

“Genesee News”, May 3, 1935
Early School Days Related by Pioneer
(Facts by Mrs. Sarah Elliot)

In 1916, when those four hopefuls stepped out the school door with a diploma Genesee was a town of some size and activity. But when the first children were taught in this area – yes, it was just an area.

That was in 1878, the year the Indian War broke out again and all the people went into barricades. Mrs. Edward McConville was the teacher, riding horseback from Lewiston up the grade. Hers was the shortest route, and it would probably be a mountaineer’s job to follow her path today. Mrs. McConville had taught in the valley town the year before, and when she applied was told by a school board member, Dr. J. Q. Moxley, that she must take an examination. Only the one question was asked her:

“What would you do if you got hold of an obstreperous child?”

To which she replied: “I would give him a licking.”

“You can have the job,” said Dr. Moxley.

No imposing, modern brick school building did Mrs. McConville have at her disposal for her class here. Instead she taught her youngsters in a deserted farm home, and a leaky one at that, and very likely her throne was a dry goods box. At least that is what each pupil had, every one bringing his or her own. Desks, well, it’s hard to imagine. No other school instruction was in progress in the country north of Lewiston.

During recess, and the noon hour, the pastime was horseback riding and horse racing, in which the teacher, too, took a part. That was about the only form of active amusement they had and everybody joined in with a will.

With the coming of the railroad, and the advent of “New Town” a school house was built a block east of Herman’s Store. That was a major improvement over the old educational facilities, but Genesee was still to go places in the matter of buildings.

A few years later, in about 1890, a fine, new building was built on the site of the present school house. Later, as the town kept growing, and the number of school children increased, a new wing was added to the west, about 1897.

A project new to embryonic schools was a summer school session held about the year 1899. The class of 14, some of them tramping in through deep dust from the country, made an entire grade during that summer term, to be ready for advanced study that fall.

It was not until the summer of 1904 that the need for another addition was felt by the school board, resulting in the building of the east wing.

The year 1904 also marks another step in improved education in Genesee, with the high school going on a four-year basis, taking the place of the three-year plan in force previously. This year, too, the enrollment in the grades reached 220, and of high school students there were 35.

School bells rang more merrily than ever with the opening of the 1913 school, for there stood an imposing brick structure on the grounds of the old school, and the one we have today. Another step up came in 1922 with the high school being put on a fully accredited basis, which it has maintained.

From 1878 to 1935 has been 57 years of education for the youth of the Genesee community. Small, and insignificant though the first class might seem to us now, just remember, "great oaks from little acorns grow."



OLD SCHOOL BUILDING



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Community Day Has Three-Fold Purpose

Hartzell Cobbs First H.S. Head

"Nampa, Idaho, Apr. 23, 1935

"Dear Mr. Pederson,
"Will you kindly express for me my deep appreciation to the alums and citizenry of Genesee for their kind consideration in the coming school celebration.

"Yes, I am coming May 3 to Genesee to greet once more the boys and girls who attended the Genesee schools while I was superintendent; to hear the alums tell of their struggles in life, and to meet those who attended at a later date. I also wish to talk to my old friends of former days and smile with them at the many changes that 'Old Father Time' has carved upon our faces. I realize that the old rascal has beautified me mightily little.

"But let us stop and figure. I came to Genesee in the fall of 1894 and was the school master for eleven years. O, my, that makes 41 years ago since I took charge of the Genesee schools. No wonder I am worse for the wear.

"The high school was only partially organized that year. 1894, a four-year course was adopted by the board of education, and we had our first graduating class in 1896. I believe it was a class of four.

"While I was with the school the building was enlarged twice its original size. All of us were very proud of our new high school building. The rooms were large and attractive and I had a mighty good looking, intelligent faculty. The number of pupils more than tripled in attendance. The faculty now numbered nine.

First Graduating Class of Genesee High School 1896



Proud Possessors of the First Diplomas to be Presented to a Graduation Class from Genesee High School. Standing, left to right: Thomas Keene, Lulu Hough, Mae Hodgins, C. P. Burr, Seated, Supt. Hartzell Cobbs. Photo, Courtesy W. W. Burr

TERCENTENARY AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOLS COMBINE WITH ALUMNI REUNION IN LOCAL FETE MAY 3

High School Prints First Annual In '12

It was not until 1912—16 years after that memorable first class that the Genesee high school published its initial annual, "The Pow-Wow." Prepared by the advanced English class, it was dedicated to the basket ball team, champions of Idaho, and the Inland Empire. This famed quintet, included as regular players: Andy Wardrobe, John Wardrobe, Melvin Wardrobe, James Keane and Charles Gray.

The hot-stepping five beat Rathdrum for the Inland Empire crown by an 18 to 10 score, relates the annual, and a live crowd of 212 made the trip to Moscow to see the local boys grab off the largest slice of bacon that any GIS team has ever done. But this isn't supposed to be Damon Runyan's account of that glorious struggle; it's a story about an annual.

Besides its athletic section with pictures of its diverse sports aggregations, this publication contained pictures of all classes, with accounts of each, pictures of the faculty, and a few line drawings.

In it were 10 commandments for seniors, but what class or who wrote

Grade Schools Will Participate in Event

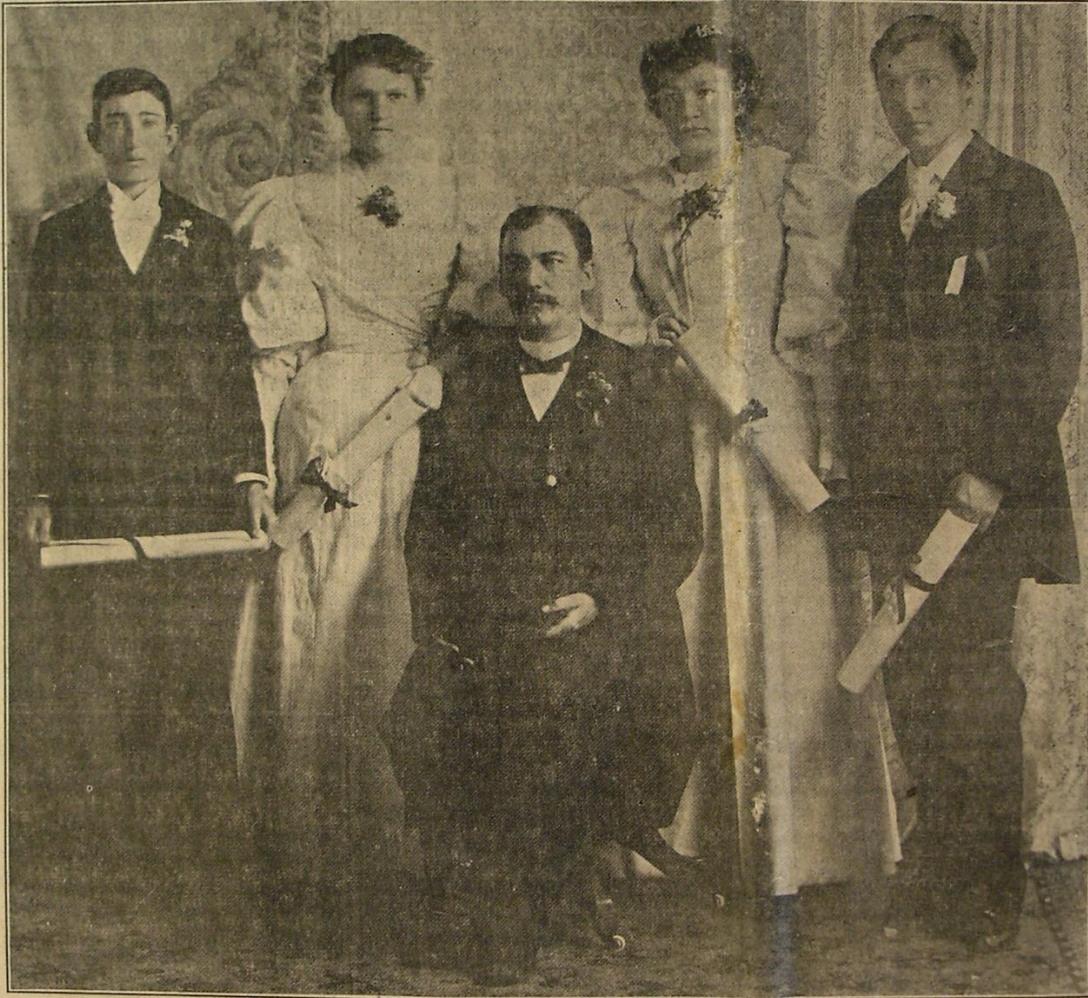
SCHOOLS' INTENT TO FOSTER A WHOLESOME COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND TO PERPETUATE INTEREST.

(By Supt. E. S. Suenkel)
Greetings, Alums, Patrons, Students and Friends. As we are preparing to assemble for the biggest Community Day Genesee has had the pleasure of celebrating, permit me to express my appreciation for the whole-hearted support and cooperation extended by the various groups taking part.

Community Day had its inception in the desire of the school to take an active part in stimulating and fostering a wholesome community spirit; to provide recreation, sociality, inspiration, and citizenship, participation which was free from commercialization.

This year is known as the "Tercenary," celebrating 300 years of American high schools. The first demand for secondary education in the United States was made by the Massachusetts Bay colonists in order to insure a learned ministry for the future. On April 23, 1635, the citizens of Boston, in town meeting assembled,

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Photo Courtesy W. W. Burr