

The History of Elko High School

As more grammar school graduates returned seeking additional education, the need for a high school became apparent. J.A. McBride and A. W. Hesson were instrumental in this campaign. Hesson was so determined to create the school, he rode across nearly the whole county on horseback to "secure support for the bond issue necessary for building and establishing the school. In 1895, Elko County High School opened its doors on Court Street, becoming the first county public school in Nevada. Today this structure houses several county offices.

Steady Growth

After 1896, the school grew steadily. Along with the population growth, clubs, sports, and traditions were established. The first football team tackled the field in 1905. 1909 marked many firsts. The first four-year courses were installed in the curriculum. The first basketball team took to the courts. The first Pophob was published, and the first student government was organized.

Destroyed by Fire

While waiting for construction to be completed on the new high school, classes were held in Van Drielen Hall. Construction of the new high school on Court Street was completed in 1896 at a cost of \$7,420. In 1941 a fire started in the building by spontaneous combustion of rags. It destroyed the second story of the building. Many wanted to tear the building down, but because most of the men in the town had gone to war, a roof was constructed over the remaining story. The original building still stands today housing several county offices. It housed the Home Makers Club as well as the County library after the school was moved.

The First Graduates

The first students to graduate from the official Elko County High School in 1896 were Charles Drown, Jessie Keyser, Charlie Mayer, Ernie Robinson, and Clara Taber.