

GRANDIN SCHOOL HISTORY

Excerpt from the history printed in the Grandin Centennial Book.

The Grandin community was settled predominantly by Scotch and Irish families in whom was an inherent love of learning and realization of the value of education in a free democratic country.

The first school was started by an itinerant school teacher, named Mr. Hennessey, who offered to teach the children if the parents would provide books. These were gathered from the different homes and school was held in a temporary room until a small typical country school was built about 1885. This served until 1896 when a fine structure was built. This was a two story, full basement building with four classrooms and library and principal's office combined.

About 1900 a two year high school course was set up, later a three year course and finally about 1918 a full four year course was established.

In 1920 the building burned down. A modern, fireproof brick building was erected at the cost of about \$60,000. It contained four large classrooms, besides a primary room, kitchen and large auditorium on the first floor. Full high school was offered and excellent instruction in music given. Its sports excelled. The girls basketball team was Cass County champions in 1931 and the boys team was State champions in 1934.

The first high school graduate was Alice Rosenau in 1923, the second was Lynn Ferguson.

A new strictly modern auditorium, at the cost of about \$66,000 was built in 1954. The old auditorium was converted into classrooms and a music room.

Some of the early principals were: Mr. Hennessey, A. C. Dean, F. A. Godfrey, A. M. Carlile, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Gross, G. R. Livengood, G. Skinner, Mr. Roderick, Miss Ellen Johnson, Miss Christobork Christenson, Adolph O. Lee, George Melbye. Professors: Cline, Crews, Colinau, Osmon, Holt, Herwick, Holl, Johnson, and Skurdall. Later superintendents were Roy Fee, Melvin Hanson and Clayton Ahrlin.

In 1961, when Mr. Ahrlin took over the duties of teaching administrator there were four teachers in high school and four in the grades. The school was non-accredited.

In 1962-63 Gardner closed its high school and sent its students to Grandin. The staff was increased to six teachers in high school and the school began a band, mixed chorus and added football to its activities. The school was accredited to 1976 when the school was reorganized.

The boy's basketball team became conference champions, which they repeated in 1967, 1968, 1970 and 1974.

The football teams were conference champs

in 1965, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, (shared), 1972, 1973 and 1974.

The boy's track team won the conference title in 1967 and continued to win each year through 1975. They won the Class B State Title in 1969 as well as in 1970.

In 1973 the girls won first place in the eastern division in basketball and the Tall Towers Championship in 1974. The combination of Grandin and Gardner worked well.

Top awards in the state were won by both the newspaper and the yearbook during these exciting years.

A first class science department and home economics department made the school top notch in all but one respect and the school board was beginning to remedy that during the 1974-75 school year when they built a new addition that was to house the modern library and a lunch area. This was called the multipurpose room. It was fully functional in 1976.

That was also the year of reorganization. Grandin, Gardner and Argusville joined together to become Cass Valley North.

It was the end of an exciting, action packed time in which we saw wonderful things and growth in quality education. It was the end of one era and the beginning of another.