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CHAPTER 3



1899-1900

Noise was heard all summer long while the construction gang worked on the new high school at the well-known corner of Ninth Street and Minnesota Avenue, under the supervision of J. W. Ferguson, former supt of schools for the first four years after the consolidation of Kansas City, now a contractor. His bid was far below that of the next highest and it was said that he figured the cost down to the number of nails he would need, and

thus introduced close figuring in public work in the city. But when fall came, without noise or confusion and within the space of one hour, on October 2, 1899¹, in Kansas

City, Kansas sixteen teachers, 175 boys and 360 girls became a high school in the present building at Ninth Street and Minnesota Avenue. The school was organized and with the school periods (or hours as they were commonly called) fifteen minutes long, each of the ninety-two classes met in regular session, class rolls were taken, lessons assigned, and by twelve o'clock, 535 happy, light-hearted boys and girls were on their way to the book stores intent upon having their lessons well prepared for the next day. And all this time, one hundred workmen, plasterers, painters, hodcarriers, bricklayers, carpenters, stair builders, electricians, and other men, pounding away in the auditorium, study hall and corridor, finished one of the best apportioned high school buildings in the state of Kansas at that time. Boards, plaster, nails, paint, and carpenter's tools were piled everywhere¹ but the sixteen classrooms were completed and furnished with all the necessary equipment such as seats and blackboard for conducting classes. Barring the continual noise of hammer and saw, no more inconvenience was experienced that is characteristic of the opening of any high school.



*a class at work in the
art room in the middle section
of the present high school building.*

The splendid order was accomplished by having a bulletin board posted in the hall which directed each pupil, upon entering the building, just where to report. Beginners in one room, first term algebra in another, second term geometry in another, and so forth so that all found place in eight rooms, each one according to his classification in school. In these rooms some teachers took the names, ages, addresses, and other information concerning students while the former other teachers took care of the enrolling and assigning of the new pupils.

Some of the beginners were those regularly promoted from the grades, others had passed the entrance examinations of the week before, some were from accredited high schools, and a few were not included in any of the foregoing classes, and were sent home and told to return in the afternoon for entrance exams.

Information cards were filled out and collected. The regulars, or former students, were assigned to A, B, C, D, E, and F sections and given entrance checks accordingly. Entrance checks were pieces of yellow paper which contained written in long hand, the name of the student, subject taken, the hour when the study recites, and the classroom.

¹ Two weeks later than the time school was to have begun.

Each pupil received a check for each of his four subjects. The beginners were required to write their own names on the checks while the former students found theirs complete.

A system of marking the floors and class rooms had been worked out. It was explained to the students that 1 S.E. meant first floor southeast room, 2 S.W. meant second floor southwest room and so on, and they were ready for a day of school when the first fire bell rang for the new electric bell was not in working order yet. All those having a first hour class went to the room marked on his entrance check to be enrolled, assigned the work for the following day, and entertained as the teacher in charge thought fit until the fire bell rang signaling the release. Leaving the entrance check, he ventured to his next class anxious to see who was in his class and to form his first impression of the instructor. With the change of each class the stairways and corridors were filled with over five hundred busy, ambitious, young students.

As the last fire gong for the day was sounded, the class room and halls were hastily deserted and left at the command of the contractor and mechanic.

The afternoon brought a few back who wanted special work or a change in the course of study, which were taken care of at this time so as not to interfere with the regular school work.

The length of the periods was increased to 45 minutes, but there were only six periods while before there were eight. This gave the students some time for extra work for special credit. The students were proud to attend this so-called \$900,000 high school.² The building was the same as the central part of our present High School without the north and south wings; the two entrances now on Ninth Street were the front of the building. The building was three stories high, and had a basement and sub-basement.

The 150 x 110 building of buff-colored pressed brick and stone contained 23 class rooms, a large study hall, an auditorium which seated 1,500 people, a library room, besides offices for the principal and his clerk, board of education clerk, and superintendent. It was equipped with a cloak room, Smeade-Plenum heat, self-ventilation, drinking fountains on each floor, and utilities for the parking of bicycles. The building was wired throughout for electric lighting; provisions were made for 150 lights. A house telephone was put in every room as it is at the present time. It took 27 interior phones to complete the system. A program clock was also installed which automatically announced the expiration of each 45 minutes of recitation in each room. The board of education put about \$90,000 into the building and grounds, and the result was one of the most modern and commodious high school buildings in the west at that time.

1900-01

In the fall of 1900, the teaching force consisted of nineteen instructors³, including Prin. George E. Rose. Four clubs were in existence under the auspices of at least one instructor of the faculty.

² It really cost \$90,000

³ They were: Prin. Rose, MS; J E Kammeyer, AM, Asst Prin; A A Brooks, AM; Clara Stillwell, MS; Ida M Hogdon, Ph.B.; Dora C Markham, AB; Ellyn H Shipley, AM; W W Douglass, AB; Herbert A Clark, BS; Lela F Douthart, AB; Elise Neuenschwander, AB; Frances L Nardin, AB; Ella Woodyard, AB; A M Bogle, AM; W C McCroskey, AB; J M Winslow, AB; A M Bumann; Florence Brous, BS; May Harmon and U S Edwards and J F Hendrickson, BS, as janitors.

The High School Scientific Club was in existence in 1900 with Louis P. Brous, MS, as President. At the meeting of this club lectures were given on such subjects as "Taseous Sunlight" and "Hydrophobia". Specimens were gathered by the members and put on display in the study hall.

The High School History Club was directed by J. E. Kammeyer as president. Papers written on the fifteen decisive battles was the term's work which the club adopted, having one battle as the principal topic for discussion at each meeting.

The High School English Club had been organized by Miss Ida M. Hodgdon in order to stimulate interest in English and word analysis for the 96 pupils. The students became immensely interested and gained much in all lines of English with Miss Maude Russell as president. The next year the club was again organized, this time for the entire school with Judd Greenman as president. The club adopted the motto "Welcome", for boys were invited the same as girls

Interest in the modern sport of football was developed in 1900. The football players conceived the idea of forming a football association, so a large number of boys gathered in room A after school on October 19 and adopted a constitution and by-laws. Charles Lovelace was chosen president of the association and Prof. W. C. McCroskey, Manager. Already a team had been practicing every day for a solid hour and fifteen long minutes with Ernest Warren acting as temporary captain and coach. The team showed great prospects of romping all over the opposing teams, for their average weight was at least 150 pounds, a heavy team for this class. No games were scheduled yet, but the team was "rarin" to go.

The High School Record was celebrating its first birthday in 1900. From an eight-page paper, it had grown into fifteen pages of reading matter, exclusive of advertisements. It was issued the last Friday of every month for 10¢ a copy or 25¢ a year, under the editorship of J. M. Winslow.

The High School Record contained editorials about current school news and problems, and where the faculty spent their vacation such as: "Professor J. E. Kammeyer, A. M. spent the summer in Kansas City, and gave due inspection to every brick and stone which entered into the new high school building. As a member of the city examination board, he spent time 'striking terror' into the hearts of would-be city teachers and in passing upon their individual merits". It also contained reports of the Scientific, History, and English Clubs and the Football Association; personals and alumni notes, jokes, and the news of other schools through exchanges.

In November of 1900 K. B. and C. H. Armour of the Armour Packing Company made a liberal proposition to give \$1,500 to the board of education as a beginning in a manual training course for the new high school on the condition that the benefits of the gift should be enjoyed by all boys who could pass the entrance examinations to the high school and that the workshop should be open on evenings. The board promptly accepted the gift and this has proven the beginning of a well-equipped manual training course in our city schools.

The school prospered throughout the year. The school building which John W. Ferguson, the contractor claimed as his monument and took great pride in, was finished. Forty-four seniors were preparing to be the first class to be graduated from the new school. But soon they crept on to the next room of their chambered nautilus, leaving another class of the next year to fill their place of superiority.

The annual Alumni banquet was again a joyful get-together of the former classmates and friends on June 1, at Haines Hall. A. W. Holbrook, president of the

Alumni at that time, presided. Responses were made by the class of 1900; Curlis Trussel, now deceased; class of '88, Charles I. Blood; class of '90, Mrs. Stella (Reid) McCamish; class of '91, Maurice Alden; '92, M. Louie (Jones) Pugh; '93, Frank Barbour; '94, Jessie (Shaffer) Harper; '95, George Holsinger; '96, Gussie (Swearingen) Tyler; '97, Mrs. Clara (Hendrickson) Woestermeyer; '98, Archie Blood; and the class of '99 b S. Ralph Nelson.

1901-1902

1902-03

The curriculum of 1901-1903 was about the same as that of 1900. The faculty was the same in 1901 with the exception of Herbert A. Clark who left and A. N. Topping, B.S. and Lucy Dougherty, new teachers. The enrollment for '01 was 694 with a daily attendance of 514. The library, which had been started several years ago, grew to 687 books.

The announcements for the fourteenth annual commencement exercises held at the High School auditorium Wednesday evening, May 29, 1901 were rather unique for all the names of the graduates in their own handwriting appeared on the announcements under the course which they were graduated from, thus preserving a "specimen" for their posterity.

The Baccalaureate services were held for the turquoise rose and old rose class of 1901 at the First Presbyterian Church. The large class of fifty-seven evidently lived up to their motto "Row-Not-Drift", for fifty-seven students were on the stage seated in the auditorium on the night of graduation. Those who ranked high in their school work were requested to deliver an oration on the night of graduation. As the diplomas were presented, some found a reward for the high merit of their work as an extra seal was on their diploma.

In 1902 there was graduated a class of fifty-two which had "Get, Grit and Gumption" as their motto, purple and white as their colors, and "Dear old K.C.K." as their song.

The year of 1902 marked the beginning of sports, and games of baseball and football were being played by the boys, but they had not improved field, so the gridiron was anywhere the gang could get together. In the year 1902 the baseball team won the first baseball trophy for the collection the school now has.

While the athletic teams were striving for triumph, the faculty was striving to quell secret sororities and fraternities. This issue was almost as important to the administration as the Civil War question had been in the United States.

At the end of the spring, 1901, W. A. McCrosky was hired as principal in Mr. Rose's place. "To Prin Rose's long period of service much of the school's splendid showing is due", asserted Supt. M. E. Pearson when Prin. Rose resigned his position in the spring of 1902. W. A. McCrosky was hired as principal in Mr. Rose's place.

Many new teachers were hired in the fall of 1903: W S Cockrane, R O Davis, Maude Keller, Martha Thompson, Ralph L Ward, Sadie B Mann, Alberta Cory, Daisy Dean, C A Rohrer, Lucy Riggs, and E E Morlan were the new instructors to join the faculty. J E Kammeyer, Ida M. Hogdon, Dora C Markham, Ellyn H Shipley, Herbert A Clark, Elise Neuenschwander, and A M Bumann were the teachers who left the school, G W Cupps was employed as a janitor.

Social events and amusements began to creep into the activities of the school.

Theodore Roosevelt did Kansas City the honor of his presence in 1903, so a holiday was declared for the school children to watch him kiss the babies. The activities of the highest social interest in the year of '03 were Rhetoricals, Junior Reception, and Commencement exercises. With a desire to put a climax in the story of the year of '03, Henry Simpson, president of the senior class, was kidnapped by a mob of students on the eve of graduation, May 28, 1903 and did not get to graduate with the class. Immediately the junior class was suspected and to get revenge the senior vice-president, Lucille Eager May utterly refused to present the class mantle to the class of 1904. Thus ended the year for a class of fifty-eight, with only fifty-seven members present for the presentation of the diplomas.

A considerable improvement was shown in the quality of class work done in the fall of '03. In fact the entire school was showing much enthusiasm and every pupil was putting forth his best efforts under the new principal, W C McCroskey. Many intelligent freshmen who came with round bright faces, wreathed in smiles was decidedly refreshing to some of the upper classmen who, so long ago, enjoyed the same delights. But the seniors had been turned to following the straight serious path enduring the suffering and hardships for their struggle for knowledge which was gained only by the tug with the rudiments of Latin, the initiation into the whys and wherefores about algebra. Also the worry over the "We, the people", in civics, and the do's and don'ts of composition showed their wear. As is always the case, there was a noticeable difference between various classes.

1903-04

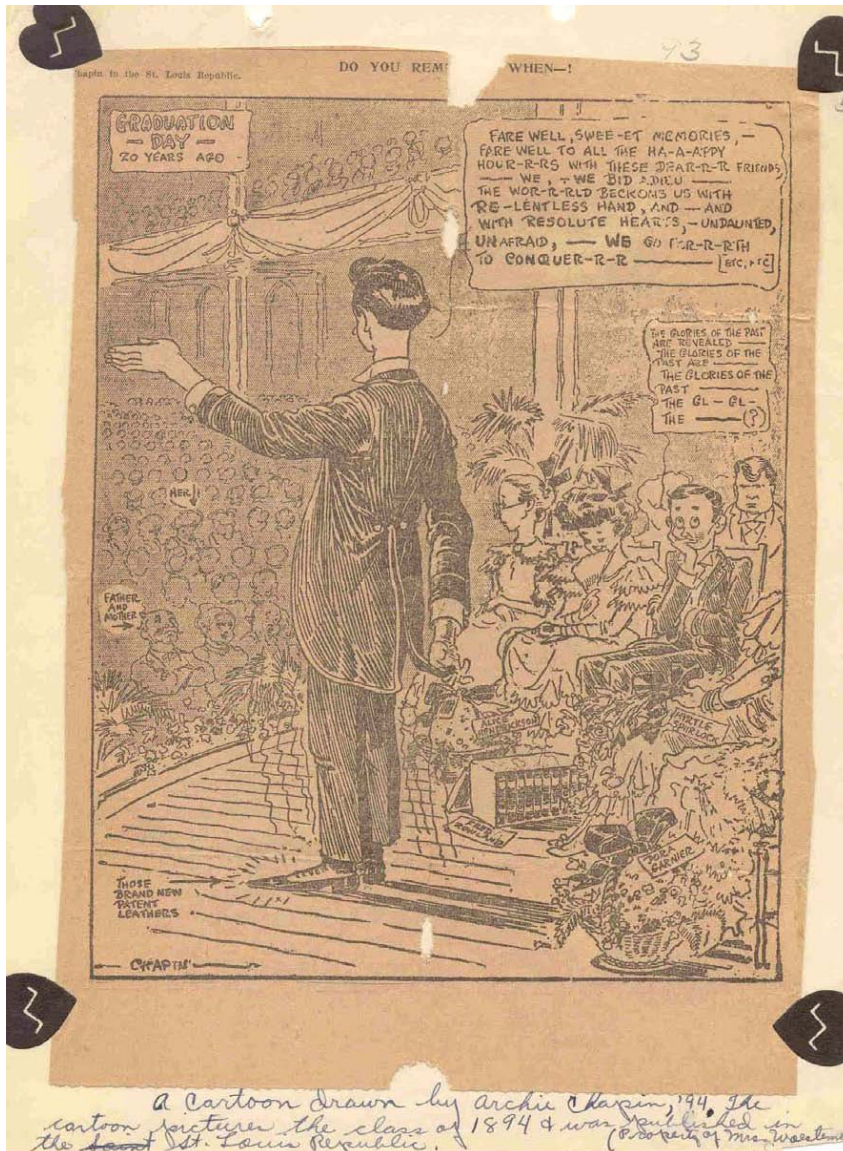
The term of 1903-4 was also a political year for the elections for every position have been full of interest. Friday, October 2, of 1903 as almost as important a day in the election world as the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. This was the date set by the faculty for the election of the editor-in-chief of the Jayhawker, the new school magazine, his two assistants, and a local editor. J W Breidenthal was chosen as business manager by the faculty. In the early hour of the morning of the election there were two tickets in the field, one nominated by members of the Phi Omega Delta, a boys' fraternity, and the other by a group of boys popularly known as the London Heights crowd. Due to the fact that only stock holders, those who had paid for the subscription for the Jayhawker, were to be permitted to vote, Friday was a trying day for politicians, business managers, and faculty members. The nominations were closed by the principal at the end of the first hour of election morning for fear that they would have to spend the entire night counting and recounting votes.

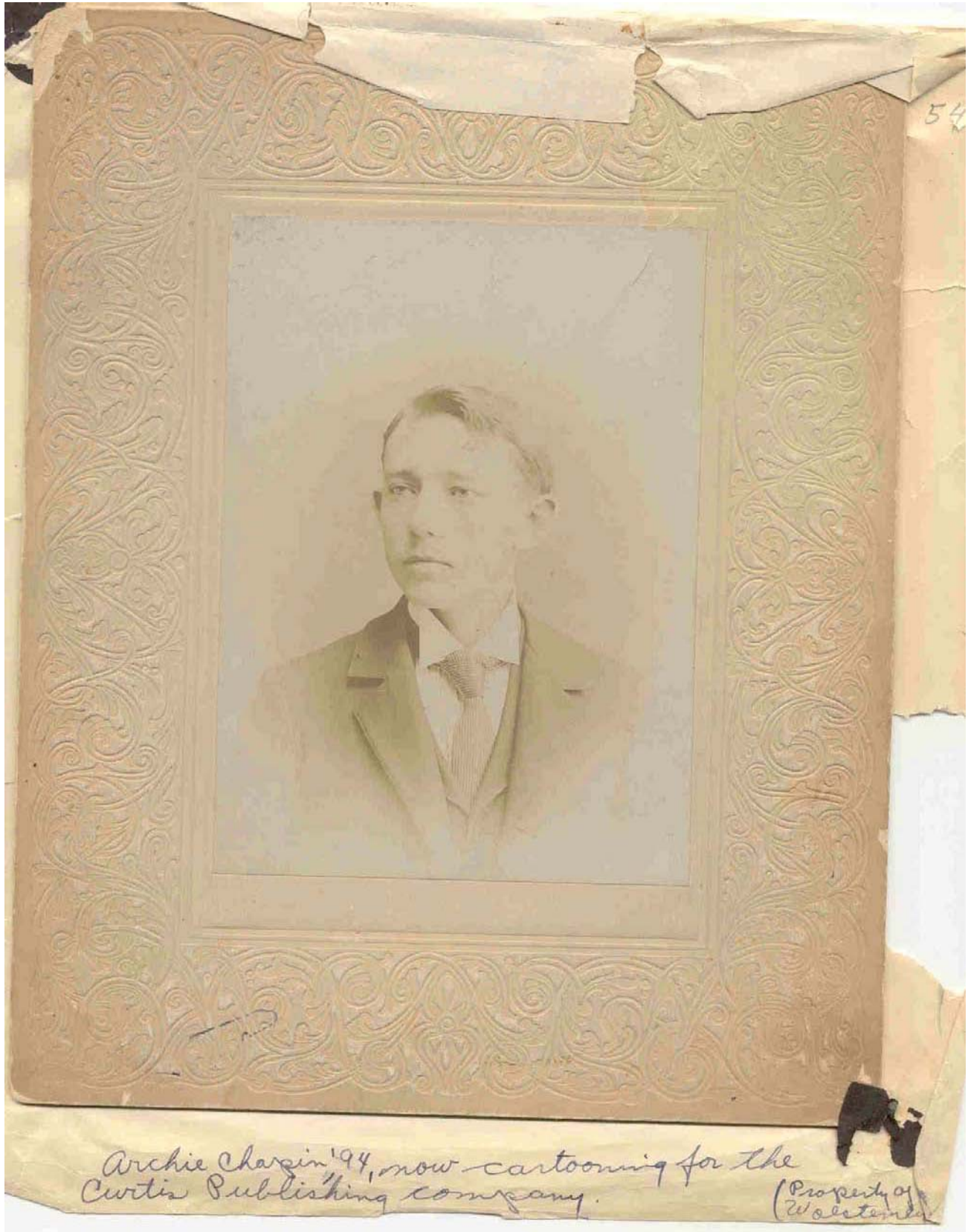
The big event of the day, the actual election, was to be held at the close of sixth hour. Youthful politicians were busy rounding up and organizing their parties and escorting them to the polls. The time had come, the enthusiastic voters now began to cast their ballots for their favorite candidate. To prevent students from stuffing the ballot box or any fraud, several members of the faculty acted as policemen and took charge of the poll book and supervised the ballot box for a raging hour until 2 o'clock, instructing many who were then future voters of our city in their first lesson in voting. The polls closed. The stock holders went home feeling they had done their duty while the faculty canvassed the votes in secret session.

After a series of counting the returns were as follows for each:

Editor-in-Chief	Clifton Stratton 98 Frank Hopper 112
First Assistant Editor	Sadie Schnierle 182
Second Assistant Editor	Thomas Van Cleave 112 Ben Young 91
Local Editor	James Swartz 173

The returns were a great victory and a landslide for the boys' fraternity for in every instance the successful candidates were their nominees. W W Douglass was appointed advising editor.





The football calendar was practically filled b the beginning of the season.
The schedule was:

Oct 10, Kansas City, Kansas vs. Manual, at KCMO Oct 17, Kansas City, Kansas
vs. Leavenworth at Leavenworth Ocy 24, Kansas City, Kansas vs. Olathe at Olathe Oct
31, Kansas City, Kansas vs. Westport at KCMO Nov 7, Kansas City, Kansas vs.
Undecided Nov 14, Kansas City, Kansas vs. Olathe at KCMO Nov 21, Kansas City,
Kansas vs. Undecided

1904

Not only athletics were “up and coming”, but also the normal training class which
had 18 young women enrolled for the first term, this being a large number for the class.
The manual training course was distinguished this year by graduating a girl. The wood-
working class was popular with the girls, for many girls were enrolled this year for some
unaccountable reason.

Some of the seventy-one members of the '04 class were disappointed and some
happy when the announcement came that the privilege of giving mid-term orations were
being taken away from them because of the class being too large. The enrollment of the
seniors at the opening of school was seventy-one. The negroes and whites were
separated in 1904 because of some difficulties in and out of the school. There were 811
pupils in the entire school at the beginning. This increase in enrollment called for an
enlargement of facilities⁸ and an expansion of the manual training and commercial
courses.

The things that had to be added before the opening of the next year were
biological laboratory; the requirements of the colleges could not be met much longer
without it. Laboratories for Botany and Zoology, installment of a Commercial course,
and a few typewriters were a few of the necessary improvements.

The teachers who were added in the fall of 1904 were Mary Helwig, I B Morgan,
Elizabeth Flagg, A E White, E K Kendrick, Minne Canady, and Alta Haynes. The
teachers leaving were A A Brooks, E E Morlan, and R O Davis.

The enrollment of the school, curriculum, number of teachers and the buildings
were greatly enlarged in the years from the fall of 1904 to the spring of 1910. From an
enrollment of 906 in the fall of '04, the school increased to an enrollment of 1,035 in '10.
In '04 there were 25 teachers, nine men and 16 women. In '10 there were 40 teachers,
17 en and 23 women. In '04 there were 25 class rooms, and in '10 the school had 79
rooms, the same as the present. In '10 the curriculum consisted of 31 subjects. The
teachers added the fall of '04 were: J M Winslow, Meddie O Hamilton, H J Emmerson,
Stella Meyers, and Lena Andlauer, clerk, and those leaving were Frances L Nardin,
Florence Brous, and Daisy Deam. During these six years, Principal McCroskey had
resigned (in the spring of 1905), and J M Winslow took his place until 1908, when the
principal's chair was filled by H L Miller, who remained for four years.

In 1908 the faculty consisted of R L Ward, vice-principal; A M Bogle, Alta
Haynes, Lela Douthart, Ella Woodyard, May Harman, Lucy Dougherty, Martha
Thompson, Sadie Mann, Mar Helwig, E A White, Elizabeth Flagg, I B Morgan, E K
Kendrick, Minne Canady, Meddie Hamilton, Stella Myers, Clara Hirst, A F Layman, W M
Shipherd, Ethel Vaughna, Ora Yenawine, Mildred Serviss, Hallie Lasley, Maude Van
Cleave, Ellen Meldrum, L D Darrow, J E Boyd, Olive Hazel, C H Lyon, W A Starring,
John Radke, W J Logan, Guilla Adams, N F Ockerblad, D C Gilbert, Alexander

Mcdonald, G W Thomas, Alberta Slaughter, Gertrude Bunn, and Myra Jerome, who was the office clerk. The janitors were Charles Langford, A F Foster, J Delany, J Shubert, and M Cassidy.

The year ending '09 found H L Miller as principal and J Wilbur Jones, Edward Kionka, Ida Lease, Addie Jackson, John McNary, G E Worrell, and C Fuller as new instructors while J M Winslow, Minne Canady, Meddie Hamilton, Clara Hirst, W A Starrin, and John Radke left the payroll of Kansas City, Kansas High School.

Among the things which only room alone would make possible were a gymnasium, a commercial department, a properly lighted drawing-room, more suitable rooms for woodwork, a sewing room, and a cooking room.

1909

In fall of '09 two teachers, Minnie Oliverson and Maude Kelly, were added while G W Thomas left the school. In the fall of '10 only one teacher, Ava Douthart, and two janitors, Robert Bell and F Meeks, were added while the janitor, John McNary, discontinued his services.

The members of the class of '06, '07, '08, wishing to show their appreciation for the school, collected money from the three classes and brought a reproduction of "The Frieze of Phidias" which was formerly presented to the school to be placed above the stage in the auditorium.

The first foods laboratory was established in '07. It was equipped with a range and tile top desks to accommodate twenty-four girls. Miss Ora Yenawine was the first teacher. It was located in what is now the printing department. When the north wing was added, the equipment was moved to 317 on the third floor. Only a one-year course was offered which consisted merely of food preparation. The school was so crowded before the wings were added that the sewing class was held on the stage for two or three years. Those in existence were Owls and Delta Kapps Theta for girls and Deltas, P.D.Q, and possibly a few more. The "frats" promoted athletics by forming teams and playing each other in a small league.

The girls' gym was located where the auto mechanics room now is at present. The room was a small place for 195 girls, for this reason only the freshmen were required to take gym and only one other year was offered for credit. In order to strive to quell the double standard of men and women, the girls were fast on the heels of the boys in athletics. Having no track field, the balcony surrounding the room was used for a track field.

The gym was poorly equipped. It had one shower for almost 200 girls and it couldn't always be counted upon, and ten score girls crowded the small dressing room far beyond capacity. This tiny room on the south side of the auto mechanic room is now used as a storeroom. The only instructor at this time was Miss Lora Lock. She taught floor work and basketball, the only sport taught to the girls at that time.

Athletics were at their heights at Kansas City, Kansas High School in the fall of 1908. The prospects looked bright for the football team and indeed they proved so. The traditional Thanksgiving Day game was played with Central High School at the Association Park in Kansas City, MO. The ball see-sawed back and forth for both teams were evenly matched. The strain was almost unbearable in the rooters' section. Then the hero, Ray Steman, approached and put a climax on the game by kicking a field goal in the last few minutes of the game, making their rival Central swallow the defeat of 3 to

0 while K.C.K.H.S. went home singing "There'll be a hot time in the old town tonight".

Football season was over and basketball season began. The court boys were no less successful than their field brothers for they brought home victories, although not so hair-tearing and nerve-wrecking as the Thanksgiving football game won by a hairbreath, from Manual, Central, and Westport High Schools across the Kaw River. Lawrence Trickett and Rosco McMillan shared honors for high point man.

Although athletics were prominent, they did not distract the students from their daily curriculum and club work. The Gavel, a debating society which met once a week, was attracting much attention by the excellent quality of elocution which its members portrayed in their debates. A young men's Glee Club was formed by 18 boys and they sang for the commencement exercises and other entertainments.

The Kansas City Times sponsored an essay contest for high school students in the year 1909-1909. Ralph Foster carried off first place for K.C.K.H.S. with an essay entitled "Charities" and was awarded a prize of \$100.

The oncoming spring brought track and baseball. The teams did well, especially Edward Marsh at baseball and Irving Roat as the star hurdler.

The Alumni Association was not idle in 1906. After months of hard work, they published the Kansas City, Kansas High School Alumni Annual, which contained the names and addresses of all the graduates from 1887-1906. This annual was put out under the auspices of August A. Kaiser, '00; Lawrence J Mason, '90; and J L R March, '99, Chairman. At this time Archie Blook, '98, was president; Leah Loomie, '03, vice-president; W Averill Daily, '03, Secretary; Roman W Kramer, '99, treasurer.

As graduation time grew near, the senior calendar began to crowd up. There was the selection of members of the school honor roll, the senior issue of the Jayhawker, the senior play, "Merely Mary Ann"; the annual prom which the juniors give the seniors each year, and then the final event, that of graduation on May 24. After this came the Alumni Association Program and the Alumni Reception on May 25.

The year of '05 marked the graduation of 94 who had achieved their 32 credits; the year of '96 brought 91 successful candidates; '07, 97 students; '08, 110 graduates; '09, 169 in white; '10, a reduction to 95.