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History of Dudley School

Mary Virginia Valentine

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HISTORY OF DUDLEY SCHOOL

El Paso, Texas
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Mary Virginia Valentine
History 390I

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HISTORY OF DUDLEY SCHOOL

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INTRODUCTION

Beginnings of Dudley School

As early as May 1916, the El Paso Residential area known as Kern Place presented a petition signed by fifteen residents to the School Board asking that a school be provided in that section of the city. The petitioners stated that they would bear the expense of moving one of the portable schoolhouses, which El Paso Schools then owned, in consideration that school facilities be provided by the next fall. The matter was referred to W. D. Mayfield for investigation as to the number of children in that section. No action was taken toward establishing a school at that time.¹


On March 21, 1922, an item offered for consideration to the School Board was to establish the first unit of a school in Kern Place if funds were available after letter other contracts, either on the block then owned by the board or on another if available.² On

² El Paso School Board Minutes, March 21, 1922. (Hereafter cited Minutes)

April 6, 1922, a special plea was made for enlarging and improving present buildings rather than building new ones, so the matter was dropped for
the time being. 3  

3 Minutes, April 6, 1922.

The matter was brought before the School Board again on November 20, 1923 in the form of a recommendation that a school should be built to take care of the growth in the north side of the city. This school should have sixteen rooms and cost $100,000. 4

4 Minutes, November 20, 1923.

In December the School Board requested a bond issue for $800,000. $100,000 of this was to be used to build a school in Kern Place. 5 The bond issue was cut to $500,000, but $90,000 to $100,000 were voted for the building of a Kern Place school. 6

6 Minutes, March 25, 1923.

After consideration of all the sites offered in Kern Place the board agreed to build the school for Kern Place on Block 206, Alexander
Addition, this being the block then owned by the board. It was bounded by Kansas, Chicago, Campbell and Boston Streets. 7

Minutes, July 15, 1924.

In August, 1924 H. P. Hadfield offered one half of Block 194, Kern Place, adjoining the block owned by the board for sale to the board for $2,000. 8 The motion was made and carried to buy this property. 9

Minutes, August 20, 1924.

In September, 1924 Mr. Robertson was directed to use twelve rooms and an auditorium as a basis for the tentative plans for the Kern Place School. 10 By October the preliminary sketches for Kern Place School were presented to the School Board and studied by them. These plans were then left with Mr. Hughey, Superintendent of El Paso Schools,
to be studied and to be placed by him with the City Planning Commission. They were then to be returned to the Board for further consideration.\textsuperscript{11}

\textsuperscript{11} Minutes, October 14, 1924.

Final Kern Place School plans were presented to the board in December and were described in detail by Architects Thorman and Hardie. On motion of Mrs. Warner the plans were approved and bids ordered taken, to be opened Tuesday, January 6, 1925.\textsuperscript{12} The opening

\textsuperscript{12} Minutes, December 16, 1924.

of the bids was later postponed until January 9.

On January 13, 1925, the motion was made and passed by the El Paso School Board to award the contract for the building of a twelve classroom school with only six rooms furnished, auditorium with floor, lights and heat, and grounds completed to the lowest bidders with the provision that the Building Committee endeavor to bring the total figure within $90,000 and provided further that the auditorium be entirely completed if later in the progress of the building it was found possible to do so.\textsuperscript{13}

\textsuperscript{13} Minutes, January 13, 1925.
On January 20, 1925 the contracts were reported to have been awarded, the gross amount being $90,000.

Minutes, January 29, 1925

The El Paso Times carried this item on the proposed construction of Dudley (then called Kern Place) School.

Contracts for the construction of the Kern Place School, aggregating approximately $90,000 were awarded last night to the lowest bidders by the El Paso School Board. The Jennings Construction Company was awarded the general contract.

Other contracts given were as follows: Plumbing to Mattice Plumbing Company, heating to Elliott Engineering Company, and wiring to the Independent Electric Wiring and Lighting Company.

The building will be constructed according to the plans drawn by O. H. Thorman and Bradford Hardie, Jr., Associate Architects. Only six classrooms will be completed at present. The auditorium, although not finished, will be furnished enough for use. The grounds will be completed. The cafeteria in the basement and the six classrooms on the second floor will be unfurnished unless the School Board finds it possible to set aside a larger fund for the work later.

It is estimated by the board members and Superintendent A. H. Hughey that the Kern Place School will open with two hundred pupils next Fall.

El Paso Times, January 14, 1925.

A contest for a suitable name was held in all the schools of El Paso among the children. The child giving the most suitable name
for the schools in Kern Place and Woodlawn additions would receive a prize of ten dollars each. 16 Travis Robson of Alta Vista School received the prize of ten dollars for giving the name Travis for Kern Place School. 17 On May 5, 1925, however, the board voted unanimously to change the name of the Kern Place School from Travis to Dudley in honor of Mayor R. M. Dudley who died on Friday, May 1, 1925. 18

Some mothers were alarmed by the rumor that a kindergarten might not be opened in Dudley School. Mr. Hughey, Superintendent, gave positive assurance that a well-equipped kindergarten would be installed there. 19

Dudley School was supposed to have been finished in mid-summer, long before school started, but two extensions of time were allowed
to the contractors. Finally by September 5, 1925, the building was completed as planned.  

20

Minutes, October 20, 1925.

One of the first problems involving Dudley School was which children should go to Bailey School and which should go to Dudley School. 21 After the line was drawn between the two schools, it was found that Dudley School still did not have its share of children, so the matter was put in Mr. Hughey's hands. 22

22

Minutes, September 15, 1925.

In February after the opening of Dudley School the purchasing of a sign giving the name of Dudley School was discussed in School Board meeting. This sign was to be placed over the entrance to Dudley School Building. 23 Four days later such a sign was ordered bought and

23

Minutes, February 15, 1927.
installed at a cost not to exceed $25,00.24

Minutes, February 19, 1927.

When school opened in September, 1925, there were seven teachers and two hundred twenty four pupils who were classified from kindergarten through the sixth grade. Miss Lucy Claire Hoard was the first principal, and she served in that capacity until 1928. The first faculty members were: Miss Frances Turrentine, Miss Mildred Lefkowitz, Mrs. Laura Hudson, Mrs. Kathleen Fisher, Miss Grace Munro and Miss Sue May Field.25


Miss Grace Long was principal in 1928 and 1929. During that time the cafeteria was opened. Miss Lillian Phillips became principal in 1929 and served in that capacity until 1934.26 Miss Phillips was, to a large extent, responsible for a large number of the paintings, pictures, and plaques for which the school was famous.27 During this

26 Ibid.

27 Interview with Mrs. Olga Pool Wilson, December 18, 1953.
time Nat Campbell wrote the school song, "Dudley, Fair Dudley".

In 1934, Mrs. Olga Poole Wilson became principal of Dudley and continued in that position until 1945 when Mr. Clell Smith succeeded her. In 1942 a plaque was awarded to the principal and teachers for their patriotic work in issuing ration books and welling war bonds and stamps. Mr. Smith was principal until 1947 when Mr. J. H. Meadows became principal. Mr. Meadows remained principal until the school was moved to Mesita.

28 "History of Dudley School", El Paso Public Schools Central Office.
PHYSICAL PLANT

The Building

Dudley School building is located on a barren hill in a residential section of El Paso called Kern Place. It is a few blocks east of highway 80 and is across this highway from Texas Western College. The building is rock and stucco finish with a tile roof. By 1948 there were fifteen classrooms, a library, auditorium, cafeteria and teachers' lounge. The walls throughout the halls and classrooms were adorned with many fine paintings and plaques. These included a portrait of Mr. R. M. Dudley for whom the school was named. This was presented to the school by the Popular Dry Goods Company soon after the opening of Dudley School. 29

29 "History of Dudley School" El Paso Schools Central Office.

When Dudley School was first built, only six classrooms were completed. The auditorium, although not finished, was completed enough for use. 30 Bids for finishing Dudley School were opened on June 21, 1927, and the contract was awarded to the Hayward Company for $10,475.00. 31

30 El Paso Times, January 14, 1925.

31 Minutes, June 21, 1927.
These rooms were not, at that time, used by the El Paso Public Schools but were used for college classes. In relation to the use of these newly finished rooms for college classes, the El Paso School Board passed this resolution:

Be it resolved by the Trustees of the Independent School District of the City of El Paso, Texas, in meeting assembled this twelfth day of July, 1927,

That a tender is hereby made to the Board of Regents of the University of Texas of the use of the city school building known as Dudley for instruction purposes to the extent of seven classrooms, cafeteria, kitchen and the auditorium in it, this being the space not now occupied and used by the city schools for public school classes;

That this use is offered free of charge for the school years 1927-28 and 1928-29;

That the cost of heat, janitor service, light, and such other expense necessarily connected with the operation of a school building be prorated, according to the number of rooms used, between the city schools and the University of Texas;

That the city schools will bear the expense of all necessary repairs to the building for school use;

That the cost of furniture, equipment, and supplies needed for college instruction in the building are to be borne by the University of Texas;

That the care of the grounds is to be the responsibility of the city schools;

And that such further items as may arise in connection with such use of the building by the University of Texas be left to the joint agreement between the head of the College of Mines of the University of Texas and the City School Board.  

Minutes, July 12, 1927.
In October, 1927, shades were bought by the School Board and installed in the newly finished rooms, the cost being $156.00. Also curtains and drops for the auditorium at Dudley School were authorized to be bought at a cost not to exceed $350.00.  

Minutes, October 18, 1927.

In the winter of 1931, leaks in the roof of Dudley School were causing considerable damage, so that the building had to be re-roofed. This was done by the Weeks Roofing Company at a cost of $550.00.

Minutes, December 15, 1931.

The next month the proposal was brought before the Board of removing a partition and making a new small classroom. The Board approved the remodeling of the portion of Dudley School formerly used as janitor's quarters, so that an additional classroom might be obtained, with the understanding that the expenses to the Board would not exceed $150.00 and that Dudley School P. T. A. would bear the expense of the flooring of this room.

Minutes, January 19, 1932.
With Dudley School building finished and reroofed, it seemed as if there would have to be no more repairs made for some time, but in the summer it was noticed that the inner walls of the building were settling and minor repairs would have to be made. 36

36
Minutes, August 9, 1933.

Minor repairs were enough just then but were not for long. In January, 1936, a committee was requested to make a written report on the condition of Dudley School Building. The report of that committee was as follows:

The building rests on red clay soil which has always made trouble for heavy structures and the cracking which is taking place is evidently caused by unequal settlement of the foundations due to the character of the material and possibly to the presence of water.

It is the opinion of the committee that there is no present danger to the occupants of the building and will not be for a considerable time at the present rate of settlement, but the building should be watched and steps taken to correct the weakness in the foundations whenever it has progressed to the point where the best course of action is definitely indicated.

Careful levels were taken about two months ago in various parts of the building and the readings should be repeated at intervals until the places of greatest settlement can be determined. It is recommended that repairs be made during the summer vacation by cutting out and refilling the larger cracks so that the appearance of the building will be improved and the patrons at the school will be less alarmed. Steps to arrest further settlement should be taken at the time if the results of the level readings in the meantime indicate the place where the work may best be done.

This work was voted to be done by W.P.A. labor and under the
supervision of Mr. Satrang.  

On May 21, 1936, a report was read to the School Board on the cause and possible correction of the existing condition at Dudley School. It was moved that steps be taken to correct the condition by using W.P.A. labor. There was some discussion as to the time taken for the job by skilled and unskilled labor. The agreement was that the matter be taken care of during the summer months.

The El Paso Herald-Post had this to say about the cause and correction of conditions at Dudley School:

Foundations, which are not deep enough, have caused cracks in the retaining wall at Dudley School and will necessitate underpinnings, reinforcing the present foundations by sinking additional concrete piers, G. G. Strang, W.P.A. Architect reported to the Board of Education last night. The new underpinnings and drainage of seepage water under the building will be undertaken immediately after school closes.
H. T. Ponsford and Sons were given a contract to handle the seepage and underpinnings for Dudley School. $1,500.00 was originally set aside for this; then it was raised to $5,000.00.

Due to the depth and extent of the work the price was raised again to $9,420.18.

Before the bill to H. T. Ponsford and Sons was paid, the building started cracking again. Mr. Krohn suggested that Mr. Smith have the cracks marked and in this manner keep track of the shifting of the building.
By the next summer repairs were again needed. This work was approved by the School Board on July 27, 1937. This work was to be done by W.P.A. labor at a cost of $372.65 to the School Board.\(^\text{45}\)

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\(^{45}\) Minutes, July 27, 1937.

This work consisting mainly of papering and painting was finished in October.

Venetian blinds were bought for Dudley School by the P.T.A. in cooperation with the School Board. The P.T.A. of Dudley School paid the largest amount on these. The first blinds were bought for the south side windows in June, 1937.\(^\text{46}\) Those for the rest of the building were not bought until the next summer.\(^\text{47}\)

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\(^{46}\) Minutes, June 1, 1937.

\(^{47}\) Minutes, June 28, 1938.

By November, 1938, the settling of Dudley School building was causing defacement of the walls. The School Board requested Mr. Ponsford and the City Building Inspector to inspect the settling of Dudley School building and make the School Board a written report.\(^\text{48}\)

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\(^{48}\) Minutes, November 15, 1938.
This condition was reported as not being dangerous.

More trouble caused by the settling of Dudley School building came to light in June, 1939. A water pipe had burst in the ground underneath Dudley School. This leakage in the ground caused the presence of more water and further settling of the building. The School Board authorized Mr. Kitchens to make further investigations and to spend up to the amount of five hundred dollars on this work. In July, Mr. Kitchens reported that all broken pipes at Dudley School had been repaired, and that all buried pipes under the building were being put in tunnels where they will be accessible. He also stated that, if the cracking continues, eventually the point will be reached where it will not be economical to continue repairs.\textsuperscript{49}

\begin{flushright}49\end{flushright} Minutes, July 18, 1939.

Again by the summer of 1942 conditions at Dudley School building became so bad that a committee was appointed to study its structural condition, to investigate its safety, and to report its finds back to the Board. Those to be appointed were: Walter Stockwell, a contractor of El Paso, an architect of El Paso, E. W. Carroll, and R. E. McKee.\textsuperscript{50}

\begin{flushright}50\end{flushright} Minutes, July 17, 1942.
The report of this committee was as follows:

On August 5, 1942, this group acting as a committee of inspection appointed by the Board made a survey of the general condition of the Dudley Elementary School building. After a thorough and careful check of the structure both inside and out the following conclusions were reached.

The building is not at this time in a condition dangerous to the occupants and we consider it safe for school purposes.

In general the cause of the cracks in evidence is one of movement in the footings and foundations. This movement is a result of moisture in the clay structure on which the building is resting, and in addition there seems to be some slipping down hill toward the arroyo to the south. This trouble as a whole is the same that caused most of the cracking in the building since it was first constructed. Most of the cracks now visible are resulting from settlement of the corridor walls and footings; however, there is some settlement at a column between the kindergarten room and the boys toilet near the southwest corner of the building, which could and should be corrected as soon as possible. The corridor condition should also be taken care of as soon as practicable.

We would recommend that more underpinnings be done in the worst places similar to that constructed in 1935. Also that where it is possible the structure should be tied together with reinforced concrete, so that the movement could be controlled more satisfactorily. That is, instead of portions of the building settling individually as it does now, try to make the entire structure move together. Such a system of reinforcing would be very expensive, however, and until a thorough study is made along this line it would be difficult to say just what might be encountered.

The moisture in the clay is a problem that is most difficult to cope with because of the nature of the clay itself. The drainage ditches cut in 1935 are tapping the water flow to a great extent, but after the clay has been saturated once it is underneath the
building. It is also probable that the clay structure is still absorbing moisture from a water strata lower than the one already cut off by ditches.

Those suggestions and recommendations in our opinion will not permanently correct the conditions outlined, but we do feel that they would help a great deal in keeping the building available for use for several years. At best it seems that this process of repair and upkeep will be continuous as long as the school is used.51

51 Minutes, August 18, 1942.

When the above report was read in the School Board meeting, the motion was made and carried that the recommendations made by this committee should be followed as closely and as promptly as possible. Henry Ponsford agreed to start work at Dudley building that same week and go as far as he could with available materials. The work to be done by Ponsford was merely to replace a broken beam in the corridor and fix the partition overhead. No underpinnings were to be done until a thorough study was completed.

52 Minutes, August 18, 1942.

Another inspection of Dudley School building was held October 24, 1944 by Mr. Carroll, Mr. R. E. McKee, and Mr. H. J. Ponsford. It was their recommendation that the building was entirely safe and should be safe for some time; however, it was their opinion that an
inspection should be made every six months, so that if a slight
earth tremor or other natural causes should cause a sliding and make
the building unsafe, it could be found in time to prevent a ca-
tastrophe. They also recommended that in planning for the future
it would be better to plan on replacing the building rather than to
try to keep the present one in repair as this cost would be much
too great. Both Mr. Ponsford and Mr. McKee offered their services
free for this inspection every six months. The Board agreed that
they would like to have a report every six months by Mr. Carroll, Mr.
McKee and Mr. Ponsford.

The motion was passed that Mr. Carroll be authorized to ask
either Ponsford Brothers or McKee and Company to do this required
work on Dudley School during the Christmas holidays. These repairs
included roughening up the ramp and replacing a section of the
corridor floor which had buckled up. 53

53 Minutes, November 21, 1944.

On May 15, 1945, another written report on the condition of
Dudley School was given to the Board by the inspection committee.
This inspection committee reported that they found no evidence of
structural failure at Dudley School. They advised that repairs be
made in the immediate future and estimated that it would take around
twelve thousand dollars to put the building in good condition. The Board thought that this was quite a large sum to invest in Dudley at that time. At the next meeting of the School Board up to five thousand dollars for general repairs to Dudley School building was approved.

The condition of Dudley School building was not brought up again until the spring of 1946. At that time the School Board discussed the condition of Dudley School building with Mr. R. E. McKee and Mr. Harry Ponsford. In a written report to the School Board on the regular six months inspection, these gentlemen told the Board that the school is not in a dangerous condition at the present time, but that the building is continually slipping and that the board should look forward to replacing Dudley School as soon as possible. They called attention to the fact that the time is approaching when the Board will have to find ways and means to build a new building as they feel that the present building is not worth spending a great deal of money on for repairs. Mr. McKee pointed out that
some severe jar such as an earthquake could cause very dis-
astrous results, but at that time the school was safe. He
gave as a contributing factor to the seriousness of the
slipping of Dudley School the fact that a water pipe remained
underground during one summer as a result of the moving of the
building.

Mr. Grambling suggested that the El Paso School building
department inspect this building at least once a week. Mr.
Bennis suggested that occasionally he might call in a man from
the Gas Company to inspect the condition of the gas pipes. In
response to these suggestions, Mr. McConn requested Mr.
Hollenshead to check the building once a week.56

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Minutes, March 26, 1946.

Mr. Hollenshead, a member of the examining committee for
this building, stated that there would be no way of preventing
the breaking of a gas main by the slipping of the building;
however, he pointed out that the building was moving toward the
gas line leaving only a slight chance for this to happen. He
stated that he believed that the school was safe and would
probably be for many years. The building has moved only one-
sixteenth of an inch since February 6; this could have been
due to excess moisture produced by snows that winter. 57

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57 Minutes, March 26, 1946.

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Again in October of that year, a report on the condition of Dudley School made by the committee composed of Messrs. Ponsford, Carroll, Hill, and Deauble was read to the Board. This committee reported that they found no further structural failures, and there was no immediate danger; however, it was recommended that the weekly inspections be continued by Mr. Hollenshead. They also recommended that certain cracks in the walls be fixed. The motion was made and carried that the report of this committee be accepted and that Mr. Hollenshead continue to make weekly inspections as requested in the report. 58

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58 Minutes, October 8, 1946.

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In January, 1947, due to the recent wet weather in El Paso, a crack in the interior of Dudley School had widened considerably. Because of this Mr. Hollenshead called upon Mr. McKee and Mr. Ponsford to make an inspection tour. Upon their recommendation, Mr. Hollenshead put in a temporary column to support the structure at that point. Mr. Fraser pointed out that a permanent column should be used, going to a proper level to find good ground to support it. Mr. Fraser stated that there was no immediate danger
but that they should look forward to replacing the building within the next two or three years. The board members were in favor of having the necessary repairs made immediately as they felt the Board should not be negligent in taking the proper precautions of safety.  

Minutes, January 14, 1947.

On January 16, 1947 the matter of Dudley School was discussed again. Since nothing could be done to prevent the continued slipping of the building, the board members were of the opinion that steps should be taken to replace this building in the near future. It was suggested that such plans be made as there is a possibility that at any moment the building might become unsafe by the breaking of a gas or water main. The motion was made and passed that architects be employed to start plans for a new building in the Kern Place area.  

Minutes, January 16, 1947.

In August, 1948 the Westminster Presbyterian Church, in a letter to the Board, asked permission to use the auditorium and a few classrooms in Dudley School building for Sunday morning services
when the building was no longer used for active public school
instruction. The Board denied this request because it was their
policy not to allow the use of school buildings for church use.  

In October, 1948 Mr. Hughey pointed out that Mesita School
would soon be finished and it might be possible to move there in
November. Everything in the way of equipment was then ready to
move. The matter of moving met with the approval of the Board.

The Board then discussed the use of Dudley School after
it was vacated. Mr. Hughey stated that various agencies of the
schools now located in different school buildings, but having no
connection with any particular school, would move to Dudley. A
number of people in the Central Office would also move their offices
to Dudley.

Many offices did move to Dudley School building after it was
abandoned as a school and so was far from a total loss. The El Paso
Times had this to say about it:

Dudley school is far from a total loss, and every
foot of it is currently used in some capacity by the
school. Central administration offices adjacent to
El Paso Technical Institute cannot take care of the
needs of the system. Dudley takes the overflow.
It holds most of the supervisory personnel, the audio-visual department, music department, adult homemaking, census and athletic departments, professional libraries, assistant auditor and psychiatrist. Night school and adult distributive education headquarters are also there. The auditorium is used for storage of equipment.

Dudley was occupied as a school for 23 years—not long as compared to the records of other schools in the system like Lamar and Vilas which are over fifty years old. But when the students moved over to Mesita, Dudley helped to relieve crowded conditions at the Central Offices. If it had not been available, another building would have been needed.63

63 El Paso Times, February 8, 1953.

Maintenance still poses a problem at Dudley Building. M. R. Hollenshead, Assistant Superintendent of El Paso Public Schools, inspects the building every month. If there are major changes in its condition, he makes an official report to the Board of Education.

The results of the expanding wet clay can be seen in cracks throughout the building and in the slanting floors in the basement. Mr. Hollenshead said the stove pipe on the boiler has been shortened several times as a result of the rising action.64

64 El Paso Times, February 8, 1953.
The Grounds

The grounds of Dudley School were ordered completed in the original contract for the building of the school in 1925. Even though they were at that time completed they have been constantly improved and enlarged. The lower playground was not then included, but was opened later. Much of this improvement was done by the Dudley P.T.A.

The sodding of the grounds took place in the spring of 1927. In this matter the Parent-Teachers' Association paid $150.00, the El Paso School Board paid the rest of the $320.00 needed.

65 Minutes, March 15, 1927.

On December 16, 1930, drinking fountains were ordered installed on the boys' and girls' playgrounds at Dudley School provided the P.T.A. would bear one-half the expense.

66 Minutes, December 16, 1930.

Mrs. Douglas Butler, speaking for the Dudley School Parent-Teachers' Association, appeared before the Board in November, 1931 and asked the assistance of the Board in resurfacing the Dudley playground. She explained that the P.T.A. had about $325.00 for this purpose and that the estimate on the work to be done was
approximately $600.00. The Board approved an expenditure of not more than $275.00 from the school funds for this work. 67

67 Minutes, November 17, 1931.

The Dudley School P.T.A. also bought a great deal of beautiful shrubbery for the improvement of the grounds around the building. 68 When the building began to settle, the shrubbery on the west side of the building had to be removed, since watering it resulted in more water showing in the test holes.

The next big improvement which the P.T.A. wished to have done in relation to the Dudley School grounds was a rock wall built around the playground. For this purpose a committee from Dudley School P.T.A. appeared before the School Board in November, 1936 and asked that W.P.A. labor be used to build a rock wall around the lower playground. Because of the great expense of the additional foundation and repair work recently completed at Dudley, the board did not feel that it could at that time afford to build such a wall. The wall was built sometime later. 69

69 Minutes, October 16, 1948.
When Dudley School was abandoned, the Board members discussed selling part of the play area around Dudley School. Mr. Hughey stated this land might be more valuable as a play area. 70

70 Minutes, October 16, 1948.

When the patrons of Dudley School heard of this, they sent a petition asking that the lower playground be kept as it was for a public playground, since the Dudley P.T.A. helped to make so many improvements on this playground before the school was moved to the present building at Mesita. The motion was made, seconded and carried that the playground be retained as a public playground. 71

71 Minutes, February 15, 1949.
P. T. A.

The first Parent-Teachers' Association of Dudley School was organized the first month of school with Mrs. Max Meyer as president. Since that time the P. T. A. has been an integral part of the school. Almost all of the physical improvements have been made with the cooperation of this group. Some of its outstanding projects have been to buy equipment for the kitchen, principal's office and teachers' lounge, books for the library, motion picture machines, a grand piano for the auditorium, and equipment for the playground. The fathers in the parent-teacher group helped to make the lower playground a suitable place for the children to play. They also helped to beautify the school grounds. 72


Among other things the Dudley P.T.A. carried on a never ending fight for the paving of the streets around Dudley School. This started when Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Swain, on behalf of the patrons of Dudley School, asked the Board to pave Boston Street in front of the school. 73 In December of that year they

73 Minutes, October 18, 1932.
succeeded in getting the construction of a curb in front of Dudley School authorized at an expense of $120.00. 74

74 Minutes, December 6, 1932

On April 16, 1935, Dr. Cummins was authorized to sign a petition requesting the paving of Robinson Boulevard, bordering Dudley School. The cost was based on sixty cents per front foot for 260 feet. 75

75 Minutes, April 16, 1935.

It was not until 1937 that the patrons of Dudley School succeeded in getting all the streets around Dudley School paved.

In September, 1937, a motion was passed by the El Paso School Board, authorizing the external committee to proceed with the matter of street paving on the east and south sides of Dudley School, providing this would not cost the schools more than two hundred dollars. 76

76 Minutes, September 21, 1937.

This was not enough for the Dudley School P.T.A. They sent a committee to the next meeting of the School Board. Mr. Frank Fletcher acted as spokesman for the committee. They wanted to know
about getting the paving around Dudley School done without delay. This paving was to include the parking area between Boston Street and the school building, and streets on which the street cars turned. A motion was made and carried to the effect that, immediately upon his return to the city, Mr. Brown would investigate the matter and meet with one or more members of the committee from Dudley P.T.A., the President of the Board to be present at the meeting and authorized to take whatever action necessary to get this work done. 77

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| Minutes, October 19, 1937. |

When Mr. Brown returned, he explained to the Board the matter of paving Boston and Campbell Streets adjacent to the Dudley School grounds as well as the parking area between Boston Street and the school building. The Board voted to approve the project with the understanding that the following financial help be received:

- Dudley P.T.A. $200.00
- County $200.00
- Private Owner $80.00

It was estimated that the entire project would cost approximately $910.00, leaving the schools a matter of $430.00 to provide. 78

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| Minutes, November 2, 1937. |
In December, 1937, the work of paving around Dudley was begun; the total cost to the School Board being $470.00 instead of $430.00.  

Minutes, December 14, 1937.

The Dudley P.T.A. after five years had finally accomplished its goal.

Another cause for the school that the P.T.A. championed was the kindergarten. The fight to maintain a kindergarten went through the school year 1938-39. In September, 1939, Dudley again had a kindergarten although there was a charge of six dollars per pupil. This was the only kindergarten in any public school in El Paso at that time.

Minutes, September 19, 1939.

One of the outstanding events of each year was the annual Halloween Carnival which provided entertainment for both children and parents. There were many other such events sponsored by the P.T.A. including the annual giving of honor awards. During the depression Dudley School furnished the honor awards for the whole of El Paso School System.

Interview with Mrs. Olga Poole Wilson, December 18, 1953.
The P.T.A. worked tirelessly for the betterment of the school. The parents were willing to contribute time, thought, and money to the school. The whole school, parents, teachers, and children, was one of effort and endeavor; pride and accomplishment. 82

82 Interview with Mrs. Olga Poole Wilson, December 18, 1953.
Dudley school was always characterized by excellent teachers. These teachers were so arranged that they could give the children all the time they needed. Both the children and the school reaped advantages from this.83

The students of Dudley School always measured favorably with those from other schools. Many of these are now business men here in El Paso and elsewhere.

The basal subjects always received the necessary emphasis. There were adequate teaching aids for these subjects. Besides the basal subjects, art and music were always fitted into the program even during depression days.

In the extra-curricular activities, physical education was always stressed. The different teams of the school won many honors and trophies for Dudley School.

According to Mrs. Olga Poole Wilson, Principal of Dudley School from 1934 to 1945, "Dudley School set a standard for both the children and parents of Kern Place."84

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83 Interview with Mrs. Olga Poole Wilson, December 18, 1953.

84 Interview with Mrs. Olga Poole Wilson, December 18, 1953.
WAR ACTIVITIES IN DUDLEY SCHOOL

During the war years, the pupils and their parents cooperated fully with Dudley's war effort.

When European refugees were in need of clothing and there were calls for "Bundles for Britain", the children collected truck loads of clothing and other necessities for them.85

85 El Paso Times, November 3, 1940.

The sale of War Bonds and stamps gained enthusiastic support. These were sold by the P.T.A. Fifty thousand dollars went through Mrs. Wilson's books in one year from the sale of stamps and bonds. One child even brought a jar of pennies and counted out enough pennies from it to buy a bond.

The children of Dudley School became workers in the Junior Red Cross. They made and donated hundreds of items to it.

During this period the children were taught not only how to properly salute the Flag, but also a keener respect for the Flag and the American way of life.

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

The children cooperated in gathering scarce materials such as grease, scrap metals, and rubber.
Although Dudley school was only used for school purposes twenty-three years, it left a decided mark on Kern Place Community and the City of El Paso. It had enviable records in both academic and extra-curricular subjects. It met its obligations and was the real center of the district which it served.

Many of Dudley School's former students are important business men and women here in El Paso; others are scattered all over the United States and the world.

A word should be said here about the three principals who served Dudley School longest.

Miss Lucy Claire Hoard was not only the first principal for Dudley, but spent her life working in the schools of El Paso. She was much loved by all who knew her. She received many honors during her lifetime spent in the teaching profession. Her death was not only a blow to the El Paso School System but to the entire City of El Paso.

Miss Lillian Phillips, who was principal from 1929 until 1934, fostered the collection of pictures for which Dudley School was famous. It was during this time that the famous Blue Bonnet Picture was secured for the school, and the school song, "Dudley, Fair Dudley" was written.

Mrs. Olga Poole Wilson was principal of Dudley School longer than anyone else. Her principalship lasted from 1934 until 1945 when she retired. Many improvements were made in the school while
she served as principal there. She was much loved by both the pupils and their parents.

Mrs. Wilson was always eager to improve conditions at Dudley School for both the children and the teachers. She worked tirelessly to accomplish this task.

Dudley School is now a thing of the past, but the memory of it still lives on in the minds of many people, especially those who spent their childhood there.
APPENDIX

Richard M. Dudley

Mayor Richard M. Dudley, for whom Dudley School was named, was reared on a farm in Kentucky, educated in rural schools. He worked as a field hand, on railroads and taught school until he earned enough money to get through Georgetown Baptist College in Georgetown, Kentucky. He then went East and worked for the railroads, first as foreman, then as timekeeper and finally as paymaster. He eventually went into the construction business and built the first concrete fortification for the government on Dutch Island. This was followed by construction of a lighthouse and the laying of thirty miles of gas and sewer mains.

In 1886, Mr. Dudley met and married Miss Frances Moore of Tarrytown, New York.

In 1897, he went to Mexico with "Will" F. Ryan, son of Thomas Fortune Ryan, financier, to take over a contract to build what was then the Chihuahua and Pacific Railroad from Chihuahua City to Minaca. Some months later he built the Mexico and Northwestern Railway from Pearson to Madera. The road was completed in the early part of 1912. He then moved to El Paso.

Mr. Dudley served two terms in the State Legislature as a Representative. He also served one term as Senator and was re-elected for a second term, but resigned to accept the Office of Mayor of El Paso in April, 1923. He was re-elected to the Office of Mayor on April 14, 1925 without opposition.
Mr. Dudley was a member of the Baptist Church, a Mason, a member of the Elks, and of the El Maida Temple Shriners.

When Mayor Dudley died, on May 1, 1925, all El Paso mourned his passing. He was a great man who had served his community well.
FACULTY OF DUDLEY SCHOOL

1925 - 26

Lucy Claire Hoard - - - Principal
Sue Mayfield
Frances Turrentine
Mildred Lefkovitz

Laura Hudson
Kathleen Fisher
Gliffa Linn

1926 - 27

Lucy Claire Hoard - - - Principal
Kathleen Fisher
Laura Hudson
Mildred Lefkovitz

Frances Turrentine
Kathryn Walker

1927 - 28

Lucy Claire Hoard - - - Principal
Jacqueline Bailey
Clyde Duncan
Kathleen Fisher
Catherine Kilburn

Margaret Schaer
Eva Stapleton
Frances Turrentine
Vilo Williams

1928 - 29

Grace Long - - - - - Principal
Melba Dixon
Clyde Duncan
Amelia Forwood
Julia Hanley
Catherine Kilburn

Gladys Medley
Margaret Schaer
Frances Turrentine
Virginia West
1929 - 30

Lillian Phillips - - - Principal

Elinor Boswell
Jessie DeBlanc
Sarah Frazier
Josephine Gavin
Effie Mae Grissom
Catherine Kilburn
Elinor Meagher

Hazel Murray
Cyrena Rogers
Margaret Schaer
Elizabeth Shannon
Elena Talpis
Grace Thompson
Frances Turrentine

1930 - 31

Lillian Phillips - - - Principal

Mary Alice Allen
Elinor Boswell
Elizabeth Bush
Mary Frances Cook
Willa Curd
Kathleen Fisher
Effie Mae Grissom
Catherine Kilburn
Eliza Loomis

Lucile Martin
Elinor Meagher
Gladys Morris
Mildred Perkins
Cyrena Rogers
Betty Rutherford
Edna Stitt
Mary Elizabeth Woods
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<td>Catherine Kilburn</td>
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<td>Sara Foote</td>
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<td>Kathleen Eular</td>
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1933 - 34
Lillian Phillips -- Principal

Catherine Kilburn
Frances TURRENTINE
Betty Rutherford
Mildred Perkins
Alice Jackman
Irene Jave
Agnes Harvill

Mary Alice Allen
Kathleen Eylar
Elizabeth Bush
Kathleen Fisher
Edna Stitt
Beatrice Sims

1934 - 35
Olga Poole Wilson -- Principal

Rebecca Kyriacopulos
Frances Turrentine
Mildred Perkins
Olive Thompson
Alice Nelson
Ellen Light
Jane Whitlock

Edna Stitt
Agnes Harvill
Mary Alice Allen
Kathleen Fisher
Beatrice Sims
Kathleen Eylar
Elizabeth Bush
1935 - 36

Olga Poole Wilson -- Principal

Rebecca Kyriacopulos          Agnes Harvill
Louise Moore                  Mary Alice Allen
Frances Turrentine            Kathleen Fisher
Mildred Perkins               Edna Stitt
Alice Nelson                  Kathleen Eylar
Ellen Light                   Beatrice Sims
Jane Whitlock                 Elizabeth Bush

1936 - 37

Olga Poole Wilson -- Principal

Anne Lawhon                   Mary Alice Allen
Frances Turrentine            Agnes Harvill
Lozier Condon                Kathleen Fisher
Mildred Perkins               Kathleen Eylar
Alice Nelson                  Edna Stitt
Leona Robinson                Beatrice Sims
Pauline Smith                 Ena Steger
Janie Novake                  Albert O'Leary
1937 - 38

Olga Poole Wilson -- Principal

Anne Lawhon  
Frances Turrentine  
Lozier Condon  
Mildred Perkins  
Alice Nelson  
Leona Robinson  
Jane Walshe  
Janie Novake  

Mary Alice Allen  
Agnes Harvill  
Beatrice Sims  
Mary Henry  
Edna Stitt  
Kathleen Eylar  
Kathleen Fisher  
Shelton McMath

1938 - 39

Olga Poole Wilson -- Principal

Anne Lawhon  
Frances Turrentine  
Mildred Perkins  
Alice Nelson  
Leona Purvis  
Jane Walshe  
Shelton McMath  
Janie Novake  

Edna Stitt  
Beatrice Sims  
Mary Henry  
Mary Alice Allen  
Agnes Harvill  
Kathleen Eylar  
Kathleen Fisher  
Jo Ruth Roberts
1939 - 40

Olga Poole Wilson -- Principal

Anne Lawhon          Edna Stitt
Lozier Condon       Beatrice Sims
Frances Turrentine   Mary Henry
Alice Nelson         Mary Alice Allen
Mildred Dunlap       Agnes Harvill
Leona Purvis         Kathleen Eylar
Janie Novake         Kathleen Fisher
Everett Williams

1940 - 41

Olga Poole Wilson -- Principal

Anne Lawhon          Mary Henry
Lozier Condon       Mildred Coffee
Frances Turrentine   Beatrice Sims
Marjorie Talley      Mary Alice Allen
Mildred Dunlap       Agnes Harvill
Alice Nelson         Kathleen Eylar
Leona Purvis         Kathleen Fisher
Edna Stitt           Elizabeth Ramsey
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1943 - 44

Olga Poole Wilson -- Principal

Anne Lawhon
Madeline McKee
Frances Turrentine
Mary Lu Harvey
Trelva Wilson
Ruth Davis
Leona Purvis
Amee Burgie

Maurine Jenkins
Mary Henry
Betty Borenstein
Agnes Harvill
Edna Stitt
Kathleen Eylar
Kathleen Fisher
Marjorie Corley

1944 - 45

Olga Poole Wilson - Principal

Marjorie Corley
Anne Lawhon
Frances Turrentine
Madeline McKee
Ruth Davis
Amee Burgie
Margaret Roslyn

Ethel Hickman
Elizabeth Burr
Maurine Jenkins
Jimmie Lou Cory
Agnes Harvill
Kathleen Eylar
Kathleen Fisher
1945-46

Clell R. Smith -- Principal

Marjorie Corley
Gladys Crewe
Margaret Hammond
Ila Hudgins
Madeline McKee
Ruth Davis
Ameé Burgie
Jane Walshe

1946-47

Clell R. Smith -- Principal

Marjorie Morris
Harriet Black
Julia Hanley
Margaret Hammond
Inez Arnold
Madeline McKee
Mary Alice Zink
Cleo Engler
Ruth Dupree
Elva Brooks

Virginia Smith
Mary Webster
Maurine Jenkins
Jane Walshe
Olive Wheeler
Ola Drane
Kathleen Eylar
Agnes Harvill
Jack Meadows
1947 - 48

J. H. Meadows -- Principal

Marjorie Morris
Bernice Nanson
Marguerite Lundy
Margaret Hammond
Inez Arnold
Madeline McKee
Mary Alice Zink
Nona Leba
Flora Blancett

Elva Brooks
Virginia Smith
Jane Walshe
Maurine Jenkins
Ruby Lee Smith
Olive Wheeler
Agnes Harvill
Everett Stevens

1948 - 49

J. H. Meadows -- Principal

Marjorie Morris
Mary Fern Brown
Marguerite Lundy
Margaret Hammond
Inez Arnold
Kathryn Knapp
Lucille Boyle
Nona Leba
Flora Blancett

Elva Brooks
Madeline McKee
Jane Walshe
Ruby Lee Smith
Frankie Ann Laws
Agnes Harvill
Maurine Jenkins
Merritt Ackles