

A HISTORY OF THE JONES SCHOOLS

The first school in Jones was held in 1899 in a one-room frame building, which is still standing and is now used for a residence. It is located on 4th street across the railroad tracks.

Early Jones teachers watched their students arrive in a far different manner than seen today. Four horse drawn covered wagons served as buses each had benches on either side with a rail seat down the middle covered with a black oilcloth material. The side curtains could be rolled up or down as weather permitted. The parents of the children who were picked up first would send a bucket of coals and a quilt to keep the children warm. The wagons usually left the school around 7:30 a.m. in order to be back by 9:00 a.m. If the children lived a mile from the school he or she would walk even though the wagons passed their homes. Ira Deal built the later buses that were wooden bodies built around a Ford truck chassis.

The district was a small one, having been carved out of part of the Liberty district to the Northeast, the Pleasant Hill district to the Southeast and the Harmony district to the Southwest and the 7C district to the Northwest. Mr. Trent was the first teacher and members of the school Board were Charles Kennedy, Hiram Driggs and William Stewart.

In 1900, Jones annexed a strip of land to the North, ½ mile wide and about 2 ½ miles long from the Liberty school district. This was called district 85.

In 1911 a Brick School building was erected on the annexed land. It housed Grades 1-8 and one year of high school.

Later this school building's interior walls were removed to where a concrete floor remained and was used as gym. You could swim in the gym when it rained and ski when it snowed so it was not very practically but students continued to play basketball. The building was completely torn down in 1934 or 1935.

In 1921-22 a consolidated district was organized and the Jones School district became known as Consolidated District No. 9 of Oklahoma County. A four- year High School was begun. This three-story building was torn down in 1961 and the present campus was built.

The first class of Graduates was in 1925. The three graduates were: Hattie Malone, Robert Miller and Laura Benson. Hattie went to Chicago where she worked for Sears and Roebuck. She was the first secretary of the JHS Alumni. Robert Miller went to Brimington, Washington where he worked for Pacific Power & Light Company. Robert came to the Alumni's 50th reunion. Laura Benson became a Missionary in Africa.

A new gym was started in 1936 by the WPA (Works Program Administration). Prior to this basketball teams played on dirt and coal cinders court. Due to lack of money the new gym was not completed until late 1939.

In 1967 State Center was annexed to Jones and the State Center School became the districts Middle School. Later an Elementary School was built and the campus became and is a High School.

**This material was taken from: "A History of Jones Oklahoma" written by C.A. Keyes; Material gathered and researched by Tony Bennett. These items have been given to the Jones Oklahoma Historical Society.