          |
| Thalia Gillett              |          |
| Irene Duncan                |          |
| Marguerite Smith            |          |
| Maude Maddox                |          |
| May Jackman                 |          |
| Edith Pridgen               |          |
| L. McKenney                 |          |
September 6, 1938
Alicia Swann, Principal
Sybil Shedd
Maude Denney
Arsinia Gribble
Louise Bagge
Lucile Ponsford
Lottie Smith
Ruby Cole
Grace Pearson
Naomi Luhm
Winnie Brown
Hallie Irvin
Mabel Gray

E. E. Mullins
Marguerite Smith
Maude Maddox
Nora Powell
May Jackman
Thalia Gillett
Marguerite Iverson
Sallie Phillips
Edith Pridgen
Della Kiefer
D. Bowden

September 5, 1939
Alicia Swann, Principal
Sybil Shedd
Maude Denney
Arsinia Gribble
Louise Bagge
Grace Pearson
Lottie Smith
Ruby Cole
Naomi Luhm
Hallie Irvin
Winnie Brown
Mamie Craddock
Marguerite Smith

Della Kiefer
Mabel Gray
Troy Fincher
Maude Maddox
Thalia Gillett
Nora Powell
May Jackman
Edith Pridgen
Marguerite Iverson
Sallie Phillips
Margaret Carpenter

September 3, 1940
Alicia Swann, Principal
Sybil Shedd
Maude Denney
Arsinia Gribble
Grace Pearson
Lottie Smith
Ruby Cole
Hallie Irvin
Mary Stacy
Winnie Brown
Mabel Gray
Mamie Craddock
Della Kiefer

Nora Powell
Maude Maddox
Marguerite Iverson
Edith Pridgen
May Jackman
Thalia Gillett
Sallie Phillips
Dale Bowman
Iva Prothro
Merle Hughey
Marguerite Smith

September 2, 1941
Alicia Swann, Principal
Sybil Shedd
Maude Denney
Arsinia Gribble
Louise Bagge
Lottie Smith
Ruby Cole
Grace Pearson
Hallie Irvin
Winnie Brown

Marguerite Smith
W. S. Chadwick
D. Hart
Maude Maddox
Edith Pridgen
Mary Stacy
Marguerite Iverson
Della Kiefer
May Jackman

(Cont'd.)
September 2, 1941 (Cont'd.)
Mabel Gray
Thalia Gillett
Nora Powell

September 8, 1942
Alicia Swann, Principal
Sybil Shedd
Maude Denney
Arsinia Gribble
Louise Bagge
Lellaroy Williams
Grace Pearson
Alice Nelson
Lottie Smith
Ruby Cole
Letha Young
Hallie Irvin
Winnie Brown
Hortense Huey

September 7, 1943
Alicia Swann, Principal
Sybil Shedd
Maude Denney
Florence Pollitt
Frankie McMurray
Lottie Smith
Lucile Savage
Alice Nelson
Betty Hungerford
Ruby Cole
Hallie Irvin
Mabel Gray

September 6, 1944
Alicia Swann, Principal
T. Wilson
V. Hornburg
Maude Denney
Adele Niland
Florence Pollitt
Lottie Smith
Betty Hungerford
Alice Nelson
Ruby Cole
Mabel Gray
Hallie Irvin

September 5, 1945
Alicia Swann, Principal
T. Wilson
Nettie B. Bryant
Eleanor Outlaw
Adele Niland

Sallie Phillips
S. Lynch

Alice Anderson
Eleanor Barger
Mary Stacy
Maude Maddox
Bernice Ealy
Edith Pridgen
Thalia Gillett
Nora Powell
Marguerite Smith
Sallie Phillips
Della Kiefer
Mabel Gray

Winnie Brown
Jo J. Barnett
Eleanor Barger
Jennie Bailey
Nora Powell
Thalia Gillett
Bernice Ealy
Maude Maddox
Della Kiefer
Marguerite Smith

Winnie Brown
Della Kiefer
L. Bickley
Eleanor Barger
Jennie Bailey
Nora Powell
Ruby Lafferty
Thalia Gillett
Maude Maddox
Marguerite Smith

Hallie Irvin
Eleanor Barger
Winnie Brown
Mabel Gray

(Cont'd.)
September 5, 1945 (Cont'd.)
Florence Pollitt
Lottie Smith
Ruth Shipman
Ruby Cole
Alice Nelson
Frances Patterson
B. Shipton

September 5, 1946
Alicia Swann, Principal
M. Finley
Nettie B. Bryant
Eleanor Outlaw
L. Garrison
Grace Pearson
Florence Pollitt
Naomi Luhm
Ruby Cole
Alice Nelson
Jeanie Kunz
Thelma Hunter

September 3, 1947
Alicia Swann, Principal
Katherine Miskiel
Nettie B. Bryant
Eleanor Outlaw
L. Garrison
Lennie Brown
Margaret Dunn
Florence Pollitt
Opal Thrower
Ruby Cole
Alice Nelson
Dorothy Coldwell
Hallie Irvin

September 1, 1948
Mabel Keeney, Principal
Eryline Stoker
Lennie Brown
Katherine Miskiel
L. Garrison
Margaret Dunn
Ora Harper
Florence Pollitt
Opal Thrower
Billie Ruth Warren
Ruby Cole
Hazel More
Alice Nelson
Dorothy Coldwell
### September 6, 1949
Mabel Keeney, Principal
- Lennie Brown
- Eryline Stoker
- Lenna Chew
- Katherine Miskiel
- Billy R. Needham
- Margaret Dunn
- Florence Pollitt
- Opal Thrower
- Hazel More
- Alice Nelson
- Ruby Cole
- Dorothy Coldwell
- Hallie Irvin
- Lelaroy Williams

### September 7, 1950
Mabel Keeney, Principal
- Lennie Brown
- Eryline Stoker
- Esther Hollenshead
- Katherine Miskiel
- Lenna Chew
- Florence Pollitt
- Margaret Dunn
- Opal Thrower
- Alice Nelson
- Billy R. Needham
- Ruby Cole
- Marie Pritchard
- Hallie Irvin
- Mary Henry

Gertrude Bianche
Mary Henry
Winnie Brown
Jennie Bailey
Mabel Gray
Olive Laurie
Eleanor Barger
Grace Shaw
Kathryn Alexander
Rita Myers
Juanita Meier
Mary Poppell
Maxine Crutchfield

Edna King
Elizabeth Sweet
Lelaroy Williams
Maxine Crutchfield
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books


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Records

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