

## A HISTORY OF WINK SCHOOL



According to the school census taken in April of 1927, there were seven scholastics in Winkler County. At this time, only one oil well had been drilled. With the coming of spring, some additional rigs went up and Wink was born.

Little activity was apparent during the summer of 1927. In fact, a rodeo held on the 4th of July, failed to attract two score of people. September witnessed the beginning of a drilling campaign in Winkler County. By October and November more than forty rigs were running, and the town was wide open. The population had grown from less than a hundred to several thousand.

It was at this time that the Chamber of Commerce took up the problem of a school for the many hundreds of children who roamed the streets both day and night. A committee was formed with Mr. T. A. Staples as chairman. Other members of the committee were Mr. Rudy (now postmaster), and Mr. Hodges. Mr. Staples worked tirelessly and finally raised, by public subscription, enough money to build the first temporary building. This sheet iron building later became the High School building of the 1928-29 school term.

School was announced to open in the early winter, with Mrs. Turnbow and Miss Erma Elliott as teachers. So many pupils reported that half-day sessions were resorted to. This crowded condition caused the leaders of the Chamber of Commerce to sponsor a school building program. Pioneers in the work were M. H. Bridges and A. L. Tidwell. A \$40,000.00 County Bond Issue was voted, but the dilatory methods of the County officials in locating and erecting a building convinced the citizens of Wink that if they were to have a school they must form an Independent School District. This movement took form in an election held April 30, 1928, when an independent school district was formed and seven trustees elected.

The first directors were: Mrs. C. P. Thomas, P. W. Crown, E. Howard Heath, R. M. Brannon, Mrs. Ralph Lowe, Joe Chest, F. W. Elliott.

The new Board of Trustees met on May 1 and organized. Mr. P. W. Crown was elected President and Mrs. Ralph Lowe, Secretary. A few days later at another meeting it was decided to call an election and vote bonds in the amount of \$225,000.00. An architect was employed and the plans were laid for the present magnificent school building.

On June the 14th the Board met again to go over the plans for the new building prepared by Mr. Butler, the architect. At this meeting Captain A. E. Lang was introduced to the members of the Board and was elected to the place of Superintendent of Schools. After a further conference the new superintendent was given authority to hire a faculty and buy such school equipment as was needed for the opening of school in September. The date of opening of school was set for September 10, 1928. July passed without any sign of additional school rooms. August came and when the month had more than half passed, and still no additional building had developed, many citizens began to doubt whether Wink would have school during 1928-29.

On August 27 the first load of lumber was hauled to the grounds of the present school building. Ten days later the four temporary buildings containing twelve rooms were complete. A car load of seats, school books and equipment came in the first week of September. Mr. Nuzum, who was to be the High School Principal, had arrived the first of September and took charge of organizing a High School Department.

School opened on September 10 as announced by Superintendent Lang. Six hundred and sixty students reported the first day. Increased attendance called for additional buildings. During the year a total of 27 rooms were built. Four full years of High School work were offered. One thousand, three hundred and fifty-seven students enrolled for work during the year.

In March of 1929 all difficulty involved in the erection of the new building had been ironed out, and construction began. As the walls went up, the real size and proportion of the school plant became apparent. Work was rushed during the summer in order to have the building ready for school the first of September. School opened September 9, 1929, in the temporary buildings, as the new structure was not complete. On September 16 the Wink students moved into their new home. Great was the pride of each and every child, for the majority had attended school the preceding year in the old temporary buildings. They had watched developments from the first, and could see what man can accomplish—if there is a "will."



## THE FACULTY