

## HISTORY OF GRANDVIEW SCHOOLS

As early as 1894, with the very first settlers living in this area and the name Grandview not yet appearing on any map, there were small groups of children gathering in old shacks for school.

In the Bethany community, north of town, and the Euclid district, south of town, were the first two schools. But they met only about three months of the year, and we are not even sure who did the teaching.

It is recorded that a school board officially met on Sept. 26, 1894 in the Euclid district. The directors were D.M. Angus, Mr. Mayes, and C. R. Gillett, with R. B. Spencer acting as clerk. It was finally decided to begin holding school in the house of Mr. Boyle, with the only rent being to make repairs on the house.

Professor Plumb, a teacher and rancher, was engaged to teach for three months at a salary of \$50 per month. An early list of school supplies included 12 double desks, a cloth blackboard 3 ft. x 10 ft., and a dictionary.

The next year, 1895-96, F. H. Colby was secured as the teacher for three months, but now at a salary of \$35 a month, and he had to supply the building. He was also paid 25 cents a month to store the school supplies when they weren't in session.

By 1900 school opened one month earlier, but was still in a house. An election was held in the district in August of 1901 to approve \$600 in bonds to purchase a schoolhouse and furniture, but it failed. The next year, a \$1,000 bond was approved by voters.

The site chosen was at today's intersection of Mountain View and Euclid road and the ground was leveled for \$35. Kenyon and Milligan built the schoolhouse for \$795.

By 1904, the school term increased to seven months, and the teacher's salary increased back to \$50 per month.

In the Bethany district, school before the turn of the century was held in Joseph Watson's homestead shack, two and a half miles north of Grandview today. In 1894 a small schoolhouse was built north of the R. L. Mains home. That building was later moved to the Waneta district.

The school districts were divided in 1903, with the east half called Bethany and the west half Waneta. A new Bethany school house was built that year near the Mains homestead, at what was called Black's Corner north of town. The building was moved in 1907 to Bethany and Woodworth roads, where part of it still stands today. It housed 40 to 60 students, and had an upper belfry, with a coal stove for heat.

Meanwhile, back in town, when Grandview was platted in 1906, work started immediately on a two-story, four-room school in Block G. It was supposed to be the high school for the whole district. While it was being built, children gathered for school in a small milling shack near West B and Second Street, and Mr. Grant was the teacher.

High school opened the first Monday in October, 1906, with W. H. Grant serving as teacher, principal and superintendent. There were five seniors – four girls and one boy.

But the town grew rapidly, and the school – called Central School -- was soon filled with pupils from all grades, elementary to high school. By 1909 the school was doubled in size. F.G. Bennett was superintendent until 1913, followed by F. J. Brown, and A. C Kellogg. Mr. Ramaley was high school principal for seven years before being named superintendent in 1924. The first high school yearbook was titled the “Yelamar” in his honor (that’s Ramaley spelled backwards!) There were not only outhouses behind the school, but a horse barn near where the old bus garage was, behind McClure School.

In 1918, a two-story brick high school was built just west of Central School, and Central was dedicated to elementary students. But they were still running out of room. In 1920 a new cement block elementary school, named Lincoln Grade School, was built east of town on North Elm Street. Today it is part of the Seventh-day Adventist Academy.

The original Central School on West Second Street burned in 1924. During the next year, the students had class in local churches while a new brick school could be built. The “new” Central School was opened on West Second Street in the spring of 1925. One year later an addition was built on the north to increase the assembly room.

From a staff of one in 1906, by 1927 the school district had grown to a staff of 22, plus a superintendent, and served 878 pupils in five schools.

William H. Beardsley, who was born in Minnesota in 1890, came to Grandview as school superintendent in 1932, and remained as superintendent until 1942. In 1939, Supt. W. H. Beardsley announced the organization of the first band classes in school, and he was the band leader.

A new Grandview High School was built at West Second and Euclid in 1937 for \$90,000, just west of the old school. Gov. Clarence Martin came here for the school dedication.

That same year, Grandview vacated the Bethany, Euclid and Lincoln schools and brought the country students to town on two new buses they purchased. The district began using the old high school for a junior high. The face of rural education was changing.

In 1948, in the post World War II boom, a new 12-room elementary school was built at Euclid and West Second Street. It was dedicated in 1949 as Harriet Thompson Elementary, in honor of a pioneer teacher.

Harriet Dunton Thompson came to Grandview in 1911. She was born in Minnesota in 1877, and went to school in Excelsior, Minnesota at a “normal” school for teachers. Her husband, Nels Henry Thompson, heard about property out west, and came here with his family. He taught school here for a year, but liked the outdoors better. He gave up teaching and farmed in the area between Apricot Road and Mountain View off Grandridge. Daughter Ruth was born on the family farm in Grandview.

Harriet began teaching high school in Grandview in 1924 – it was a necessity, according to daughter Ruth, to help support the family. Harriet taught biology, physics and general science until the 1940s, when she retired. Daughter Ruth characterized her mother as a “very smart woman. She enjoyed teaching very much, especially doing special projects with her students. She was strict

teacher, but well-liked by her students. Years later students would tell me that they remember having her, and 'your mother was the greatest teacher I had. When the school board announced they would name the new elementary school in her honor, she was quite excited about it. She was present at the dedication."

Harriet had brown hair, and vivid blue eyes, but her hair turned gray and white fairly young, according to her daughter. Harriet Thompson passed away in December of 1953.

Clarence McClure came to Grandview from Weiser, Idaho in 1944 as high school principal. He replaced Supt. Davis in 1949, and remained Grandview superintendent until 1966, when he passed away.

"He was one of the nicest men I've ever known," according to Marie McClure, his daughter-in-law who still lives in Grandview.

McClure was born in West Virginia, but came west to Idaho where he graduated from the College of Idaho at Caldwell, and took graduate work at Stanford, Utah State, the University of Washington and Central Washington State College.

McClure was actively involved in his community, attended the Christian Church, and was an active member of the Masonic lodge, Grandview Rotary, the Outlook Club, Chamber of Commerce, Lower Valley Knife and Ford Club, and the School Superintendents Association.

"He actually wasn't home a lot because he was in every organization in town," according to Marie. "I think he thought that was just a part of his job. He did a lot for Grandview."

During World War II, in 1944, Grandview was consolidated into District 200, which included the districts of Grandview, Belma, Walnut Grove, Waneta, and part of the Sunnyside rural area. A high school farm shop was built in 1946 on land west of the main school grounds, and today that is our bus garage.

In January of 1952, a "town meeting" was held to choose a site for a new Grandview elementary school. Supt. McClure was quoted as saying that the site chosen was "very important, because in all probability, it will be used between 30 and 40 years, so a mistake in location should not be made."

He was more than right. By March, the school board called another community meeting to get approval to build an 18-room elementary school, with multipurpose room, on a recently purchased site, the Brulotte property." It was on the east side of town, where Arthur H. Smith School stands today.

The voters approved \$490,000 for the new school, plus \$215,000 for eight new classrooms, a multipurpose room and stage for Harriet Thompson Elementary.

It was Supt. McClure who had suggested the school board name the new elementary on the east side of town "Arthur H. Smith Elementary" in honor of his friend Art Smith, who was a long-time teacher, coach and principal.

Smith came to Grandview in 1932 from Cowiche. He taught elementary school, junior high and high school before becoming the high school athletic director. He later became principal of the junior high. His wife was the librarian for Grandview High School.

Smith actually turned the first shovelful of dirt for the new elementary school to be named in his honor in April of 1953.

When Supt. McClure passed away in 1966, the Grandview Herald wrote an editorial in his honor: "Seldom does a community find itself united so completely as in the bond of sorrow experienced since the death of Clarence McClure. There is unity in loneliness over the loss of a true friend; in regret over the loss of a dedicated educator."

Principal Lyle Dickie was appointed interim school superintendent, until the board named Dr. Herman Jaeger as superintendent in 1966. He was followed by Supt. Darrell Smith and then Supt. Larry Crouch in the 1970s.

Another big change would come in 1977 when Grandview built a new high school building on West Fifth Street and Hillcrest. The sprawling campus was a huge development for the school district.

After the new Grandview High School was built, in 1978 the old high school annex site on West Second Street was converted into an elementary school for only 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students, and Darrell McCallum was the first principal. That school was named in honor of Clarence McClure. Eventually they added kindergarten, and Steve Kaufman became the principal.

When the new high school opened, the "old" two-story high school at West Second and Euclid became home to the district administration offices upstairs, and for several years there were kindergarten classes on the ground floor.

Mick Palanuk became Grandview's new superintendent in 1979. In 1994 Grandview launched its first alternative school, Compass High School, in portable buildings east of McClure School. The first class for Compass had 12 graduates, and now they annually have around 40 graduates.

As many of you know, we've had major school construction and renovation over the past 10 years. Grandview secured funding for renovations for four of its five schools. The district was able to re-build Harriet Thompson Elementary and McClure Elementary from the ground up. There were also major renovations for Grandview Middle School and Arthur H. Smith Elementary. Today each elementary school has kindergarten through fifth grade, and Compass School is in the ground floor of the old high school.

Our school district now has six schools, and instructs over 3,300 students. Kevin Chase is our superintendent, and our principals are Mike Closner at the high school, Brian Anderson at Compass, Jack Dalton at the Middle School, Julie Wysong at Harriet Thompson, Jose Rivera at McClure Elementary, and Diann Zavala at Arthur H. Smith Elementary.