

Glendale High School

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THE FIRST 100 YEARS

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LTHOUGH THE FIRST GLENDALE public school dates back to 1879, high school classes in this area did not have their own quarters until the fall of 1901. That's when the Glendale Union High School District was formed and Glendale High School officially began.

Trustees from seven local and neighboring elementary school districts — Glendale, West Glendale, Tropic, La Crescenta, Eagle Rock, Ivanhoe and Burbank — comprised the first Glendale Union High School Board of Education in 1901-02.

An average of 23 students, some traveling from miles around on horseback, were in their places each day. Llewellyn Evans was the first principal, and three teachers served on the faculty. They met in the dining room of the majestic Glendale Hotel (later becoming the Glendale Sanitarium), for about 15 months until a permanent high school was built.

Operation costs at the hotel totaled \$3,200, including \$305 for classroom furniture.

Constructed during a building boom in 1886-87, the Glendale Hotel was a four-story, late-Victorian architectural landmark and could be seen for miles. It fronted on Fourth Street (now Broadway) between I and J Streets (Isabel and Jackson), site of Glendale's new police department headquarters.

In 1902, competition was brisk between Glendale and Tropic, a separate community about a mile to the south,



The "Cheese Box" (1902-09)

for a permanent high school campus. The cost of land posed a challenge. A group of Glendale business leaders came to the rescue and purchased 2 1/2 acres of prime land on the southeast corner of Brand and Broadway (where Border's Books & Music is today) and offered it at no charge to the school board.

With property in hand, the board asked for a \$10,000 bond measure for construction, and voters responded with a 237-17 approval. In

September 1902, the cornerstone was laid for a two-story, wooden frame school house, and it was completed in only three months. The exterior was painted bright yellow, and students nicknamed their school, aptly, the "cheese box."

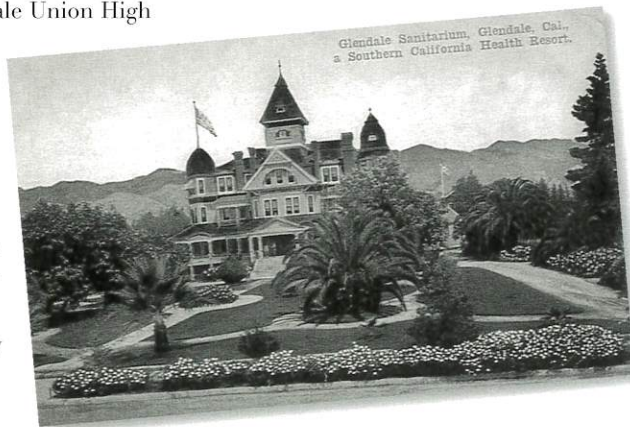
A new principal, George Ulysses Moyses, was hired and began 35 years at the helm of Glendale High.

His starting pay was \$120 a month, while teachers earned \$75 to \$90. Moyses would later become superintendent of the high school district and Glendale College.

In 1903, an adjacent shed was added to accommodate those who rode their horses to school.

By 1907, enrollment in the "cheese box" increased to more than 100, and more classroom space was needed. The block at Central Avenue and Broadway was leased for an athletic field.

The Glendale Union High School District kept its initial form until late 1907 when Burbank withdrew and organized separately. Annexations to Los Angeles removed the Ivanhoe district in 1910 and Eagle Rock in 1923.



POSTCARD ABOVE:

The former Glendale Hotel, where Glendale High School began (1901)

YEAR	LITERARY	LITERARY—SCIENTIFIC	SCIENTIFIC	MECHANIC ARTS	HOUSEHOLD ARTS	MUSIC AND ART	COMMERCIAL
NINTH	1 English 2 Algebra 3 Latin 4 Ancient History 4 Freehand Drawing 4 Music	1 English 2 Algebra 3 Latin 3 Spanish 4 Ancient History 4 General Science 4 Freehand Drawing 4 Music	1 English 2 Algebra 3 General Science 4 Spanish 4 Drawing	1 English 2 Algebra 3 Wood working 3 General Science 4 Drawing	1 English 2 Sewing and Drawing 3 General Science 4 Latin or Spanish 4 Ancient History	1 English 2 Latin or Spanish 3 Ancient History 4 Music	1 English 2 Spelling, Penmanship and Correspondence (½), Com. Arithmetic (½) 3 General Science 3 Algebra 4 Woodworking 4 Drawing or Music
TENTH	1 English 2 Plane Geometry 3 Latin 4 Mediaeval and Modern History 4 Freehand Drawing 4 Music	1 English 2 Plane Geometry 3 Latin 3 Spanish 4 Mediaeval and Modern History 4 Botany or Physiology 4 Freehand Drawing 4 Music	1 English 2 Plane Geometry 3 Botany or Physiology 4 Spanish 4 Drawing	1 English 2 Plane Geometry 3 Adv. Woodworking 3 Freehand Work 4 Botany or Physiology 4 Mechanical Drawing	1 English 2 Cooking and Sewing 3 Physiology and Nursing 4 Latin or Spanish 4 Mediaeval and Modern History 4 Algebra	1 English 2 Latin or Spanish 3 Algebra or Physiology 4 Drawing and Design 4 Music	1 English 2 Bookkeeping 3 Geometry or Spanish 3 Botany or Physiology 4 Woodworking 4 Drawing or Music

Partial list of classes available to students (1911-12)

FIRST BRICK SCHOOLHOUSE

Meanwhile, back in 1907, a \$60,000 bond measure was recommended by the school board for a new, larger school, and voters approved it in April 1908. Enrollment had increased to about 150 students.

Passage of the bond measure allowed for the purchase of land on Harvard Street (site of today's Glendale Central Library) and the design and construction of a distinguished looking two-story brick building. Facing Harvard and resembling the White House, it marked the first departure from the wooden school houses of past years.

The year was 1909, and the Glendale High faculty had swelled to 10 teachers, principal Moyle and vice principals Ethel Hume Flood Moyle and A.L. Ferguson.

It was the inaugural year of The Oratorical, where grade levels competed in speech, tableaux and spirit — a tradition that still remains a highlight of the school year.

Recommended courses of study during that era were “well adapted to the student’s needs,” according to the literature of the time. Students could select from seven instructional “strands”: literary, literary-scientific, and scientific, which were college preparatory; mechanical arts, household arts, music and art, and commercial.

English, American History and Civics, and “gymnasium” were the only required subjects for all students during their high school years.

Each grade level offered a variety of electives. The vast majority of electives, ranging from advanced mathematics and social sciences to pure sciences and the visual and performing arts, remain as staples in today’s instructional program. A few of the courses, such as forge and foundry, agriculture, and penmanship/correspondence, were reflective of that era.

With Glendale entering two decades of tumultuous growth (the population grew by nearly 60,000), it wasn’t long before the Harvard property was overcrowded. Two permanent buildings were added, along with wooden bungalows.

By 1920, it was apparent the Harvard site would be unable to accommodate many more students. The area bordered by Harvard, Maryland and Louise streets was already feeling the squeeze of an expanding business district along nearby Brand Boulevard.

BROADWAY AND VERDUGO ROAD

A solution emerged in the form of a 21-acre lemon orchard belonging to J.P. Lukens. The property was located east of downtown, at Broadway and Verdugo Road. Another successful bond measure raised \$85,000 for the land and \$600,000 for construction and furnishings.

January 1924 marked the grand opening of the new



POSTCARD ABOVE:
Where the Glendale Central Library stands today (1909-24)



PHOTO AT LEFT:
Spanish Colonial Revival ornamentation graces the main entrance (1924)

school, a Spanish Colonial Revival design by architects John C. Austin, Frederic M. Ashley and George M. Lindsey featuring graceful archways and a picturesque bell tower of brick and multi-colored tile.

Meanwhile, the school on Harvard Street continued in use until 1937. For a time, ninth-graders continued to attend classes there. The Harvard site also was the first home of Glendale College. An earthquake in November 1933, however, damaged the buildings so severely that college classes were forced to meet in tents for three years until their new campus opened on North Verdugo Road.

Community pride in the new Glendale High was evident from opening day. An expansive lawn fronting on Broadway provided an attractive area often used for school and community events.

Another popular place on campus for students and the community was the football stadium, actually opened in 1923 before school construction was completed and named for longtime principal Moyses. In its inaugural year, Coach Normal Hayhurst's team won its first seven games, then lost to Long Beach High for the Southern California championship. (Hayhurst became the Glendale Unified School District's superintendent from 1947-55.)

Also a prime spot was the auditorium, which seated about 2,000 people and was used for many community events as well as school functions.



Entrance to the main building from Broadway; circa 1930s

A FAMOUS GRADUATE

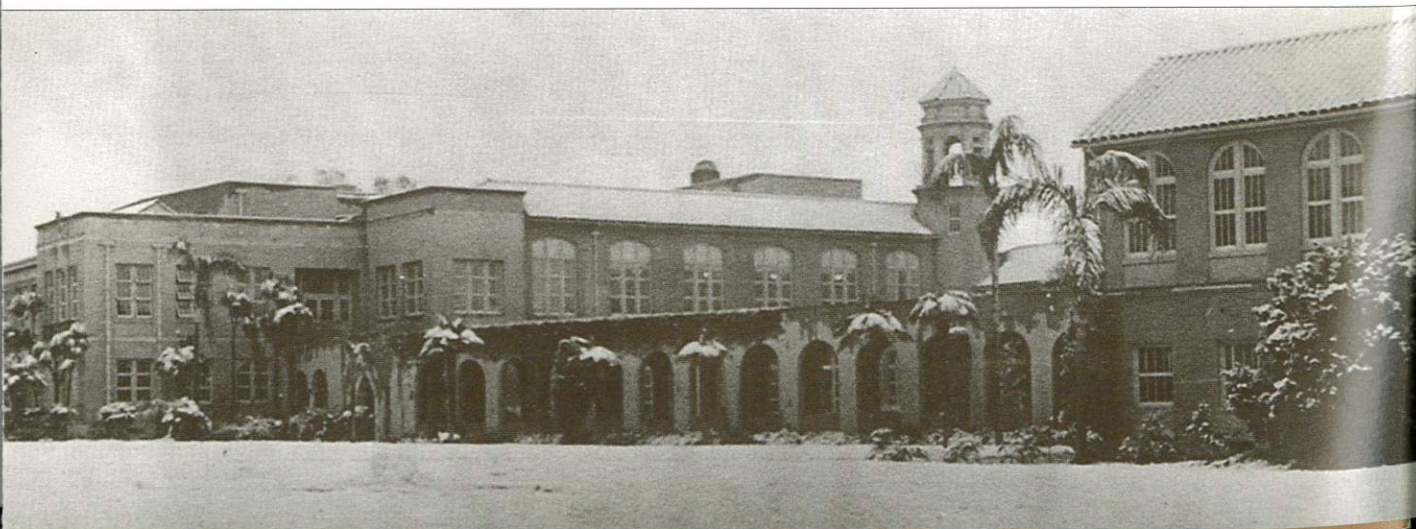


Among the students who performed on the auditorium stage during those years was Marion Morrison (Class of '25), noted in the *Stylus* yearbook for his accomplishments in drama and athletics. As John Wayne, he became Glendale High's most illustrious graduate, appearing in more than 100 films and earning recognition as one of

Hollywood's best known and most popular screen heroes.

By the late 1920s, the burgeoning population swept into the northwestern neighborhoods of the city. A second high school, named for then-President Herbert Hoover, was constructed on Glenwood Road and opened in September 1929. For the first time Glendale had a crosstown rival, and nowhere was competition more spirited than in football. The Glendale-Hoover gridiron match, one of the oldest in California, remains an annual highlight for both the Dynamiters and Tornadoes.

1949 snowstorm blankets campus



*One of Glendale's most recognized
architectural landmarks for more than 40 years*



Beginning in 1932, GHS began to serve a dual role as the home of Woodrow Wilson Junior High. The junior high program for grades 7-9 occupied a part of the school until a separate Wilson campus opened in 1955.

In 1936, the Glendale Unified School District was formed. Following a series of consolidations, elementary, junior high, senior high and junior college programs were governed by a single school board.

During the next three decades, principals who guided Glendale High were Elon Hildreth, 1937-49; Adelia Sallstrom, 1949-53; and Donald Golder, 1953-64.

A third district high school, Crescenta Valley, opened in 1960-61, much to the delight of families in the Montrose and La Crescenta area. Years of high-schoolers traveling "down the hill" to Glendale or Hoover were finally over.

One tragic night in 1964, fire caused major damage to Glendale High's main building. Fire officials said the probable cause was arson.

The same year, voters approved a \$20 million bond measure that included demolition and reconstruction of nearly all buildings on the Glendale and Hoover campuses. The school board decided that deterioration was too extensive — some of the cause dated back to the 1933 earthquake — and moved ahead with plans to complete both projects in 1968.

BELL TOWER BECOMES A MEMORY

Demolition of the Glendale High bell tower was one of the community's most photographed scenes that year. W. Roberts Pedrick (1965-70) served as principal when the new school debuted, a more contemporary design by architect Adrian Wilson.

About all that remained of the original buildings were the west bleachers at Moyse Field. Those were demolished and rebuilt in time for the 1975 football season — and in time for the school's 75th anniversary celebration, which coincided with the traditional Glendale-Hoover football game in the fall of 1976. Sam Harvey was principal, succeeding Dr. Pedrick. Harvey served for 21 years as the school's top administrator and more than 40 years in the school district. To commemorate Harvey's retirement in 1991, the baseball field was named in his honor.

Jim Gibson, an administrator in the Burbank Schools whose expertise included successful ways to integrate new technology into the instructional program, was selected to succeed Harvey as principal and served until 1996.

Under Gibson's leadership, a ninth grade was added for the first time since Wilson Junior High had occupied the campus 40 years prior. It was part of a districtwide transition to four-year high schools. And, to help accommodate about 800 additional students, a 35-classroom building was constructed and blended nicely into the mid-1960s style. The new building housed some of the district's most technologically advanced classrooms.

Current building on Broadway under construction with bell tower at right (circa 1967)



The final decades of the century brought much more to GHS than additional students and a new building. Many long-standing traditions were maintained or surpassed. The *Explosion* newspaper and *Stylus* yearbook captured numerous national awards from the Columbia University Scholastic Press Assn. Speech and debate team members were recognized in competition throughout the state. National Merit Scholarship finalists emerged from the senior class nearly every year, and all-league and all-CIF athletes excelled in a variety of sports.

Meanwhile, the auditorium, part of the reconstruction, was one of the busiest places on campus for school and community events. In fact, during the past 15 years it has become one of the most active venues of its type in Southern California, with 120 program dates annually. The auditorium seats 1,559 and, beyond educational and community scheduling, plays host to performers from throughout the world. It also offers students a technical theater training program that rivals any high school experience in the country.

NEARING ITS CENTENNIAL

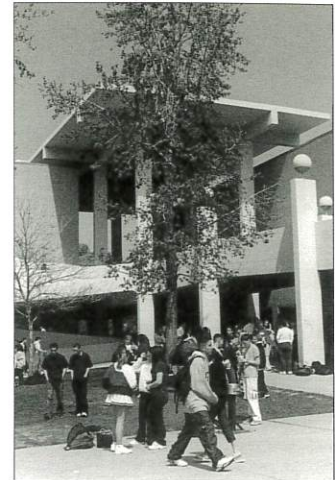
By 1996-97, more than 3,700 students were on Glendale High's rolls. To administer high school instructional program and campus operations more efficiently districtwide, dual principalships were implemented at Crescenta Valley, Glendale and Hoover.

Gloria Vasquez, formerly principal at Toll Middle School, came aboard as Glendale's new principal in 1996. Mike Livingston, an assistant principal on campus, joined Vasquez as co-principal the following year.

As the new millennium approached, greater accountability, tougher curriculum standards, and higher-stakes student testing were issues confronting public education statewide. Among the many focuses of the Glendale High faculty was working on ways to make students' experiences more personalized in a large campus setting. During the 2000-01 school year, an important step toward that goal was initiated with the help of a federally-funded Smaller Learning Communities Grant.

Early in 2001 the school was honored by the Music Center of Los Angeles County with the BRAVO Award — the equivalent in arts education of winning an Oscar®.

What better way to kick off Glendale High's centennial than staging the largest reunion in the school's history! Current and former students and faculty, along with community members, are invited to gather on Moyse Field on May 19, 2001, for an afternoon of activities and reminiscing. It's fitting to celebrate in a place named for the educator who was principal when Glendale High took the first steps into history.

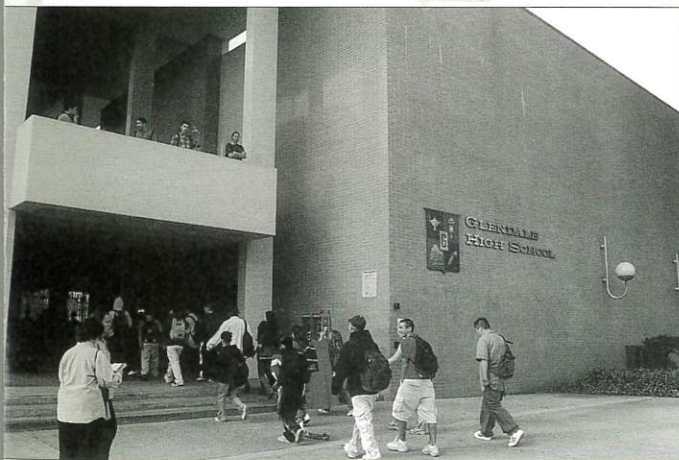


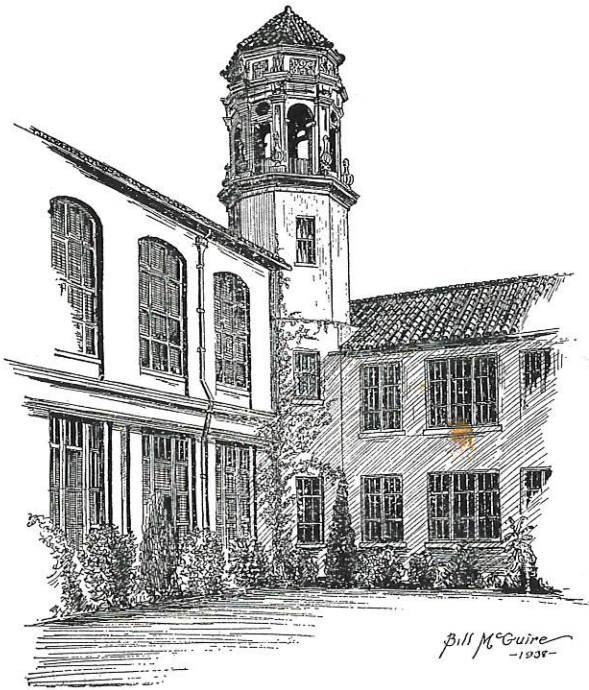
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