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# **EDGEWOOD**

## **The Story - The People**

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# EDGEWOOD

## The Story - The People

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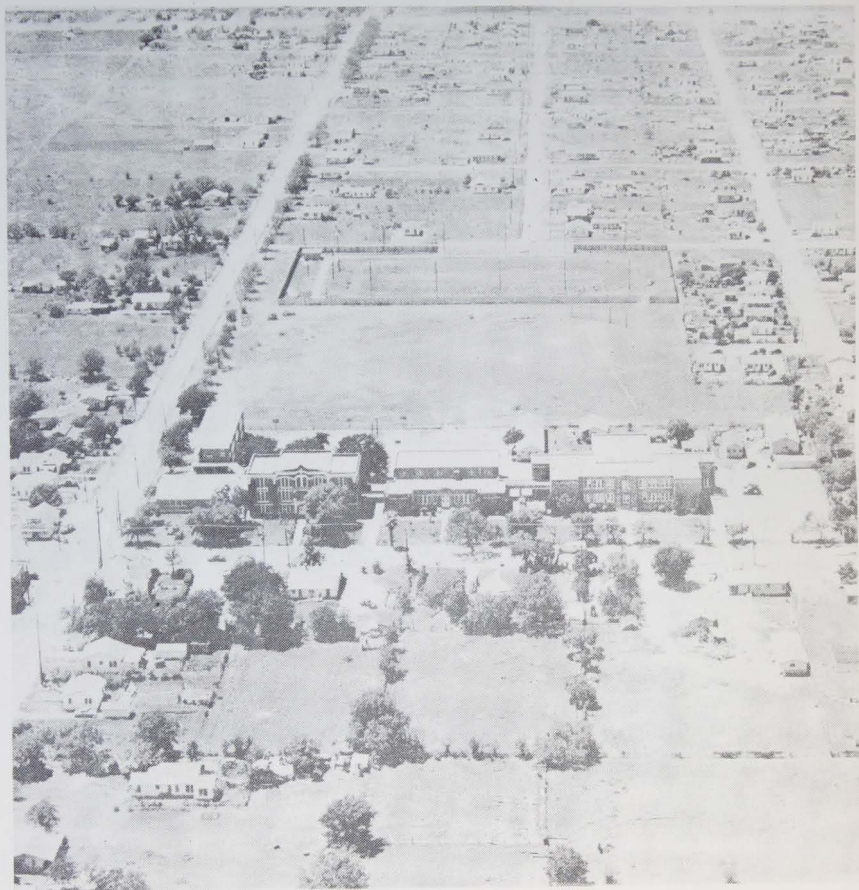
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1954 — Aerial view of the Edgewood campus.

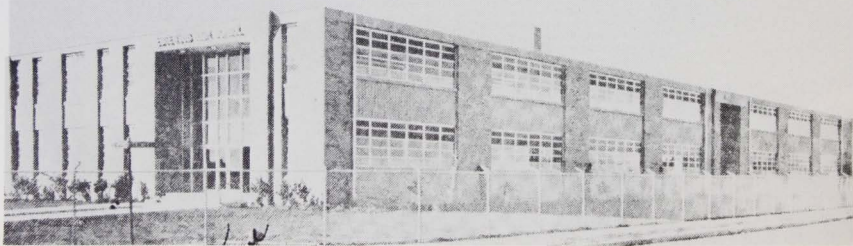


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1954 Edgewood High School.

## INTRODUCTION

One of the characteristics of a civilized society is to keep track of facts, that is, write a history, to preserve the past, to pass it on to the next generation. Just like our ancestors passed on their knowledge so that we may know about them, so do we now make a printed record of where we have come from...where we are going.

The legacy of Edgewood School District is a proud one. One that challenges all future Edgewood students and parents to preserve what we have nurtured, and to continue in the path of excellence which we have laid.

**EDGEWOOD: THE STORY, THE PEOPLE** is by no means a complete history, by no means a chronologically complete record of our illustrious and sometimes rocky past, but it serves as a tribute to those who came before us.

In the words of former Edgewood Superintendent and District historian, Dr. E. E. Arnaud, who published a history of Edgewood in 1942:

Most of us are likely to take for granted the little schoolhouse around the corner from us...  
But seldom do we think of a schoolhouse as  
having a real history of its own.

But it does, and in Edgewood it lives.

David D. Ochoa  
Community Relations Officer



1937 - Edgewood High School's first graduating class.

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*Edgewood*  
Independent School District

Although **Edgewood: The Story, The People** chronicles this school district's history beginning in 1905, "The Story" actually begins years before when San Antonio continued to grow and people continued to move into the desirable West Side. The need for a public education system for "the edge of the woods" folks was met.

The now famous \$1 deal which is the modest beginning of what we know today as the multi-million dollar, multi-campus, front-runner in Texas public school systems is an example of the Edgewood "spirit" still evident today in its community members.

Although impossible to list everyone's contributions to "The Story", we should remember that Edgewood School District-1986 is the result of many citizens' tireless hours of work, high energy, generous contributions, and inspired foresight.

In Edgewood,  
"The Story" is "The People".

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# The Story

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1985- Graduating Class of Memorial High School.



# Frey School Opens in 1910

Even though the present Edgewood Independent School District actually became "independent" on January 21, 1950, the formation and history of Edgewood go back to the turn of the 20th century.

County Court records show that on May 8, 1905, Carl and Friederike Frey sold to Robert B. Green, Bexar County Judge, a tract of land for one dollar "for the purpose of a school sight (sic), and to be used for school purposes only."

Thus began what was to become Edgewood School District.

According to a thesis published in 1942 by E.E. Arnaud, Parke R. Longworth bought land from the Murscheidt Farm and divided it into the Edgewood Addition. Many families moved into the section lured by the rich soil and abundance of artesian water for irrigation.

It is during this time that the name "Edgewood" was chosen. According to Arnaud, since the area was just beyond the city limits of San Antonio, it was assumed that the name took into account the fact that the area was the "edge" of the "woods".

In early 1900, the area was part of School District 15, which extended west beyond the present Loop 410. Due to the large size, its Trustees decided to subdivide it. On January 13, 1913, a group of Trustees and patrons filed a petition with the Bexar County Commissioner's Court requesting the division of District 15.

On February 13, 1913, just one month later, Carlos Bee, County School Board President, and the Board members approved the petition. Out of the eastern segment evolved the District known as Lake View Gardens School District No. 41. Two separate one-room, wood frame school houses inherited from the previous district became the beginning of the Edgewood School District.

The Frey School, named for Carl and Friederike's daughter, Emma Frey, was located at the northwest corner of what is now General McMullen Drive and Menefee, and the Lakeview School was in the vicinity of the present Stafford



**LAKE VIEW GARDENS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 41** — The Frey School, opened in 1910, was located at the northwest corner of Parker and Stephenson Roads (now General McMullen and Menefee Street). The Frey School was built by Charles Frey who donated the two-acre site. On September 8, 1915, the school board sold the Frey School building to David Anderson for \$301. The building was moved and became the dwelling for the Verstuyft family. The first schoolhouse in Edgewood is still the property of the Verstuyft family and is presently situated at Cupples at Kirk. (Pictured at the first schoolhouse are Darson and Marie Verstuyft. Photo courtesy Homer & Yvonne Verstuyft).

Elementary School.

To consolidate the Frey and Lakeview Schools, in 1915, a red brick, three story school named Edgewood was completed at the corner of Cupples and Ceralvo Streets. Later it became Edgewood Elementary. The building was torn down, then renamed and is the present site of the Perales School.

Although the Edgewood District was outside San Antonio, the City grew closer through developments at the District's southern and eastern boundaries. In 1917, Kelly Field was established south of Edgewood. Also in 1917, Elmendorf Lake was deeded to the City for park land. These two developments helped spur even more population growth.

In 1922, the citizens of the South San Antonio area of Edgewood broke away when Bexar County Commissioners granted them their own independent school district.

Thus, Edgewood lost Fenfield School, which had been built in 1918

for South San families, and other valuable property on its tax rolls. The courts generously defined South San's area to include a "large oil company, a factory, and approximately 13 miles of railroad right of way." Unfortunately for Edgewood, only three-quarters of a mile of railroad property remained on its tax rolls.

Even after losing the South San area, Edgewood continued to attract more and more families who were looking for a desirable place to live. As more families moved in, the student enrollment grew and more schools and classrooms were needed.

To accommodate the increased enrollment, a new school, Stafford, was built in 1931. Residential development around Edgewood School also increased. By 1936 the school had to be expanded by four classrooms and a gymnasium. These additions primarily served the growing number of high school students whose first class (12) graduated in 1937.





1917 - Children board the "bus" on the way to the Edgewood School. The driver of the "bus" behind a pair of old gray mules is Edward Trapp pictured above with his wife, Lora Mae. In 1917 children would climb aboard with Trapp each morning behind "Bess" and "Kate" to head for the Edgewood School.



1918 — The Edgewood School students pictured with their teacher, Mrs. Thurman (top right). Mrs. Thurman's husband, W. Arthur Thurman, was the first principal of the school. Mr. and Mrs. Thurman lived in the school building. The living room and bedroom were located in the southeast room of the first floor. The kitchen and dining room were located in the room adjoining to the north.

During this growth period, Edgewood was renamed the Edgewood School District. Still greater increases in student population between 1937 and 1940 caused expansion of the Edgewood School property by 3 acres, conversion of the auditorium into classroom space, the leasing of the Edgewood Baptist Church for a first grade class, and double sessions in some of the classrooms. For \$3,000, the Edgewood Board bought 3.08 acres just north of the school property to accommodate student enrollment.

In 1938, the school district had to issue \$40,000 in bonds to finance the construction of Edgewood High School and an addition of four rooms at Stafford School. With the help provided by the Works Progress Administration, the new high school and Stafford additions were ready for use in 1940, the year the District recorded a record enrollment of 1,586 students. This 1940 "record District-wide enrollment" is today the size of the student body at Kennedy High School.

Edgewood High School in 1940 had a student enrollment of 155 students. Edgewood High School in 1986 boasts 1,000 Red Raiders.

In 1940, the Board approved the salaries for the District's 33 full-time teachers. The early 1940's also brought continued jumps in enrollments. By 1943, 1,911 were attending schools in Edgewood,



The Edgewood School building was completed in August 1915. The present Perales Elementary School is situated on the site of the three-story building.



Original Edgewood Elementary



Students of the Edgewood School. CIRCA 1920.

creating major staffing and space problems. Because of Edgewood's proximity to Kelly AFB, Duncan Field and Normoyle Quartermaster Depot, many families and workers flocked to Edgewood to be close to World War II - related defense jobs.

Classroom space was created by again renting out the Edgewood Baptist Church, a pecan shelling plan on San Gabriel Street and another small church on San Bernardo.

Federal and state authorities realized the impact of the many defense-related families on the school district and in 1941 increased state monies. Edgewood, H.K. Williams Elementary built in 1947, and Gardendale Elementary, built in 1949, were financed by Federal monies.

By 1950, the District's population was 5,140. On January 20, 1950 voters elected to become an independent school district.

Major increases in enrollment continued to occur throughout the 1950's. The District grew from 5,140 students in 1950 to 13,416 students by 1959. Eleven additional schools were added to the District in the 1950's. Six elementary schools were quickly built: Burleson (1951), Coronado (1951), Winston (1952), Loma Park (1953), and G.W. Carver, which now houses the Adult Community Education Program. Despite these increases, double session school days were necessary to accommodate increasing student enrollments.

Continued growth compelled Edgewood to build six more schools in the late 1950's: Edgewood High (1954), Las Palmas (1955), Lincoln (1956) now closed, Roosevelt (1957), Emma Frey (1957), and Escobar (1958).

In the 1960's Edgewood made national headlines. Demetrio Rodriguez brought suit against San Antonio Independent School District and the State of Texas in 1968 in an attempt to enroll his children in a financially better school system than Edgewood. The suit eventually was heard before the Supreme Court. The case was defeated by one vote, but it was successful in that it brought attention to the plight of the tax-poor and predominately minority school districts. Significant educational reforms, increased funding, and research initiated by the Federal Government resulted from the "Rodriguez Case".

In spite of continuing problems, Edgewood managed to add eight new schools to its system: Truman (1960 which became San Antonio's first fully air conditioned school), Hoelscher (1961), Johnson (1964), Kennedy (1963), Brentwood (1965), Gonzalez (1967), Wrenn (1968) and Memorial (1969).

In 1973, the San Antonio City Planning Department identified Edgewood as the City's second most deserving area for social, economic, and physical planning, helping to in-



1935 — The Edgewood School.

stigate needed plans and projects including park and drainage improvements near Kelly Air Force Base.

By this time, Edgewood's physical plant had grown to the current twenty-five schools, with construction of Guerra (1970), Cardenas (1972), and Garcia (1972). Perales Elementary, which was built in 1978, replaced the original Edgewood School which was damaged by fire.

A bond Issue in 1984, described by current Board President David Garza, as "able to carry the District into the 21st Century", provided the District \$8.5 million to renovate and remodel 12 schools. District voters

overwhelmingly passed the largest bond issue ever in the history of Edgewood by a 17 to 1 margin.

The first six years of the eighth decade of the 20th century was a time when Edgewood continued on a path of excellence in education. Examples like establishing a high technology internship program, only one of two in Texas, and instituting a "no-pass, no-play" rule years ahead of state mandates are evidence of educators who are looking well past the next several years.

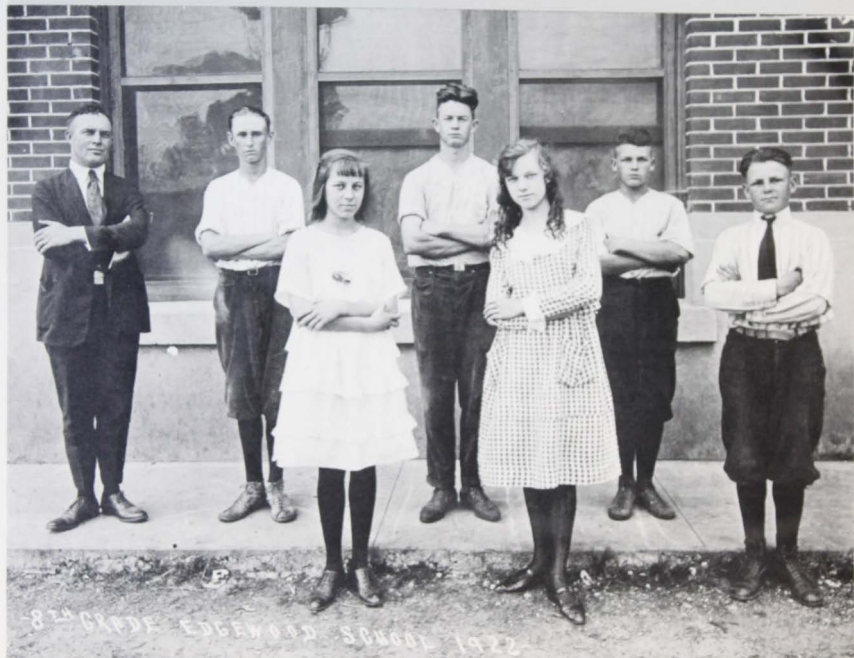
Other examples include:

- \*inaugurating the sophisticated PLATO computer system (the only one in Texas and in place at 200 of the nation's colleges) at Edgewood High School,
  - \*becoming the first school district in San Antonio to actively recruit teachers to fly into space on the Shuttle mission,
  - \*being the lead school plaintiff in a suit that sought creation of a system that would "equalize" funding for all Texas children.
  - \*passing in 1985-86, the largest District budget of over \$51 million.
- It's a long way from the \$1 deal in 1905 which made possible the first Edgewood School to the multi-million dollar, multi-campus Edgewood School District we know today.



A gymnasium and four classrooms are added to the Edgewood School in 1936.





Pictured above (L-R) Mr. William Suman, principal, Alfonse Burkhart, Annella Anderson, Raymond Bohles, Lottie Bohles, Wilson Elkins, and Homer Verstuyft. Homer Verstuyft's reflection is on the following page.



Homer Verstuyft



Homer Verstuyft, Yvonne Verstuyft and Margaret Verstuyft Markette talk over old times at the Frey School.

Homer Verstuyft remembers one of the first schools in the Edgewood Independent School District, the Frey school. He lived in it!

At 78, Verstuyft has a face like a walnut, tanned and wrinkled from years in the sun on his farm south of Kelly AFB. His palms are like leather from work and a twinkle of laughter shows in his eyes.

He talks of the school, saying, "All I remember was that it was an old wooden building and they caught their own rain water in a cistern that was buried in the ground, a wooden cistern. I played there a few days, I remember, on the school yard. And next to the school was a little white house where the widow woman lived, Mrs. Darby."

Verstuyft lived in what had been a small one-room school, the Emma Frey school. Verstuyft's parents bought the school and had it moved when the building was sold in 1914 or 1915. The exact date eludes Verstuyft.

Verstuyft was born in San Antonio in 1907 and married his wife Yvonne in 1927 when she was 16. She is now 74. Both were children of Belgian immigrants who settled on farms around San Antonio. After they married, they continued to truck-farm land southeast of Kelly AFB. They planted, harvested and then took their crops to market themselves until they retired.

Verstuyft remembers that times were different then. A cistern was a wooden barrel under the downspouts to catch runoff from the roof. The

cistern was used for drinking water, when it rained enough. "When it ran out, everybody had to carry his own water to school! They had old outhouses, you know, for otherwise they had no running water then."

The old, original Frey school was located near the corner of what is now General McMullen and Menefee Streets. "I don't think there were over 35 students—25 or 35, something like that. There were all different sizes, I know that," says Verstuyft of the original school.

However, not many children who lived outside the city went past eighth grade. Children on the farms had to quit school to go to work on the farm and later start their own farms, especially later with the depression. "Hardly anybody went to high school in those days, from the people in that area," says Mrs. Verstuyft. "Now, downtown people, that was different. The people that lived in that (rural) area were mostly farmers or something. They didn't go to high school. Edgewood didn't have a high school for a long time," she says.

"We had to quit in the ninth grade," says Verstuyft. "That was as far as we could go." For one year, 1923, there was a ninth grade, with seven students in Verstuyft's class, and then this too was dropped. "They didn't have enough pupils to make a grade," he says. Most of the children had farms and had to quit to work on the farms after they had finished their elementary grades. "They didn't have enough people going to school in those days for that long," says Verstuyft. In fact, the first high

school class graduated from an Edgewood school in 1937, more than 14 years later.

Verstuyft was too young to go to the original one-room school. Instead, he went to the Edgewood School from 1915 to 1923. Edgewood was a new, larger, brick building, built to replace the two older one-room school buildings. Verstuyft says it had three floors and all eight grades in multiple rooms and roughly 200 students.

But there were other improvements, too, including a bus he says looked like a bus of today, enclosed and with windows, but drawn by a pair of mules. He says, "No, I didn't take that bus. I had to walk. The bus drove by me with those little mules." He walked about two miles a day, while about 25 students from farther out rode the bus.

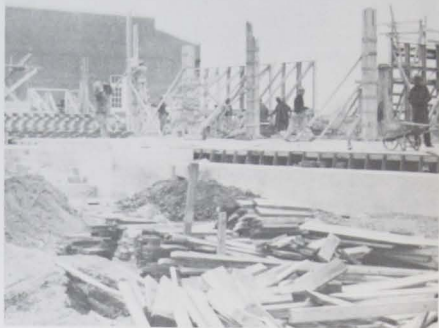
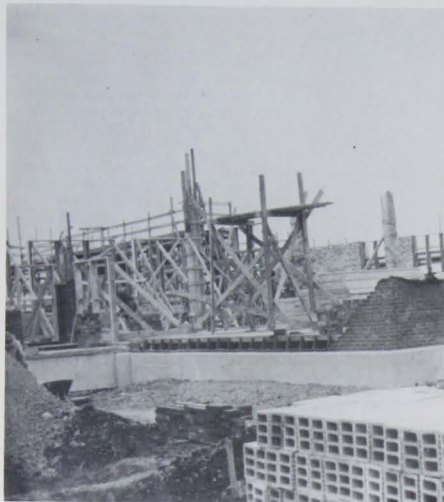
Edgewood opened at the new site in 1915, bringing other improvements, including a high water tank and pump, about ten blocks west of the school. Ethnically, the students were a mix of white and hispanic, of assorted ages, as shown by the difference in size of students in photos. Verstuyft says his only ethnic problem was with a German kid, and that he got along just fine with the Hispanic kids. He even traded Belgian food for Mexican tortillas at lunch.

Heating was a story. Asked what happened when it got cold in the winter, Mrs. Verstuyft says with a laugh, "you freeze!" "And barefooted most of the time, too," says Verstuyft. "I could have worn shoes, but I just didn't want to wear them, that's all. I'd run barefooted and the soles of my feet were as tough as leather, anyway."

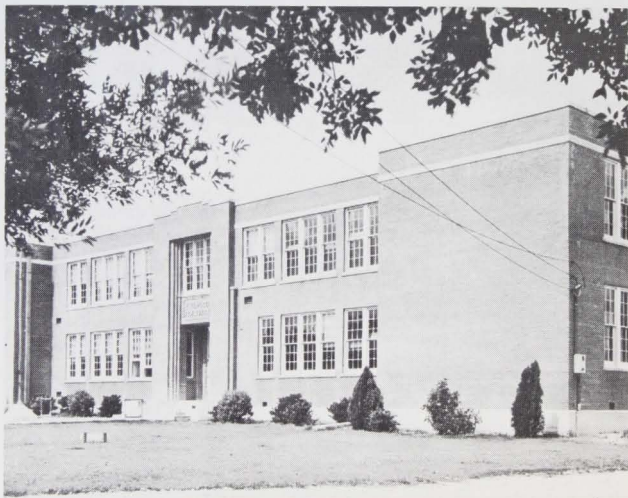
Students lined up and went in whenever the bell rang. "We had spelling, arithmetic, language, geography, physics or something like science, that's about all. We didn't have too many classes," he says. As for sports, only in 1922 did he begin to play baseball and basketball. Up to that time, there were no sports.

In 1924 after ninth grade, Verstuyft quit school to work on the farm. "I truck-farmed all my life. I was born on a farm, I'll die on the farm."

Asked about what he's learned from life, he says with a laugh, "if you live a long time, you get old!"



Construction stages of the Edgewood High School on Cupples Road.



The New Edgewood School is completed in 1940.



Dolores Ortiz and Mary Presas belong to the first class to graduate from Edgewood School District, the Class of 1937.

Today, almost 50 years later, the women still live in Edgewood. And they still remember, with amazing detail, events from their childhood.

They giggle, almost like schoolgirls, when they recall how Pete Harvath (a classmate) used to yank their braids and dip them in the inkwell. One interrupts to remind the other of the time the teacher chases David Millenburg (another classmate) down the stairs because he was eating an orange during class. "He ran away from her," Ortiz (formerly Dolores Orta) says, "and when he got to the bottom of the stairs, he just kept going and went home!"

"It was different then," says Presas (formerly Mary Luderus). "There was more respect—even among the kids your own age."

"We were closer," says Ortiz.

This may have been because the classes were small. "One teacher taught most of the grades," she says.

Did they like school? They chuckle. "It wasn't a question of liking it—there was nothing else to do!"

The two women believe times are different today. Attitudes toward school have changed. "The kids are not learning what we had to," says Presas, and Ortiz agrees. They recall long days struggling with algebra, geometry and English, as well as Texas, European and world history.

Ortiz's favorite subject was science, especially "the day Jack Watson (a classmate) made the explosion!"

Presas liked English best, but history obviously made its mark on her, too. "Fourscore and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth on this continent..." she begins.

Another difference the women point out is the large amount of vacation time that children have today. "We only had a week off for Christmas," says Presas. "Now, kids are off at the drop of a hat!"

Evidently, the students then didn't miss the time off. At the time the girls graduated, there was no such thing as playing hooky. However, a few years later, when Presas' brothers were in school, she



Dolores Ortiz



Mary Presas

remembers the boys as a little more mischievous.

Don't think Ortiz and Presas didn't have fun. Once or twice each term, the class was allowed to slide down the fire escape for a fire drill. They loved the chance to do it with permission...it was something to look forward to. And Ortiz remembers a pet squirrel she was allowed to bring to school during the day. "The teacher would put it in a cage," she says. "And sometimes we'd get to take it out and play with it."

Even the rules seem to have been fun. Presas thought it was great when the principal visited the classroom, and everyone had to rise. "We got out of our work then," she says with a wink.

Occasionally, the teachers would allow a little more than the normal hour for lunch, and "Sonny and Jack and all of us would go to Mr. and Mrs. Elkin's store across the street." Milk was three cents and hamburgers were a nickel. Mrs. Ortiz's mouth still waters when she thinks of the homemade pies Mrs. Elkin made.

"We were all good kids—we behaved in school," says Ortiz, "or we'd get in trouble for it when we got home."

The women recall one very special teacher named Miss Holland, who invited the class for a Christmas party in her home. "I had tomato juice for the first time in my life," says Presas, "and she told us (girls) how to wear perfume carefully—you know, not to splash it on. The teachers were our role models—you wanted to be just like them."

"There isn't respect now like there

was," agrees Ortiz.

Their teacher also seems to have been a bit of a psychologist. There were children in the class whose mothers sent tortillas in their lunches. These children were embarrassed that they had tortillas instead of bread like their friends, and they would hide to eat their lunches. The teachers discovered this and put a stop to it by offering to trade lunches with the children who had tortillas. "What a turn when those kids realized the tortillas were something the TEACHERS wanted," says Presas. "Then it was okay to have tortillas!"

The women in the 1930's played sports, but they laugh now about their uniforms. "We wore bloomers!" said Presas. "And our mothers weren't quite sure that was right." Ortiz liked tetherball, volleyball, soccer and dodgeball. Some girls played baseball, but only boys played football. Edgewood's colors were red and white then.

Graduation was a special event, just as it is today. Ortiz has her graduation picture, her class ring, and her leather-encased diploma.

One memory is a Junior-Senior Luncheon that was held in a restaurant downtown. Another is the day the seniors planted bushes in front of the school, as their class gift to Edgewood. Finally, there was baccalaureate, and the class of 12 students, Edgewood's first, graduated on the high school stage.

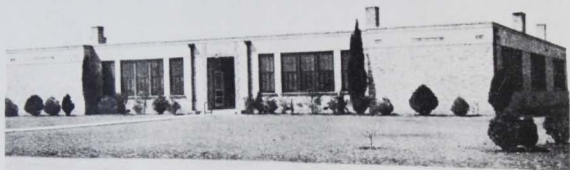
"It's a good life," says Presas.

"We're old too soon," says Ortiz, taking exception. But a good life?

"Yeah," she says, smiling.



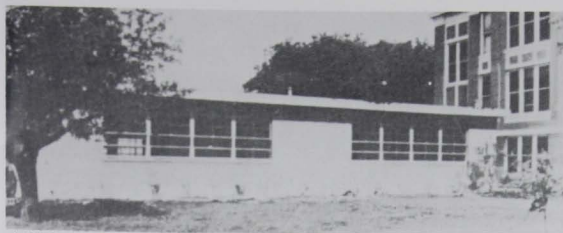
Edgewood's First Rhythm Band,  
Alvin Carpenter, Director, 1942.  
*Photo courtesy E.E. Arnaud*



The Original Stafford School.



Stafford's First Rhythm Band — Lois Breckenridge, Director.



Addition to Edgewood Elementary — 1951.



New Burleson School — 1951. *Photo from The Pioneer, Edgewood High School*



Carver School — 1951. *Photo from The Pioneer*



Coronado School — 1951. *Photo from The Pioneer*



H. K. Williams School — 1951. *Photo from The Pioneer*



Gardendale School — 1951



The Stafford School 1951 seventh graders. Teachers Henry Metzger and Leo Sperry.





1922 — Eighth grade class of the Edgewood School.



The Edgewood School basketball team. CIRCA 1933. Pictured with the team is Coach Fred Hightower. (Photo courtesy of John Henry Ledger).



1948 - Hugh K. Williams

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Seven educators have led Edgewood as Superintendent of Schools.

Hugh K. Williams (1939 to 1948), Elie Arnaud (1948 to 1956), Bennie Steinhauser (1956 to 1968), Joe Leyva (1968 to 1969), Dr. Jose Cardenas (1969 to 1973) and Ruben Lopez (1973 to 1978) were all men of vision, men who left a legacy to our present Superintendent, James R. Vasquez, to guide Edgewood as a progressive school system in Texas.

Hugh K. Williams and Joe Leyva are now deceased.

Dr. Elie Arnaud is now a professor at Our Lady of the Lake University.

Bennie Steinhauser retired in 1985 as Superintendent of the Southwest Independent School District in Bexar County.

Dr. Jose Cardenas is the Executive Director of the Intercultural Development Research Association in San Antonio.

Ruben Lopez is an assistant superintendent with the Houston Independent School District.

James R. Vasquez, Edgewood's current Superintendent of Schools, was named to that position in 1978.

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# The Leaders

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1986 - James R. Vasquez

# H.K. Williams is District's



1948 - Hugh K. Williams

Hugh Kelly Williams was Edgewood's Superintendent from 1930 until 1948 when the school district was the Edgewood Common School District No. 41.

Williams was a native of Yoakum, Texas, and had resided in San Antonio for 18 years.

Williams lived at 433 Patton Blvd. The former superintendent died in 1948 just months after he retired as superintendent.

He died at the age of 69. Services for Williams were held at the Methodist Church in Yoakum, and he was buried in Yoakum.

His wife was named Ruth and his son's name was O.K. Williams.

On April 5, 1949, the H.K. Williams School was dedicated in the superintendent's honor.



1948 - Dr. Elie E. Arnaud

Eli E. Arnaud has the distinction of being the first superintendent of the "independent" school district.

He succeeded to the superintendency upon the resignation of H. K. Williams.

Arnaud served as superintendent from 1948 until 1956.

Prior to that, he served as a teacher for the 1937-1939 period and served as principal of the Edgewood Elementary School from 1939 until 1948.

Arnaud received a B.A. and an M.A. degree from St. Mary's University and a Doctorate in Education from the University of Texas at Austin.

As part of his requirements for the master of arts degree from St. Mary's, Arnaud wrote his thesis entitled **History of the Edgewood Common School District No. 41**. The publication is dated June 1942.

The San Antonio native is currently a professor of education at Our Lady of the Lake University, a position he has had since 1956.

Dr. Arnaud took a special interest in human relations. He is said to have known almost every student and staff member in the school district during his term as educator in Edgewood. He still maintains close contact with many former students and staff.



1968 - Bennie Steinhauser

Bennie Steinhauser believes in the quality of education. His concern and commitment to all aspects of education has spanned 38 years.

Steinhauser graduated from Trinity University in 1950 and began teaching the 7th grade at Edgewood Elementary School that same year. He also taught two night school classes at Trinity during this time—Diplomatic History and the History of the Far East.

In 1951, after earning his Masters from Trinity, Steinhauser became principal of Stafford Elementary School. He remained in this position for three years. In 1954 he was named Assistant Superintendent.

Steinhauser became Superintendent for the Edgewood I.S.D. in 1956. While at Edgewood, he was President of the Teacher's Association, District 20 representative to the Texas Association of School Administrators, and Region 20 treasurer for the Texas State Teacher's Association. He was always a strong supporter of professional and parent/teacher organizations.

In 1969 Steinhauser left his position with Edgewood to become Superintendent of the Southwest I.S.D. He remained with Southwest until his retirement last June.

# First Superintendent of Schools



1978 - Joseph P. Leyva

*Photo courtesy Today's Catholic.*

Joseph P. Leyva served only one year as Edgewood Superintendent.

He started his teaching career at Edgewood in 1951 and continued as a teacher until 1958. He then transferred to the Northside Independent School District and served there for five years. In 1963, Leyva returned to Edgewood and served until he was named to succeed Bennie Steinhauser in 1968.

Leyva was born in San Antonio and graduated from Central Catholic High School. He earned a master's degree in English from Trinity University. He served in the Army in World War II.

Upon leaving Edgewood, Leyva studied for the priesthood and was ordained on May 29, 1971.

Following ordination, Fr. Leyva was principal at Antonian College Preparatory for three years. He also served at Sacred Heart Parish, St. Stanislaus Parish in Bandera, and served as pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Cuero until his retirement on October 1, 1983.

The former Edgewood superintendent passed away on December 31, 1983, at the age of 62.



1976 - Dr. Jose Cardenas

Dr. Jose A. Cardenas served as Edgewood superintendent from June 1, 1969 until May 31, 1973.

Prior to becoming superintendent, Dr. Cardenas was an elementary and secondary school science teacher, as well as the district science supervisor during the period 1953 until 1969.

Cardenas is a well-known national educator and has a host of publications to his credit.

Among the several honors he has received throughout the years include the "Human Rights Award" which was presented to him in 1972 by the National Education Association.

Dr. Cardenas graduated from Martin High School in Laredo, Texas and received a BA degree from the University of Texas at Austin. He received a M.Ed degree from Our Lady of the Lake University and an Ed.D. from the University of Texas at Austin.

Cardenas is presently the Executive Director of the Intercultural Development Research Association, a position he has held since 1974.



1978 - Ruben Lopez

Ruben Lopez served as superintendent of Edgewood from 1973 until 1978. He succeeded Dr. Jose Cardenas.

Lopez taught in Corpus Christi schools from 1957 until 1966. From 1966 until 1970, he taught schools in Robstown, Texas.

In 1970, Mr. Lopez came to Edgewood and served as principal of Stafford Elementary School. From the period 1970 and 1971, he was Director of Personnel. Before being named Superintendent of Schools, Lopez served as Assistant Superintendent from 1971 until 1973.

Lopez was born in Robstown, Texas and graduated from the local high school, Robstown High School. He received a BA degree from Pan American College and an MS degree from Texas A and I University in Kingsville, Texas.

After his resignation from Edgewood in 1978, Lopez moved to the Houston Independent School District to become Associate Superintendent Cluster Manager, a position he still holds.





1986 - Dr. Elie Arnaud

In the late 1940s, County Common School District No. 41, otherwise known as the Edgewood School District, was in a state of crisis. One of the largest districts in the area, it was also the state's poorest.

Dr. Elie Arnaud, Edgewood Superintendent from 1948 to 1956, recalled the common district's plea in 1949 to merge with its wealthier neighbor, the San Antonio Independent School District.

"The chairman of the (SAISD) school board got up after hearing our case and said, 'We have a moral obligation to annex the Edgewood district, but...'" Arnaud recalled.

"And that's all he said."

Left to their own devices, the Edgewood school board seceded without opposition from the county district. Severing the district from the county's jurisdiction allowed the board to establish a separate tax collection office, and consequently, a more realistic tax rate for the district.

The county's tax office allowed common districts to collect on only 30 percent of a property's assessed value, while the county itself did the appraisals.

"With county values the property had no value at all," Arnaud emphasized, referring to the low percentage on the already low appraisals. The new independent district quickly got to work re-appraising and raising more revenues to provide better

education for its constituents.

The school board also was beefed up from three to seven members, including the first two Hispanics to hold such seats.

The absence of Hispanics, the most significant element of the area population, from the political and social arena had been a major obstacle to progress, Arnaud said. The district's new independence was of little consequence to most of its constituents, he added.

"There was no big concern, because 99 percent of the people didn't know what was going on," he remarked. "The only people really concerned were the trustees and their families who had a more intense interest than the public."

The bulk of the Hispanics adopted the Westside district when the city housing authority in the 1930s razed the old Southside neighborhood where the Alazan-Apache lowcost housing stands now.

Although expected by the city to move back to the new residences, many Hispanics opted instead to settle in the Westside of San Antonio.

"The Latinos moved to Edgewood and didn't move back (to the old neighborhood)," Arnaud explained. "They're the kind of people who like to own their own homes."

The district's poverty cut across ethnic lines and Arnaud's examples included the yearly arrival of hundreds of migrant workers in the neighborhoods and schools after fall harvest.

"We'd cut off enrollment just before Christmas," he recalled. "After Christmas, we'd have 600 new students to chase around and try to find room for."

"There was never a dull moment," he remarked, chuckling.

"The interesting thing was that the administrators and teachers groups weren't crying about the situation. They would just buckle down and do what needed to be done."

"They could have made several hundred dollars more if they crossed the city line, but they stayed," he said in praise of the educators.

Things have changed, he added.

"There's been a whole lot of change. The first graders were almost all barefoot in those days — you don't

see that anymore."

He also recalled vendors selling water in the streets in some neighborhoods. The area was years behind other parts of the city in receiving capital improvements and services such as water, sewage and drainage the city was responsible for.

"It made perfectly good sense to think (the city water board) should have supplied those services — they just didn't."

Drainage problems combined with construction on relatively unsuitable former farmland led to problems at the Gardendale and Williams schools, the educator said, recalling the shifting earth and rapidly-cracking foundations.

The dearth of water manifested itself in other ways. Arnaud mentioned an elementary school housed in an old pecan shelling factory in which a barrel caught the meager yield of a nearby well, the students' only source of water.

"(The flow) was so slow it would take all night to fill up the barrel with enough water for all the kids," Arnaud said, laughing. "It was very unsanitary, because the kids would all drink from the same cup. Fortunately, we never had a contagion."

Eventually, Arnaud said, Westside leaders and members of the politically prominent Good Government League saw to it that the problems largely were rectified.

In addition to the Hispanic population, the Edgewood area consisted of a relatively wealthy community of Belgian farmers to the South, a small percentage of blacks, and military dependents, each group of which stayed pretty much to themselves.

The Belgians, Arnaud said, sent their children to parochial schools in the city and had little interest in underwriting a public school system or mixing with Blacks and Hispanics. The farmers eventually sold off their land and moved from the area.

The Blacks still were segregated prior to the landmark U.S. Supreme Court integration order. Those in the Edgewood District congregated in "one big, open room with a dirt floor," as Arnaud described it, known as the old Carver School.

Those that continued past eighth grade attended Wheatley High, the

city's Black high school.

The professor said the merging of Blacks and Whites after the integration order went smoothly.

"There was no pressure from the Blacks to be accepted," he recalled. "When the law passed, the school had an open house for the kids and everything went properly."

"The kids didn't have all the animosity earlier generations had," he added.

The military families to the south sent their children to nearby Winston Elementary, and generally were not involved in local education concerns except for their school's PTA.

"They weren't there long enough," Arnaud remarked, alluding to the transient nature of military duties and stays.

The absence of school buses, another product of the district's financial woes, was not without its benefits, Arnaud said. Because there was little sense of community and no real recreation program before the 1950s, walking the two miles or so to school assured some regular exercise for the young students.

"There was no busing. It just wasn't a problem — people were used to walking," he recalled. "Farmers would bring kids who lived way out in on trucks."



1986 - Mr. Bennie Steinhauser

Bennie Steinhauser says he often felt "more like a construction superintendent than a school

superintendent," during his term as Superintendent of the Edgewood I.S.D., from 1956 to 1969.

"When I see how much money is available now for school programs, I can't help but wonder how we survived in those days," he says.

Student enrollment in the District increased 1500 to 2000 every year over a ten year period. Steinhauser says this represents 50 to 75 additional classrooms a year.

In response to the growing need for classrooms, approximately 20 new schools were built during his term.

Steinhauser says the pressures created by overcrowded schools didn't deter teachers, though. "The dedication of teachers during that era stands out vividly in my mind," he says. "They were true crusaders."

Steinhauser says the supervisory assistance teachers received didn't extend past their own school principal, and their teaching aides consisted of an adequate supply of textbooks.

Yet Steinhauser says the recruitment of good teachers wasn't too difficult. "It was well known that the parent's support for teacher efforts was outstanding."

Support for teachers was also prevalent in the Texas State Teacher's Association, Steinhauser says. Steinhauser remembers the T.S.T.A. meetings as being constructive agents in maintaining and improving teacher morale. "Picnics, barbeques and banquets jointly attended by administrators and teachers were a tradition during that era. We were a small, happy family that was growing rapidly."

This period wasn't without its problems, though. "It was a time of political unrest and upheaval from the standpoint of ethnic and racial questions," Steinhauser says. Edgewood was no exception. There were two walk-outs in Edgewood, both occurring in 1968.

Steinhauser says the first walk-out was in reaction to a statement a board member made. In his statement, the board member commented on how poor some of the students were and how they suffered from their home situations.

A second walk-out was led by some community members protesting the

lack of facilities and crowded conditions of many of the schools, Steinhauser says.

Another difficult period which Steinhauser recalls concerned an effort to unionize Edgewood teachers. In 1962, A.F.L./C.I.O. organizers from Buffalo, New York, wanted Steinhauser to help them organize the teachers into a teacher union. "The members said if I didn't cooperate, they would 'get me'."

Steinhauser says the union at one time had a membership of 19 teachers, but that the vast majority of teachers wanted no part of the effort. "The rough tactics of the organizers is what eventually defeated them."

Steinhauser says his term reflects the experimental approach characteristic of the time.

Edgewood was one of 14 schools districts selected in the middle 1960s to participate in a program known as Education for the '70s. "The superintendents from the 14 school districts met monthly and brainstormed ideas to upgrade education for the changing times we would have in the '70s," Steinhauser says. Under special fund grants, Steinhauser says a number of experimental programs were conducted in various districts.

During one of the meetings Steinhauser raised the question of class scheduling. He questioned why a class period was an hour long. "No one had ever researched if an hour was a good span of time. In Edgewood we researched the variation of scheduling and developed at Kennedy High School the two hour class period."

Steinhauser says the usual six class schedule pulled the students six different ways. "The idea was developed to offer three classes a day, each class period being two hours long. There would be time set aside for normal classroom instruction as well as time for the students to complete their homework."

Steinhauser's position as Superintendent for Edgewood ended in 1969, but his concern for the District has continued.

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1986 - Dr. Jose A. Cardenas

When Dr. Jose A. Cardenas became Superintendent of Schools for the Edgewood I.S.D. in 1969, he vowed that he wasn't going to learn to live with the problems of the District, but rather try to resolve the problems.

And he kept his vow.

Cardenas' first contact with the District was in 1953, when he accepted a teaching position at Coronado Elementary School. The following year, Cardenas transferred to Edgewood High School where he taught science and biology.

"The new high school had not yet opened when I began teaching at Edgewood," Cardenas recalls. He remembers the high school as being very old and crowded. "One of the teachers taught class in a bus. And when a student wanted to leave my classroom, he had to walk over tables in order to get out."

In 1955 Cardenas was appointed Vice Principal in charge of attendance and discipline at Edgewood High School. He remained in that position for three years.

His next position was as principal of Stafford Elementary School. "The three years I spent as principal, from 1958 to 1961, were the hardest years of my life," Cardenas says. "There were 1200 children in the school. And there were no aides, no secretaries and no librarians. I remember getting to school at 6 a.m. many mornings to help the janitors light the heaters in

the classrooms." Cardenas says those years were hard but they were also very rewarding.

Cardenas says he enjoyed teaching much more than he enjoyed his administrative positions. "But the ability to change policy and improve various aspects of education lies in the administrative end."

Cardenas was able to put the wheels of change in motion in 1969, when he became the Superintendent of Schools for the Edgewood I.S.D.

When he took over Cardenas was faced with a case pending against the School District. "I turned the case around, and made it a case against the State of Texas," Cardenas says. In 1971 the lower court ruled in the case of Rodriguez v. San Antonio I.S.D. that the whole system of school financing was unconstitutional.

The case was appealed and went before the Supreme Court in 1973. Although the case lost there by a vote of 5 to 4, Cardenas says it created state wide interest in the ways schools were being financed.

Cardenas implemented many programs as Superintendent. All were aimed at improving some aspect of education.

He instituted the Career Opportunities Program, which encouraged students to stay in the District and move into professional positions.

Cardenas was particularly supportive of the Parental Involvement Program, in which parents volunteered to teach in the classrooms.

Cardenas says the Early Childhood Education Program, opened in 1971, is one of the best in the country. He says people from every state have come to visit the center, to see why it's so successful.

Cardenas faced many problems during his term. A major problem was the staffing of schools in the District. When Cardenas took over as Superintendent, 50 percent of the teachers didn't have the minimum requirements needed for a teaching certificate. And the turnover rate of teachers was 33 percent a year.

With federal funds, Cardenas instituted a training program which helped teachers meet the requirements for certification and encouraged teachers to stay in the

District. Cardenas says when he left his position as Superintendent in 1973, virtually every teacher had a teaching certificate. And the turnover rate had dropped to less than nine percent.

Cardenas says his program of not learning to live with the problems of Edgewood, but to attack them with full force was very successful. "It was a period of innovation and experimentation, of eliminating weaknesses and developing strengths. It was a period of tremendous growth," Cardenas says.

Cardenas still maintains contact with the District. He is now operating the Coca-Cola Drop-Out Prevention Program at Memorial High School and Truman Junior High School. The program provides the two schools with \$45 thousand a year for drop out prevention.

"I still consider Edgewood my home away from home," Cardenas says, "and I'll always have a vested interest in it."

***"I still consider  
Edgewood my  
home away  
from home, and  
I'll always have  
a vested interest  
in it."***

*Dr. Jose A. Cardenas*





1986 - Mr. James R. Vasquez

A superintendent's work is never finished, at least not as far as Edgewood I.S.D. Superintendent James R. Vasquez is concerned.

"I'm always opening up new questions, new perspectives," Vasquez says. "When I turn over a rock to find an answer, I find 10 new questions. And every time I turn over one of those questions I find 10 more."

When Vasquez became Superintendent on May 30, 1978, he says it was a very difficult time in the District. "The new school board was looking into the possibility of fraud that had been called to their attention by the previous administration and school board," Vasquez says. After the district discovered tremendous financial losses, Vasquez says a thorough investigation followed.

The investigation continued through 1981, and more than three hundred thousand dollars was recovered.

"The first three years of my position were very difficult ones," Vasquez says. "In a situation like that, it was difficult to do more than one thing at a time."

Vasquez remembers a standing joke among superintendents: "Superintendents are hired to drain a swamp." They don't know quite what to do. They either fight alligators and let the job that is supposed to be done just lie there, or they drain the swamp and let the alligators eat them.

"I wasn't sure whether to get rid of the alligators or drain the swamp," Vasquez says of his early experience as superintendent. "I tried very hard to maintain the administrative and structural integrity of the school district, in the face of the criminal investigation."

Once the investigation was completed, Vasquez says the School District went through a good period redefining its goals.

Vasquez says Edgewood started very far down and has made tremendous progress. "We're talking about apples and oranges," he says of Edgewood's comparison to other districts. "There's no such thing as a standard American school system. Each has different audiences with different expectations."

Vasquez says in the past, many school systems didn't consider problems at a student's home to be any responsibility of the school. "We know better. We know that what happens at home is a determinant as to what the student will do in school."

Edgewood is becoming increasingly more involved in parent literacy. "Research shows that at least one-half of the learning a child goes through is reinforced at home. If that reinforcement is not there, try to realize the impact of the student's performance in the classroom," Vasquez says.

In response to this need, Edgewood offers adult education courses. In one program, parents take a test which determines their efficiency in educational survival skills. Based on the results, the parents are given individual packets which list what they need to learn in order to pass the test.

Last year, over 200 adults graduated from the program. "It makes so much difference when a child can go home and have that base of support," Vasquez says.

Edgewood is also concerned about trying to prevent students from dropping out of school. There are currently three programs in the district aimed at drop-out prevention. They are the Coca-Cola Drop-out Prevention Program, San Antonio Youth Literacy, and Communities and Schools.

Vasquez says the drop-out issue is

still a difficult one to analyze, partly because of the way it is defined, or not defined, by the State. A 14-year-old girl who drops out of school because she is pregnant is not considered by the State to be a drop-out.

Vasquez says he thinks Edgewood knows what a drop-out is: "a student who's not prepared educationally to function in the general society." And he says Edgewood is working hard to combat this growing problem.

Vasquez says there are those who disagree with Edgewood's broadening sphere of influence in areas such as parent literacy and student drop-out. But he argues that these have been determined needs in the district and will continue.

Into his 26th year with the District, Vasquez says his wide range of positions have provided him with a "very full, enriching set of experiences."

"The only thing I'll brag about is that I'm a very good judge of people," he says. "I've hired and trained people to handle the business of the District very well. And as a result, things go right."

*"There's no such thing as a standard American school system. Each has different audiences with different expectations."*

James R. Vasquez



1942—Emma Frey



1953—E.T. Wrenn



1963—John F. Kennedy

When a school is named, the ideals of the person being honored are taught to the children who walk through its doors.

Edgewood is proud that the names chosen for its schools reflect American society and the "melting pot" ideal.

There are schools named for American presidents — Roosevelt, Truman, Kennedy, and Johnson; there are schools named for educators — Cardenas, Frey, Wrenn, and Hoelscher; there are schools named for civic leaders like Gonzalez, Guerra, Garcia, and Escobar. Finally, there is a school named for those who have given the ultimate gift of love: Memorial.

Included in this group are people — the mighty and the humble, those who had national prominence, and those who were known only in the immediate area in which they lived.

Included in this group are people — teachers and superintendents, those who had a spark of compassion and concern and love for children.

Included in this group are people — individuals who spoke up against wrongs and injustices, those who believed that one person could make a difference.

Included in this group are people — who went to a foreign land and who left their families. The sacrifice was so personal and the pain so great for those left behind, that the hurt continues to be held within the secret places of the heart.

Included are Anglos, and Blacks, and Hispanics, the great and the modest, the known and the obscure, men and women — all whom Edgewood remembers.

All are part of the family of Edgewood.

Here is the story of the people whom Edgewood honors.

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# The Namesakes

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# Edgewood Pays Tribute

*Roosevelt Elementary School is named for the 32nd President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, a man described by most historians as one of the greatest ever to serve.*

Roosevelt Elementary School is named for the 32nd President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, a man described by most historians as one of the greatest ever to serve.

His education was conventional including college preparation at Groton School, graduation from Harvard College (1904) and professional training at the Columbia Law School. He practiced law in New York and after three years was elected to the U.S. Senate. Woodrow Wilson later appointed him as Assistant Secretary of the Navy, which led him to the nomination for Vice President of the U.S. on the Democratic ticket. His ticket lost the election, but in 1928 he was elected Governor of New York.

He ran for President in 1932. In the campaign, he outlined a program of federal measures to support and guide the failing American economic system, to reform and make full use of its credit institutions, to assure more effective organization of labor, to support farm prices, and work out social security arrangements.

On November 4, 1932, he was overwhelmingly elected President, carrying 42 states against Herbert Hoover's 6, with a plurality of more

than 7 million votes.

In the next 3 months, he enacted laws to abandon the gold standard, set up a Conservation Corps to employ young men, inaugurated widespread federal emergency relief, and steered national income to the farms. He expanded credit, set up the Tennessee Valley Authority, introduced the National Recovery Administration and reorganized the Federal Reserve banking system. Roosevelt also established supervision over the sale of stock and securities and later of the Stock Exchange.

Roosevelt was overwhelmingly reelected President in 1936 and elected to a third presidential term in 1940, and a fourth in 1944, though he died the following year.

World War II came to the United States when without warning Japan bombed Pearl Harbor. Hitler declared war on the U.S. soon after. From then on to the time of his death, Roosevelt was primarily preoccupied with strategy to win the war and with plans to organize a peace more likely to endure than that followed WWI.

But thirteen years of intensive struggle and the political campaign of



**Franklin Delano Roosevelt**

*(Photo courtesy F.D. Roosevelt Library, Hyde Park, New York, and United Press International. Used with permission)*

1940 had exhausted his tremendous strength. While considering various problems, he took a brief retreat at Warm Springs, Georgia where he died on April 11, 1945.

Records show that when Roosevelt's successor, Harry Truman, visited Edgewood District, Truman stood and saluted in the direction of the Roosevelt Elementary School when he was informed that Edgewood had a Roosevelt-named school.

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# to U.S. Presidents



**Harry S. Truman**

*(Photo courtesy H.S. Truman Library, Independence, Missouri. Portrait by Leo Stern)*

Harry S. Truman, 33rd President of the United States, was born in Lamar, Missouri, on May 8, 1884, the son of John Anderson and Martha Ellen (Young) Truman. In 1887, the Truman family moved to a farm near the present site of Grandview, Missouri, and in 1890 to Independence, Missouri, the county seat of Jackson County. He attended the Independence public schools, graduating from high school in 1901. After serving briefly as timekeeper for a railroad construction contractor, he obtained employment in nearby Kansas City, to which his family, including a younger brother and sister, had moved in 1902. He worked as a clerk at the National Bank. In 1906, at the age of 22, he returned to Grandview, where he spent the next ten years assisting his father in operating the family farm.

Mr. Truman joined the Missouri National Guard in 1905 and was discharged as a corporal in 1911. At the outbreak of World War I he helped organize the 2nd Regiment of Missouri Field Artillery which was called into Federal service as the 129th Field Artillery. In France he

was promoted to captain and given command of Battery D of that regiment, participating in the Vosges, Saint-Mihiel, and Meuse-Argonne campaign. He was promoted to colonel June 17, 1932.

On his return from overseas he married Bess Wallace, who he had known since childhood, on June 28, 1919. Their only child, Mary Margaret, was born February 17, 1924. From 1919 to 1922 he ran a haberdashery shop in Kansas City with a war time associate, Eddie Jacobson. The firm failed as a result of the depression of 1921, but Mr. Truman refused to file a petition in bankruptcy and paid off his share of the firm's debts during the following 15 years.

In 1922, Mr. Truman, a Democrat, was elected one of the three judges of the Jackson County Court (an administrative rather than a judicial body), representing the eastern part of the county. He was defeated for reelection in 1924 but elected presiding judge of the court in 1926, and reelected in 1930. In that position he had the chief responsibility for expending sixty million dollars in tax funds and bond issues in Jackson County, including Kansas City.

In 1934, Mr. Truman was elected to the United States Senate with a plurality of 262,000 votes. During his first term in the Senate he was chairman of the Senate subcommittee which wrote the Civil Aeronautics Act of 1938 and was one of the sponsors of the Transportation Act of 1940 (Wheeler-Lea-Truman Act). He was reelected to the Senate in 1940. In 1941 the Senate Special Committee to Investigate the National Defense Program (the Truman Committee) was established at his suggestion. With him as chairman, it revealed waste and extravagance in the World War II defense program, saving the American taxpayers inestimable sums in defense production costs.

In July 1944, Mr. Truman was nominated as the vice-presidential candidate at the Democratic National Convention to run with Franklin D.

Roosevelt. Elected in November, he served as Vice President only 83 days, succeeding to the Presidency April 12, 1945, on Roosevelt's death. His first year as President was marked by the dropping of the first atomic bomb and the end of World War II. Beginning in 1946, his administration was beset by reconversion problems at home and increasing difficulties with the Communist nations abroad. The 1946 victory of the Republicans in both houses of Congress was interpreted as a repudiation of his policies, but after a hard-fought "whistlestop" campaign, he was reelected to office on November 2, 1948. At the beginning of his second term he announced his "Fair Deal" program for promoting the general welfare of the people of the country and the Point Four program for technical assistance to underdeveloped nations abroad. When Communist forces invaded South Korea in June 1950, he ordered United States troops to resist the invaders on behalf of the United Nations. Two Puerto Rican Nationalists tried unsuccessfully to assassinate him in November, 1950. In the fall of 1952 he gave full support to Governor Adlai Stevenson of Illinois, the Democratic Presidential candidate.

After leaving the White House, the former President returned to Independence to devote his time to writing and lecturing. On July 6, 1957, the Harry S. Truman Library in Independence, built with his encouragement and collaboration, was presented to the Federal Government, along with his personal papers and mementos. The Library is operated by the National Archives and Records Service of the General Services Administration as a research center and museum.

On October 11, 1960, President Truman visited the building site of the Truman Middle School, the first secondary school in the country to bear his name.

The thirty-third President of the United States died on December 26, 1972. He was buried in the courtyard on the Truman Library.

***“Children are this country’s greatest natural resource.”***

*John Fitzgerald Kennedy*



**President John Fitzgerald Kennedy**  
35th President of the United States.

John Fitzgerald Kennedy was the thirty-fifth president of the United States.

He was born on May 29, 1917, and was the son of Joseph and Rose Kennedy.

He was elected president on November 8, 1960, in one of the closest elections in history. Kennedy received 50.71 percent of the overall popular vote, while Richard Nixon, his opponent, received 49.29 percent.

On January 20, 1961, Kennedy was sworn in by Chief Justice Earl Warren. His Inaugural Address is considered by historians as one of the most eloquently delivered by any Chief Executive. *“ASK NOT WHAT YOUR COUNTRY CAN DO FOR YOU, ASK WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR COUNTRY”* is perhaps the best known quotation attributed to Kennedy delivered on the day of his inauguration.

Kennedy’s presidency was brief. He served a little more than 1,000 days in office.

On September 10, 1962, almost a month before the Cuban Missile Crisis, generally agreed by historians to be Kennedy’s finest hour, the Edgewood Board of Trustees named the District’s second high school after John F. Kennedy. Unknown to Trustees at the time, they were apparently naming the first high school in the country to be named for President Kennedy.

On November 21, 1963, President Kennedy and his wife arrived in San Antonio for the beginning of a trip through Texas. Over 18,000 Edgewood residents had signed a petition inviting the president to visit the school named in his honor. Time, however, did not permit such a visit. Kennedy, instead, promised Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez of San

Antonio that he would return to Texas to visit the High School named for him. He indicated he would like to schedule a visit in early 1964.

Twenty four hours later, the president was assassinated in Dallas.

Kennedy High School’s colors are green and white in recognition of Kennedy’s ancestry. Its sports teams are called “Rockets” in recognition of Kennedy’s interest in the space program.

Kennedy High School is known to have the only sustained memorial service in the United States in honor of the president each year on November 22.

President Kennedy’s brother, Edward M. Kennedy, finally fulfilled his brother’s final promise to visit the school. Senator Kennedy officially dedicated the school on October 22, 1980.



**Lyndon Baines Johnson**

(Photo courtesy L.B. Johnson Library, Austin, Texas)

*At the desk where I sit, I  
have learned one great truth.  
The answer for all our national  
problems of the world—comes  
down to a single word. That  
word is “education”*

**LYNDON B. JOHNSON,**

*Address before the 200th anniversary convocation,  
Brown University, Providence, R.I., 28 Sept., 1964.*

Lyndon Baines Johnson, the 36th President of the United States was born near Stonewall, Texas on August 27, 1908. He earned his bachelor's degree from Southwest Texas State Teacher's College in San Marcos in 1930. He earned money while going through school by working as a janitor and office helper, and even dropped out of college for one year to work in Cotulla, Texas.

Following graduation, Johnson taught public speaking in Sam Houston High School in Houston where his debate team won the District championship. Johnson followed Congressman Richard Kleberg to Washington DC as his secretary, a job he held for three years.

He married Claudia Alta Taylor "Lady Bird", a girl he met on a trip home. Johnson became the State Director of the National Youth Administration and also became the

youngest director at age 26.

Johnson decided to enter the special election for the 10th congressional district and won the election easily defeating nine other candidates. In Congress, in 1937, he worked hard for rural electrification, public housing, and eliminating government waste. In 1941, Johnson, became the first member of Congress to go active duty following the bombing of Pearl Harbor and was eventually decorated with the Silver Star.

In 1948, Johnson defeated Coke Stevenson in the race for U.S. Senator by 87 votes and earned the nickname "Landslide Lyndon". Johnson became the majority leader in the Senate in 1954 and considered the highlight of his career to be the passage of the first Civil Rights Act in 82 years and the vitalization of the American Space Program after the launch of Sputnik.

In 1960, the Kennedy-Johnson

ticket defeated the Nixon-Lodge ticket in one of the closest elections in American history. He was well prepared to assume the role of President when John F. Kennedy was tragically assassinated in Dallas in 1963. Within months of Kennedy's assassination, Johnson had won passage of most of Kennedy's legislative programs.

In 1964, President Johnson and Hubert H. Humphrey were elected by the greatest popular vote in modern times, and his term in office is best known for his Great Society Programs, Aid to Education, Urban Renewal, Medicare, prevention of crime and delinquency, removal of obstacles to the right to vote and the Vietnam War.

The Lyndon B. Johnson Elementary School was named in his honor by the Board of Trustees on January 13, 1964. Following a short but active retirement Johnson died in 1973.



# District Lauds

Our Lady of the Lake University and, in 1966, his Doctorate from UT/Austin.

In 1961, he became Associate Professor and Chairman in the Department of Education at St. Mary's University. In 1967, he left St. Mary's to become the Director of the Texas Migrant Educational Development Center. He resigned from that position in 1969 to become Superintendent of Schools in the Edgewood I.S.D. Dr. Cardenas remained in that position until his resignation in 1973 to become the Executive Director for Texans for Educational Excellence. Presently, he is Executive Director of the Intercultural Development Research Association, a position he has held since 1974.

Dr. Cardenas is a member of the Board of Directors for several organizations including the Center for Applied Linguistics, the Institute for Finance and Governance, the National Research Center for Vocational Education, and the Cleveland Conference of the Spencer Foundation. He is also the School Finance Chairman for United San Antonio. He has received numerous special awards for his work from such organizations as the National Association for Bilingual Education, the Crystal City Public School System, the City of Lubbock, and the U.S. Commissioner, International Year of the Child.

Dr. Cardenas has provided consultant services to many federal, state, and local governments and agencies, private foundations and corporations, and some foreign governments. He has given major addresses at hundreds of conferences and has published a multitude of publications on the subjects of bilingual education, migrant education, and school financing.

Dr. Cardenas is married and has five children.

On June 21, 1971, the Board of Trustees recognized his achievements and dedication to the field of education by naming the early childhood center in his honor.



**Dr. Jose A. Cardenas**

Dr. Jose A. Cardenas was born on October 16, 1930. He attended school in Laredo, Texas, and graduated from Martin High School in 1946. He earned his BA from the University of Texas at Austin in 1950 and returned to teach in Laredo. From 1951 to 1953, he was a member of the U.S. Army.

On his discharge from the Army, he began to work for the Edgewood Independent School District. During his tenure as a teacher with the district (1953-1969), he held positions as an elementary school teacher, a secondary school science teacher, an elementary school principal, and a district all-level science supervisor. Also during this time, Dr. Cardenas continued his education. In 1955, he received his Master's degree from



**Emma Frey**

Emma Frey was the daughter of a German farmer, Charles Frey, who owned land in the Edgewood area. Mr. Frey built the first schoolhouse called the Frey School on a corner of his farm. He donated the one-room house and the site on which it sat to the district in 1905. It was located near the corner of South Gen. McMullen Dr. and Menefee. Ms. Frey was the first school teacher in Edgewood. She taught her brothers and sisters along with other German and Belgian children living in the area from 1906-1907. She received her teaching certificate from San Marcos College and continued to work on her BA and Master's degree until she completed her studies in 1927. She joined the faculty at Brackenridge High School and remained there until her retirement in 1947 at the age of 70.



# Dedicated Educators



**Regina Hoelscher**

Hoelscher Elementary School was named for Regina Hoelscher who was an educator for 47 years.

Ms. Hoelscher was born in Rowena, Texas. She received a master's degree in education from Trinity University and a A.B. degree from Incarnate Word College.

From 1925 until 1946, Hoelscher served in Falls County Schools.

In 1951, Hoelscher began working in the Edgewood District as an eighth grade teacher at Edgewood Elementary School. At the time, Edgewood Elementary (now Perales Elementary) was first through eighth grades with all classes self-contained.

She served as assistant principal at Edgewood Elementary and then served as principal of the Brentwood Elementary School from 1961 until 1972.

The School Board renamed Brentwood Elementary to Regina Hoelscher Elementary in honor of the school principal who served over twenty years in Edgewood.



**Elizabeth T. Wrenn**

Elizabeth Terrell Wrenn was born on December 2, 1902, in Karnes City Texas. She graduated from San Marcos High School. She graduated with a Bachelor's degree from Prairie View A&M University in 1938. Before that time, she taught in Fredericksburg (1925-1926), Reedsville in Caldwell County (1926-1927), Corsicana (1927-1928), and La Vernia (1928-1942). In 1942, she began teaching at George Washington Carver School, the school for Blacks in the Edgewood Common District. She was the first Black teacher in the district. During the summers from 1949 to 1951, Ms. Wrenn attended the University of Nebraska and earned an MA in School Administration and Supervision. When Lincoln School opened in 1959, she became its principal.

Ms. Wrenn was known by her associates and the community to be very helpful and very kind. By the time she retired at mid-term 1966, she had over 41 years in the teaching profession and 24 of those years in the Edgewood District. Because of her dedication to the field of education, many members of the community and

many of her colleagues strongly urged the Board of Trustees to name the district's newest junior high in her honor. So, on March 18, 1968, the Board voted to name the new school E. T. Wrenn Junior High School. Ms. Wrenn died on November 20, 1973.



**H.K. Williams**

H. K. Williams Elementary School was named for Edgewood superintendent Hugh K. Williams. He received a B.S. degree from San Marcos College (now, Southwest Texas State University). In 1930, Williams was appointed principal of the Edgewood School and was considered both principal and superintendent. He retired on June 29, 1948. Williams died shortly after his retirement. He is buried at Restland Memorial Cemetery in Yoakum, Texas. Additional information on H. K. Williams is found in the section on "The Leaders" in this publication.

# EISD Recognizes



**Eleuterio Escobar**

Eleuterio Escobar was born on September 11, 1894, in Pearsall, Texas. He came to San Antonio as a young boy and eventually had several businesses including a shoe binding and repair company across from the San Fernando Cathedral, a furniture business, and the International Leather and Importing Company which was located on the corner of Dolorosa and South Laredo.

Escobar was president of the School Improvement League from 1938 to 1950. The League fought to improve the conditions of all schools on the West Side within the San Antonio Independent School District. Escobar himself was very vocal about his demands and on more than one occasion had to be escorted out of meetings of the SAISD Board of Trustees.

Escobar would often visit schools on the West Side and make notes of the conditions. If he saw a child without shoes, he would buy the child some shoes. People would sometimes call him with complaints and Escobar would make phone calls or write letters to settle the matter. He attended

political rallies to lecture the crowd on the necessity of improving the schools. One incident which especially outraged him was the placing of frame barracks which had already been condemned at the DeZavala School. The buildings burned down to the ground before they could really be used.

On January 5, 1959, the EISD Board of Trustees voted to name the district's new junior high in honor of Mr. Escobar. On May 10, 1970, Mr. Escobar died at the Luthern General Hospital and was buried at the San Fernando Cemetery (#2).



**Gus C. Garcia**

Gus Charles Garcia was born on July 24, 1915, in Laredo, Texas. He attended various San Antonio area schools and graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in 1932 at the top of the class. He continued his education at the University of Texas at Austin where he received a BA degree in 1936 and his LLB in 1937. In 1938, he passed the bar examination and was appointed Assistant District Attorney for Bexar County. During WW II, Garcia served with the Judge Advocate Corps, U.S. Army, where he served with distinction.

After the war, he returned to San

Antonio and organized his election to the San Antonio Independent School District Board of Trustees. He was the first Mexican American to be elected to a position on the board. About this time, Garcia became involved with various Hispanic and civic organizations including GI Forum, LULAC, the School Improvement League, and the League of Loyal Americans. For a time, he was also consulting attorney for the Mexican Consulate.

But, it was the legal and political battles he fought for which he is remembered. The first occurred in 1948. The **Delgado** case, which was decided in U.S. District Court by Judge Ben H. Rice Jr., made the segregation of Mexican Americans in public schools illegal. This case was a major victory for the cause of equal rights for all people.

Next in 1949, the body of a war hero named Felix Longoria was being returned to the United States for burial. The young soldier's family requested that he be buried in the all Anglo cemetery in his hometown, Three Rivers, Texas. When city officials denied their request, Garcia was outraged. He and then-Senator Lyndon B. Johnson arranged to have the young soldier buried in Arlington with full military honors.

Finally, there was this most important case: **Hernandez vs. State of Texas**. In this case, he argued that the conviction of Pete Hernandez for murder in Edna, Texas, was invalid because citizens of Mexican descent had been systematically excluded from serving as jurors; Pete Hernandez had been denied a fair trial because he was not tried by a jury of his peers. So eloquent was Garcia's argument that Chief Justice Earl Warren allowed him to continue for an extra 16 minutes past the usual one-hour time limit. Further proof of the eloquence and strength of Garcia's arguments came on May 3, 1954, when the Supreme Court rendered its decision on the case. The Court unanimously agreed with Garcia that Hernandez' rights had been violated.

He died on June 3, 1964, in the Old Farmer's Market in downtown San

# Civic Leaders

Antonio. He was buried at Fort Sam Houston with full military honors. On October 8, 1972, he was honored at the dedication ceremony of the new EISD junior high school which had been named for him.



Henry B. Gonzalez

Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez was born on May 3, 1916, in San Antonio. His parents had immigrated from Mexico in 1910. After mastering English at Beacon Hill Elementary School, Enrique excelled in his studies at Mark Twain Junior High School and at Main High School (now Fox Tech) and graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School. His education continued at San Antonio College and then at the University of Texas at Austin where he finished the equivalent of a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and his first year of law school. He came back to San Antonio and graduated from the St. Mary's University School of Law (LLB, JD).

After college, his vocations included teaching math and citizenship classes to World War II ex-GI's, doing Spanish-English and English-Spanish translating work with his father, managing editor of "La Pren-

sa". He also served as executive director for the Pan-American Progressive Association and, during World War II, he served in civilian intelligence under the Army and Navy.

In the 1940's, as chief probation officer for Bexar County, he overlooked and reformed the juvenile probation procedures that were in effect. In the 1950's, he served as Deputy Director of the San Antonio Housing Authority. Under his guidance, no one was ever forcibly evicted from land acquired by Gonzalez for the SAHA.

Gonzalez (or Henry B.) lost his first county-wide race to Stanley Banks, Jr. in 1950. In May of 1953, he was elected to the City Council. For three years, he worked to abolish segregation ordinances, reform the City Water Board, and stop corruption in city government. In 1957, he was elected state senator for Bexar County. In the state legislature, he continued his fight for desegregation and won passage of laws that started urban renewal in every major city in the state, and that established a medical school in San Antonio.

In 1961, Henry B. was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. In 1962, he launched his "20th Century Program for the 20th District" which included plans for a world's fair in the heart of San Antonio. For the next six years, he recruited local leaders and conceived and carried out the necessary federal laws that made HemisFair possible.

Some of his other accomplishments include the establishment of the Audie Murphy Veterans Hospital, the Mass Transit Act which helped to create VIA, the Academy of Health Sciences, the Food Stamp Act, and the Job Corps. Henry B. is the chairman of the House Subcommittee on Housing and Community Development. As chairman, he has focused attention on the state of housing for migrants or seasonal farm workers and on shelter for the homeless. For 10 years, he was Chairman of the Banking Subcommittee on International Development.

Among his present legislative ef-

forts are bills which would prevent the dismantling of federal assistance for bilingual education and all public education. He has also submitted a proposal to establish a U.S.-Mexico Joint Development Bank which would create a \$4 billion loan capability for development within 200 miles of the U.S./Mexico border in an effort to stem the tide of illegal immigration.

Gonzalez married the former Bertha Cuellar on November 10, 1943. The couple has 8 children and 17 grandchildren. He maintains offices in both Washington, D.C., and San Antonio.





Joseph M. Guerra

"I went all the way down the road once. Then, back all the way to Hwy. 90 and I still couldn't find it," said Erma Jackson, a teacher of 20 years at Joseph M. Guerra Elementary who was describing her first attempt to find the school. "I finally stopped where I saw a group of cars parked to ask for directions. When I asked, they said, 'Well, you found it!'"

Originally, Guerra Elementary was called Callaghan Road Elementary. It was a clustering of mostly temporary buildings on both sides of Herbert Lane. The main building used partitions to divide rooms into several smaller classrooms. Herbert Lane, as well as the school grounds, were unpaved. The children on the east side had to walk across Herbert Lane in rain or shine to eat in the cafeteria. These conditions were intolerable to Joseph Guerra. He demanded and fought for better conditions at Callaghan Road Elementary.

When the district moved the sixth grade to E.T. Wrenn Jr. High, Joe Guerra became the spokesman for the group of parents who were upset over the plan. The parents felt that their children's lives were being endangered because the children had to cross Old Hwy. 90 to reach Wrenn Jr. High. The parents organized a sit-out and a march-in to protest the move. Eventually, the district relented and the sixth grade was

returned to the elementary school.

Joseph Moses Guerra was born on January 8, 1908. Around 1912, he was orphaned and he went to live at the St. Joseph's Orphanage. When he came of age, he returned to some property his parents had left him. He served in the Army/Air Force from 1942-1945, returned to San Antonio after the war, and, in 1948, married the former Nellie Scott. His concern for children overflowed from his own family of four children onto others. He coached several baseball teams using his money to buy equipment, entering the teams in leagues, and transporting the kids to and from the games. He felt he had to do something to provide opportunities which he did not have as a youngster. It was the same concern of providing support to children that led him to be the spokesman for the parents and an outspoken advocate for a new and better school.

His efforts were not in vain. In January 1971, the main building of the Callaghan Road Elementary caught fire and was destroyed. On November 21, 1971, a new elementary school was dedicated across the street from where the old main building had stood. People in the surrounding community gathered to dedicate this new school in honor of Joseph M. Guerra, the man who had led the fight for a new school.



Alonso S. Perales

Alonso S. Perales was born on October 17, 1898, in Alice, Texas. Around 1916, Perales moved to San Antonio and entered a local business college. After studying at the Washington Preparatory School in D.C., Perales enrolled in the National University of Washington. He eventually earned a BA and, later, a law degree from the same university. Perales supported himself throughout his studies by working at a variety of jobs.

Soon after graduation, Perales was appointed to the Diplomatic Corps. He quickly became a valuable asset to Central and South American missions because of his ability to communicate in both Spanish and English and because of his knowledge of Hispanic protocol and customs. His appointments with the Diplomatic Corps took him to many south-of-the-border countries including Cuba, Mexico, and Nicaragua.

In 1925, he was appointed to the position of Chief Attorney for the mission on Tacna and Africa Arbitration led by John J. Pershing. The peak of his diplomatic career was reached when the government of the Republic of Nicaragua appointed him as its representative to the United Nations organizational meeting in 1945. The Republic of Nicaragua also named him as its Consul General in San Antonio. Perales continued to serve in this capacity until his death.

Perales had chosen to move back to San Antonio years before his U.N. appointment. He had moved back because he felt he was needed. Indeed, the documented cases of blatant discrimination and segregation of Mexican Americans indicated the need for someone to fight these injustices. His books, *En Defensa de Mi Raza* (Vols. I and II) and *Are We Good Neighbors?*, are his apologia for devoting himself to the struggle for equal education and social justice for the Mexican American. Perales was not alone in his fight and, in 1927, under his leadership, the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) was formed. Though he could have been its first president, he deferred to the candidate from the city where the organizational meeting was being held. Later, he became entirely devoted to the Mexican



American cause and to the "Mexican American children and youth of this country who will soon become adults and, as they witness our efforts, will ask us for an accounting of our favor for the Mexican American cause." His efforts to establish social justice and equal education opportunities were recognized by the EISD Board of Trustees on November 18, 1974, when Edgewood Elementary was renamed in his honor.



Norman K. Winston

Winston Elementary School is named for Norman K. Winston, the generous benefactor who donated the land on which the school is built.

He saw a need for a community school in the Kelly area and took action. Winston will always be remembered in the Edgewood community for his tireless energy and driving force.

He will be remembered for his long history of service not just to the Edgewood community but also to the country he loved so much... the United States.

During his lifetime, he served as the New York Mayor's personal representative to the European International Trade Conference in 1947. He was the U.S. Special Delegate to the UNESCO Paris Conference in 1957 and the following year served as the Special Advisor to the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Winston was on the Board of

Trustees for the Carnegie Hall Foundation in 1959 and served on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee as a special advisor.

In 1962 President John F. Kennedy appointed him to serve on the Board of Directors for the 1964 New York World's Fair and in 1964, President Lyndon Johnson named him Special Assignments Ambassadors.

His awards include being selected the 1974 Man-of-the-Year by the Port Jefferson, NY, Port Authority, awarded the rank of Officer of the Order of Leopold II of Belgium, awarded the rank of Knight Officer in the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic and awarded The Great Cross for Merit by the Republic of Austria.

In 1969, Winston again showed his generosity by donating the Norman Winston House to Memorial Hospital for Cancer and Allied Diseases in New York.

The man is remembered across the country, but his roots are in Edgewood.

Many Edgewood schools were named for the subdivision area or plat as it is commonly known. County records show when the following plats were first recorded:

**BRENTWOOD HILLS** - July 1946. Brentwood Elementary School (now Hoelsher Elementary School) was named March 28, 1957. Brentwood Junior High School (now, Brentwood Middle School) was built in 1965.

**CENIZO PARK** - March 1944. Cenizo Park Elementary School was built in 1953.

**GARDENDALE WEST** - June 1909. Gardendale Elementary School was named October 9, 1949. **LAS PALMAS ADDITION** - April 1953. Las Palmas Elementary School was built in 1955.

**LOMA PARK HEIGHTS** - February 1952. Loma Park Elementary School was built in 1953.

No verifiable information could be obtained on the namesakes of Burleson Elementary School and Coronado Elementary School at press time.

Edgewood District has had two schools which have closed.

The Carver School was named for George Washington Carver. The school was founded because Black students were not permitted to attend the school in the area which was for white students only before intergration in the Edgewood Independent School District. Elizabeth Terrell Wrenn was credited with initiating the idea of starting a school for Black students around 1940.

The first school was located in a small frame Methodist church on 40th street. Ms. Wrenn was the first teacher. At the end of the first term, the school was moved to a brick house that was owned by a private citizen, whose name was Ms. Lee. From that site the permanent white stucco school was built by the school district. This school was dedicated on April 18, 1945, about a week after the death of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Mr. R.W. May, county superintendent, gave the dedication address and Mr. H.K. Williams, superintendent also gave remarks.

The Carver School remained open until 1957.

The Carver School building is at present being used for The Competency Based High School Program.

Another school which was closed was Lincoln School, named after the sixteenth president of the United States.

The Lincoln School was in operation from 1956 to 1984.

The building is at present being leased to a private firm.

Not much information could be obtained on C.P. Stafford, namesake of Stafford Elementary School. According to Dr. Arnaud's thesis, Stafford "lent valuable assistance in the purchasing of the property."

# Memorial Honors

The 1968 annual of Memorial High School, *The Patriot*, dedicated its first volume to "the memory of all those members of Edgewood Independent School District Schools who have gallantly given their lives in defense of their homes and country."

The school's crest, adopted in 1967, includes a draped helmet "to remind us of those who have fallen in battle from Concord Bridge to the jungles of Viet Nam."

Hence, Memorial High School is named to honor all those of the Edgewood family who gave their lives in defense of their country.

Time has had its toll on being able to do a complete search of all those who died in World War II, the Korean Conflict and Viet Nam Conflict.

Presented in this section is but a small percentage of Edgewood residents, all from the Viet Nam era, who are known casualties of the conflict.

Two hundred and ninety-five men from Bexar County are officially

listed as casualties of the Viet Nam Conflict. Of that number, at least 50 are known to have been residents of the Edgewood area at the time of death.

Included in this total is Sgt. Arthur P. Adame who entered the service after graduating from Edgewood High School. Sgt. Adame became San Antonio's first Asian Conflict casualty. And there is Lance Corporal Julian Escobedo, another Edgewood High School alumnus, who after 19 years, is still listed as Missing in Action. Another is Lance Corporal Gregory Van De Walle who was from a prominent family of San Antonio which still resides in Edgewood and for whom the Van De Walle Park, across from Guerra Elementary is named. The names continue. Many other names are certainly missing.

Some of these young men graduated from Edgewood or Kennedy High Schools. Others who lived in Edgewood attended schools elsewhere.

Some were not able to complete their high school education.

They did, however, share common bonds. All lived as neighbors in this community known as Edgewood. And they believed that democracy was worth fighting for; was worth having for all people who cherished freedom.

Because of their belief and dedication, they went when they were called. They fought in defense of what they held dear. They gave their lives in order that others might live.

Memorial High School is a testament to these Edgewood heroes who gave us that gift of love. In our thoughts and in our prayers, let us remember them and honor their sacrifice.

Let us remember their love, their devotion to the ideals of democracy, their hopes for our future, their sacrifice they made for us.

Edgewood remembers.

The Edgewood family is proud.

*Let us remember their love, their devotion to the ideals of democracy, their hopes for our future, their sacrifice they made for us.*



Sgt. Arthur P. Adame  
Edgewood



SP4 Adolpho Aguilar Jr.  
Edgewood



SP4 Robert Aguilar  
Edgewood



PFC Santiago (Jimmy) Aguirre  
Edgewood

# America's Greatest



CPL Enrique M. Bernal  
Edgewood



Sgt. Gilbert Caballero  
Edgewood



L/CPL Fernando Camarillo  
Edgewood



Sgt. Refugio Jose Cantu  
Edgewood



PFC Rudy Cardenas  
Edgewood



SP4 Louis Castillo  
Edgewood



PFC Ernesto F. Castro  
Edgewood



SP4 Robert G. Cevallos  
Edgewood



CPL Roy Cisneros  
Edgewood



PFC Jesus H. De Leon  
Edgewood



SP4 Mario O. De Leon  
Edgewood



Seaman 1st Christopher G.  
Delgado  
Brentwood (La Salle)



# “Greater Love Hath No Man...”

*John*



**Staff Sgt. Jose Escamilla  
Edgewood**



**PFC Felix Esparza Jr.  
Edgewood**



**PFC Juan Santos Estrada  
Edgewood**



**PFC Ramon Flores  
Edgewood**



**PFC Rudy Garcia  
Stafford**



**PFC Basilio Gomez  
Edgewood**



**SP4 Santiago R. Gonzales  
Edgewood**



**PFC Jose A. Gutierrez  
Edgewood**



**CPL Raul C. Gutierrez  
Edgewood**



**CG Herberto Hernandez  
Kennedy**



**SP4 Raymond Hernandez  
Edgewood**



**SP4 Robert Litterio  
Edgewood**





Sgt. Joe G. Longoria  
Escobar



PFC Richard V. Lopez  
Edgewood



CPL Ricardo C. Mendiola  
Kennedy



Sgt. Domingo F. Morado  
Edgewood resident



L/CPL Robert D. Murphy Jr.  
Edgewood



PFC Armando Navarro  
Edgewood



Sgt. Gilbert Palacios  
Edgewood



PFC Ramiro R. Ramirez  
Edgewood



Sgt. Tommy Rendon  
Edgewood



SP5 Joe M. Riojas  
Kennedy



PFC Fidencio G. Rios  
Edgewood



PFC Fermin Saldana Jr.  
Edgewood

(Continued on Page 46)

# Edgewood Area Looking



# g Toward OLL— 1920





L/CPL Gregorio Valdez Jr. III  
Coronado (Chicago)



PFC Juan Vallin  
Edgewood



L/CPL Gregory Jerome  
Van De Walle  
Central Catholic



PFC Jimmy Lee Woolfolk  
Kennedy



L/CPL Julian Escobedo (MIA)  
Edgewood



PFC Hilario H. Guajardo (MIA)  
Kennedy



Sgt. Armando M. Zepeda  
Kennedy



The following are names of those young men that we do not have pictures of and who also gave their lives in Vietnam:

Jose Garza Jr.  
Roy Gonzales Jr.  
Enrique Hernandez  
Raul Ruiz Jr.

Staff Sergeant Paul Weltner, Edgewood High School Class of 1939,  
World War II. Died December 23, 1943.

Lucio Resendez, World War II

Frank Allen, Edgewood High School, World War II. Died December 24,  
1943.



AN • FREDERICK T WILLIAMS • BOBBY WILSON • JERRY  
 CI • MICHAEL C ZELLER • WILLIAM E ADAMS • ANDREW  
 N • WILLIAM M BAGSHAW • CALVIN H BIGGER • RAYMO  
 J Jr • ERNEST CHAFFINS Jr • WILLIAM D CHOI • MICHAEL  
 AY CEE DYER • RODGER R HERTEL • GARFIELD EVANS •  
 • STEVEN V GOLDSTEIN • ROBERT B HEDGE • DENNETT  
 ROBERT A JANS • DENNIS J • ANTHONY LAR  
 H Jr • DAVID J LINK • BILLY D • STON • PHILLIP V  
 Z-OCASIO • ALVIN R BROWN • E VANSKIKE • GE  
 NALD • SAMUEL D McINTOSH • W NICHOLS Jr • V  
 SHERWOOD REYNOLDS • JOSEPH M SINKEWICZ • DA  
 • PAUL F STEDMAN • JOHN L STEWART • MILES B STUAR  
 EY • EDWARD J TARIN • ROBERT D MURPHY Jr • TERRY LE  
 RICHARD D WILLIAMS • RICHARD J WILT • MICHAEL V V  
 RE • RAMIRO ALVARADO • KENNETH S ANDRADE • RICH  
 OSCOE E BRYANT • DOUGLAS J BURDICK • ROY N BUR  
 STANLEY E GRAVES Jr • ROBERT H McCOLLUM • ROBERT  
 D • CHARLES H STANLEY • DENNIS W JACOBS • RAYMON  
 VREENCE F LUBONSKI • ABELARDO MALAVE-RIOS • PAUL  
 RICHARD E GRIER • LOUIS H McFARLAND • EDWARD L N  
 • LARRY W PETETT • ROBERT L POWERS • FERNANDO M  
 VICK Jr • WILLIAM W ROUSH • RUFFIN J SATTERWHITE Jr •  
 R • GEORGE E SPECK • THEODORE A STAMPFLI • JOSE A H  
 JIMMY M TROLLINGER • ANTHONY N VALENTE • VERNON  
 CH • CHARLES F WILLIAMS • THOMAS C WRIGHT • THOMAS

Memorial Wall in Washington D.C. lists the name of Robert D. Murphy, Jr., graduate of Edgewood High School.



1960 — President Harry S. Truman

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*Edgewood*  
Independent School District

Edgewood has welcomed educators from throughout the United States, foreign ambassadors, governors, mayors, and other prominent officials.

Notable among the many distinguished guests is the visit of the late President Harry S. Truman who toured the building site of the present Truman Middle School on October 11, 1960, and said, "It's an honor I've never had before." Truman Middle School was the first secondary school in the country named for the President.

Other visiting dignitaries include Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, Mrs. Robert F. Kennedy, wife of the presidential aspirant, and Senator Edward M. Kennedy, brother of President John F. Kennedy.

The most recent VIP was First Lady Nancy Reagan, wife of President Ronald Reagan, who came to Winston Elementary School on October 12, 1984.

Other visitors include former Texas Governor Bill Clements, Attorney General John Hill, Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez, Congressman Abraham Kazen, and Senator Ralph Yarborough. Colorado Senator Gary Hart, Chief White House Protocol Officer Abelardo Valdez, House Speaker Tip O'Neil, H. Ross Perot, and San Antonio Mayor Henry Cisneros have all visited Edgewood Schools over the past years.

In 1973, Julie Nixon Eisenhower, daughter of President Richard M. Nixon, visited H. K. Williams School.

Edgewood made Texas history when Mrs. Linda White, wife of Texas Governor Mark White, made her first official visit as First Lady to Edgewood High School.

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# The Historical Visits

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# President Dedicates



The late President Harry S. Truman greets an ardent admirer.

Harry S. Truman, the thirty-third president of the United States, visited the construction site of the Truman Middle School and dedicated the school which bears his name.

The former president visited the Edgewood school on October 11, 1960, and said having a school named after him was an honor "I never had before."

The ex-president spoke to a crowd of 5,000 people and issued a call for youngsters to "study the constitution" and the workings of the U.S. government.

Truman said:

**"You're members of the greatest government in the history of the world. The more you know about it, the more you'll defend it. Go home, read the constitution and don't stop until you're well informed."**

Truman gave the audience somewhat of a dissertation on the duties and powers of the president and called on the school children to "get as much education as possible."

He added:

**"The most important thing a youngster can do is to get everything in his head. A head full of knowledge is the greatest thing in the world. They can't take it away from you."**

He asked the children to "go to work to learn." As for the future, he urged:

**"Study our government and appreciate it."**

**"If you let it (the government) go to pot, you'll have no one to blame but yourself."**

**"I might right now be talking to a future president of the U.S." said Truman.**

During his speech the president pointed to one of the children and said that although he won the highest position in the land, his accomplishment was made harder by a lack of a full, formal education.

Truman was presented letters from school children in the district which were bound in book form and given to the Truman Library in Independence, Mo. He was also given a color sketch of the new school.

## Truman Salutes Roosevelt

Then-Edgewood Superintendent Bennie F. Steinhauser, who presided at the ceremonies, pointed out to the ex-president that the Roosevelt Elementary School was located just south of the Truman School. Truman saluted the school named after the man who preceded him in the president's office.

Then-Board president Eddie Montez said "because of Truman's interest in the generations to come, we decided to name our nineteenth school in his honor."

Included on the speaker's platform at the dedication were Mayor Kuykendall, Postmaster Dan Quill, Bishop Stephen A. Leven, Dr. W. W. Jackson, president of state board of education, and Congressman Thornberry of Austin.

Truman, was 76 years old at the time of the dedication and helped break ground for the then-new Edgewood school.



# Truman Junior High



Truman Junior High School in San Antonio was the first secondary school in the nation named for the thirty-third president of the United States. Truman spoke before a crowd of 5,000 people on October 11, 1960.

## Truman Was The First

Truman Middle School was the second school in the United States named and dedicated in President Harry S. Truman's honor.

The first school in the country named for Truman was the Harry S. Truman Elementary School in Kansas City, Missouri, which was dedicated on January 23, 1956.

Technically, then, the Truman School in Edgewood was the first secondary school in the country named for the thirty-third president of the United States. This fact probably explains the former president's comment at the school's dedication when he said that the Truman Middle

School in San Antonio was an honor "I never had before."

Edgewood's Truman was dedicated on October 11, 1960.

The next school in the country named for the former president was Truman Junior High School in Tacoma, Washington which was dedicated on December 10, 1963.

According to Benedict K. Zobrist, Director of the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library in Independence, Missouri, in the United States there are now three high schools, five junior highs or middle schools, five elementary schools, and two colleges named for President Truman.

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*Truman, thanking the Edgewood Independent School District for naming the school, at Cornelia and Thirty-fourth, for him, said it was "...an honor I never had before."*

---

*San Antonio Light  
October 11, 1960.*

# Vice President of U.S.



Presidential candidate Hubert H. Humphrey visits with excited pep squad members.

John F. Kennedy High School has the distinction of being visited twice by Hubert H. Humphrey, once as a vice presidential candidate in 1964 and another as a presidential candidate and as Vice-President of the United States in 1968.

The late Vice-President first visited the school on September 17, 1964.

Humphrey spoke before a packed crowd of 1,200 people in the school auditorium and many more heard the speech via closed-circuit television.

Humphrey returned again to the school on October 23, 1968, and spoke before wildly enthusiastic students who packed the school auditorium. He told the students of his plans to invest in youth without regard to race, creed, or color.

He spoke to some 1,900 students inside the school shortly before noon while over 2,000 people waited outside the school.

His theme at the high school talk was summed up when he declared, "this great America has been moving and in the right direction. I want to

see this as an American family where people of all races can live and work together. This is the kind of America we are going to build," he promised.

As a wild shout of approval subsided Humphrey resumed: "I want America for all Americans that belongs to people of every race, creed, and nationality...there are no groups with a monopoly on talent.

"Look at the record: four Congressional Medal of Honor winners came out of this school. Look at our Olympic team and there they are, white and black. But they are Americans and they are carrying the banner of this country."

He told the students that Americans are proud and do not want handouts but want "the hand of help." He cited a host of anti-poverty programs which have brought the hands of help to youngsters in Edgewood School District.

"I want every boy and girl in this room to know that if you want to get advanced training, we want to invest in you."

"You are the best investment you can make," he told the students.

The vice-president warned the students against the "voices of hate and suspicion and doubt, saying "we can't build a better America through hate, or race, or religious bigotry."

Closing his address, the vice president drew another wild response when he said: "If I had my way, you would vote at age 18."

The Humphrey caravan arrived at Kennedy High at 11:05 a.m. and was greeted by several hundred students lined up outside with the school band.

Students jammed the auditorium and classrooms on two levels on both sides overlooking the auditorium.

When Humphrey entered the auditorium, the students leaped to their feet in one wild cheer.

On stage with Humphrey were Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez, Sen. Ralph Yarborough, Rep. Abraham Kazen, Kika de la Garza, and Texas House Speaker Ben Barnes.

# Visits JFK High



Vice President Humphrey reaches out to Edgewood residents in typical campaign style. Behind the vice president (not visible) is U.S. Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez and Senator Ralph Yarbrough.



The Vice President reviews Kennedy High School's Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps.



A packed gymnasium greeted the Vice President of the United States at John F. Kennedy High School on October 23, 1968.



# Fate Intervenes President's

There was an air of excitement and anticipation at John F. Kennedy High School on November 21, 1963.

Kennedy High was just barely two months old since it had opened its doors for the first time when word was received at the school that there might be a chance that President Kennedy would visit the school.

The president was in San Antonio on a political trip hoping to patch differences in Texas between conservative Texas Governor John Connolly and liberal Senator Ralph Yarborough.

Armando Balderrama, a coach at Kennedy at the time, remembered that "Secret Service men were on top of a water tower located near the school."

"I know there were plans for him (President Kennedy) to come. The Secret Service checked inside and outside the school. Security preparations were made in case the president would visit," said Balderrama.

"School officials were hoping that a last minute change would reroute the president's cavalcade to Kennedy High School," continued the coach.

Newspaper accounts at the time show that a preliminary plan was for the president to visit Kennedy High School, while Mrs. John F. Kennedy would be taken to Our Lady of the Lake College (now, University) to receive an honorary degree.

D. B. Willis, the school's first principal, recalled that the student council had organized a petition drive to invite the president to visit the school. Newspaper files show that 18,000 Edgewood residents signed the petition. Willis said that the petition was given to Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez to forward to President Kennedy.

Willis said that students and faculty waited that day hoping that they would receive word of the president's last minute visit. "As time lapsed, we then knew that he wouldn't be coming," said Willis.

It was after President Kennedy left



President Kennedy delivers the dedication address at the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine at Brooks Air Force Base on November 21, 1963.

for San Antonio that day that President Kennedy told Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez that he would return to San Antonio to visit and dedicate the school.

The Congressman recalled that "We shook hands on it."

Congressman Gonzalez recalled the president saying, "Henry, you tell those students at JFK High, I'll be there."

After San Antonio, the president and his party went to Houston, Fort Worth and Dallas.

On November 22, 1963, around 12:45 p.m. Mr. Willis remembered that a student "with a transistor radio told me that the president had been shot." Willis then announced the news to the student body over the school's public address system. Students followed the news on TV sets located in the classrooms, and the radio was left on the public address system as the news unfolded.

Coach Balderrama recalled, "The cafeteria was not equipped to serve hot lunches then, so students were sharing the Brentwood cafeteria. Only athletes were eating lunch at the time. A student came in to tell us that the principal wanted us back on the

campus immediately. Then we found out what had happened to the President."

Paul Rodriguez, a coach at Gus Garcia Junior High School, and a freshman at Kennedy at the time, said that "Everybody couldn't believe it. We watched TV in the classroom. A lot of students were crying. We were just astonished," said Rodriguez.

When word was received that the President had died, students hastily planned a memorial service outside the school, something that was eventually to become an annual tradition at the school.

"The school name plate was draped in black," recalled Willis. The ceremony was about 20 or 30 minutes. Taps was played by the school band," said the former principal.

It had been only 24 hours before that a smiling President Kennedy was told about Kennedy High School, the first school in the country to be named for him at the time.

The president never kept his promise to visit the school named after him, for on November 22, 1963, fate intervened.



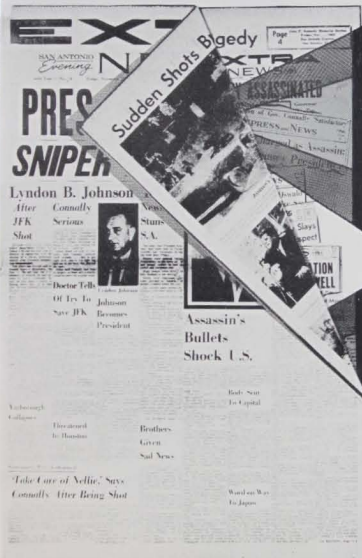
# Return Trip to Edgewood

"...on that fateful trip to Texas on November 21, 1963, I was one of only three Congressmen on Air Force One; and the reason was that the President wanted to explain, since I was raising so much commotion, why it was that he would be in San Antonio just a bare three hours, while in Dallas-Fort Worth he'd be a night and a day. He said, 'Henry, when I come back from this trip, I immediately will go to the Pacific to meet with CINCPAC to review that whole Southeast thing,' (meaning Vietnam), 'but in January

or at such time as you want, I will come to San Antonio, and San Antonio only, and spend all the time you want.' He stuck out his hand and we shook on it. The reason was that I had told him San Antonio had this brand new High School named after him. I said, 'Mr. President, where in all of Massachusetts do you have a new school?' He smiled and said, 'Henry, you know better than that.' I said, it would take only a few minutes for us to drive to the school for a simple dedicatory ceremony and then

just a few blocks away for the trip to Kelly Air Force Base to go to Houston. I said, simultaneously, we could provide for Mrs. Kennedy to be taken to Our Lady of the Lake College (it was then a College rather than a University) to accept an honorary degree that the President of the College had told me they wanted to offer Mrs. Kennedy, and that is why he made that comment to come to San Antonio and JUST San Antonio..."

Henry B. Gonzalez  
Member of Congress



## Schools Keep Schedules

San Antonio schools did not close their doors Friday afternoon due to the president's death, though most had memorial services during school hours.

John F. Kennedy High School which President Kennedy had promised to dedicate on a return trip to the Alamo City, held perhaps the most impressive tribute.

The sign designating the school was draped in black and a member of the faculty, who was an Army Protestant Chaplain presented a prayer.

## Kennedy Promises To Return

U.S. Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez, Thursday said President Kennedy has promised he will come back to participate personally in the dedication of the John F. Kennedy High School.

Gonzalez told of the promise just prior to joining the presidential entourage aboard the presidential jet minutes before the takeoff for Houston from Kelly AFB. He said no date for the visit has been set.

The dedication of the new school, scheduled for Thursday, was postponed since the President didn't include it in his San Antonio itinerary.

**"Henry, you tell those students at JFK High School ...I'll be there."**

**President John Fitzgerald Kennedy**

**November 21, 1963**



President and Mrs. John F. Kennedy leave San Antonio for a trip to Houston, Fort Worth and Dallas, Texas.

Friday, November 22, 1963, the day after President Kennedy's visit to San Antonio. The Extra evening edition is taken from the SAN ANTONIO EVENING NEWS (Reprinted with permission).

# Mrs. Kennedy Captures 2,000



By E. J. Slayman

A warm and friendly Ethel Kennedy made about 2,000 friends in a few minutes at John F. Kennedy High School, where representatives of Edgewood District schools welcomed her.

In San Antonio Thursday to focus attention on the campaign of her brother-in-law, U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy, the wife of the late Robert F. Kennedy was received with enthusiasm by students and school officials alike.

She said on her last visit here, she asked for and received support for John F. Kennedy for president. "When Teddy remembered that, he said, 'how about going to San Antonio and doing the same thing for me you did for Jack?'"

She observed the release of green and white balloons on her arrival at

the school, noting it was a fitting reminder of the Kennedy's native Ireland.

"I know he (the senator) would particularly like to meet Dario Gonzales and wonder how he got to be president," Mrs. Kennedy continued. As president of the freshman class, Gonzales had presented Mrs. Kennedy with a dozen yellow roses.

Remembering a favorite quote of the late president and her late husband, she said, "Every man can make a difference and each of us can try" and she told the students she hoped they would take the words to heart. She urged them to "talk out and make the difference."

Suggesting her young audience become active politically, she said those too young to vote can be in politics, mentioning her son, Christopher, 16, works fulltime at Kennedy headquarters in



A smiling Mrs. Robert F. Kennedy wears a Kennedy sweater presented to her by the school's student council.

Washington, D.C., while three of her younger children, 15, 12 and 11, work in the headquarters after school and on weekends.

"There are many things you can do to erase the injustices of this world," she declared, quoting from a saying "that we should live to tame the savageness of man and make gentle the lives of the world."

And she closed her brief talk with "Viva Teddy."

One of her gifts was a green sweater, in school colors, and she promptly donned it and wore it throughout a reception that followed.

School officials had announced a holiday from classes for the remainder of the afternoon. "I hope you remember which candidate got that day off for you when you go to the polls," she quipped.

*Reprinted with permission of the San Antonio Light (March 7, 1970).*

# Hearts at High School



Mrs. Robert F. Kennedy is given what the SAN ANTONIO NEWS termed a "spectacular" welcome to the Kennedy High School campus. The school's JROTC served as an honor guard for the distinguished visitor on March 6, 1980. Next to Mrs. Kennedy is the son of farm activist Cesar Chavez.

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*"Both Bobby and President Kennedy were fond of a quote I want to share with you: 'Every man can make a difference and each of us can try.'"*

*"I know that when you students see wrongs, you are going to talk out against those wrongs."*

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*Mrs. Robert F. Kennedy  
Visit to JFK High School  
March 6, 1980*

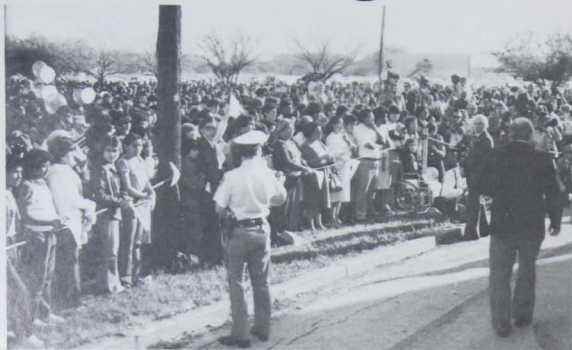
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Although there are now over 1,000 schools in the United States named for President Kennedy and Senator Robert F. Kennedy, this was Mrs. Kennedy's first visit ever to a Kennedy-named school.



# JFK High Dedicated



The crowd on the Kennedy High School campus on October 22, 1980 at 8:30 a.m.

By James McCrory

U.S. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy may have been 17 years late, but Wednesday he finally formally dedicated the first high school in the United States named after an assassinated brother, President John F. Kennedy.

The smiling senator, in his opening remarks to a crowd estimated by police officials at more than 2,000 on the spacious John F. Kennedy High

School grounds, took note of his tardiness.

"I have a note from home asking admission," he quipped. "I'm 17 years late."

But school administrators and officials and the students themselves seemed to believe the wait was worth it.

The 1,750 students from the high school, along with delegations from each of the Edgewood School

District's 27 schools serving 17,000 students, gave the senator a thunderous welcome on his arrival and a warm reception during his presence on the stand.

## Politics out

Politics was out for the ceremony.

The only other elected officials on the stand outside of school trustees were U.S. Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez, the man whom the slain president the day before his assassination in 1963 had assured he would return to San Antonio to dedicate the school named after him, and City Councilman Bernardo Eusteste, state co-chairman of the Carter/Mondale campaign. Kennedy was the only one of the three to speak.

Kennedy's message to his audience — and that message was beamed by closed circuit television to the students at the district's other schools who couldn't attend — was nostalgic and uplifting, looking at the past and to the future.

"President Kennedy would have loved this school," the senator said, "with his joy in America's adventure in outer space and his love of education." Kennedy said his brother would have loved to meet the district's young men and women proud of their Hispanic heritage.

Observing the late president wanted to be present for the dedication, Kennedy said he did not live to see another year.

## Brief

"It was all so brief," Kennedy said in his moving address. "The thousand days are like an evening gone. But they are not forgotten."

But the president endures, the last surviving Kennedy brother said, in the hearts he touched and the lives he changed.

"He was a common thread linking people everywhere," Kennedy said. "Apart from poverty, the single bond of hope that often linked a dwelling in Appalachia and a barrio in San Antonio, a shack in Nicaragua and a desert hut in the Middle East, was his picture on the wall."



Senator Edward M. Kennedy is greeted by the school's JROTC. Each of the three high school JROTC units participated in the welcoming ceremonies.



# By President's Brother

President Kennedy, the senator said, believed each individual can make a difference and each must try.

Rejecting the view the challenges of today are more difficult than those of past years, Kennedy said it should not be more difficult to achieve National Health Insurance in the 1980s than it was to enact Social Security in the 1930s or Medicare in the 1960s. The senator noted a billion people in the world have no access to health care.

Noting two-thirds of the world's people live at or below the poverty level, Kennedy said "We cannot ignore their faces pressed against our windows; we cannot ignore their silent cries for help."

Kennedy told his audience while it

did not make the world it lives in, it does have a chance to change it. Never in his lifetime, the senator said, has he seen such opportunities for change and progress on so many fronts as now.

Kennedy was presented with a

green windbreaker and a cowboy hat as a remembrance of his visit and on behalf of the Kennedy family he presented the school with a bronze bust of his brother Jack.

*Reprinted with permission of the San Antonio Express and News (October 23, 1980).*

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***"President Kennedy would have loved this school. With his joy in America's adventure on the new frontier of outer space, he would have come here and cheered proudly for the Rockets."***

Senator Edward M. Kennedy  
Dedication Ceremonies of JFK High School  
October 22, 1980

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Senator Kennedy acknowledges the enthusiastic welcome given him by Edgewood District students and community members.



Senator Edward M. Kennedy officially dedicates John F. Kennedy High School, seventeen years after President Kennedy made his promise to return to Texas and visit the High School named in his honor.



Senator Kennedy presents the school a bust of President John F. Kennedy.

# First Lady has lunch



Students watch the First Lady's arrival from roped off areas. The visit was carried live to all Winston classes via closed-circuit television.

History was made for Edgewood School District on October 12, 1984, when First Lady Nancy Reagan visited Winston Elementary School, the seventh elementary school she has visited in the United States as First Lady.

Mrs. Reagan was in San Antonio to focus attention on her personal war on drug abuse.

Mrs. Reagan arrived promptly at 9:40 in the morning and was greeted by applause and cheers from the school's 677 students and teachers who were assembled in the school yard behind a roped-off area.

Mrs. Naomi Brown, the school's principal, was the first to greet Mrs. Reagan as the First Lady stepped from her limousine. Mrs. Brown presented Mrs. Reagan with a bouquet of "yellow roses of Texas."

Although not part of the prearranged agenda, Mrs. Reagan walked over to the assembled students and spoke with a few of them and shook hands.

The First Lady then proceeded to a private meeting in the principal's office where officials of the Texans' War on Drugs spoke to Mrs. Reagan on the problem of drugs and specifically inhalant abuse in San Antonio.

After the meeting, Mrs. Reagan

was escorted to the school cafeteria where a program was presented and she learned first hand of the problem and dangers of inhalant abuse in San Antonio area.

Three teenagers from the Nos Otros program in San Antonio and who were not from Edgewood spoke with the First Lady and told of their personal struggle to stop taking inhalants. Each said that he had conquered his struggle and was personal-

ly congratulated by Mrs. Reagan for turning his life around!

After the presentation, Mrs. Reagan went to the school library for a private VIP reception.

The ten minutes for the reception was enough time for school officials to bring the entire Winston fifth grade, so the students would have lunch with the First Lady.

When Mrs. Reagan arrived again in the school cafeteria most students had already sat down and were waiting to begin their lunch with their special guest. Mrs. Reagan had a special escort of six fifth graders who took the First Lady through the cafeteria line.

The menu for all Edgewood schools that day was pizza, tossed salad, buttered mixed vegetables, banana twins, milk and an ice cream sandwich.

Ms. Reagan seemed to enjoy the company of her hosts as she and students chatted on a variety of topics.

She and the students didn't seem to mind that media from all over the country (and even from Australia) were watching their every bite.

At 12:10 a Secret Service man approached Mrs. Reagan and told her that it was time to leave. At that



Students applaud as Mrs. Reagan takes her place among the fifth grade class at Winston School.

# at Winston Elementary

int she asked "Can I at least finish / milk?" Mrs. Reagan ate all the od on the tray.

As she got up to leave, the fifth aders applauded Mrs. Reagan a last ne.

As the Secret Service escorted her the waiting limousine outside, her Winston students watched the parture of their special guest from eir classroom windows. The ildren had been watching the entire oceedings on Edgewood's closed rcuit television in their classrooms, hich was broadcast by the school istrict's Media Center.

Mrs. Reagan immediately went to e children and waved to the ungsters who were on the first and econd floor of the building.

The goodbyes lasted briefly and efore long Mrs. Reagan departed the hool campus amid more cheers and eplause.

The almost two-and-a-half hours spent at Winston was a historic moment for the school children, a couple of hours with living history.

There are only seven schools in this nation that can make a claim that they were visited by the First Lady.

Winston Elementary School and October 12, 1984, are now a footnote in American history.



First Lady Nancy Reagan, wife of President Ronald Reagan, visits Winston Elementary School on October 12, 1984.



Mrs. Nancy Reagan, October 12, 1984.



The menu for all Edgewood schools on October 12, 1984: pizza, butter mixed vegetables, tossed salad, banana twins, milk, and ice cream sandwich. Setting to Mrs. Reagan's left is student Joey Robledo.





1935 Edgewood Elementary School.

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*Edgewood*  
Independent School District

Perhaps when Texas celebrates its bicentennial fifty years from now, someone will write Edgewood's history from 1986 to 2036.

In that light, therefore, this section of **EDGEWOOD: THE STORY, THE PEOPLE**, documents how we in Edgewood were in 1986, the State's sesquicentennial.

There are presently twenty-five school campuses with 64 permanent buildings and over 1,703,500 square feet of space. A 1982 study showed that the replacement value of the space was estimated to be \$87,175,000.

There are three high schools, three junior highs, two middle schools, and seventeen elementary schools with a total enrollment of 15,636 students.

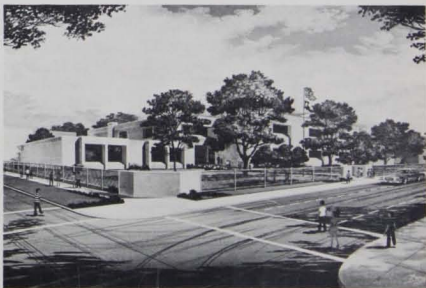
There are 560 elementary teachers and 421 secondary teachers for a total of 981.

In addition to the teachers, administrative staff and supportive personnel round off the total number of employees in Edgewood to approximately 2,000.

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# The Present

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1986 Perales Elementary School.

# Top administrators serve



James R. Vasquez began his teaching career at Edgewood High School in 1960 and rose "through the ranks" to the superintendency which he assumed in 1978.

A graduate of San Antonio's Sidney Lanier High School, he attended San Antonio College and received a bachelor's degree from St. Mary's University in 1959. In 1970, he received a master's degree in counseling and guidance from St. Mary's University. His professional administrative certification is from Our Lady of the Lake University.

Vasquez is co-founder of the Education Resource Equity Center and currently serves as vice president. He has called attention to the inequities in Texas school system of finance by presenting seminars in Texas and across the country.

Vasquez has called Texas' system of finance a "moral" issue. He has said publicly that the struggle for justice in public schools will not be over until every child in Texas has the opportunity for financial equity. As a result of these convictions, he was a leader in the financial equity fight for school districts in Texas which resulted in the passage of House Bill 72.

In 1983, Vasquez received the "Trendsetter Award" for his work in bilingual education from the San Antonio Area Association of Bilingual Educators.

In 1985, Vasquez was named the "Key Communicator in Texas" by the Texas School Public Relations Association. He was the first superintendent and the first San Antonian to receive the award.



Mr. Anthony Castellanos is currently the Assistant Superintendent for Education.

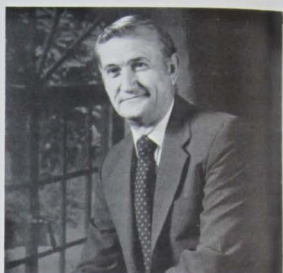
He was born in Mercedes, Texas.

Mr. Castellanos started teaching in Brownsville Public Schools. He taught at Brownsville High School, Brownsville Faulk, Central and Stell Schools for ten years before coming to Edgewood District at John F. Kennedy High School in 1966 where he served as Band Director. In 1973, he became the school's principal and served in that capacity for two years. In 1975 he was named Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services. In the following year he served as Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Schools and served in that position for nine years. In 1985, he was named Assistant Superintendent for Education in charge of all grades. Mr. Castellanos' philosophy of education is:

"Despite their many individual differences, children are all the same in their human nature, and, therefore, all children have the ability to learn. Individual differences are only differences in degree, never differences in kind. Every child is educable up to his or her capacity. There is no unteachable child. There are only children that we fail to teach in a way that befits their individual condition."

Mr. Castellanos has been an educator for 30 years, twenty of those which have been in Edgewood.

Mr. Castellanos received his B.A. degree and M.A. degree from Southwest Texas State University.



Mr. Earle Bolton is at present the Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services.

He was born in Atlanta, Georgia.

Mr. Bolton was motivated into the teaching profession when he joined the Air Force during the Korean War. He was stationed at Lackland Air Force Base. Instead of being sent to Korea, he was assigned as math teacher there and later was assigned as Drill Instructor. That's what started his teaching career.

Mr. Bolton came to the Edgewood I.S.D. in 1958 where he started teaching at Edgewood High School. He was there for eight years. In 1966, he was assigned Math Supervisor for about four years, and, at the same time, he was also teaching math over television at the T.V. Studio at Kennedy High School.

In 1969, Mr. Bolton was named Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services, a position which he still holds.

Mr. Bolton's philosophy of education is:

"Public Education needs to provide every student the opportunity to become whatever he or she aspires to be. Some of the goals of education are to pass the heritage of the past to the next generation, to provide a set of values that will enable students to take their rightful place in a society, to provide students with a set of skills with which they can survive."

Mr. Bolton has been in the Edgewood District for twenty eight years.



# Edgewood a total of 73 years

Edgewood Independent School District operates on a Five-Year Priorities Plan which focuses on increased academic competence as its overall goal. EISD will produce students who are effective learners in the academic area, people who have learned how to learn.

## BASIC FACTS IN 1986

Student enrollment: 15,636  
Number of schools 25  
Number of citizens 70,489  
Area 16.27 square miles  
Per-pupil cost \$3,061.83  
Tax rate per \$100 valuation .65287  
Budget 85-86 \$51,604,907  
Assessed valuation \$584,950,062  
Number of teachers 981  
Elementary 560  
Secondary 421

District attendance ratio 95.2%  
Student/Teacher ratio 15.94/1



1986 Board of Trustees, (seated, l-r) Sam Williams, Jr., Vice-President/Secretary David D. Garza, President; Enrique Barrera, (top, l-r) Superintendent James R. Vasquez; Juan Castillo, Raul Villaseñor, and Pete Gonzales, Jr. (missing from photo, Pablo Escamilla, Jr.)

## CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

**Gifted and Talented Program:** Activated in 1985 as a planning year to be implemented in 1986.

**High Tech High School:** In cooperation with Alamo Community College, Edgewood students attend the magnet high school on the campus of San Antonio College.

**Health Careers High School:** In cooperation with the Northside Independent School District, Edgewood students attend the magnet high school located in the South Texas Medical Complex.

**Plato Computer System Instruction:** Supplementary computer instruction

**Technical Education Internships:** Schools-business partnerships; EISD students train at area high technology businesses.

**Elementary Bi-literacy Program:** for students in grades kindergarten through sixth which meets the needs of limited English proficiency students.

**First Grade Reading/Writing Program:** Introduced in 1984, a more comprehensive program

**Writing to Read System:** Designed to support teaching kindergarten and first grade students to write anything they can say and anything they have written.

**Summer schools:** EISD offers summer instruction for elementary through high school students.

**Pre-Kindergarten:** Program for four-year old students.

**Honors Classes:** language arts, math, science, social studies, and Spanish

**Guidance Programs:** Counselors at

each campus provide necessary counseling and guidance, schedule classes, and plan staff development.

**Language School:** Opened in 1985, this is a school for immigrant children grades 4 through 8.

**Tutorial Programs:** Tutoring services offered after school at all schools.

## Salaries are competitive

EDGEWOOD  
House Bill 72 Salary Schedule  
1985 - 1986

### Bachelor's Degree - Fully Certified 10 Month Contract

0	\$18,000
1-2	\$18,500
3-4	\$18,500
5	\$18,750
6-7	\$18,750
8-9	\$19,350
10	\$21,490
11-12	\$22,850
13-14	\$24,040
15	\$24,040
16	\$25,450
17+	\$27,750

### Master's Degree - Fully Certified 10-Month Contract

0	\$18,500
1-2	\$19,240
3-4	\$20,100
5	\$20,100
6-7	\$21,110
8-9	\$22,270
10	\$23,615
11-12	\$25,050
13-14	\$26,600
15	\$28,285
16	\$30,095
17+	\$31,200

# COURSE REQUIREMENTS GRADES 9-12

COURSES	PRESENT PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS	"REGULAR" HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS	"ADVANCED" PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS
English	4	4	4
Math	2	3	3
Science	2	2	3
Foreign Language	-	(1)	2
Social Studies	3	2 1/2	2 1/2
Economics	-	1/2	1/2
Health	1/2	1/2	1/2
Physical Education	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Computer Sci./Math	-	-	1
Fine Arts	-	-	1
Electives	7 (5)	8 (6) (5)	3
Remediation	(2)	2 (2)	-
CREDITS	20	22	22

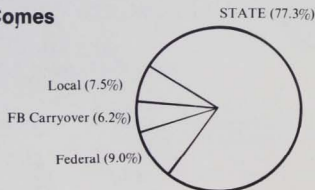
## Trustees Adopt Record Budget

Edgewood Trustees approved a budget of \$51,604,907 on August 12, 1985, for the 1985-86 school term. The budget is a record for the school district.

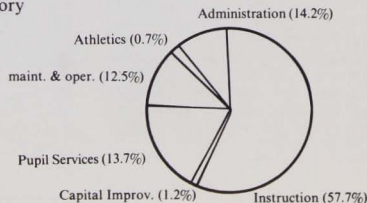
The spending plan includes an average 11.6 percent salary increase for teachers.

## Where The Money Comes From:

General Fund Revenues



## Where the Money Goes: Expenditures By Category



## DIPLOMAS

Although all Edgewood high school diplomas are the same, transcripts will indicate which of four types of certificate students have earned.

**Advanced Diploma**...student takes advanced math courses and additional courses in science, foreign language, and British literature.

**Regular Diploma**...students take required courses, no extra year in science, math, or foreign language.

**Advanced Diploma with Honors**...student takes advanced diploma required courses but also take honors labeled courses.

**Combined Certificate**...student takes advanced or regular diploma requirements with a concentration of vocational units.

## GRADING SYSTEM

- A.....90-100 Outstanding
- B.....80-89 Above Average
- C.....75-79 Average
- D.....70-74 Below Average
- Failure....Any grade below a 70

## ACCREDITATION

All Edgewood Independent Schools are accredited by the Texas Education Agency.



The PLATO Computer System has the seal of approval of the National Education Association, and is currently in use at over 200 colleges and school systems throughout the United States. Edgewood High School is the only school in the state of Texas that uses the sophisticated computer instruction.



The PLATO computer system was a feature of San Antonio's Education Fair held during Texas Public Schools Week in March 1986.

## COMPETENCY BASED HIGH SCHOOL

Formerly called the External High School, this is a self-paced adult education program based on the Adult Performance Level Curriculum. This program is housed at Edgewood High School and is the only program of the kind in the city.

### HONORS CLASSES

Language Arts	English I, II, III, IV
Math	Algebra I, II Geometry, Pre Calculus, Calculus
Science	Physics, Physiology and Anatomy Biology I and II Chemistry I, II
Social Studies	American History
Other	Spanish I, II, III, IV High Tech Courses



Laura DeAnda and Frank Espinoza, Memorial High School students, participate in the High Tech High School located at San Antonio College.





Alana Norton  
Winston School  
Pre-K.



Veronica Madrigal  
Emma Frey School  
Pre-K.



Valerie Carreon  
H.K. Williams School  
Pre-K.

he purpose of our schools is to  
cate every child to the fullest of  
t or her potential and to prepare  
tse children to take a place in the  
ld they would inherit as adults.  
ve realize that the future of society  
quires an informed and educated  
ulace. That is why we send our  
dren off to school; that is why we  
vide them with an education.  
et the record show that 1986 was  
t year when Edgewood took a giant  
ep. The community voted an \$8.5  
lion bond issue to renovate schools  
i preparation for the future.  
ut renovation is only one part. As  
v approach the future Edgewood  
v will try new programs; will try new  
approaches; will try new disciplines;  
v will try new techniques. Sometimes  
v will succeed, and sometimes we fail,  
t, if we fail, we rise to try again. If  
t is ever-changing, then so must our  
ools reach out and try. If our job is  
t educate children for tomorrow,  
t n we can do no less.

---

# The Future

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1986 Architect's sketch of the new Gardendale Elementary School.

# Edgewood Case Touches

## SAN ANTONIO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT ET AL. V. RODRIGUEZ ET AL.

APPEAL FROM THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

No. 71-1332. Argued October 12, 1972—Decided March 21, 1973

**NATURE OF CASE:** Appeal from finding of unconstitutionality of dual public school financing system.

**FACT SUMMARY:** Rodriguez (P), who resided in the Edgewood district where the highest school tax was paid and \$356 per year per student was allocated, filed this suit alleging denial of equal protection since the Alamo Heights district was taxed at a lower rate but produced enough revenue to permit the allocation of \$594 per year per student there.

**CONCISE RULE OF LAW:** The allocation of educational funds per year per pupil in a school district according to the amount produced by taxation in that district does not violate the equal protection rights of resident of other districts in the area paying a higher rate of tax which produces less revenue resulting in a lower per pupil allocation.

**FACTS:** The average assessed property value per student in the predominantly white Alamo Heights district was more than \$49,000 while the corresponding value in the predominantly minority Edgewood district was \$5,960. This resulted in the allocation of \$594 per year per student in Alamo Heights and only \$365 per year per student in Edgewood, despite the fact that Edgewood residents paid a higher rate of tax. The allocations were made in each district separately according to the amount of revenue produced in each. Edgewood produced less revenue from the school tax even though residents there paid a higher rate, and Rodriguez (P) along with other residents filed this suit on the

ground that the dual system and financial disparity denied Edgewood residents equal protection of the laws. The district court found the system unconstitutional and the Supreme Court granted certiorari.

**ISSUE:** Does the allocation of educational funds per year per student in a school district according to the amount produced by taxation in that district violate the equal protection rights of resident of other districts in an area paying a higher rate of tax which produces less revenue resulting in a lower per pupil allocation?

**HOLDING AND DECISION:** (Powell, J.) No. The Equal Protection Clause does not require absolute equality or precisely equal advantages. The class of persons represented by Rodriguez (P) is not a "suspect" class. The members of the class are unified only by the fact that they live in a district with less taxable wealth than other districts. It has not been shown that these persons are "poorer" than others or that the admittedly dual system has a purpose of denying rights to the poor. Because the Edgewood residents pay more and receive less, Rodriguez (P) urged, and the District Court agreed, that the Equal Protection Clause was violated by the unequal distribution of the education funds throughout the entire SAISD (D). Since nothing in the Constitution either explicitly or implicitly guarantees education as a "fundamental" right and since Rodriguez (P) does not represent a "suspect" class, the "compelling state interest" standard applied by the District Court was inappropriate. Here the system employed was not so irrational as to be invidiously

**Note:** It is fitting that this page be dedicated to the Rodriguez case, a case which reached the Supreme Court and had its origins in Edgewood. It is also appropriate that this section be included as part of Edgewood's future. For, even though this court case was decided in 1973, the ramifications of Rodriguez are still being felt in Texas and throughout the land. Whenever in the future Texas reaches the point when all her children will enjoy financial equality in the schools, it will be said that the struggle for equality for all school children began in Edgewood. This is a legal brief of Rodriguez and a summary of the historic decision which touched the conscience of America's educational system.

discriminatory. The allocation of educational funds per year per pupil in a school district according to the amount produced by taxation in that district does not violate the equal protection rights of residents of other districts in the area paying a higher rate of tax which produces less revenue and results in a lower per pupil allocation. Reversed.

**DISSENT:** (Marshall, J.) The majority of this Court today seeks to establish that cases under the Equal Protection clause fall into two categories for review: strict scrutiny or mere rationality. A reading of the decisions of this Court shows that a spectrum of standards have been employed in equal protection cases. The only justification for the system here questioned is the local control of schools. But the system does not really advance that interest because voters are unable to choose to allocate more to education and are instead bound by the amount of taxable property in their districts, a factor over which they have no control.

**ANALYSIS:** The majority found in this case that there was no fundamental right to education secured by the Constitution except that some educational opportunity for all persons is required. However, if a "suspect" class had been singled out for unequal treatment in the same way, an equal protection violation would have resulted.



# America's Conscience

In a case eventually decided by the U.S. Supreme Court, Edgewood Independent School District parents in 1967 tried to change the state of Texas' system of financing public education.

A U.S. District Court in San Antonio in 1971 ruled in *Rodriguez vs. San Antonio Independent School District* that funds for educating each child in the state's public schools should be derived from the wealth of the entire state.

The parents brought the class action against the state commissioner and board of education, state attorney general and the school district on behalf of Texas school children because they believed some students were not getting a fair shake from the funding system instituted in 1948.

The Texas Minimum Foundation School Program contributed 80 percent of educational funding while requiring local school districts to provide 20 percent of base revenues for teacher salaries, operating expenses and transportation costs.

This required district revenues, designated as the Local Fund Assignment, was determined by a complex economic formula which involved breaking down counties and school districts by tax bases and their relative ability to shoulder necessary education costs.

Because of its lack of industrial and commercial properties, (strong sources of tax revenue), Edgewood, the area's poorest district, had the highest property taxes (\$1.05 per \$100), and the lowest mean property value per student (\$5,960 worth of taxable property per student).

As such, the district, consisting of 25 schools and about 22,000 students (92 percent hispanic and 4 percent black), was able to contribute only \$26 per student beyond those funds required by the LFA.

The relatively wealthier Alamo Heights Independent School District was in a markedly different situation, and was cited in the case for its contrast to the Edgewood district.

Eighty-one percent white, the six school, 5,000 student district had the area's lowest (\$.85 per \$100) tax rate, along with the highest (\$49,000)

valuation per student. The Alamo Heights district raised \$333 per student, about 13 times that of Edgewood, above the required assignment.

Armed with these comparisons, the plaintiffs convinced the district court that the state's basis for funding implicitly discriminated against poorer districts with less substantial tax bases.

The lower court in December, 1971, found that assigning district funding requirements on the basis of an area's wealth was a "suspect" or questionable practice, and that the state failed to "establish a reasonable basis for these (suspect) classifications." The defendants were held in violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment.

That ruling compelled several state education committees to scramble to develop alternative funding formulas by the court's deadline of 1973.

The U.S. Supreme Court, meanwhile, agreed to hear the appeal in late 1972, and eventually overturned the district court ruling by a 5-4 vote.

The justices had two legal questions to consider: whether the foundation program actually discriminated against a defined, "suspect" class or violated a fundamental, constitutionally-protected right, and whether the foundation program had a legitimate, clearly-defined purpose.

The lower court's ruling was based on the assumption that the quality of education is directly related to the amount of funding devoted to it. Hence, the court reasoned that the differences in per pupil expenditures were directly accountable for qualitative differences between schools and districts.

The Supreme Court majority did not see it in those simple terms, however.

Justice William Powell stated in the majority opinion that the plaintiffs had failed to prove the funding system discriminated against a class of definably poor people on the basis of wealth. Powell cited a Connecticut study that concluded there was no basis for assuming that the poorest people are concentrated in the poorest school districts.

More significantly, perhaps, Powell observed that "at least where wealth is involved, the Equal Protection Clause does not require absolute equality of precisely equal advantages."

The high court held that "the grave significance of education both to the individual and our society cannot be doubted." The opinion went on to state, however, that the importance of a state performed service does not render it "fundamental" for purposes of examination under the Equal Protection Clause.

Hence, the court stated it "has long afforded protection against unjustifiable governmental interference with the individual's rights to speak and vote.

"Yet we have never presumed to possess either the ability or the authority to guarantee citizens (by equal education) the most effective speech or the most informed electoral choice."

# Message to the



Laura Elizondo-Pre. K  
Winston Elementary



Valerie Espinoza-Pre. K  
Loma Park School



Jose Garcia-Pre. K  
Emma Frey School



Michael Gutierrez-Pre. K  
Winston School



Todd Gutierrez-Pre. K  
Loma Park School



Melissa Olivares-Pre. K  
Hoelscher School



Jesse Perez-Pre. K  
Emma Frey School



Saul Requera-Pre. K  
H.K. Williams School



Rodney Rodriguez-Pre. K  
Loma Park School



Roland Sancho-Pre. K  
Loma Park School



Myra Torres-Pre. K  
H.K. Williams School



Patrick Valdez-Pre. K  
Hoelscher School

# Class of 1999

## Edgewood Independent School District



5358 West Commerce Street  
San Antonio, Texas 78237-1399  
(512) 433-2361

1986

To The Graduating Class of 1999:

1999....the end of the twentieth century is the beginning of your adult life after high school graduation. *The story of the people* of the twenty-first century will be more exciting due to many innovations brought about by the computer age. I know that it is these innovations that are going to afford you the opportunity to lead a longer, fuller, and more productive life than the generations that preceded you.

In our lives, some of us saw skies change from airplanes with two-wings (bi-planes) to rockets that transported human beings to the moon and back. Some of you in the twenty-first century will commute to distant places in our galaxy. I can remember, when it was an adventure to drive from San Antonio to Corpus Christi.

Medical technology, new medicines, and other medical treatments have eliminated diseases that crippled and killed thousands of people in the twentieth century. That assures you a longer life and a life-time more secure from illness.

While the body of knowledge has grown, the fundamental need to learn and to be educated has grown even more. From the earliest public schools proposed by Horace Mann in the eighteenth century until now, learning and the reasons for learning have been the fundamental means for improving society. One thing will remain constant in the twenty-first century and that is you must continue to learn and to expand the horizons. You can even learn to live in peace with each other and totally eliminate wars. If you can accomplish this, something we have not been able to accomplish in the entire history of humankind, your generation would become the greatest generation of all time.

As you leave high school, the Class of 1999 will be the last one, and hopefully, the best of the twentieth century. May your life be filled with wonderment, excitement, and peace. May the twenty-first century be a century of brotherhood, progress, and happiness for all of humankind.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "James R. Vasquez".

James R. Vasquez  
Superintendent of Schools



# HISTORY OF THE EDGEWOOD COMMON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 41

The following chapters are taken from the *History of the Edgewood Common School District No. 41* written by Dr. Elie E. Arnaud, former Edgewood superintendent and currently a professor at Our Lady of the Lake University. The history was published in June 1942 as part of Dr. Arnaud's thesis requirements at St. Mary's University. Only the first eight chapters are published here. Omitted because of space limitations are charts and appendices included in the original document. *History of the Edgewood Common School District No. 41* is reprinted with the permission of the author.

## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

Most of us are likely to take for granted the little schoolhouse around the corner from us. True, we are aware that the children of the neighborhood attend classes there, and sometimes we are coerced into buying a ticket to some entertainment or party. But seldom do we think of the school as having a real history of its own.

As a teacher at the Edgewood Elementary School, 525 Cupples Road, just outside the City Limits of San Antonio, Texas, the writer became interested in the background and history of the school and its district. There has been no attempt to keep a record of the events of the past. Many, if not most, records have been misplaced or lost. Common School District No. 41 of Bexar County, Texas, has been in existence for more than 25 years, now, and if some effort were not made at once to gather the facts of its beginning and subsequent development, a complete history could never be recounted. Even now, many of those who were active in the school affairs of the early days of this century have passed on. Others have left the district. The few remaining are growing old.

With these thoughts in mind, the writer decided to gather all available facts from Bexar County and School records concerning the Edgewood district. Since these records were incomplete, it was found necessary to supplement the recorded data with information recalled by individuals such as early trustees, teachers, pupils, and patrons. The writer interviewed many of these people, as many as could be contacted in the time available.

A large number of names has been included in this study, because it is felt that those who were associated with the school district in the past might find them of interest. The spellings are given as they are found on the Bexar County records and are not necessarily correct.

The writer will attempt to give as complete an account as is possible of the history of the Edgewood Common School District No. 41, beginning with the days when it was a part of Common School District No. 15, and following its subsequent divisions and development until the present day. Much of the material will be consolidated into tables to make for greater clarity and ease of reading.

A copy of this thesis is to be placed in the Edgewood School Library, and it is the hope of the writer that additional facts about the past will be appended to these pages by students and patrons.

## CHAPTER II A BRIEF BACKWARD GLANCE INTO THE HISTORY OF THE DISTRICT PRIOR TO THE ERECTION OF THE FIRST EDGEWOOD SCHOOL

It was not so long ago that the land in the vicinity of Edgewood School in Bexar County, Texas, was covered with mesquite brush and was populated mostly by wolves, more commonly known to

Texans as coyotes, according to W. B. Elkins, respected grocer of the Edgewood community since 1911. The territory originally was part of the Meerscheidt farm, and was cut up only in 1909, when Parke R. Longworth bought the land and divided it into the Edgewood Addition. From that time on, many families moved into the section, lured by the rich soil and abundance of artesian water for irrigation purposes. Before long the brushy chaparrals were transformed into level, productive fields of vegetables and flowers. And by 1914, the people in the community were talking about better school facilities for their children.

At the turn of the century the Edgewood Addition was a part of Common School District No. 15, known as the Mackey District (See Fig. 1). The immediate predecessor of the Edgewood School was known as the Frey School, and was located at the northwest corner of what are now known as Parker Road and Stephenson Road. Another schoolhouse located in the vicinity of the present Stafford School, and called the Lakeview School, while located in what is now the Edgewood District, does not seem to be considered a forerunner of the present Edgewood.

The Frey School was built by Charles Frey, who donated the two-acre site, which still belongs to the district, from a corner of his farm. The first teacher was Mr. Frey's daughter, Miss Emma Frey, who recalls that her first class numbered 15 pupils. She taught low and high first, second, third, and fifth grades. Among the pupils that first year were her own brother and three Reeh children, whose parents were laborers at the Frey farm. Miss Frey had received a permanent teacher's certificate from San Marcos College before she began teaching, and later received both her B.A. and M.A. degrees. She is now a member of the faculty of Brackenridge High School. She taught only one year at Frey School.

The second teacher was Miss Julia Grothaus, now chief librarian at the San Antonio Public Library. As she remembers it, the school building was a one-room affair, about 24 by 16 feet. There were approximately 30 or 35 pupils, and she taught every grade from the first to the seventh. Unfortunately, none of the early records seem to have been kept, making it difficult to learn who the early pupils were.

The ways of the early teacher were not always smooth. For instance, Miss Grothaus had to ride horseback, bicycle, or walk all the distance from the end of the street-car lines near Our Lady of the Lake College to the Frey School, a distance of at least two miles. At times it was necessary for her to remain at the home of Mrs. John Darby, who was a true friend of the early school, offering room and board to the teachers when they were stranded by bad weather or other circumstances.

One stormy-looking morning, Miss Grothaus hurried out to school to beat the storm. Just as she arrived it broke in all its fury and continued throughout the day. The teacher devoted no time to her pupils that day, for not a single one ventured near the schoolhouse.

A complete list of the teachers who followed Miss Frey and Miss Grothaus was not located, but the names of Mildred M. Voight, Nellie Ferris, Balzou Waite, Katye Talley, and Mrs. H. G. Bumgardner have been associated with the district by persons acquainted with the early days, and Court House records show these names as employees of District No. 15.

On January 13, 1913, a group of trustees and patrons filed a petition with the Bexar County Commissioner's Court requesting the division of District No. 15 into two separate districts. Following are the petition and the names of its signers:

We, the undersigned trustees of School District No. 15, believing that the present district is too large and that school interests could be better managed if the district were divided, leaving two schools in each district, pray your honorable court, the Commissioner's Court of Bexar County, Texas, to divide said Common School District No. 15, into two school districts, the dividing line at the Southwest corner of District 4, old town tract; thence Southwest and South along the West line of old city tract to the Leon Creek. We further pray that that part of said district lying West of said dividing line be known as Common School District No. 15, and that the part of said district lying East of said dividing line be known as Common School District No. 15, and

Signed this 31st day of January, 1913. Herman F. A. Tezel, trustee; H. Weimer, Julius Haner, Henry



Acker, trustee; Paul Hartmann, Charles Steubing, Charles Haese, August Hansmann, Albert Skolaut, Adolph Golle, James J. Wilson, Edward Golle, Robert Boering, D. F. Wilters, John Rosebrook, Jr., W. H. Wilson, D. H. Hines, J. H. Dean, W. S. Collier, Robert Fake, Emma Arundall, J. J. Campbell, Frank Reiff, A. H. Darby, W. B. Elkins, Dr. W. A. Thompson, F. Belote, Carl Elser, George Stappenbeck, A. D. Lloyd, Harriet E. Yates, Michael Springer, F. M. Bowers, R. J. Jennings, J. C. Darby, James Herrera (or Ferrero), L. Hahn, H. L. Brook, J. E. Brook, John A. Heck, C. A. Greene (or Grune).

The petition was approved by Carlos Bee, president of the County School Board, and the board members, and was acted upon favorably by the County Commissioner's Court on February 13, 1913. Thereafter the district was known as the Lake View Gardens District or Lake View Gardens Common School District No. 41 until the original Edgewood School building was erected. (See Fig. 1)

The following account, taken from the Bexar County School Annual of 1914-1915, compiled by County Superintendent of Schools P. F. Stewart, will serve to give a good picture of the district just prior to the erection of the first building to be known as "Edgewood".

Lake View Gardens School District No. 41 - Trustees Dr. W. A. Thompson, W. B. Elkins, and J. T. Blanks.

This district lies just west of San Antonio in a rich irrigated section of the county. It was cut off from district No. 15 two years ago. The people have increased the school tax rate from 15 cents to 50 cents and have voted \$20,000 school house bonds with which to build and equip a modern brick building near the center of the district, which contains 10½ square miles, to take the place of the two frame houses shown in the cut.

When the schools are consolidated next term and moved into the new building it will be necessary to install free transportation of those pupils living too far from the school to walk. There is no doubt but that this will soon be one of the strong rural high schools of the county.

Much of the land of the district has been divided into small tracts and with suitable educational facilities it will become a residence suburb of the city. The Parent-Teachers Association has worked with the trustees in bringing about such rapid progress.

From the same source it is learned that the Mackey District No. 15, from which No. 41 was separated, had two flourishing schools, one situated on the Castrovilla Road ten miles from the city, and the other the same distance out on the Culebra Road. Ten years previously the children had been taught by a forty-dollar-a-month teacher in an old shack. There were only fifty children in the district at that time. In 1914-1915 there were 156, and each of the two schools had a neat cottage for the teachers, who received 75 dollars a month for nine months.

Trustees for the district for the year 1914 were Dr. W. A. Thompson, J. F. Blanks, and W. B. Elkins. These leaders and others of the community began to realize that improvements were needed in order to take care of the growing number of children in the district. The number of scholastics on the census rolls, for instance, between September 1, 1913, and August 31, 1914, shows for District No. 41 a total of 155 children. With the State apportionment only \$6.80 per child - a total of \$1054 - it was evident that local taxes had to be increased from the rate of 15 cents per \$100 valuation to a higher rate. Consequently, on March 15, 1914, a group of citizens drew up a petition requesting an election for the purpose of setting a tax of 50 cents on the \$100 valuation of taxable property. The petition was approved by the County Commissioner's Court, and an election was held on April 18, 1914, when only eight voters came to the polls at the Frey School, all of them favoring the plan.

Despite this lack of voter enthusiasm, further steps in the direction of bettering school facilities in the district were begun by school-minded citizens of the community, as will be recounted in Chapter III.

### CHAPTER III THE FIRST EDGEWOOD SCHOOL BUILDING

The names of 24 citizens of Common School District No. 41 signed to a petition dated June 6, 1914, and sent to the County Commissioner's Court shortly thereafter, gave the first impetus to a movement directed at the erection of a new school building for the community. The petition requested an election for determining the will of the taxpayers on the issuance of \$20,000 in school bonds to bear interest at 5%, payable 20 years from the date of issue with option of redemption after 10 years, the money to be used for the construction and equipping of a brick building. It also asked the Court to authorize the levying of a tax upon all taxable property in the district sufficient to pay current interest on the bonds and to provide a sinking fund sufficient to pay the principal at maturity.

Receiving the approval of the Court, the citizens approached Albert Huth, tax assessor of Bexar County at that time, for a report as to values of community property. Mr. Huth reported that the total assessed value of real estate situated in the district amounted to \$835,230, and that the personal property owned amounted to \$12,970, a total of \$848,200. With P. F. Stewart, County Superintendent of Schools, the trustees decided that a tax of 25 cents for each \$100 valuation would be sufficient to handle the building program.

On July 8, 1914, ten voters came to the Frey School, all of whom were in favor of the bond issue and the erection of the new school building. Even though the number of voters was small, it may be assumed that others in the community were not opposed to the project or probably they would have turned out to voice their protest.

Trustees W. B. Elkins, Dr. W. A. Thompson and J. F. Blanks immediately made plans for a new building. The district was surveyed by W. M. Locke, and the field notes and boundaries were recorded in the County records.

The plot of land chosen by the trustees for the new schoolhouse measured 300 feet along Cupples Lane (now Cupples Road), and 726 feet along Ceralvo Street. A deed held in the office of the Bexar County Superintendent of Schools gives the information that D. E. B. Waggener on March 8, 1915, gave to District 41 all that certain tract of land and parcel of real estate lying about three and one-half miles from the Main Plaza of the City of San Antonio, described in detail in an appendix. The deed was drawn up by Ball and Seelgson, attorneys.

Apparently the property had been sold to Waggener by Parke Longworth on July 15, 1913. Longworth got the land from E. F. Wolters of Lavaca County, E. B. and Mary Kessler of Fayette County, and I. E. and Ella Clark of Fayette County. The school board obtained quit-claim deeds from the former owners.

According to Mr. Elkins, Mr. Waggener was about to lose the property at the time. There was much discussion, but finally Longworth and Kesslers, Clarks, and Wolters got together and decided to make a donation of five acres to the school, provided someone in the community would give them two acres in adjoining the rest of their property. A Mrs. Butler (later Mrs. Gilbert) donated two acres of her ground to the group. Approximately an acre of land was used in order to complete the area of Ceralvo Street all the way from Cupples Road to Stephenson Road. The school property had not been an actual part of the Edgewood Addition, and hence Ceralvo Street along there had been only a very narrow road until the school was built. This arrangement proved satisfactory to the donors and the deal was completed.

The school board hired Henry T. Phelps, architect, to draw up plans for the building. Ground was broken in April, 1915, and in August of the same year a three-story (or two and one-half story) red brick building was completed at the corner of Cupples Road and Ceralvo Street, having been erected at an approximate cost of \$17,000. Mr. Phelps states that this was the first fireproof school building in Bexar County and created much interest among school people. There were eight large classrooms on the first and second floors, and an auditorium on the third.

During the period of building Mr. Blanks resigned as trustee and J. H. Dean was appointed to replace him. Later Mrs. R. J. Jennings was elected to replace Mr. Dean, and she carried on through the remainder of the building program.

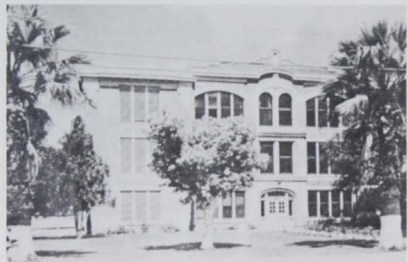
The name "Edgewood" apparently comes from the name of the addition divided by Parke R. Longworth in 1909, and was chosen for the school district after consideration of other names, particularly "Alta Vista", "Lakeview", and "Edgeview". Since this area is just

beyond the city limits of San Antonio, it is reasonable to assume that the name took into account the fact that the section was at the "edge" of the "woods", although the woods in this case probably were mostly mesquites and other typical Texas brush.<sup>1</sup>

First principal of the new school was the late Mr. W. Arthur Thurman, who had as his faculty, Mrs. Thurman (now Mrs. O. B. Manes), Mrs. H. G. Bumgardner, and Miss Katye Talley. Paul Elsner was the first janitor and planted many of the trees now gracing the school grounds.

Mr. and Mrs. Thurman lived in the school building, with living room and bedroom in the southeast room of the first floor (now occupied by a second grade class), and kitchen and dining room in the room adjoining to the north (now housing a fourth grade class).

The pre-World War period saw at Edgewood the beginning of vocational classes in domestic science and manual training and woodworking. Each department had very fine equipment donated by George Brackenridge and valued at more than \$1000. Miss Mary K. Downie (now Mrs. Edwin Paschal) taught home economics one day each week at Edgewood, dividing the remainder of her time between Alamo Heights and Harlandale. She recalls that some of her girls were very reluctant to use the sewing machines, being afraid of them, probably because they had never seen them before. D. E. Coleman was teacher of manual training and worked on a similar schedule as Miss Downie. Both worked out of the County Superintendent's office, since the three schools could not afford to hire a full-time teacher for vocational subjects.



**1942 - The original Edgewood School.**

On August 7, 1915, the board petitioned the County Commissioner's Court for permission to sell the Lake View schoolhouse and property, and the old Frey schoolhouse and outbuildings. Permission to sell was secured and on September 8, the two acres and Lake View buildings were sold to W. A. Thurman for \$950, while the Frey School building was sold to David Anderson for \$301. It has since been moved to the Cupples Road near the intersection of Kirk Place and serves as an attractive dwelling for the Verstuyft family.

There may be some question as to who actually owns the two acres upon which the Frey School was built. There are some who contend that the land was given to the school so long as it was used for school purposes and that afterward it was to go back to the Frey family or heirs. No record of such an arrangement is to be found, so far as the writer can learn; consequently from all appearances the land actually and legally belongs to the school district.

Since District 41 then included what is now part of South San Antonio, and the northern boundary was the Culebra Road, it was necessary to furnish some means of transportation for the pupils. Thus bus service was inaugurated, one "line" going out toward Kelly Field, one into the South San Antonio area, and one to the City View and Lake View sections. One of the vehicles was an ordinary horse-drawn wagon, but the other two were real school wagons.

Early County School account records show that the following men were among those who were paid as bus drivers: J. W. Dean, William Vaughn, A. Y. Stephens, Ed Trapp, F. E. McCulloch, John Stevens, J. T. Flournoy, J. T. Heizer, Frank Gaconnet, J. Chappell, W. E. Camp, and R. M. Morehead.

The need for additional taxes was felt during 1917-1918, and a

petition for a tax not exceeding 50 cents on each \$100 valuation for supplementing the State apportionment was sent to the County Commissioners on February 19, 1917, by a committee of 35 citizens. The election which followed found 23 voting in favor of the raise in taxes and one voting against. In June, 1917, the maintenance tax was set at 40 cents, and the interest and sinking fund tax at 10 cents.

## CHAPTER IV FIFTEEN YEARS OF PROGRESS

There are no figures available to show exactly how many children attended Edgewood School during any given year in the early days. We may, however, judge that the large majority of children listed on the school census rolls, which are available, attended the school. The number of such children increased from 155 in 1913-1914, to 376 in 1918-1919.

Since the district was so wide-spread, it was only natural that the people in the South San Antonio area should ask for a school building nearer their homes when the number of pupils seemed large enough. Thus it was that a petition on February 25, 1918, a petition addressed to the County Court requested the issuance of \$32,000 in bonds numbered 1 to 32 consecutively, \$1000 each, at 5%, payable annually April 10 each year, to be payable 40 years from their date with option for redemption after ten years, to be expended for the erection and equipping of a school building of brick, concrete and hollow tile material, and for the purchase of a site for the building.

Tax Assessor Albert Huth gave the total valuation of property as follows: real property, \$1,680,925; personal property, \$78,975; total, \$1,759,900.<sup>2</sup>

The bond election was held on April 6, 1918, and 36 votes were cast in favor, with six against the issue. Plans were made for the new building. Property was purchased in the 600 block of Ellsworth Avenue, in what is now South San Antonio. Because of the conditions caused by the war, there was much difficulty in the erection of the building. It was a three-story concrete building, and though architecturally it is all right, even to this day it has an "unfinished" appearance. Named Fenfield at the time of its completion, it is now used as an elementary school in the South San Antonio Independent School District.

Upon the completion of the Fenfield School, W. A. Thurman assumed the duties of principal there as well as at Edgewood. Later he was elected County Superintendent of Schools (1920) and died shortly after his re-election for a second term in that office.

In the early days, Edgewood was the leader in all Interscholastic League events, both literary and athletic. There was heated rivalry between Edgewood, Alamo Heights, and Harlandale. Alamo Heights usually suffered defeat from Edgewood in athletic events, according to Mrs. O. B. Manes, the former Mrs. Thurman. The schools also frequently presented exchange programs for each other.

The school wagons, used for transporting pupils most of the year, suddenly blossomed forth as floats in the Battle of Flowers parade when April rolled around. Outstanding students were chosen to ride on the vehicles, which were decorated by the teachers and ladies of the community. White paper roses were the favorite decoration.

An increase in the tax rate was requested in a petition dated March 18, 1921, and asking for a rate not exceeding \$1 per each \$100 valuation. On April 16, 1921, an election was held, and 28 votes approved, while eight voted against. For 1921, the maintenance tax was set at 80 cents, with 20 cents for interest and sinking fund tax. The following year it was 85 cents for maintenance and 15 cents for interest and sinking fund.

On October 11, 1922, citizens of South San Antonio petitioned the Commissioner's Court to form an independent school district. An election was held in the Community Building on October 28, resulting in 120 votes for the proposal, and 17 against.<sup>3</sup>

The resulting division is peculiar, as the reader will observe when glancing at Fig. 1. The complete legal description of the division will be found in the appendix. The persons who drew up the division were most generous with South San Antonio in the matter of parceling out taxable railroad property. When all was said and done, the Edgewood district received three-quarters of a mile of railroad right-of-way to tax, while the independent district received about 13 miles. Had it not been for this little "generosity" Edgewood might now find it easier to finance the bills caused by the great influx of new pupils within the past few years. In addition, South San Antonio was given



the area in which a large oil company and factory were located.

F. R. Dickey, Benjamin F. Woodruff, Leonard Kerr, Mrs. B. F. Ginther, Fred Bell, V. C. Easley, and D. E. Morris were elected as the first trustees of the South San Antonio Independent School District.

Following the formation of the new district, the Fenfield School and its accounts were taken from the books of District No. 41.

Some time during 1921, or later, it would seem, the board purchased an automobile school bus. R. M. Morehead and J. W. Havens were drivers, according to the records. They were followed later by J. L. Chipman and Austin Bieger.

During the years 1920-1922, A. W. Suman served as principal of Edgewood School. E. W. McDonald replaced Mr. Suman in the fall of 1922, but the latter returned for the year 1925-1926. Miss Ethel Swain was named principal for 1926-1927 and remained until 1928, when E. C. Curry assumed the position. In 1930, H. K. Williams was appointed head of the school. Names of the teachers and trustees during these years will be found in the accompanying tables.

In March of 1931 the County School Board was reminded that in 1922 the South San Antonio Independent School District had been created out of property of Common School District No. 41 by an election, but that No. 41 had never been re-established and redefined as to metes and bounds. The board consequently ordered the re-establishment to be made and appointed Robert V. Smith to survey the land and make a report of the field notes.

These notes were certified by Surveyor Smith on March 3, 1931, and the plat of the district may be found accompanying the notes in the County School Minutes. Exact wording of the notes may be found in the appendix and a map of the district may be seen in Fig. 2.

#### CHAPTER V POPULATION INCREASES DEMAND FURTHER BUILDING

Increases in the population of District No. 41 in the 15 years following the erection of the first building were considerable. The area immediately surrounding the school was further developed, as more citizens left the city for the benefits of suburban life beyond the city limits. During this period also there grew up a sizable addition several miles west and somewhat north of the Edgewood Community, and known as the Lady of the Lake Gardens Addition. Citizens of this area felt they were entitled to a school building a little closer to their own homes. While there had been bus service for that area, several accidents involving the school bus had cooled interest in further investment of the sort. Consequently in March, 1931, a petition was filed with the County Court for the issuance of bonds valued at \$15,000 for the purpose of erecting a new school building.

The Court approved the issuance of the bonds, due and payable serially, \$500 on the 10th day of April of each year of the years 1932 to 1961, inclusive, with interest at five percent, for the purpose of repairing, constructing, and equipping public free school buildings of material other than wood, and purchasing the necessary sites thereof. The election was duly held on April 25, 1931, at the Edgewood Schoolhouse, and 167 votes were cast, 142 in favor, and 22 against. On May 11, the Commissioners voted the bonds, and the Court ordered:

there is hereby levied on all said taxable property a tax of thirteen cents (13¢) on each \$100 valuation of all taxable property in said Common School District Number Forty-One for the year 1931; and there is hereby levied a tax of thirteen cents (13¢), or so much thereof, or so much more, if any, as shall be necessary, on each \$100 valuation of all taxable property in said district, for each of the years 1932 to 1961...

Four acres of land on Wood Avenue in the Lady of the Lake Gardens Addition were chosen as a suitable location for the new building by the school trustees, F. O. Kingery, Alec McDonald, and J. O. Davenport. Otto Weltner replaced Mr. Davenport in April, 1931. The site cost \$1000, according to the deed which is now in the office of County Superintendent R. W. May. The Union Title and Trust Co. guarantees the title of the property, known as Lots of Tracts Nos. 5, 6, 14, and 15 in Block 7 of the Lady of the Lakes Gardens Addition to the city of San Antonio. Each lot contains one acre of land, according to the map or plat of said addition recorded in Vol. 368, Page 143, of the Map and Plat Records of Bexar County, Texas. The deed is dated July 21, 1931, and is signed by R. L. Ball and R. H. Barclay, president and secretary, respectively, of the Lady

of the Lake Gardens Co.

Clyde Williams was selected as architect, and the name "Stafford" was chosen for the school in honor of C. P. Stafford, who lent valuable assistance in the purchasing of the property. The one-story brick building containing six classrooms was ready for use in the fall of 1931. (See photograph)

During the first year at Stafford Mrs. L. H. Whitley acted as principal. J. P. Wagner was named to that position for the years 1932-1934. While Edgewood remains a common school district, actually only the chief school officer, at present H. K. Williams, has the right to the title of principal, because the Superintendent of County Schools is the superintendent of all common school districts. However, since District 41 has grown to such large proportions, it has become the custom to use the terminology of independent school districts, with the superintendent in charge, and the head teachers at the three schools assuming the title of principal.

During 1932-1933, the Edgewood High School courses were affiliated with the State Department. First to be accepted were Government, Commercial Arithmetic, General Science, and Algebra.

S. B. Davis replaced Mr. Wagner as principal of the Stafford School in 1934.

From time to time during these years the schools presented various types of programs and entertainments. One of the most outstanding of these was "America's Child", a pageant presented at Edgewood on December 14, 1934, under the direction of Vela Lynn, Sophie Schiffers, and Charlotte Huddleston. Margaret Pauly was accompanist. The production was presented in cooperation with the Edgewood P.T.A. Because of the wide interest in the pageant, the cast of characters has been included in the appendix.

On April 2, 1934, the County Commissioner's Court ordered that District 41 bonds amounting to \$4000, dated September 10, 1914, be sold to the district at par along with the accrued interest (\$200).

In May of the previous year, the district had been given permission to take up \$8000 of the bonds, saving interest of \$300. This now freed the community of its first series of bonds and paved the way for a new issue.<sup>1</sup>

Following the customary procedure of petition and court approval, an election was held on November 21, 1935, and by a vote of 113 to 75, the issuance of bonds to the amount of \$27,500 was made possible. Known as the County of Bexar Common School District No. 41 Schoolhouse Bonds, Series of 1935, these were payable serially, \$500 on the tenth day of January in each of the years 1937 to 1946, \$1000 on January 10 in each of the years 1947-1961; and \$1500 on January 10, 1962 to 1966, with interest at 5%. This was changed to 4½%, payable semi-annually July 10, and January 10, in December, 1935.<sup>2</sup>

Trustees for the new building program were E. W. Uhl, Sam H. Anderson, and Earl F. Hall. Property immediately adjoining the original tract of school acreage to the north was acquired. The deed, held in the office of the County Superintendent of Schools, states that the property was owned by David Anderson and his wife, Rosa E. Anderson, and that it was a plot 30 feet by 726 feet, containing one-half acre. It is more particularly described in the appendix. The sale price was \$600.

The building, designed by Phelps and Dewees, architects, consisted of four large classrooms, and a large gymnasium. It was built of red brick and hollow tile with funds from the bond issue (55 per cent) and from the Public Works Administration (45 per cent). H. A. Miller was contractor. At the time it was built, it was thought that the facilities would take care of another ten years of development. One room was equipped as a science laboratory, and one as a library. They were immediately put to use as regular classrooms when the building was opened in mid-year of the 1936-1937 term. The building program included the addition of two classrooms and an auditorium to the Stafford School.

During the 1935-1936 term Miss Esther Saathoff (now Mrs. Carl Trulson) began her work with the high school chorus, work which was steadily developed into one of the most successful school activities. Miss Jessie Howland was given charge of the library, in addition to her work as science teacher, and through her efforts the library each year has become more complete and has given more service to both faculty members and students.

The first high school graduating class, that of 1936-1937, included the following students who completed the eleventh grade: Elton Harris, Jack Watson, Quentin (Sonny) Kingery, Mary Luderus, Madeleine Caldwell, Ethel Martinez, Margaret Verstuyft, Dolores



Orta, Gilma Samaniego, Bert Bowen, Mildred Woltersdorf, and Lucille Ahrednt. (see photograph)

Still greater increases in school population were recorded in 1937-1938. All rooms were in use early in the year, including the two rooms on the third floor which were formed by closing folding doors on either side of the auditorium. A first grade class finally was placed in the Edgewood Baptist Church, about a block away on Ceralvo Street.

In 1937, the board made the purchase of an additional 3.08 acres to the north of the school property for the purpose of further expansion, a thing already becoming inevitable because of the increasing number of pupils. Mrs. Rosa E. Anderson, widow of David Anderson, was owner of the land. Title to the property is guaranteed by the Stewart Title Guaranty Co., and is described in the appendix. Roughly, it added a strip of about 184 feet along Cupples Road, and 726 feet deep alongside the former northern boundary of the school property. This deed likewise is held in the County Superintendent's office, and is dated September 11, 1937. The price stipulated is \$3080.

Additional teachers were employed during 1938-1939 to take care of new pupils. The auditorium on the third floor of the old Edgewood building was converted into three classrooms by the removal of the stage and the addition of wall partitions. Once again the Edgewood Baptist Church was rented for use as a classroom.

In the latter part of the term, the board made arrangements whereby the Edgewood school purchased the heavier instruments of a band, including bass horn, baritone, alto horn, drums, etc., thereby making possible the organization of a concert band to be directed by E. E. Arnaud. In addition, those children wishing to purchase instruments of their own, were permitted to do so through the school, with the school making the purchases outright, and the purchaser paying the school over a period of two years, without carrying charges. This attractive offer was the means of gathering 40 youngsters into the first band at Edgewood. During the three previous years the musical groups had included stringed instruments and therefore were designated as orchestras, having considerably fewer students enrolled. During the summer of 1939, classes for the new musicians to be were held at the school.

While the campus figures of 1938-1939 show 1354 children of school age in District 41, those of 1939-1940 top that record by more than 230, being 1586. Of these, the Edgewood Elementary School enrolled 573 with an average attendance of 440; the high school enrolled 155, averaging 138; and Stafford enrolled 478 with an average membership of 339. (See Table) This year it became necessary to hold double sessions in some of the classes at Edgewood, since the two buildings simply would not hold all of the pupils at one time. Superintendent Williams and the board immediately went to work at planning for a new building, and for making additions at Stafford.

On December 17, 1938, an election was held for the purpose of deciding on the issuance of bonds amounting to \$40,000 for building purposes. Sixty-two votes were cast in favor, and 34 against. The series was to be known as Bexar County Common School District No. 41 Schoolhouse Bonds of 1938, each for \$500, bearing interest at 3% per cent, payable April 10, 1939, and semi-annually thereafter, October 10 and April 10.

In a statement as to the indebtedness of the district dated December 30, 1938, R. W. May, County Superintendent of Schools, gave the following information, which is included herein as one of the latest public records of the financial status of District 41:

1. R. W. May, County Superintendent of Bexar County, Texas, do hereby certify that the indebtedness of Common School District No. 41, Bexar County, Texas, is as follows:

1. Bexar County Common School District No. 41 Schoolhouse Bonds of 1931, dated May 15, 1931, bearing interest at the rate of five per centum (5%) per annum, maturing serially as follows: \$500 on April 10 in each of the years 1953-1961, both inclusive. Amount outstanding \$4500.

2. Bexar County Common School District No. 41 Schoolhouse Bonds of 1935, dated December 10, 1935, bearing interest at the rate of four and one-half per centum (4½%) per annum, maturing serially as follows: \$500 on January 10 in each of the years 1939-1946, both inclusive; \$1000 in each of the years 1947-1961, both inclusive; and \$1500 in each of the years 1962-1966,

both inclusive. Amount outstanding \$26,500.

3. Proposed issue of bonds, bearing interest at the rate of three and three-quarters per centum (3¾%) per annum, due and payable serially as follows: \$500 in each of the years 1939-1942, both inclusive; \$1000 in each of the years 1943-1950, both inclusive; \$1500 in each of the years 1951-1957, both inclusive; \$2000 in 1958; and \$2500 in each of the years 1959-1965, both inclusive — \$40,000.

Dated this, the 30 day of December, 1938.

R. W. May, County Superintendent  
of Bexar County, Texas.

#### CHAPTER VI

#### THE NEW EDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

With the passage of the bonds and all things in order, the superintendent and school board made application for and were granted aid from the Works Progress Administration for the new Edgewood High School building, and for the addition of four rooms at Stafford School. The firm of Adams and Adams was chosen as architects. The district furnished all the materials and the W. P. A. furnished most of the labor. B. B. Bryan was the building superintendent, later replaced by Charles Forrester.

Because of the demands on the superintendent by the building program and added numbers of pupils, the school board members decided to name a principal for the elementary and high schools at Edgewood. E. E. Arnaud was appointed head of the elementary division (first seven grades) in May, 1939, and Mattison L. Story was chosen during the summer as high school principal. Both assumed their positions in September. Clyde E. Smith, who replaced S. B. Davis in 1938, was re-appointed to the Stafford principalship. During the 1939-1940 term, for the first time teachers' salaries were paid on a twelve-month basis, the change from the previous nine-month system having been preferred by a majority of teachers.

Early in the year Mr. Story resigned to accept a teaching position in a junior college, and after a brief discussion, the board appointed Ed Wyatt as his successor.

Although the new high school building was not entirely completed, graduation exercises for both Edgewood High School and seventh grade classes were held in the auditorium in May, 1940.

During the summer of 1940, the board made final selections of equipment for the building, including stage curtains and rigging, laboratory supplies, and the like. Band members were offered a summer course in music.

By September, 1940, all was in readiness for putting the new building into use. Pupils registering at this time found available for them six classrooms, a science laboratory, home economics room, large library and study hall, cafeteria, and an auditorium, well equipped and seating 500 persons. In addition there was office space, and two very large but unfinished rooms on the second floor. These rooms were not included in the original plans, but were added at the far-sighted suggestion of H. K. Williams, who pointed out that they could be built and left unfinished with very little extra expenditure. At the present time the need for more room exists and as soon as funds are available these rooms will be converted into four classrooms and put into use.

An increase of 372 children of school age above the previous year's figure was recorded for 1941-1942. The burden of the increased cost of these new pupils was somewhat lifted by an "Emergency Census". The State of Texas provided for the taking of this census in areas which have become crowded because of the opening of defense work in the vicinity. Since the Edgewood district lies adjacent to Duncan Field (the San Antonio Air Depot where planes are rebuilt, etc.), the Normyle Quartermaster Depot, and Kelly Field, the Advanced Flying School of the Gulf Air Corps Training Center, many families have flocked into the section to be near the location of defense and war-time jobs. In addition to this, the schools have received a great increase from the Mexican families which have moved from the sections inside the city where Federal slum-clearance projects were set up. Hundreds of tiny, poorly constructed houses have been built to the west of the Edgewood Schools and extending all the way to the Stafford section. At the present time hundreds of more are being erected. The acute problem of providing education for all these added numbers with limited finances still remains to be solved. The Emergency census added \$7900 to District 41 funds for 1940-1941, and \$4500 for 1941-1942.<sup>1</sup>

In September, 1941, E. F. Hall rejoined the school board to fill the unexpired term of the late Charles O. Watson. The April, 1942, election resulted in the re-election of F. O. Kingery. The present board now includes Messrs. Hall, Kingery, and Roy Bacon. The names of earlier board members will be found in accompanying tables.

During 1941-1942, both Stafford and Edgewood opened cafeterias operated by W.P.A. help, making available very low-cost hot meals for all the children. The twelve-grade plan was adopted by advancing all the grades above the second one year.

In recounting the history of a school, it is impossible to give attention to all the activities and programs presented during each year. A number of activities, however, have become annual affairs at Edgewood, among which are included the following: high school baccalaureate and commencement exercises, elementary school "graduation" program, high school senior play, high school junior play, "E" Night for raising funds for athletic awards, junior-senior banquet, various class parties, Chorus and Band operettas and concerts, and, since the auditorium is completed, weekly assembly programs in both divisions. Since 1936, high school students have issued a newspaper, "The Edgewood Campus Scout", now simply called "The Scout". At Stafford, pupils present programs at all P.T.A. meetings, have regular assemblies, present "Graduation" programs, and under the auspices of the P.T.A. present an operetta or May fete each year. This year they have planted a "Victory Garden", raising vegetables as a war-time activity. Both elementary schools have organized rhythm bands for primary children, the first of these organizations being pictured in accompanying photographs.

Teams and individuals have represented the schools in various contests and have brought back honors in the form of trophies, medals, ribbons, and the like. Other activities have been fostered, such as declamations, debates, music, particularly in a connection with the Interscholastic League.

While Edgewood's athletic teams have won numerous honors in competition, it is of note to mention that the tennis doubles team of Dorothea Delaney and Lila Jane Meisenhelder, coached by Miss Evelyn DeSha (now Mrs. Riley Rhorer), went all the way to the state semi-finals in 1939-1940.

Also worthy of mention are two former students who were outstanding athletes. They are "Bull" Elkins, former captain of the Texas Longhorns football team, and Cecil Mynier, former track star.

## CHAPTER VII P.T.A. ORGANIZATIONS

A vital part in the program and activities of the Edgewood district has been played by the P.T.A. organizations at both Edgewood and Stafford. While the official date for the organization of the P.T.A. is 1915, the Mother's Club of the old Frey School was the actual forerunner of the association. According to all reports, members of the early group had a great amount of fun and were very active. There were box suppers and various kinds of entertainment, including dances in which both the young and old took part. Congeniality and co-operation were the keystones to the early successes.

Mrs. A. Darby, who twice held the presidency of the P.T.A., recalls the presentation of numerous plays, including one called "Cordelia Pickles". She tells of the fun the members had in staging the shows. Among the "howling" successes was the ladies band, each member of which played a toy instrument. Number one of their "hit parade" was "Listen to the Mocking Bird". Typical of the good-natured fun, says Mrs. Darby, is the fact that the largest lady in the group played the "mocking bird". The band performed on numerous occasions and even played in one of the courts of the Bexar County Court House. Needless to say, the ladies were there as guests and not on official business.

It is unfortunate that early records of the Mother's Club are not available, and that the date of foundation cannot be determined. From all information obtained, it would seem that Mrs. R. J. Jennings served as the first president of the P.T.A. The first yearbook of the group was printed in 1916-1917, and through the courtesy of Mrs. Darby, its information is presented in the appendix in its entirety. It was three and one-half by six inches, with white cover, printed in green ink. The cover reads: "Parent-Teacher Association of Edge-

wood School, Year Book, 1916-1917 ... Club's Colors - Green and White ... Club's Flower - White Rose".

Officers for 1933-1934 were Mrs. A. J. Dossat, president; Mrs. F. O. Kingery, first vice president; Mrs. D. E. Miller, secretary; and Mrs. Austin Biegert, treasurer. Names of other officers will be found in the accompanying tables. During the year the P.T.A. gave a play, "Old Maid's Convention", held a school picnic, and gave a party for Miss Vesta Garry's room for having won the banner so often. (A room wins a prize and gets to keep the special P.T.A. banner if it has the largest number of members present at a regular meeting of the association.)

There were fifty active members during 1935-1936, 45 per cent of whom were men. A neat yearbook was published, and a publicity scrapbook was kept. The precinct meeting of the County Council of Parent-Teachers was held at Edgewood on October 20. On November 23, the Arkansas Hill Billies were presented at the school auditorium. At Christmas, the annual custom of giving bags of fruit and candy was continued. On December 14, the pageant "America's Child", was presented. Funds for the purchase of new books were given to the school librarian.<sup>1</sup>

A profit of \$80.24 was realized from a bazaar held in the fall of 1935. A radio was donated to the school. The theme of the program for 1936-1937 was "Character Growth". Joint meetings with the Stafford P.T.A. were held twice. The Stafford group presented a play "The Little Cloodhopper", in the Edgewood auditorium in April. Mr. H. K. Williams was presented a lifetime membership in the association.<sup>1</sup>

Additional dishes, plates, knives, forks, spoons, and a coffee urn were purchased during the 1937-1938 season. Joint meetings were held with the Stafford P.T.A. and the annual school Christmas party was given. The following year, the organization purchased an upright piano for use in the gymnasium. Funds raised during 1940-1941 and the year following were used in connection with the year's project, the beautification of the school auditorium. The association purchased handsome window drapes, both ornamental and useful as well, since they make possible the darkening of the room for the showing of motion pictures and the like.<sup>1</sup>

## CHAPTER VIII THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE

The school year 1941-1942 has seen further increases in the school population of District No. 41, particularly at the Edgewood Elementary School. Approximately 850 pupils were in attendance during the months after the Christmas holidays. The Edgewood Baptist Church was rented early in the term, and during the second semester it was found necessary to rent four rooms in the Mexican section west of Our Lady of the Lake College. Three of these rooms were set up in a former pecan-shelling plant in the 300 block of San Gabriel Street, and the other in a small church in the 100 block of San Bernardo Street.

When the Federal Government began making outright grants to schools in defense areas, school authorities made an application for such aid and received word that the district would be given \$32,000 for building purposes. The plans call for a schoolhouse of eight rooms, offices, and a combination auditorium and cafeteria, as drawn up by the firm of Phelps, Dewees and Simmons, architects. Unfortunately, the sum offered by the Government would by no means cover the necessary expenditures for a new school, and Federal specifications also require that some of the money must be used for the completion of the unfinished rooms in the high school building. Consequently a request for further aid has been sent to Washington, but there is no definite assurance at this time that the additional funds will be allowed. This is most unfortunate, for unless the aid is forthcoming, the crowded conditions will continue to exist, since the district cannot afford to issue new bonds. Independent and common school districts in and around Bexar County have received larger sums from Washington recently, and their conditions have been considerably less crowded than at Edgewood. It is hoped that approval of an additional sum will be made in time to clear the situation by the coming fall.

Regardless of the outcome, however, the patrons of the districts may look forward to the continued interest and effort of the teachers and administrators, for there is a definite "spirit" in the Edgewood and Stafford schools, a spirit of progress that has carried through from the earliest days and which shows no signs of dying in the immediate future.



# A Chronology of Footnotes

May 8, 1905

Carl Frey and his wife, Friederike, sell to Robert B. Green, County Judge of Bexar County, "for the purpose of a school site, and to be used for school purposes only," a tract of land in the County of Bexar. The Frey's sell the land for one dollar. The land is described as follows: "being that of a lot No. One of the subdivision of O.C.L. No. 4 R and D 6 (six), the portion hereby conveyed being more particularly described as being a 300 feet square out of the southwest corner of said Lot. #4 first allowing a twenty foot strip for a county road to be taken of (sic) the East side of said Lot No. One." (Bexar County Deed Record, Vol. 247, Page 391).

January 26, 1909

The *Daily Express* announces the first prize in its Grand Circulation Contest. It will be "Acres 10, Block 23, Edgewood Addition, corner Hamilton and Ceralvo Streets," "Edgewood Addition, called the 'City of Farms' is in the heart of the artisan well district, and is 31.74 feet higher than the site of the City Hall." The paper says Edgewood Addition is a large body of well-irrigated garden land.

1909

Parke R. Longworth buys land from the Meerscheidt farm and divides it into Edgewood Addition. Many families move into the section, lured by the rich soil and abundance of artesian water for irrigation purposes. The name "Edgewood" is chosen. Other names were considered particularly "Alta Vista," "Lakeview," and "Edgeway." Since the area is just beyond the city limits of San Antonio, it is assumed that the name took into account the fact that the section was at the "edge" of the "woods," although the woods in this case probably were mostly mesquites and other typical Texas brush.

1910

Frey School is Miss Emma Frey.

January 13, 1913

A group of trustees and patrons file a petition with the Bexar County Commissioner's Court requesting the division of District No. 15 into two separate districts.

February 13, 1913

The petition is approved by Carlos Bee, president of the County School Board and the board members. District is known as Lake View Gardens School District No. 41. The Frey School is located at the northwest corner of what is now General McMullen Dr. and Brady St., and the Lakeview School is in the vicinity of the present Stafford Elementary School.

Circle 1914

Trustees W. B. Elkins, Dr. W. A. Thompson and J. F. Blanks choose a plot for the new schoolhouse which measures 300 feet along Cupples Lane (now, Cupples Road), and 726 feet along Ceralvo Street.

April 18, 1914

Election is held at the Frey School and the plan is approved. A total of 8 voters go to the polls.

June 6, 1914

24 citizens of Common School District 14 start a movement directed at the erection of a new school building in the community.

July 8, 1914

Ten people vote at the Frey School and all vote in favor of the bond issue of \$20,000 to bear interest of 5%, payable 20 years (from the date of issue) to be used for the construction of a new school building.

March 8, 1915

D. E. B. Waggener gives to District 41 tracts of land and parcel of real estate lying about 3/4 miles west from the Main Plaza of San Antonio.

April 1915

Ground is broken for a school building.

August 1915

Frey and Lakeview Schools are consolidated. Lakeview schoolhouse is sold. A red brick building named Edgewood is completed at the corner of Ceralvo Street at a cost of \$17,000. This is the first fireproof school building in Bexar County. There are 8 large classrooms on the first and second floors and an auditorium on the third. First principal of the school is Mr. W. Arthur Thurman. His faculty include Mrs. Thurman (later Mrs. O. B. Manes), Mrs. H. G. Bungardner, and Miss Katyale Tuller. Paul Elsner is the first janitor.

August 7, 1915

Board petitions the County Commissioner's Court for permission to sell the Lakeview schoolhouse and property and the old Frey schoolhouse and outbuildings. Permission is secured.

September 8, 1915

Two acres and Lake View building are sold to W. A. Thurman for \$850. The Frey School building is sold to David Anderson for \$301.

1916

The Frey School is moved to the corner of Kirk Street and Cupples Road.

1917

Kelly Field is established just south of Edgewood.

February 19, 1917

Election is held in favor of raising taxes. 23 voted in favor and 1 voted against.

1918-1919

School enrollment is 376.

February 25, 1918

People in the South San Antonio area petition the County Court for issuance of \$32,000 in bonds to be expended for the erection and equipping of a school building of brick, concrete and hollow tile material, and for the purchasing of a site for the building.

April 6, 1918

Bond election passes. 36 vote in favor and 6 against. Property is purchased in the 400 block of Ellsworth Avenue. The school is named Fenfield (now used as an elementary school in the South San ISD). W. A. Thurman is named principal at Fenfield and at Edgewood.

1920

W. A. Thurman is elected County Superintendent of Schools.

1920-1922

A. W. Wagoner serves as principal of Edgewood School.

October 11, 1922

Citizens of South San Antonio petition the Commissioner's Court to form an independent school district.

October 28, 1928

Election is held. 120 vote for proposal and 17 vote against.

Circle 1923

School district is divided. The persons who drew up the division are most generous with South San Antonio. Edgewood receives three-quarters of a mile of railroad right-of-way to south. South San Independent School District receives about 13 miles. In addition, South San is given the area in which a large oil company and factory are located.

January 26, 1926

The superintendent of schools orders all students in the school system be forced to use English language exclusively while children are in class or on the playgrounds.

1930

H. K. Williams is appointed head of the school.

Circle 1931

Four acres of land on Wood Avenue in the Lady of Lake Gardens addition are chosen for the new building. The name chosen, "Stafford," honors C. P. Stafford who lent valuable assistance in the purchasing of the property.

Fail 1931

Stafford, a one story building containing six classrooms, is ready to use. Mrs. C. H. Whitley acts as principal.

April 25, 1931

Election is held, 142 vote in favor of issuing bonds and 22 votes against.

March 1931

Petition is filed with the county court for the issuance of bonds valued at \$15,000 for the purpose of erecting a new school building.

1932-1933

Edgewood High School courses are affiliated with the State Department. First to be accepted are Government, Commercial Arithmetic, General Science, and Algebra.

1932-1934

J. P. Wagoner serves as principal of Stafford School.

1934

S. B. Davis replaces Mr. Wagoner as principal of the Stafford School.

November 21, 1935

Another election is held for the issuance of bonds for \$27,500 for the purpose of a building program. Property immediately adjoining the original tract of school acreage to the north is acquired. Property is owned by David Anderson. It is a plot 30 feet by 726, containing one-half acre. The sale price is \$600.

1936-1937

Building opens. Building consists of four large gymnasiums. One room is equipped as a science laboratory and one as a library. Edgewood High graduates its first class who completed the eleventh grade (12 graduates).

1937

Board purchases as additional 3.08 acres to the north of the school property for the purpose of further expansion. The price is \$3,080.

May 28, 1937

The Senior Class of Edgewood High School holds its first Commencement Exercises in the high school auditorium.

September 23, 1938

The student enrollment at Edgewood High School is 111

1937-1938

Student increase necessitates that a first grade class be placed at the Edgewood Baptist Church, about a block away on Ceralvo Street.

1938

Clyde E. Smith is appointed principal of Stafford.

May 1939

E. E. Arnaud is appointed head of the elementary division.

April 26, 1939

Board of Trustees meets at Edgewood High School. Twenty-three teachers are hired to teach at Edgewood High School and Stafford Elementary School, District #41. Among those hired, H. K. Williams (who eventually becomes the Superintendent).

May 31, 1939

L. M. Story is elected principal of Edgewood High School at a salary of \$135.00 per month for nine months. The Board votes to make minimum salary \$100.00 per month for all teachers. (1939-1940 term). Mr. E. E. Arnaud elected principal of Stafford Elementary. Salary 120.00 per month. (1939-1940 term). A budget of \$500.00 is approved to assist in equipping band for 1939-1940 term.

June 7, 1939

Six teachers hired. Janitors H. G. Squire and O. S. Sims are allowed one week vacation.

July 26, 1939

Janitors are admonished by the Board to refrain from discussion of the school activities with the public.

October 2, 1939

A need of a secretary as an assistance to Mr. Williams is agreed upon. Secretary is hired at a salary of \$12.00 a week and on a 30 day trial basis. Resignation of Edgewood H. S. principal L. M. Story accepted and effective October 6, 1939.

October 25, 1939

The appointment of Mr. E. E. Wyatt as Edgewood H. S. principal is confirmed.



# in Edgewood History

## 1939-1940

Edgewood Elementary has an enrollment of 573. Edgewood High School an enrollment of 155, and Stanford an enrollment of 478.

## January 4, 1940

The expense sheet for the basketball and debate tournament out of town is announced. A total may not exceed \$82.00 for basketball and \$25.00 for debate.

## May 1940

Graduation exercises are held for both Edgewood High School and seventh grade classes.

## May 8, 1940

On motion duly made and carried, C. E. Smith is elected principal - Stafford School and E. E. Wyatt principal Edgewood. Twenty-two teachers are elected for the 1940-1941 session.

## May 25, 1940

Tentative plans for Summer School. Mrs. Bess Bradford, teacher, Tuition \$3.00 per month. For high school, with several subjects, \$4.50 per month. Board considers purchase of typewriters.

## June 17, 1940

Board approved to purchase 18 new typewriters for \$962.50. Summer School is rejected for 1940-1941 term.

## August 16, 1940

Teachers salaries set. (33 teachers). Regular meeting of the board is set for the last Tuesday night of each regular school month at 8:00 p.m.

## September 10, 1940

Library budget for 1940-1941 term is set at \$250.00. The science allowance is set for \$50.00.

## January 22, 1941

Request by teachers Mrs. Olin and Mrs. Hoffman to the Board to purchase combination radio, phonograph for Stafford School. Motion is passed. Expenditures not to exceed \$50.00.

## February 18, 1941

Upon motion duly made, and carried, the superintendent is authorized to buy a pair of track shoes. Football is being considered for upcoming fall season. Decision made to put this on back burner.

## May 21, 1941

Twenty-eight teachers are hired for coming 1941-1942 term. Motion is made to work out some plan protecting teachers from draft. Superintendent H. K. Williams' contract is extended for one year. Thus making a two-year contract for 1941-1943.

## September 24, 1941

Eight holidays are to be given. Four are to be made up. A half holiday is given for CIRCUS DAY, October 3, 1941. Library budget, \$175.00 for the High School, \$40.00 for each elementary school. Science budget \$160.00.

## April 28, 1942

Edgewood Elementary and High School ration consumer sugar because of the war.

## April 30, 1942

Thirty-four teachers are given contracts for 1942-1943 term. Principals Wyatt, Arnaud and Smith and Supt. Williams begin second year of two year contract.

## May 1942

The Edgewood boys' baseball team is disbanded because there is a tire shortage. The team would be forced to travel about 200 miles a week due to the lack of games near San Antonio.

## May 8, 1942

The FTA sponsors a Box Supper. Ladies and girls from Edgewood High School each takes a box of supper and is auctioned to the highest bidder.

## May 18, 1942

Thirty-six teachers are contracted for 1943-1944 term. 1,911 students are attending schools in the district, creating major staffing and space problems.

## March 1943

The population of Edgewood's Elementary is steadily increasing. At present, there are some 1,150 pupils including the junior school and the eighth grade.

## February 24, 1944

Arthur Baylor replaces Roy Bacon on the Board. By unanimous consent the name of the new school building will be "Coronado."

## May 17, 1944

The following are elected as member of the faculty for the 1944-45 term: H. K. Williams, Superintendent for two years; J. W. Spruce, Principal, High School; E. E. Arnaud, Principal, Edgewood Elementary; Clyde E. Smith, Principal, Stafford. Fifty teachers are contracted.

## August 2, 1944

Twelve bids are received for future construction of a six room elementary school and a one room Negro elementary school. By motion made and carried the following was agreed to: 1. Teachers must have degrees. This may be waived during the emergency; 2. Base salary for degree teachers \$1,140; 3. To base

pay, \$24 added for each year experience, not to exceed 5 years experience. Experience outside district counts one-half; 4. \$84 per year added to salary until maximum of \$1,608 is reached. This is the maximum for all regular teachers; 5. \$96 added for additional degrees; 6. \$96 deducted from base pay for no degree; 7. Teachers must join local, state, and National Education Associations; 8. Each teacher must pay Poll-Tax.

## March 25, 1945

Word is still not received on Edgewood High School graduate Staff Sgt. Albert R. Horvath who has been a prisoner of war in Germany since April 12, 1944.

## April 13, 1945

Edgewood High School students assemble in the auditorium to honor the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt who died yesterday. Mr. H. K. Williams, superintendent, tells students that it is their duty to "carry on in the spirit of our departed leader and for our new president."

## April 18, 1945

George Washington Carver School, a "colored" school, is dedicated. Mr. E. W. May, county superintendent, gives the dedicatory address. Mr. H. K. Williams, superintendent, gives remarks also.

## April 20, 1945

The Edgewood High sophomore class sponsors a "Barn Party."

## April 27, 1945

The Edgewood High Senior Class is presenting "Keep 'Em Flying" at the auditorium. Admission is 24¢ and 12¢.

## May 25, 1945

The Senior Class of Edgewood High has its Commencement Exercises.

## May 30, 1945

Mr. Roy Bacon is elected president of the Board. Mr. H. K. Williams is elected Superintendent. Principals 1946-1947 Term: Edgewood High School, J. W. Spruce; Edgewood Elementary - E. E. Arnaud; Stafford - Clyde E. Smith; Coronado - R. Shelton; Burleson - C. J. Collins. The rank of teachers swells to 48.

## June 7, 1946

Seventeen teachers are added to the roster with special notation for the addition of two "colored" teachers, Mrs. Elizabeth Wrenn and Mrs. Florence Tanner.

## April 15, 1947

The Board reinstates the requirement that has been in effect since the founding of Edgewood

High School of the requirements of graduates and their completion of 16 units, four of which must be in English.

## April 28, 1947

There is a controversy over land deal. Land which was acquired by Edgewood District in 1905 was deeded in March 1934 by Frost Woodhull, County Judge, to Mrs. Friedrick Frey, who later deeded same tract of land to Miss Emma Frey. Trustees are politely demanding to know status of this and how to clear up this matter as soon as possible.

## May 5, 1947

H. K. Williams is re-elected Superintendent. Principals: D. B. Willis - Stafford; J. W. Spruce - Edgewood H.S.; R. Shelton - Coronado; E. E. Arnaud - Edgewood Elem.; D. B. Willis - Burleson.

## May 12, 1947

Forty teachers are elected for 1947-1948 term.

## May 23, 1947

Sixteen additional teachers are added to ranks.

## May 17, 1948

Sixty-seven teachers are assigned to schools.

## June 29, 1948

Acting Board president Haase receives letter of resignation from H. K. Williams due to illness. Board votes and accepts resignation with regrets. Action was taken to name E. E. Arnaud as successor. Board votes to install first telephone at Stafford and Coronado Schools. Nineteen additional teachers are added. An agreement was made for the year 1948-1949 that Mr. Arnaud serve as superintendent and principal of Edgewood Elementary (at his request), pointing out that a saving would thus be effected, and he would have more time to make a wise choice of a principal.

## September 20, 1948

Proposed budget of \$307,328 is approved by Board.

## January 11, 1949

Trustees agree that a clause concerning a non-communist pledge should be included on contract forms and that the superintendent should teach teachers to their signed agreements as a protection to the children. Trustees agree to allow students to hold "Barn Dance" in gym with the stipulation that no damage be done to the floor by dancing. Along with letters from Superintendent to all teachers re-elected for 1949-1950 school term, he was authorized by the board to point out certain conditions which must be satisfied in the

case of teachers whose ability and/or cooperation and loyalty are questionable or subject to improvement.

## April 24, 1949

Board votes to reelect E. E. Arnaud as superintendent of district. The Board also assigns principals: J. A. Forester - Edgewood H.S.; J. W. Spruce - Edgewood Elem.; E. W. McDonald - Burleson; D. B. Willis - Stafford; Ralph Shelton - Coronado. Ninety-four teachers are contracted for 1949-1950 term.

## April 5, 1949

The name for school to be erected near Rivas and N. San Felipe will be known as the H. K. Williams Elementary School in honor of the recently deceased superintendent. It was suggested that the children of the district present names for the other plant to be located on Dahlgreen St.

## October 9, 1949

Approval is given by the Board for the name "Gardendale" for new plant on Dahlgreen.

## November 8, 1949

Board begins assessing the tax situation in the District in search of a more sound financial set up. Two alternatives come up, 1. go independent and assess and collect taxes; 2. to join San Antonio Independent School District. The latter had been attempted but was rejected by SAISD.

## December 5, 1949

Procedures are reviewed to convert the Edgewood district into an independent district. January 21, 1950, is date set for voting.

## 1950

Enrollment 5,140 students.

## January 20, 1950

H. K. Williams School has an Open House.

## February 2, 1950

First meeting of the Edgewood Independent School District Board of Trustees is held.

## April 6, 1950

One hundred twenty-six teachers are re-elected for 1950-1951 term.

## January 11, 1951

Mrs. Elizabeth T. Wrenn, principal of Carver School, appears before the board to report on quality of services rendered the school. Also reports of a group rallying for a school to be built closer to housing area of students (Prosperity Heights) which is about a mile to mile and a half from that neighborhood. Current

enrollment figures: 5100 White pupils; 180 Negro. This is an average of 1000 or better over last year's enrollment. 455 new pupils are enrolled the first week after Christmas holidays.

#### April 9, 1951

Two-year contracts for re-elected Principals were awarded the following: J. Spruce - H. K. Williams; D. B. Willis - Stafford; Elizabeth Wrenn - Carver; J. A. Forester - Edgewood Elem.; E. W. McDonald - Burleson. One hundred thirty-six teachers re-elected.

#### January 10, 1952

Superintendent reports enormous increase in enrollment. 450 new students since Christmas added to the already 6,000 in attendance.

#### April 2, 1953

180 teachers are elected for 1953-1954 term.

#### October 1, 1953

Superintendent reports enrollment of 6194 elementary students, 510 high school, 192 Negro pupils.

#### January 21, 1954

Superintendent reports between 400 & 500 new pupils enrolled during first week in January for a total of 8177. Students living near the Valley de Walle Farms are having transportation problems getting to Stafford. Because they live less than two miles, they are ineligible for state help.

#### February 18, 1954

Superintendent reports approximately 8440 children now enrolled.

#### March 18, 1954

Along with reports for physical improvements of plants, vaccination for students, census study, the Superintendent adds to these items the need for greater emphasis on the use of English only at schools.

#### May 20, 1954

Mr. Alonzo Perales is contacted along with sixteen other teachers for 1954-1955 term. Superintendent reports possible plans by the CPEA for amalgamation of Negro pupils with White students.

#### August 19, 1954

Forty-three teachers are elected. Approval is made of Federal grant of \$283,000 for an 18-room elementary plant to be known as the Las Palmas Elementary School.

#### 1954

Edgewood High on Cupples Road moves to its new campus on 34th Street.

#### November 18, 1954

Superintendent reports on data received from a survey that the current enrollment stands at 8,600 students.

#### January 20, 1955

Current enrollment passes 9600 students. No word has yet been received from the City School District relative to the proposed merger of the Edgewood ISD with the City District.

#### March 18, 1955

The superintendent reads portions of some letters to the board from professors of education and publishers praising the district for its good work in improving the instructional program of the Edgewood Schools.

#### April 15, 1955

San Antonio ISD recognizes its moral obligation to the Edgewood District, but feels the Board needs all the proceeds of their proposed bond issue for their own district needs, and that any possible amalgamation at this time would jeopardize the chances of the bond issue to pass.

#### June 16, 1955

Board foresees integration of Negro and White children in the immediate future pending a decision by the State Board of Education. It is pointed out that should a district delay integration, it would be the target for a costly suit. The Board moves to authorize the Superintendent to take steps to achieve integration as soon as word is received from the State Board of Education. Mr. Jack Williams is named the principal of Las Palmas Elementary School.

#### July 21, 1955

The School Board hears a statement of the State Board of Education relative to de-segregation.

#### October 30, 1955

Enrollment passes 9300 mark.

#### November 17, 1955

Enrollment figures reach 9637 and are still increasing.

#### December 16, 1955

The current enrollment is 10,148 students.

#### January 19, 1956

There is discussion relative to the feeling of the present Board on the matter of amalgamation with the SAISD. The Board moves that this go on record as favoring consolidation with the SAISD. All vote in favor. Superintendent Arnaud reports that he along with three other teachers from E.I.S.D. had been invited to New York City to study a program being developed there for teaching Puerto Rican children. This program would be helpful in improving the local school program for Spanish speaking children. There are 10,500 children enrolled.

#### March 15, 1956

Superintendent Arnaud announces that on advice of his physician, he is submitting his resignation as superintendent of the district after 19 years of service, the last eight of which he was superintendent. Resignation is to become effective September 1, 1956.

#### June 14, 1956

Hennie F. Steinhauer is appointed as new superintendent.

#### July 19, 1956

The following principals are named: Perfecto Solis - Stafford; Carlos Contreras - Coronado; Billy Wilkinson - Fortuna. Also, San Eduardo Street School is named Emma Frey. She was a former teacher of the district whose father donated land in 1905.

#### September 24, 1956

Emma Frey School formally opens.

#### October 18, 1956

Student enrollment is 11,780.

#### November 15, 1956

Fortuna Street School is named by students. They select the name Franklin Delano Roosevelt Junior High.

#### March 28, 1957

Thompson Street School is named Brentwood Elementary.

#### December 12, 1957

New junior high school building is located on San Joaquin and Durango and named Eleuterio Escobar Junior High School.

#### February 13, 1958

Board votes in favor of religious instruction to be taught at Edgewood H.S. between 3 and 4 pm. This is open to all religious groups.

#### June 12, 1958

Resignation of Edgewood H.S. Principal J. A. Forester. Mr. Guy Magnum named successor.

#### October 2, 1958

Upon being approached by numerous persons interested in adult education, the Superintendent outlines to the Board a few of the courses requested. A motion was made to approve and adopt an adult education program. All vote in favor.

#### October 16, 1958

Mr. Steinhauer advised the Board that the adult education courses have been organized with surprisingly good enrollment.

#### March 19, 1959

An increased number of students are marrying while still attending high school. After a general discussion all vote in favor of dismissing students who marry during the school year.

#### February 11, 1960

Mr. Steinhauer advises the board there were more than 17,800 students enrolled during January.

#### October 11, 1960

President Truman dedicates Truman Jr. School.

#### September 11, 1961

At the Edgewood Board of Trustees meeting, a power failure occurs due to inclement weather brought on by the infamous Hurricane "Carla". In darkness, the Board is forced to discontinue its discussion.

#### May 16, 1962

A petition is submitted by Mrs. Milton Thorton to consider naming the new high school in honor of the present, acting Superintendent, B. F. Steinhauer. The President advises the committee the petition would be filed and considered at a later date. Mr. Steinhauer responds briefly and expressed his appreciation for the gesture.

#### May 16, 1962

First account of the participation of Edgewood H.S. in the Fiesta parade is one of commendable performance by the school band and float entry.

#### May 16, 1962

Personnel for the 1962-1963 term number 531.

#### September 10, 1962

The Superintendent brings forward the subject of naming the new high school. After a general discussion, there is a toss-up between naming it after Henry B. Gonzalez or in honor of a U.S. President, or after an area location, as was Edgewood H.S. The name John F. Kennedy High School is selected on the second motion.

#### January 12, 1963

Truman Jr. School and Loma Park Elem. are chosen as locations for Fall-out shelters.

#### January 12, 1963

Board votes in favor to relocate construction site of the new stadium which originally was chosen to be constructed at the site of the new Truman Junior School. Correction in minutes to read "to construct a new stadium at the site of the Truman Junior School."

#### January 12, 1963

D.B. Willis is chosen Kennedy H.S. Principal.

#### January 12, 1963

Board votes in favor to construct a swimming pool at J.F.K. High School.

#### January 12, 1963

Superintendent recommends new high school to operate on a two-hour class schedule, a new idea growing in popularity being adopted by schools across the state. All vote in favor.

#### March 9, 1963

Supt. introduces Mr. J. Leyva who reports the drop-out problem is not a serious problem in Edgewood.

#### April 8, 1963

Supt. recommends policies dealing with the boundaries of the two high schools. Students should not be permitted to change at will from one high school to another. He also makes it clear that there will be no difference in the quality of teaching or facilities offered at these schools.

#### June 27, 1963

Colors for the J.F.K. H.S. are chosen to be white and blue.

#### August 29, 1963

Special Board meeting adjourns for the purpose of discussing the strike at Kennedy High School.

#### November 21, 1963

President John F. Kennedy visits San Antonio and promises to return to dedicate John F. Kennedy High School. The President is assassinated twenty-four hours later in Dallas, Texas.

#### December 30, 1963

A brief discussion of the Board is held to decide on name for the new school. Lyndon B. Johnson School is suggested but no definite decision is made.

#### September 17, 1964

Senator Robert H. Humphrey, Democratic candidate for Vice-President of the United States, visits Kennedy High School.

#### September 20, 1965

More students are driving cars. Parking areas at both high schools are overcrowded with student vehicles, leaving very little parking for faculty.

#### August 16, 1965

Board considers a motion for consolidation with SAISD due to the fact that the EISD is faced with an increasing economic strain on its efforts to adequately compensate teachers in the district. The motion passes.

October 18, 1965

Parking Permits are being required by students with cars. The fee is 25¢. Each student must possess a valid Texas driver's license.

January 15, 1966

Edgewood is rebuffed on the recent of its several requests to consolidate with the San Antonio Independent School District. George Guthrie, president of the SAISD board, sends a letter to Edgewood's board president, George G. Rivas, explaining the San Antonio trustees' "see no need of meetings of our boards to discuss the consolidation of our two districts."

February 21, 1966

Board votes in favor of securing a plaque giving honorable mention to those serving in Vietnam who become casualties of the Vietnam War.

September 19, 1966

The search is on once again, to choose a name for the new high school. Henry B. Gonzalez is considered once again, but it is decided to postpone a decision.

October 1966

The Edgewood instructional television program goes on the air. It is the only three-channel 2500 MHz system in operation west of the Mississippi.

January 20, 1967

The first school to be named after Henry B. Gonzalez is finalized.

April 17, 1967

Memorial High School is named.

July 2, 1967

Groundbreaking ceremony at the H. B. Gonzalez school site is held.

August 28, 1967

A resolution is presented and signed stating that the Edgewood School District goes on record as a supporter of a Bilingual Education Bill.

March 18, 1968

Wrenn Jr. High is named. Roy Barrera submits his letter of resignation as attorney for EISD because of his recent appointment as Secretary of State for the State of Texas.

April 1968

Henry B. Gonzalez School is dedicated. School namesake, Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez is present.

May 15, 1968

Several hundred Edgewood High School students walk out of classes mid-morning and are joined by their parents in a march on the school district administrative offices. It is estimated some 400 joined in the walkout, carrying signs that read "We Want College, Not Vietnam" and "Give Us Teachers Who Care."

May 17, 1968

About 100 Edgewood High School students walk out of school during a 15-minute recess at 10:30 a.m. and refuse to return to classes. Many students carry signs which say "Walk Out," "Everyone in America Deserves a Good Education," "Better Library, Better Teachers, Better Schools," "We Want Equal Education."

May 20, 1968

James Castano, junior class president at Edgewood High School, urges students to return to classes. It is apparent that the movement is losing momentum. The headline for the day's San Antonio Evening News reads: "Rebels Back in Classes at Edgewood."

July 31, 1968

A suit which could have far-reaching results in Bexar County's major independent school districts was filed yesterday in U.S. District Court.

Majority of the students in the Edgewood District, the suit claims, are Mexican-American, and it alleges there has been "a pattern of discrimination" against them throughout the Southwest United States.

Plaintiffs include Mr. and Mrs. Demetrio P. Rodriguez, Mrs. Alberta Z. Snid, Mr. and Mrs. Jose Hernandez, Martin R. Cantu, Jr., and Reynaldo F. Castano.

October 23, 1968

Vice-President of the United States, Hubert H. Humphrey, returns for his second visit to Kennedy High School. Humphrey is the Democratic nominee for President of the United States.

November 6, 1968

A meeting is called for the purpose of discussing Mr. Steinhauer's resignation to take effect 15 NOV 68. Mr. Joe Leyva is chosen to succeed.

January 19, 1969

Portrait of Henry B. Gonzalez is presented to H. B. Gonzalez Elem. at the presentation ceremony.

February 17, 1969

Supt. Leyva recommends the Board to adopt policies on drug abuse.

May 21, 1969

Board approves the appointment of Dr. Jose Cardenas as Superintendent of E.I.S.D.

June 16, 1969

Newly appointed Supt. Jose Cardenas is introduced.

June 1969

The Kennedy Band, under the direction of Anthony Castellanos, performs in front of thousands in Mexico City. The band is in Mexico at the invitation of the Mexican government. The band records an album as a result of the trip.

October 23, 1969

Edgewood launches a Bilingual Early Childhood Education Program which involves 400 children, 3, 4, and 5 years of age.

February 7, 1970

Mayor Walter McAllister points out that the city is not responsible for the financial condition of the Edgewood District. "I do not have any idea as to what we can do to alleviate their situation," he says.

February 16, 1970

Vandals set fire to Callaghan Elementary resulting in \$700 damage to property and contents. Firemen at the scene recall 4 or 5 other fires at the school in recent weeks.

March 22, 1970

An international trade magazine will carry a story about the instructional television program of the Edgewood School District. The story will be published in the March issue of *Electronic Missiles and Communications* COM-PAN's magazine.

March 26, 1970

Edgewood kids like staying after school which has become routine for 200 third graders along with 40 high school seniors from Memorial and Edgewood High Schools as part of the Youth Tutoring Youth Program, a new educational project implemented in the district.

June 3, 1970

A \$30,000 mobile TV studio is presented to the district by the S.A. Model Cities Program. It will be used to tape teachers teaching in the classroom, so they can make their own critiques about their strengths and weaknesses.

October 1970

170 Edgewood students come down with food poisoning following a weekend football trip to Laredo.

November 17, 1970

A new junior high school is to be named for Gus Garcia, who was a crusader for Mexican-American rights, valedictorian of his class, and first Mexican-American to receive an academic scholarship from Jefferson High School to the University of Texas where he became the first Mex-

ican American captain of the university debate team.

November 17, 1970

The Board is advised that several requests have been received from students, teachers, and clerical staff for permission to wear pant suits in normal school activities. It is recommended that the Board give an interpretation to existing policies as to whether this attire would be in violation to current district policy. The Board votes unanimously that there would be no violation to district policy by students, teachers, and clerical staff wearing the pant suit.

January 28, 1971

Fire ravages Callaghan Elementary School, 1931 Herbert.

April 4, 1971

Dr. Jose Cardenas is authorized to enter a \$1,066,000 building contract to build the Gus Garcia School.

April 1971

Cardenas says King Antonio and the Texas Cavaliers are not welcome on Edgewood campuses.

April 20, 1971

Callaghan Elementary is renamed in honor of Joseph M. Guerra. Mr. Guerra was very involved in his community and previously lived in that area.

April 21, 1971

A 26-year old St. Mary's University student has assumed the presidency of the EISD school board. Chris Escamilla.

June 3, 1971

Kennedy Senior Class of 1971 leaves an entire, complete park area developed on the high school campus for all students to enjoy in the years to come.

June 21, 1971

The name chosen for the Early Childhood Center is to be Dr. Jose Angel Cardenas, after the superintendent who has worked tirelessly on the concept of early childhood education.

June 22, 1971

Supt. Cardenas announces the re-election of Edgewood as one of the nine school districts in the U.S. to receive \$30,000 to fund a teacher development education.

June 24, 1971

42 residents of the EISD begin their college work at St. Mary's University this summer through the District's Career Opportunities Program.

June 24, 1971

Mrs. Dorothy Lee, Winston teacher, named Ambassador of Goodwill by Texas Gov. Preston Smith.

August 5, 1971

13 EISD community members traveled to Denver by school bus to participate in the Urban Development Program.

October 18, 1971

Experimental Schools Project Superintendent reports on the proposal to be submitted to the U.S. Office of Education. Cardenas, H. K. Williams, Gus Garcia, and Memorial High School are chosen to participate in this program.

October 19, 1971

Supt. Jose A. Cardenas applies for a \$10 million U.S. Office of Education grant to help students learn that "Mexican is marvelous."

December 11, 1971

A three-fold federal panel takes under advisement a case in which plaintiffs, all residents of Edgewood, are seeking to equalize financial support for Texas public school students.

June 19, 1972

The cost of admission to an Edgewood District football game increases from 50¢ to 75¢ for students. Adult admission is kept at \$1.25.

July 24, 1972

The Kennedy High band is invited to perform at the New Orleans Saints-Buffalo Bills football game next Saturday in New Orleans. Permission to attend is denied by the school district.

July 30, 1972

The San Antonio Light reports "The Rodriguez Case - one brought by a group of Edgewood School District parents demanding equal funding for all schools - has opened a can of worms that has spilled out throughout Texas and the other 49 states."

September 16, 1972

Gus Garcia Junior High is dedicated.

September 18, 1972

Brentwood Elementary is renamed Regional Hoelscher for the former principal of Brentwood who is still held in high esteem among the faculty, parents, students. For her high achievements, loyalty and dedication to students, this is a befitting honor. (Principal for 13 years).

December 18, 1972

A representative of LULAC requests on behalf of the League of United Latin American Citizens, that the Edgewood District, on the occasion to build another school, should consider naming it to honor the memory of Alonzo Perales. Perales was a great humanitarian and fighter for better education for all Mexican Americans.



#### March 21, 1973

The Edgewood District loses its case to obtain financial equity, a case known as the *Rodriguez Case*. The Supreme Court votes 5-4. Had the Edgewood case won by one vote, the school finance system across the nation would have been reshaped.

#### March 24, 1973

Edgewood Concerned Parents Association vows to keep its fight for equal educational opportunity alive and with increasing momentum. "The U.S. Constitution does not include education as a right, and neither does it include economic aid to North Vietnam," declares Superintendent Dr. Jose A. Cardenas. "The Supreme Court has copped-out because there was no public school system when the U.S. Constitution was written."

#### June 23, 1973

Football admission prices increase. Adults - from \$1.25 to \$1.50; students at gate - from 75¢ to \$1.00; pre-game - 50¢.

#### April 12, 1973

The Edgewood School District's plea for equal funding gains momentum as plans are finalized for a May 2 motorcycle to Austin and a March to the state capitol.

#### May 30, 1973

Edgewood Superintendent Ruben Lopez reports that impact funds received so far this year will enable the district to give teachers an additional \$50 in their June paychecks.

#### September 17, 1973

Several members of the Memorial H.S. Band are commended on their performance and participation in the Dixie 3 Six Parade that won for them a trophy for best marching band. Two students from Kennedy appear before the board, reporting to them of their visit to the City Council, requesting that sidewalks be made for students having to walk to school via Gen. Mcullen. The City Council instructs them to present this petition to the School Board and have them petition for the sidewalks.

#### September 1973

Anthony Castellanos, Kennedy principal, administers an English test to all the school's English teachers.

#### November 18, 1974

A request is made by Mr. Anthony Castellanos, principal at Kennedy High School, to go to Washington, D.C., accompanied by Beatrice Brown, David Ochoa, staff members and Juan Rodriguez, student, to the grave of President John F. Kennedy to place a memorial wreath on the occasion of the anniversary of his assassination. Over a year ago, a request by LULAC to name a school after the

illustrious attorney and great American, the late Alonzo Perales is finally a reality. Edgewood Elementary will from now on be known as Alonzo S. Perales Elementary School. A thesis on Alonzo S. Perales is submitted to St. Mary's University by Dr. Dominguez.

#### December 9, 1974

A forerunner of the present day CRIMESTOPPERS by the name of SECRET WITNESS COMMITTEE accepted to help the Edgewood Independent School District in offering a reward for information on the person and/or persons involved in starting the fire at Loma Park Elementary School on October 31, 1974. They would match the reward offered by the Edgewood Independent School District.

#### December 16, 1974

Principal Robert Maleaky of Edgewood High School introduces Adriana Munoz who is chosen Optimist Club of America DECA girl of the year. She won this honor above all the girls in the San Antonio area.

#### February 17, 1975

There is a discussion between the Board & parents about the possible closure of Edgewood Jr. High due to decline in enrollment. No definite decisions are made.

#### May 21, 1975

Beatrice Zamora becomes EISD's first Mexican-American woman on the school board. She is the second woman to serve on the board. Sheryl Ware was appointed to the board for about 30 days in 1972.

#### June 1, 1975

Twelve students in San Antonio are announced as finalists in the *Express* and *News* Outstanding Teen Contest of 1975. Included in the 12 is Kennedy senior, Russell Martinez.

#### August 14, 1975

The *San Antonio Light* writes: "Edgewood is certainly not new to battles over educational funding. It was the challenge by Edgewood parents under the famed *Rodriguez Case* to the U.S. Supreme Court that forced the Texas Legislature to write a new school finance act this year."

#### June 6, 1976

1976 Kennedy graduate June O'Neal is named one of ten Bexar County Outstanding Teenagers by the *Express* and *News*.

#### July 27, 1976

Edgewood trustees approve a \$20.6 million budget for the 1976-77 school year. Effective September 1, 1976, the district will adopt a minimum wage of \$2.30 per hour for district employees.

#### May 21, 1978

Kennedy student, Charles Cooper, is named one of San Antonio's Top Ten students by the *S.A. Express* and *News*.

#### May 29, 1978

James R. Vasquez is appointed acting Superintendent of Schools.

#### December 1, 1978

Six new Apple II Computers costing a total of \$13,000 will be used to teach math and computer science to students at Edgewood, Kennedy, and Memorial High Schools. The system is the first of its kind in San Antonio public schools.

#### June 27, 1979

Eight administrative positions in Edgewood are cut to make way for more teachers in the classroom as part of a district organizational shakeup.

#### January 21-22, 1980

The Emma Frey Elementary School is awarded the First Place Trophy by KWEX-TV STATION for its very significant contribution and participation in the KWEX 1979 Christmas Telethon.

#### March 25, 1980

Supt. Vasquez presents Ms. Tom Mooney, student at Memorial High, with a certificate of appreciation for having been named by the *San Antonio Light* Publishing Co. as the Female Basketball Player of the year for the San Antonio Metropolitan Area. She is also named by the *Light* and *Express News* to the girls' All-City Basketball Team.

#### May 28, 1981

Robert Garcia, a senior at Princeton University, is named the winner of the 1981 national Hispanic scholarship fund award. Garcia is the first Memorial graduate to attend Princeton.

#### July 22, 1981

The trustees approve a hefty 62% boost in local funds to dramatically increase teachers' salaries. Teachers with bachelor's degrees will earn from \$10,980 to \$19,100 annually. Teachers with master's degrees will earn from \$11,750 to \$21,140 annually.

#### August 22, 1981

Edgewood graduate, Edward Prado, is sworn in as new U.S. attorney for the Western District of Texas.

#### May 24, 1982

Former mayor Lila Cockrell and District Judge Roy Barrera, Jr. are among six judges to select five winners to the Edgewood Hall of Fame. Those selected are Margaret Lala, Susie Navarero, Gloria Rodriguez, Victor Solis, and Edward Prado.

#### May 31, 1981

300 graduates from Kennedy High receive diplomas at the Convention Center Arena.

#### June 2, 1982

224 graduates from Memorial High receive diplomas at Laurie Auditorium.

#### June 7, 1982

180 graduates from Edgewood High receive diplomas at Laurie Auditorium.

#### July 24, 1982

Trustees vote to close the 42-year-old Edgewood Junior High School campus because of declining enrollment and the poor physical condition of the school.

#### July 27, 1982

COPS leaders meet with San Antonio businesses to gauge reaction for a proposal to encourage businesses to locate in EISD. They took business leaders on an hour-long bus ride through Edgewood.

#### August 3, 1982

The School Board approves a \$33.6 million budget for the 1982-1983 school year.

#### February 3, 1983

In her first official appearance outside of Austin as a first lady, Linda Gayle White tours Edgewood High School's office education and vocational electronics facilities.

#### February 9, 1983

Kennedy High teacher Mary Joy Norton is chosen president-elect of the Vocational Office Education Teachers Association of Texas.

#### March 23, 1983

Edgewood officials agree to delay plans to file a constitutional lawsuit against the State of Texas over school funding inequities. Governor Mark White yesterday made a \$629 million promise to fund Texas' education. The promise was offered 40 minutes before Edgewood officials were scheduled to announce the lawsuit yesterday. Superintendent Vasquez states the suit will be held in delay. "We can't wait. We won't wait. As soon as the legislative session is finished May 31, we file," he declares.

#### May 17, 1983

The School Board instructs Superintendent Vasquez to meet with the district's legal counsel regarding a lawsuit to force the Legislature to change the method of financing public school education.

#### May 22, 1983

Newspaper columnist Jan Jarboe writes in today's edition: "For the 10th time in as many years, members of the Texas Legislature are deaf, dumb, and

blind about the issue Edgewood School District can't afford to let die. Let it die for ourselves about what's at stake. If Edgewood loses the fight and the funding gap between poor and rich school districts continues to widen, then poor kids in Texas will simply be out of the ball game."

#### May 31, 1983

In an editorial, the *San Antonio News* states: "The Legislature has had 10 years since the *Rodriguez* decision to remedy the shortcomings of school financing which were recognized by the U.S. Supreme Court. Unless a serious effort is made in special session at the earliest moment, Edgewood should move ahead with its action, and we urge other districts which need help to join the suit."

#### June 14, 1983

The *San Antonio News* states in an editorial that Edgewood School Board "anticipated the usual dismal performance in Austin and it was correct." The paper continues: "Edgewood should move ahead to challenge this outrageous situation under the Texas Constitution and the state education code."

#### June 23, 1983

200 Edgewood elementary teachers are participating in computer literacy training at Gus Garcia Junior High School.

#### June 30, 1983

Seven students from Edgewood High and four from Kennedy High are selected as part of the first group of students to attend San Antonio's high-technology high school, the first publicly funded high-technology high school in the state.

#### July 7, 1983

Mayor Henry Cisneros pledges efforts to shift growth development and nurture economic development in Edgewood. The mayor states: "I would regard my term as mayor a failure if all we could leave behind is a boom town on the Northside of San Antonio."

#### July 7, 1983

Three alumni are added to the "Hall of Fame." Richard Bocanegra, Charles Urbanovich, and Laine Gonzales are selected. Bocanegra is principal of Wren Junior High School, Urbanovich is principal of Sul Ross Middle School, and Gonzales is director of Federal Programs for Northside ISD.

#### July 23, 1983

Governor Mark White announces that H. Ross Perot, chairman of the Select Committee on Education, told him (White): "We can't let that exist in Texas." Edgewood is still one of the poorest in the state.

Just 4, 1983

Ross Perot "expected to find conditions" and bad morale. The morale and the attitude is as good as anywhere in state." (Said in reference to a visit to Edgewood schools).

tember 1983

As first state-funded high school begins in as Dave Sugg, Staff Coordinator of United San Antonio, "We could not have achieved without Jimmy Vasquez" as commented on the major role Edgewood District played in realization of the high school.

rch 22, 1984

Edgewood School District ride more of its scant funds than in high school subjects than in any other district studied in exas Research League report. report, released yesterday, tes that the average Texas h school spends only 40 cents hach dollar on academic ojects, which include English, hematics, social studies, nce, and foreign language. edgewood spends 48 cents of h high school dollar on those ojects according to the report.

ril 21, 1984

Edgewood votes to close 4 elementary schools and convert a stor high into an elementary mpus.

ay 24, 1984

The San Antonio News reports at Edgewood is the only school district in Bexar County to show improvement in the 1983 SAT ores.

une 12, 1984

Edgewood District has a better an even chance of winning its suit against the state to form the school finance system. A University of Houston ucation professor tells the ate senate.

une 19, 1984

The board of trustees reluctantly accept the resignation of 3-year veteran trustee Marcos R. sils, who gave up his seat on the ate for health reasons. Sils was ard president from 1980 to 982.

une 21, 1984

Trustees voted unanimously to close five schools over the next o years. Lincoln and Roosevelt elementary schools will be closed immediately. Escobar Junior high school as well as Coronado nd Hoelscher Elementary chools will close in 1985.

une 22, 1984

EISD awarded Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting by Association of School Business officials for the listric's annual financial report.

July 13, 1984

Governor Mark White signs the Educational Opportunities Act of 1984. This far-reaching legislation addresses teachers' pay, school calendar, planning and preparation time for teachers, extracurricular activities, discipline, testing for teachers, and more.

August 12, 1984

EISD adopts a shopping \$50 million budget for 1984-1985, a 37% increase over 1983-1984, most of which came from larger dose of state equalization aid.

September 29, 1984

EISD launches drive to put a teacher in space on the space shuttle. Ad reads: "WANTED. One Edgewood teacher to fly in outer space. K-12 only need fly. No experience necessary."

October 12, 1984

Mrs. Nancy Reagan, wife of President Ronald Reagan, visits Winston School and spends 2½ hours at the school.

November 20, 1984

Nine EISD teachers apply to NASA to become the first teacher in space.

November 21, 1984

Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez writes his reflections in the Edgewood News on President Kennedy's visit to San Antonio 21 years ago today. "I can still see him (President Kennedy) beaming and saying, 'Henry, you tell those fools at JFK High School — I'll be there.'"

December 8, 1984

Edgewood voters overwhelmingly approve an \$8.5 million bond issue for improvements to 12 schools. The bond passes by a 17 to 1 margin. "Tonight's election will help plan the next twenty years for Edgewood and bring it into the 21st century," says David D. Garza, board president.

December 10, 1984

1,000 Honor Roll students from all of Edgewood schools are named in the S.A. Light.

December 27, 1984

Representative Jack Brooks of Beaumont announces the U.S. Department of Education, blundered in a 1982 audit of Edgewood District and seven other school jurisdictions.

January 1985

All school districts in Texas must implement a policy that states students will be disqualified from participating in extracurricular activities for the next grading period if they have a grade below a 70. This has no effect on Edgewood, as Edgewood has had a co-curricular policy since August 1981.

January 14, 1985

All San Antonio schools closed and students enjoyed an unexpected holiday day due to the worst snow storm of the century in San Antonio.

January 17, 1985

Escobar principal Abel Reyna selected to receive the prestigious Carnegie Corp. award and will share his insights about school improvements at a 2-day session in NYC.

January 21, 1985

Edgewood becomes the second district in Texas to offer students a High Technology Internship Program. Students are trained in a specified high technology area.

March 4, 1985

Former Edgewood High School classmates now teaching in their old school district hope to be the first Mexican-American and the first teacher in space later this year. Abel Hernandez and Victoria de la Garza are among the 413 Texas teachers accepting President Reagan's and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's invitations last year to apply for a flight on the space shuttle.

March 5, 1985

President Ronald Reagan calls Edgewood high graduates, Edgewood Prado, to tell him that he is nominating Prado to be a federal district judge.

March 12, 1985

Board meets and decides to keep Coronado and Hoelscher Schools in operation. House Bill 72 requirements, passed after Edgewood had decided to close schools, show that classroom space will be needed next year.

March 24, 1985

Brentwood history teacher Shelia June Merritt is honored at Trinity University as a Distinguished Educator.

April 20, 1985

Gov. M. White names James Vasquez to the Texas Communities in Schools Advisory Council.

May 9, 1985

Three graduates are named to the district's "Hall of Fame." They are Helen Ayala and Dr. Marie C. Cruz, Edgewood High graduates, and Dr. Daniel Juarez, an alumnus of Kennedy High School.

May 28, 1985

JFK Valetictorian, Alex Smith, is also captain of the football team.

June 6, 1985

EHS. Student Gary Bernal, earned a special award during the school's graduation ceremonies for perfect attendance...for 12 years.

June 18, 1985

Edgewood is one of four school districts in Texas to be presented with a 1985 Golden Achievement Award from the National School Public Relations Association. The district was recognized for publishing the names of the district's honor roll students in a full page advertisement in the San Antonio Light.

June 19, 1985

Escobar MS students raise \$813 for USA for Africa Foundation.

June 22, 1985

EISD lowers flags to half mast to honor Marines killed in El Salvador ambush.

July 4, 1985

Edgewood becomes the first district in Bexar County to publicly unveil the nation's new Education Flag of Learning and Liberty in a ceremony held in front of the administration building.

August 7, 1985

EISD initiates NINOS program for infants up to 3 years old who are developmentally delayed or handicapped, the only program of its type in the city.

August 11, 1985

Edgewood district has skyrocketed from last to second place in Bexar County in the amount it spends per student.

August 15, 1985

EISD teachers will receive an average 11.63% pay increase from \$16,650 to \$18,000 for a bachelor's degree teacher.

August 15, 1985

Rafael Arias, Escobar student, selected to do a summer study at the Alabama Space & Rocket Camp, AKA — junior astronaut program, only one of two students in Texas selected.

August 22, 1985

Edgewood becomes the first San Antonio district to test teachers. 800 teachers take a sample test at Gas Garcia cafeteria in preparation for a state-mandated test scheduled for March 10, 1986.

September 30, 1985

Superintendent James R. Vasquez is named the "Key Communicator in Texas" by the Texas School Public Relations Association. He becomes the first superintendent and first San Antonio to capture the state award.

October 24, 1985

Edgewood employees raise \$30,348 for United Way — 35% increase over last year.

October 30, 1985

Edgewood High 1964 graduate, Alex R. Torres, named a Captain for the SA Police.

November 11, 1985

Vasquez Tribute Nov. 10 is a Sellout — commemorating 25 years in education. Light headline: A Silver Jubilee in a "Gold Mine" District.

November 14, 1985

Edgewood's Ronald Ashmore rushed 476 yards — the third highest ever for a Texas H.S. runner — on 39 carries & four touchdowns & earned a place in the AP/Schoolboy Honor Roll.

November 14, 1985

Kennedy High teacher Louise Jansen elected vice-president of Texas VOE Teacher's Association.

November 19, 1985

District releases the first Annual Performance Report as required by the Educational Opportunity Act of 1984, commonly known as House Bill 72.

November 23, 1985

KHS Students Roberto Ybarra, Mario Herrera & Celeste Sanchez mark the 22nd anniversary of the assassination of JFK by placing a wreath at his bust.

December 20, 1985

Kennedy High School receives nine Baumberger Scholarships, the largest number awarded to any San Antonio School.

December 20, 1985

The Accounting Department receives a Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Association of School Business Offices. Only 100 school districts received this award out of 16,000 school districts in the nation.

January 29, 1986

Christa McAuliffe, who was to be the first teacher in space, is killed when the space shuttle Challenger explodes at 11:39 a.m. She and six other astronauts are killed.

March 10, 1986

205,000 teachers throughout Texas take a competency exam known as TECAT. Kennedy, Memorial, Garcia and Perales are local test sites.

June 2, 1986

199 are candidates for graduation from Memorial High School.

June 3, 1986

203 are candidates for graduation from Edgewood High School.

June 4, 1986

250 are candidates for graduation from John F. Kennedy High School.

May 20, 1986

School District publishes Edgewood: The Story, The People, an account of Edgewood's first 76 years.



## EPILOGUE

And so *EDGEWOOD: THE STORY, THE PEOPLE*.

Since a handful of children met in that one room house known as the Frey School 76 years ago, Edgewood has grown to be the thirty-fifth largest school district in Texas. A district boasting 25 schools, over 15,000 students, and thousands of graduates and success stories.

Beginning in 1910, Edgewood has had its struggles, its hurts but  
it also has had  
its triumphs,  
its successes,  
its joys.

Edgewood, a name echoed repeatedly in the halls of our state legislature, is also a name uttered in the chambers of the highest court in the land.

It is a name synonymous with educational opportunity. It is a name in which her people — the community members and their children who have attended Edgewood Schools — sense a particular pride.

There is a reason.

Edgewood is America's educational conscience.

Edgewood is a voice which is heard. A voice which speaks loudly on behalf of all Texas and America's children.

They want and deserve the best.

They receive the best Edgewood has to offer.

This sixteen-square mile area known as Edgewood, though small in geographic area, stands as a challenge to all of us.

A challenge which calls each of us today to continue on the right road to make Edgewood vibrant in the spirit of *FAMILIA*.

A unique and special *FAMILY*.

Let us rush headlong into tomorrow cognizant of our rich heritage.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project could not have been completed without the assistance of many, many people.

Notable among the many is Dr. Eli Arnaud who gave us the challenge to continue documenting Edgewood's history. We gratefully acknowledge the wealth of information he supplied for this project. A special thanks to him also for giving permission to republish part of his thesis.

We extend our thanks also to Reyna/Caragonne Architects for much of the historical information obtained for the "Story" section.

We are indebted to the following individuals for supplying us with either information included in this publication or photographs: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Persyn, Sandra De Winne Benavides, Isabel G. Garza, Alma Goldman, Margie Van De Walle, Margaret Markette, Homer Verstuyft, Yvonne Verstuyft, Mary Presas, Dolores Ortiz, Beatrice Muniz, Ann Price, Carmela Leal, Eddie Navarro, Georgia Spears, Irene Zapata, Nickie Cantu, John and Fern Surreddin, Ms. Leonard Mechler, Julia E. Knight, John H. Ledger, Donna Cameron, Betty White, Dorothy Collins, Pam Bond, Beatrice Castillo, Abel Reyna. We also thank the many parents, friends and relatives of the Edgewood heroes pictured in this publication who supplied photos of their loved ones.

Randy Herrera did research and wrote the information on the school namesakes on pages 30 to 39.

Frank Torres did research and wrote the chronology of Edgewood history on pages 80 to 85. "Reflections" in the sections were written by students from Trinity University News Service. The articles and authors are as follows:

Homer Verstuyft reflection by David E. Hanzlik — page 13.

Dolores Ortiz and Mary Presas reflection by Heather Fahlbeck — page 15.

Elie Arnaud reflection by William Reinert — page 24.

Bennie Steinhauser reflection by Lisa K. MacGrath — page 25.

Jose A. Cardenas reflection by Lisa McGrath — page 26

James R. Vasquez reflection by Lisa K. McGrath — page 27

We also gratefully acknowledge permission of the **San Antonio Express and News** and **San Antonio Light** to reproduce news articles on pages 50, 56, 58. Additionally, we are appreciative of the photographs obtained on pages 30, 31 and 33 from the respective Presidential libraries of Presidents Roosevelt, Truman and Johnson. Too, we thank Goldbeck Photographer for granting permission to print the photograph of the 1985 graduating class of Memorial High School on page 7.

Finally, we have a special group of people to whom we have a distinct word of gratitude and who were most instrumental in actually putting this magazine together:

Eloise Benavides, Community Relations Liaison, did a remarkable feat by tracing the families and obtaining the photographs of the Viet Nam heroes. She has performed a tremendous service to our Edgewood community, a service in which we in Edgewood will never forget those from our special family of Edgewood who gave the ultimate gift of love.

We thank G. Contreras and P. Gonzales who served as valuable consultants in the layout design of this publication and for their expert advice and guidance throughout the process of putting this magazine together.

We thank Superintendent James R. Vasquez for his encouragement in this project and his continued support for positive community relations.

In short, *MIL GRACIAS* to all *THE PEOPLE* who shared *THE STORY*.

David D. Ochoa  
Community Relations Officer  
May 1986

*Istius historiae scriptores vere omnes, ita qui scripserunt,  
qui scribunt, ac scribent, ipsos benedicat Deus Ipse!*

**Edgewood**  
Independent School District

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