

## **EARLY HISTORY OF THE MOUNTAIN VIEW SCHOOL**

**At the beginning of the year 1909, District 15, County of Bernalillo and the Territory of New Mexico had no public school. There was one private school on the R.W. Loudon ranch, attended by the Loudon children only. The nearest Public School was six miles away.**

**In June 1909, J.S. Bowers and R.W. Loudon began plans for a public school in the community. The county superintendent, A.B. Stroup, denied a request for a public school in District 15 because there was no available money. So the planning of a public school had to be done without county or territorial help.**

**Mr. Loudon and Mr. Bowers decided to call a meeting of all the residents of the community. They hoped to gain the support for a school to be built and maintained by the people of the community.**

**An eleven year old girl, Thelma Loudon, rode horseback over the entire community inviting each family to a meeting at the Loudon ranch. This young lady was served a tasty noonday meal of tortillas and chili con carne at the Manuel Chavez ranch.**

**At this time there were nine families and twenty-one children of school age living in the community.**

**At this meeting on June 1, 1909, at the R.W. Loudon ranch the first public school in District 15 was planned. R.W. Loudon, J.S. Bowers, and Tom Riefsnyder were selected to serve as the first board of directors. The site for a school building and how to raise money for construction was decided. However the first building to be occupied by the new school was a small one-room cabin, 12' x 14". This cabin was donated by a young man named John Jacobson.**

**A women's committee of Mrs. Manuel Chavez, Mrs. J.S. Bowers and Mrs. Ralph Harland interviewed and selected Miss Elizabeth Fox as the first teacher of the community school. Miss Fox received \$40 per month and her board for a term of six months.**

**Thus, the first public school of District 15, Bernalillo County, Territory of New Mexico, opened September 2, 1909. Nineteen children in grades one through six enrolled the first year. Wood and coal were donated to heat the little one-room school. Books were bought from Matson's Bookstore in Albuquerque and paid for by parents of the children attending.**

**For the school year beginning in 1910, the county allowed \$50 per month for the teacher's salary. Mrs. Mary Miller was the teacher. Beginning the**

second year the enrollment had increased to 28 and the little 12' x 14' cabin was really crowded. So, in the year 1910, this little community school had a building problem.

Thinking that this was a desirable location for a larger building, the board of directors asked Mr. Jacobson if he would sell an acre of ground. Mr. Jacobson donated the acre of ground. Plans were laid to build a one-room 30' x 40' concrete block building. That particular building was torn down last summer (1962).

Mrs. Lola B. Giesler was the first teacher in the new building in 1911. The enrollment was now 32 students in grades one through nine. Some of the older children were taught Botany, Zoology, Ancient History and Literature. The new school immediately became a community center. A very active Literary Society was organized.

On October 31, at a Halloween party, names were suggested for the new school. Some suggestions were "People's School", "Our Progress", and "Mountain View". The name Mountain View received over two-thirds of the votes.

May I summarize by saying that the Mountain View School was born of high ideals. The school had its early beginning from a desire of people in a community to work together. To build for a better educated community.

The future of our present school rests upon these same ideals as were held by the community leaders in the years 1909-1911.

Now, as we are gathered here today to formally dedicate our new building, we, the students of Mountain View School, wish to express our thanks to our parents, the faculty, the board of education, and to Dr. Spain for the excellent opportunities provided us.

We hereby pledge our honest efforts to make the most of the opportunities provided us. Thank you.

From Helen Chavez, community member and longtime volunteer