

Ashley Community School History

The exact date of the founding of the first school in Ashley is not known; however, the location was on the southwest corner of McClellan and Garfield Roads. This building was later moved to the center of town as a part of a livery barn located on Oak street across from the current location of the Odd Fellows Hall. In 1886 a new school building was constructed on the present site at the corner of Oak and New Streets. This building was used until 1920 at which time it was destroyed by fire. The building was replaced by what is today the older portion of the high school which is still used today. In 1937, what is now known as the old gym was constructed with the use of WPA labor at a cost of \$22,752. Eleven years later in 1948, expansion was necessary and school district patrons constructed what is today the principal's office, cafeteria, business class room, and boiler room. The remaining portion of this wing was constructed in 1956. In this wing is three elementary classrooms and the superintendents offices. The elementary school which houses grades two through five was constructed in 1969, and the new gymnasium followed in 1973 completing the present complex.

From a district that encompassed only the immediate area in the late eighteen hundreds, Ashley expanded to its present size of sixty square miles located in six different townships and two counties. Most of this expansion came in the late Nineteen fifties and sixties.

In 1911 the first graduating class, from high school, consisted of two members. Since that time a continuous stream of graduates have received their diplomas and have gone on to enter a variety of vocations and professions.

In the fall of 1942, Ashley entered the age of mechanization and the students rode to and from school in their first school bus.

Records are lacking and incomplete as to many other firsts. Records are not available as to the first athletic teams or bands or other school related groups. But, pictures show a girls basketball team in the 1912 area. Other pictures shows a boys basketball team in the 1920's. The earliest band was started in 1932.

— Material from James Seals



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