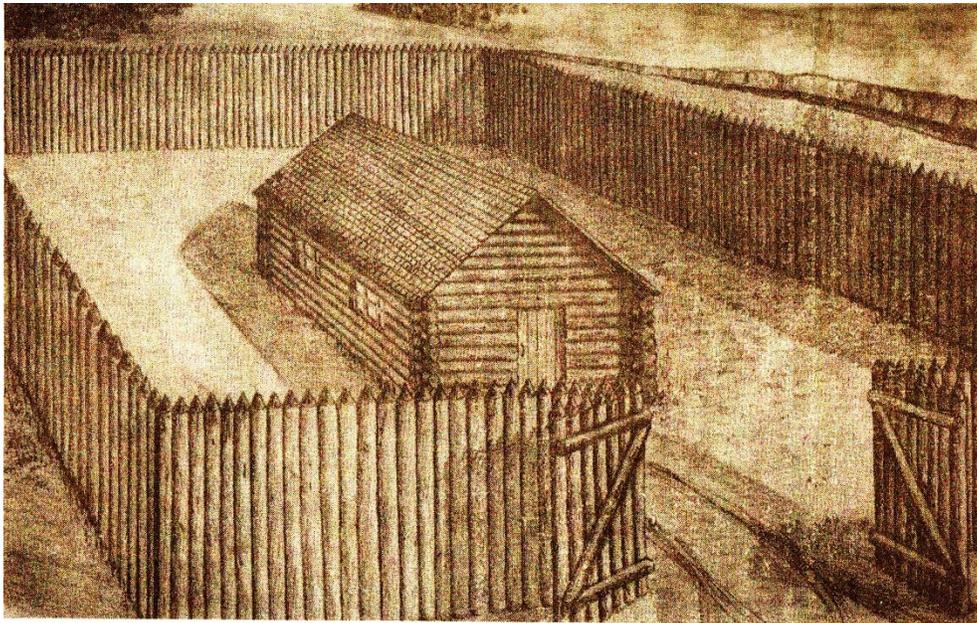


## A Century of Formal Education in Genesee

Genesee, garden spot of the Palouse, has had the advantage of public school for a century. Yes, the first town school was established in September of 1879, in the "Old Town", about a mile east of our present townsite. This was 11 years before Idaho attained a statehood and 10 years before Genesee was incorporated. The schoolhouse was located near the four corners, now the Luedke place. Mr. Vernon and Mr. Dent were the first teachers and commanded the overwhelming salary of \$150.00 for a three-month stint. The first board of Directors was D. Spurbeck, Daniel Markham and William Evans. Lewis Jain was a Trustee in 1883, with Miller and Evans. (*School was held inside the early Fort*)



Fort at old Genesee, 1877

In 1883, school was held in a warehouse and construction was begun on a new building. This was completed in 1885 and stood  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile east of old Genesee. The building was 24' wide x 36' long x 12' high. Teachers were paid \$20.00 a month plus board. They boarded with parents of their pupils (*often at Tina Gesellchen Smolt's home, Mary Lorang's sister*) and sometimes were paid with wood or canned goods. Students furnished  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a cord of wood each to heat the building.

In 1888, the railroad was constructed to Belmont- then to Marshall Junction. A terminus was built at Genesee. Jacobs Rosenstein, an early day merchant, asked too much for right-o-way, and as a result John Vollmer purchased 40 acres a mile west of the original town. By some coincidence the railroad stopped there. Businesses were moved to the new site as the old town broke up. A special meeting of the school directors was called and it was decided to move the schoolhouse to the new town. This was done for \$100.00. Six lots were purchased for \$200.00 for a school site.

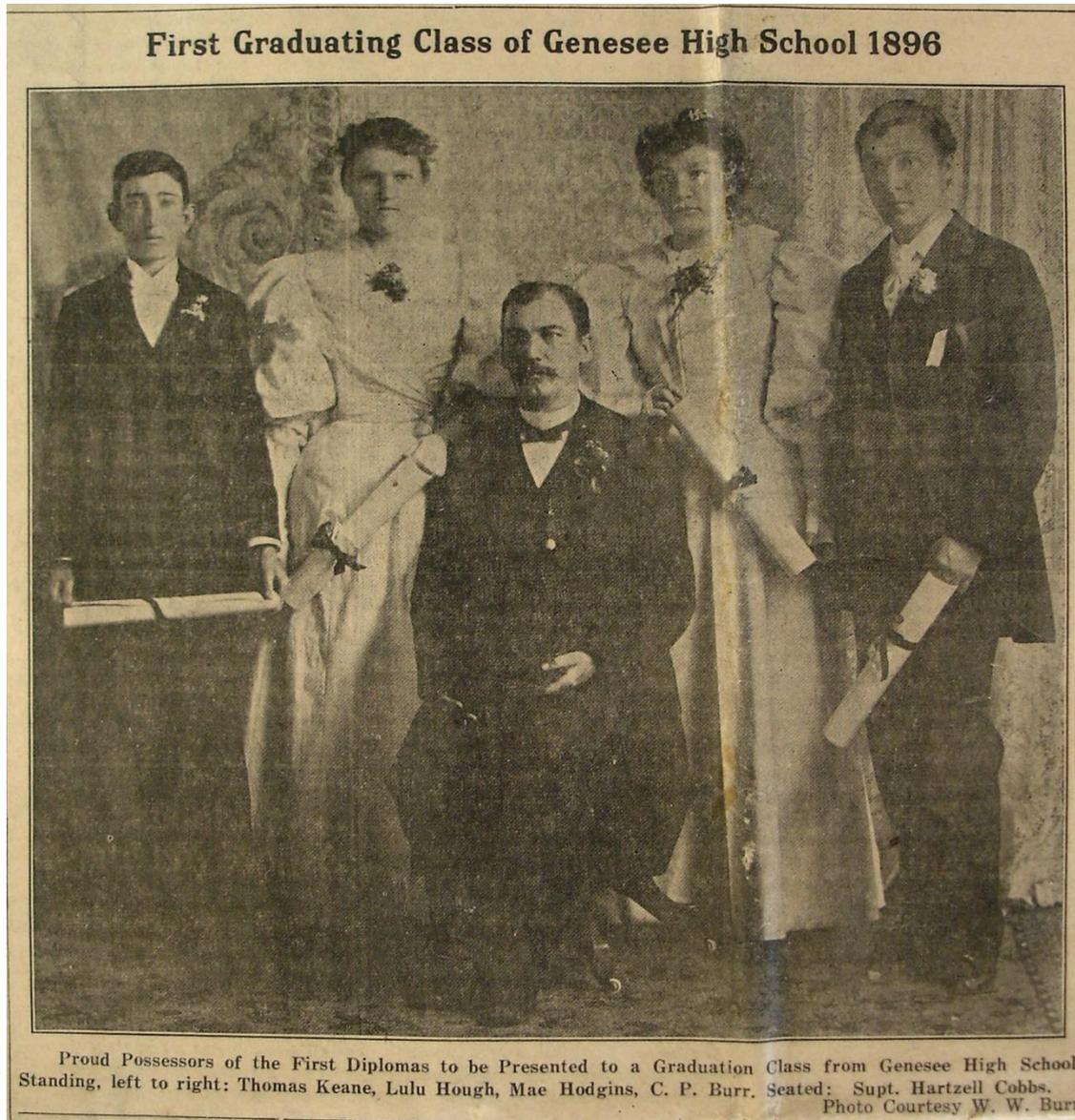
The population of Genesee was booming and several hundred people lived here by 1889. 146 students were in the district and a new addition was built. The contract was let for \$3,374.00 for construction. In 1889, the town was incorporated and 1890, the year Idaho became a state, another wing was added to the school.

Mr. Hartzell Cobb was the first high school superintendent and served for 11 years. The first high school offered a three-year course but later a four-year course was adopted by the Board. The Independent School District was formed in 1894 was District No. 2.

Salaries in those early days? Janitors: \$2.00 a day; Principial: \$75.00 a month, Superintendent: \$82.00 a month and other teachers \$55.00. The principal and superintendent both taught classes and ruled with an iron hand or a willow switch! In fact, the principal stated to the board that (and I quote) in his opinion marble playing was not conducive to good discipline on the grounds and he requested the board to stop it.” They did.

In 1895, the first American flag was purchased for \$17.50.

The first graduating class was the class of 1896 and had four members "From Small Beginnings" ...**Genesee News, May 3, 1935**



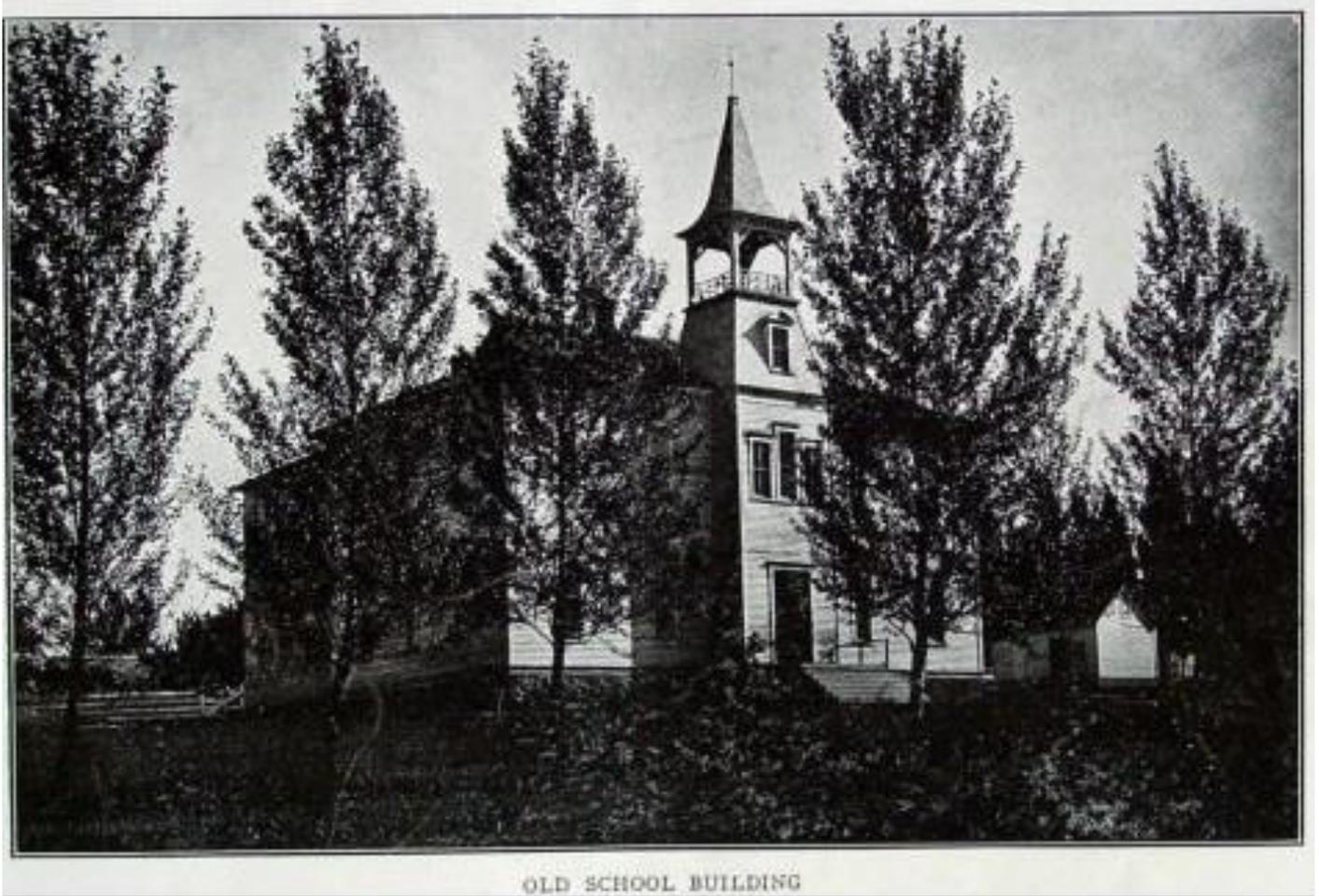
Between 1902 and 1910, running water and a sewage system was installed. Another new wing was added, this time to the east side of the building. Several decisions were made including that students must continue to buy their own books and **NO MARRIED FEMALE TEACHERS** would be hired!!!

Basketball was started in 1910. Since the beginning of basketball in Genesee teams have always fared above teams from schools of the same size. Teams comprised of the Wardrobes, the Grays, and Herb Martinson became famous in the Inland Empire. One of these gentlemen, Wm. J. Gray, established a scholarship and as you know many Genesee graduates have been and will continue to be recipients. Those early teams played and won from the University of Idaho prep and Washington State College, among others. Schools were played in Spokane. Genesee won the Inland Empire championship in 1911-12. A right to the championship was a disputed and a game played on a neutral court. Genesee defeated Rathdrum for the championship 18-16..

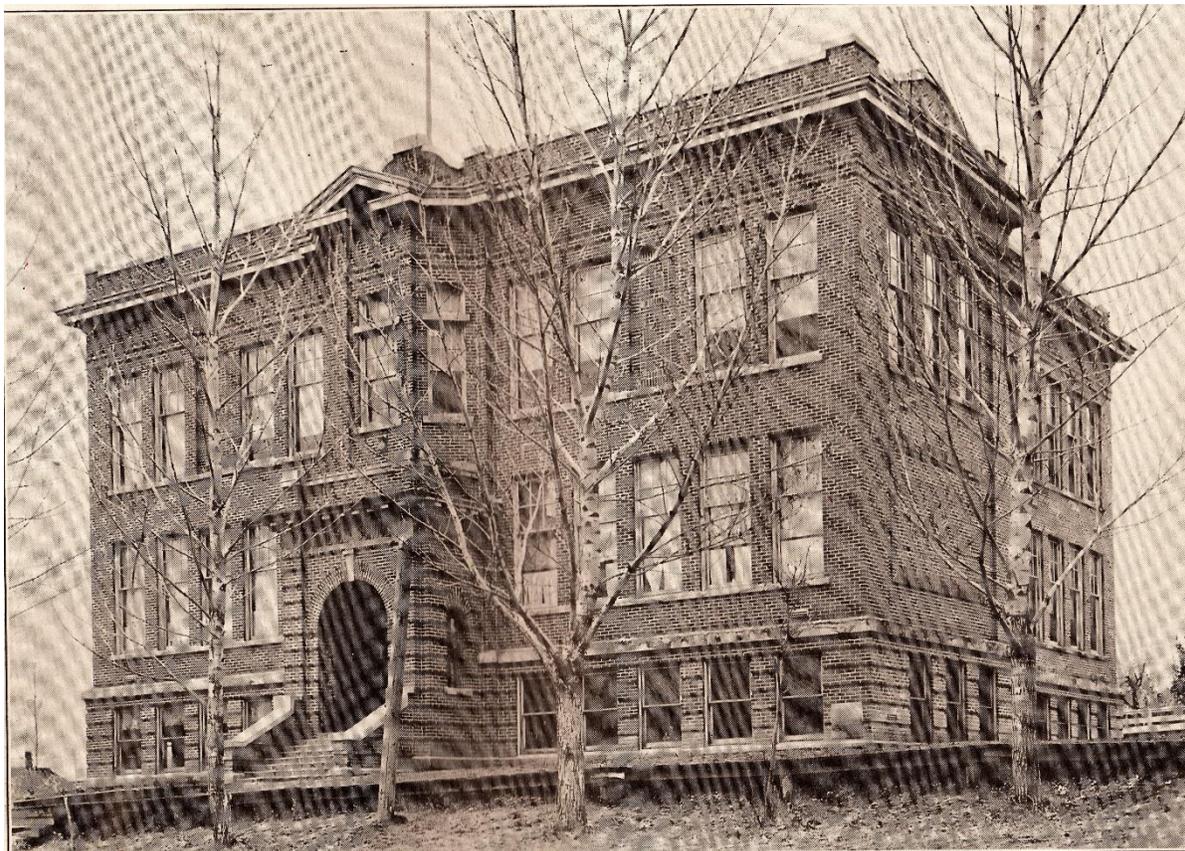


Football was introduced in 1910. The first season record: played 4- won 1, lost 3. Well- records improved!!

In 1912, the wooden structure was sold for \$300.00 and a new school built. This is part of the elementary school with classrooms and the superintendent's office. The year 1912 is recorded on the cornerstone. The original wooden building was torn down and wood used to build the highway barn and Comnick house, south of the city park



The new brick structure was built and furnished for the sum of \$21,220.00.



SCHOOL BUILDING

Consolidation was begun in 1936-1937. A bus was purchased by a private individual and the children were brought to town. During the winter of 1937, several students from the rural areas were snowed in town for a week. Snowplowing was done by local farmers (*including John Lorang before 1926*) and often after plowing all day the roads would be blocked by snow by the time the farmer returned home. Temporary consolidation was completed in 1937 and all students bused to town.

### **The Country Schools Closed Forever**

In 1947, the courthouse records reveal permanent consolidation of the Genesee Joint School District. Names of the rural schools include Aurora 15, Pine Grove 16, Smith 35, Keene 39, Lone Star 56, Ebel 67, Gray Eagle 28, Jain 64, Lenville 26, Aspendale 27, Union 63, Part of South Thorncreek 3, Blaine 21 and Fix Ridge 17. With consolidation and bussing, an addition was needed. The old Opera House, now torn down and then located across from the present Legion Building, had been the gymnasium. A new addition to the original school was completed by 1940, and included a gym, several classrooms and a stage. A five-trustee district was set up to manage

consolidated schools. A hot lunch program was established and lunches were served in the old Smolt house west of the school. Mrs. Emma Hoduffer was the first cook. Others were Mrs. Farrol Wernecke, Mrs. L. E. Brown and Mrs. George Anderson. The first Jr. Class dance was held in 1945. A Girls Club was begun as Sigma Phi Chi in the late 40's. Mrs. Tom Boyd was among the charter members and later served as an advisor. During the years of World War II, boys' football was not played. The girls had strong basketball teams in the 40's. Mrs. Al Zenner was one of the coaches. In 1951 students still purchased their own texts. The Gray Eagle schoolhouse was moved to town and became a Home Economics classroom. Band classes were held in the basement. The first librarian was hired in the early 50's.

In 1955, a new Agricultural Shop was completed. In 1961, a ruling by the School Board stated that, "married persons who are permitted to attend the school shall not be allowed to take part in extracurricular activities".

In 1967, the last addition to out building was completed. Five new classrooms, a music room, Home Ec department, a gymnasium and lockers, audio visual room, meeting rooms, kitchen and remodeling of the old gym into a multi-purpose room took place.

In the 1970's, special education was added to the curriculum.

High academic standards have been maintained in the Genesee district with a high percentage of our students going on to higher learning.

The smallest class was the first which had four members. The largest was in 1939 with 43 students. Mrs. Emma Shirrod who with her husband, Fred, established the Shirrod Scholarship graduated in 1903. The oldest living graduate of Genesee High School is Antone Kambitsch of Lewiston, who graduated in 1911.

The assessed valuation of the School District in 1903 was \$7,000.00. Currently it is about 10 million dollars.

Twenty-two superintendents and 428 teachers have been employed by the system. Counting the 33 in the class of 1979, 3,966 students have graduated from Genesee High School.

Many men and one woman have served on the school board. Some are these people are D. Spurbeck, M. Markham, Wm. Evans, Herman Nebelsieck, Wm. Smolt, Fred Nagle, George Mochel, Paul Cann, Robert Emmett, Walt Emerson, Rev. Wolfe, John G. Myers, Fred Dicus, Ed Smolt, Lewis Jain, Tannis Miller, R. Beeman, H. J. Tweedt, Louis Levi, E. A. Sampson, J. S. Dermot, N. J. Walby, J. Bundy, M. C. Harris, Wm. Herman, Henry Koster, Ed Morken Sr., Rudolph Nordby, J. Adrian Nelson, Paul Parks, Mahlon Follett, who also

served as Clerk for 50 years, Howard Blume, Leon Danielson, Wm. Haxton Sr., Merle Roberts, Ray Wedin, Thor Gilje, Wayne Hampton, Tom Boyd, Ray Stout, Marion Holben, Jack Sprangler, Bill Haxton Jr., Bill Shirley, Dick Howell and Irma Eglund. Martin Stout was just elected. Information for this history was obtained by Mrs. George Alderman who conducted extensive research, reading minutes of board meetings and interviewing people. Contributors were Jess and Pearl Johnson, Mahlon Follett, and Adrian Nelson. Books used as sources were, "A History of North Idaho- 1903"; "Whispers of Old Genesee and Echoes of the Salmon River" by John Platt; and high school annuals. It was written by Mrs. D. F. Scharnhorst. Margaret Baumgartner was typist and printer. Copies are being presented to each of you members of the class of 1979 with best wishes from these people, the Staff and School Board.

In closing, let me leave you with this thought: Manhood and womanhood, not scholarship, are the first aim in education. May your school's heritage and your desire for right help you attain these goals.

1979, June 14, Genesee News.

THE GAZETTE - NEWS, THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 1979

**WANT ADS GET RESULTS**

**A Century of Formal Education In Genesee**



Genesee, garden spot of the Pacific, has had the advantage of public school for a century. Yes, the first town school was established in September of 1879, in the "Old Town", about a mile east of our present townsite. This was 11 years before Idaho attained a statehood and 10 years before Genesee was incorporated. The schoolhouse was located near the four corners, now the Luedke place. Mr. Vernon and Mr. Dent were the first teachers and commanded the overwhelming salary of \$150.00 for a three-month stint. The first board of Directors was D. Spurbeck, a Daniel Markham and William Evans. Lewis Jain was a Trustee in 1883, with Miller and Evans.

In 1883, school was held in the old fort located near Cow Creek on land belonging to Mr. Eeman. The fort, surrounded by a stockade, had been built as a precaution in 1877. Church services were held in the same building. Staffy Lettenmaier now farms the land that is the site of the old fort. School term was three to four months at that time. Later that year it was decided to sell the building and build a new structure. The building sold for \$21.00.

In 1884, school was held in a warehouse in 1885 and stood ¼ of a mile east of old Genesee. The building was 24 wide x 38 long x 12' high. Teachers were paid \$30.00 a month plus board. They boarded with parents of their pupils and sometimes were paid with wood or canned goods. Students furnished ¼ of a cord of wood each to heat the building.

In 1885, the railroad was constructed to Belmont—then to Marshall Junction. A terminus was built at Genesee. Jacobs Rosenstein, an early day merchant, asked too much for right-o-way, and as a result John Vallner purchased 40 acres a mile west of the original town. By some coincidence the railroad stopped new site as the old town broke up. A special meeting of the school directors was called and it was decided to move the schoolhouse to the new town. This was done for \$100.00. Six lots were purchased for \$200.00 for a school site.

The population of Genesee was booming and several hundred people lived here by 1889. 146 students were in the district and a new addition was built. The contract was set for \$3,374.00 for construction. In 1889, the town was incorporated and in 1890, the year Idaho became a state, another wing was added to the school.

Mr. Hartzell Cobb was the first high school superintendent and served for 11 years. The first high school offered a three-year course but later a four-year course was adopted by the Board. The Independent School District was formed in 1894 was District No. 2.

Salaries in those early days? Janitors: \$2.00 a day; Principal: \$70.00 a month; Superintendent: \$82.00 a month and other teachers \$65.00. The principal and superintendent both taught classes and ruled with an iron hand or a willow switch. In fact, the principal stated to the board that (and I quote) in his opinion marble playing was not conducive to good discipline on the grounds and he requested the board to stop it. They did.

In 1895, the first American flag was purchased for \$17.50. The first graduating class was the class of 1896 and had four members "From Small Beginnings" . . .

Between 1902 and 1910, running water and a sewage system was installed. Another new wing was added. This time to the east side of the building. Several decisions were made including that students must continue to buy their own books and NO MARRIED FEMALE TEACHERS would be hired ! ! !

Basketball was started in 1910. Since the beginning of basketball in Genesee teams have always fared above teams from schools of the same size. Teams comprised of the Wardrobes, the Grays, and Herb Martinson became famous in the Inland Empire. One of these gentlemen, Wm. J. Gray, established a scholarship and as you know many will continue to be recipients. Those early teams played and won from the University of Idaho prep and Washington State College, among others. Schools were played in Spokane, rnpionship in 1911-12. A fight to the championship was a disputed and a game played on a neutral court. Genesee defeated Rabblrum for the championship 18-16.

Football was introduced in 1910. The first season record, played, won 1, lost 3. Well-records, improved!

In 1912, the wooden structure was sold for \$300.00 and a new school built. This is part of the elementary school with classrooms and the superintendent's office. The year 1912 is recorded on the cornerstone. The original wooden building was torn down and wood used to build the highway barn and Commick house, south of the city park. The new brick structure was built and furnished for the sum of \$71,000.00.

husband, Fred, established the Shiroi Scholarship graduated in 1903. The oldest living graduate of Genesee High School is Antone Karnsee of Lewiston, who graduated in 1911.

The assessed valuation of the School District in 1903 was \$7,000.00. Currently it is about 10 million dollars.

Twenty-two superintendents and 428 teachers have been employed by the system. Counting the 33 in the class of 1979, 8,668 students have graduated from Genesee High School. Many men and one woman have served on the school board. Some are these people are D. Spurbeck, M. Markham, Wm. Evans, Herman Nebelslock, Wm. Smolt, Fred Nagle, George Mochel, Paul Cann, Robert Emmett, Walt Emerson, Rev. Wolfe, John G. Myers, Fred Dicus, Ed Smolt, Lewis Jain, Tannis Miller, R. Eeman, H. J. Tweed, Louis Levi, E. A. Sampson, J. S. Dermal, M. J. Walby, J. Bundy, M. C. Harris, Wm. Herman, Henry Koster, Ed Morken Sr., Rudolph Nerdvig, J. Adrian Nelson, Paul Parks, Mahlon Follett, who also served as Clerk for 50 years, Howard Blume, Leon Danielson, Wm. Haxton Sr., Merle Roberts, Ray Wedin, Thor Gilje, Wayne Hampton, Tom Boyd, Ray Stout, Marion Holben, Jack Spangler, Bill Haxton, Jr., Bill Shirley, Dick Howell and Irma Eglund. Martin Stout was just elected. Information for this history was obtained by Mrs. George Alderman who conducted extensive research, reading minutes of board meetings and interviewing people. Contributors were Jess and Pearl Johnson, Mahlon Follett, and Adrian Nelson. Books used as sources were "A History of North Idaho -- 1903"; "Whispers of Old Genesee and Echoes of the Salmon River" by John Platt; and high school annuals. It was written by Mrs. D. F. Scharnhorst. Margaret Baumgartner was typist and printer. Copies are being presented to each of you members of the class of 1979 with best wishes from these people, the Staff and School Board.

In closing, let me leave you with this thought: Manhood and womanhood, not scholarship, are the first aim in education. May your school's heritage and your desire for right help you attain these goals.

town. This was done for \$100.00. Six lots were purchased for \$200.00 for a school site.

The population of Genesee was booming and several hundred people lived here by 1889. 146 students were in the district and a new addition was built. The contract was set for \$3,374.00 for construction. In 1889, the town was incorporated and in 1890, the year Idaho became a state, another wing was added to the school.

Mr. Hartzell Cobb was the first high school superintendent and served for 11 years. The first high school offered a three-year course but later a four-year course was adopted by the Board. The Independent School District was formed in 1894 was District No. 2.

Salaries in those early days? Janitors: \$2.00 a day; Principal: \$70.00 a month; Superintendent: \$82.00 a month and other teachers \$65.00. The principal and superintendent both taught classes and ruled with an iron hand or a willow switch. In fact, the principal stated to the board that (and I quote) in his opinion marble playing was not conducive to good discipline on the grounds and he requested the board to stop it. They did.

In 1895, the first American flag was purchased for \$17.50. The first graduating class was the class of 1896 and had four members "From Small Beginnings" . . .

Between 1902 and 1910, running water and a sewage system was installed. Another new wing was added. This time to the east side of the building. Several decisions were made including that students must continue to buy their own books and NO MARRIED FEMALE TEACHERS would be hired ! ! !

Basketball was started in 1910. Since the beginning of basketball in Genesee teams have always fared above teams from schools of the same size. Teams comprised of the Wardrobes, the Grays, and Herb Martinson became famous in the Inland Empire. One of these gentlemen, Wm. J. Gray, established a scholarship and as you know many will continue to be recipients. Those early teams played and won from the University of Idaho prep and Washington State College, among others. Schools were played in Spokane, rnpionship in 1911-12. A fight to the championship was a disputed and a game played on a neutral court. Genesee defeated Rabblrum for the championship 18-16.

Football was introduced in 1910. The first season record, played, won 1, lost 3. Well-records, improved!

In 1912, the wooden structure was sold for \$300.00 and a new school built. This is part of the elementary school with classrooms and the superintendent's office. The year 1912 is recorded on the cornerstone. The original wooden building was torn down and wood used to build the highway barn and Commick house, south of the city park. The new brick structure was built and furnished for the sum of \$71,000.00.

husband, Fred, established the Shiroi Scholarship graduated in 1903. The oldest living graduate of Genesee High School is Antone Karnsee of Lewiston, who graduated in 1911.

The assessed valuation of the School District in 1903 was \$7,000.00. Currently it is about 10 million dollars.

Twenty-two superintendents and 428 teachers have been employed by the system. Counting the 33 in the class of 1979, 8,668 students have graduated from Genesee High School. Many men and one woman have served on the school board. Some are these people are D. Spurbeck, M. Markham, Wm. Evans, Herman Nebelslock, Wm. Smolt, Fred Nagle, George Mochel, Paul Cann, Robert Emmett, Walt Emerson, Rev. Wolfe, John G. Myers, Fred Dicus, Ed Smolt, Lewis Jain, Tannis Miller, R. Eeman, H. J. Tweed, Louis Levi, E. A. Sampson, J. S. Dermal, M. J. Walby, J. Bundy, M. C. Harris, Wm. Herman, Henry Koster, Ed Morken Sr., Rudolph Nerdvig, J. Adrian Nelson, Paul Parks, Mahlon Follett, who also served as Clerk for 50 years, Howard Blume, Leon Danielson, Wm. Haxton Sr., Merle Roberts, Ray Wedin, Thor Gilje, Wayne Hampton, Tom Boyd, Ray Stout, Marion Holben, Jack Spangler, Bill Haxton, Jr., Bill Shirley, Dick Howell and Irma Eglund. Martin Stout was just elected. Information for this history was obtained by Mrs. George Alderman who conducted extensive research, reading minutes of board meetings and interviewing people. Contributors were Jess and Pearl Johnson, Mahlon Follett, and Adrian Nelson. Books used as sources were "A History of North Idaho -- 1903"; "Whispers of Old Genesee and Echoes of the Salmon River" by John Platt; and high school annuals. It was written by Mrs. D. F. Scharnhorst. Margaret Baumgartner was typist and printer. Copies are being presented to each of you members of the class of 1979 with best wishes from these people, the Staff and School Board.

In closing, let me leave you with this thought: Manhood and womanhood, not scholarship, are the first aim in education. May your school's heritage and your desire for right help you attain these goals.

**FARM BUREAU INSURANCE**

RANDY NOBLE, Special Agent  
Home — Auto — Fire  
Life — Health — Finance  
Crop — Hail & Fire

KENDRICK, IDAHO PHONE 289-9481

**Free Estimates**  
On Bodywork and Painting

— RICK ARNETT —  
KENDRICK, IDAHO  
Telephone 289-3251

**FEY BROS. REPAIR**  
AT THE OLD MILL SITE WEST OF  
KENDRICK  
MAJOR OVERHAULS  
(Diesel & Gas)  
TUNE-UPS

Phone 289-4177 — Roy & Harlan Fey

**Custom Slaughtering**

By Appointment  
Hours: 8 to 5 Mon. — Fri.

We Will Accept Farm Butchered Beef and Pork For Processing.

**BENDELS MEATS**  
Troy, Idaho Phone 835-2341

**ELEPHANT BRAND Fertilizers**

**WAYNE HARRIS**  
Licensed Auctioneer  
Auction Service — Commercial  
Farms — Bankruptcies — Real Estate  
CHARITIES FREE

Home Phone 289-5891 — Office Phone 289-4071 — Kendrick — 289-4071

**C. Taylor Landscaping**  
Lawn Mowing & Care

**Short's Funeral Chapel**

In 1912, the wooden structure was sold for \$300.00 and a new school built. This is part of the elementary school with classrooms and the superintendent's office. The year 1912 is recorded on the cornerstone. The original wooden building was torn down and wood used to build the highway barn and Connick house, south of the city park. The new brick structure was built and furnished for the sum of \$21,220.00.

Consolidation of the country schools was begun in 1936-37. A bus was purchased by a private individual and children were brought to town. During the winter of 1937 several students from the rural areas were snowed in town for a week. Snowplowing was done by local farmers and often after plowing all day, the roads would be blocked by snow by the time the farmer returned home. Temporary consolidation was completed in 1937 and all students bussed to town.

#### The Country Schools Closed Forever

In 1947, the courthouse records reveal permanent consolidation of the Genesee Joint School District. Names of the rural schools include Aurora 15, Pine Grove 16, Smith 35, Keene 39, Lone Star 56, Ebel 67, Gray Eagle 28, Jain 64, Lenville 26, Aspendale 27, Union 63, Part of South Thorncreek 3, Blaine 21 and Fix Ridge 17. With consolidation and bussing, an addition was needed. The old Opera House, now torn down and then located across from the present Legion Building, had been the gymnasium. A new addition to the original school was completed by 1940, and included a gym, several classrooms and a stage. A five-trustee district was set up to manage the consolidated schools. A hot lunch program was established and lunches were served in the old Smolt house west of the school. Mrs. Emma Hoduffer was the first cook. Others were Mrs. Farrol Wernecke, Mrs. L. E. Brown and Mrs. George Anderson. The first Jr. Class dance was held in 1945. A Girls Club was begun as Sigma Phi Chi in the late 40's. Mrs. Tom Boyd was among the charter members and later served as an advisor. During the years of World War II, boys' football was not played. The girls had strong basketball teams in the 40's. Mrs. Al Zenner was one of the coaches. In 1951 students still purchased their own texts. The Gray Eagle schoolhouse was moved to town and became a Home Economics classroom. Band classes were held in the basement. The first librarian was hired in the early 50's.

In 1955, a new Agricultural Shop was completed. In 1961, a ruling by the School Board stated that, "married persons who are permitted to attend the school shall not be allowed to take part in extracurricular activities."

In 1967, the last addition to our building was completed. Five new classrooms, a music room, Home Ec department, gymnasium and lockers, audio visual room, meeting rooms, kitchen and remodeling of the old gym into a multi-purpose room took place.

In the 1970's, special education was added to the curriculum.

High academic standards have been maintained in the Genesee district with a high percentage of our students going on to higher learning.

The smallest class was the first which had four members. The largest was in 1939 with 43 students. Mrs. Emma Shirrod, who with her

bel

ice  
WIDES

ation

G

ROL

83544

100  
ANTS

R

N

3131

L  
Prun

2

tl

S

S

S

S

S

S

ted

est

the

pan

DE

T

K