

To Mom
from Jeannette
Jan 2003

Jeanette Elliott
Rm 254 at
Rosemont assisted Living

Arcadia, Texas

1890-1978

Jeanette's Mom + Dad were:

Ella Walters + Ike ~~(Ike)~~ Brandon

Charles C. Meek

2002

409-925-3009

Jeanette's Grandma was

Amelia _____ + Gus Walters

Editing and Production Management

Mary Jo Brennan

281-996-4116

The Ward's were from Oklahoma

~~Ike Brandon~~
~~Jeanette Elliott~~

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Preface

Anyone who mentions “the old days” is sure to be told, “You ought to write a book.” Well, **somebody** has to do it, so here it is – a century’s worth of old Arcadia.

In one sense, this book is a tribal memoir, an account of experiences shared over several generations. It is truly remarkable that so many families who settled in Arcadia had had dealings with each other in other places – North Carolina, Tennessee, north and central Texas. Of course, that’s not entirely true – the Poworses were from Maine by way of Kansas, the Gilberts from Pennsylvania. But it is true that the family groups that stayed in Arcadia had an amazing number of interlocking family connections, not enough to damage the gene pool (generally), but enough to validate the belief that you still have to be careful what you say – either favorable or critical – about almost anybody. The body of shared experiences produced by communal living needs to be preserved, to help us to remember that (in the words of the Future Farmers Creed) “the better things we now enjoy have come up to us from the struggles of former years.”

Another strand of this book consists of hard facts, dug out of old records and accounts, that make living in a place more interesting: who tried what business enterprises, who tried which crops. Which school principal kept the revolver in his desk (we know, but we still won’t tell), what homestead once stood where each circle of sycamores or oaks stands, which streets platted in 1890 were still unpaved during the Second World War, who entertained whom at The White Horse Inn.

The collection of pictures reproduced here touches on almost all aspects of life in a farming community and calls back a world that has now largely disappeared.

Finally, the abbreviated family trees of over a hundred related groups can help preserve the memory of some who are long gone, and show the relationships between many groups. They are arranged alphabetically within the period of each family’s first appearance on census records. Most of the names of individuals who never lived in this area are marked with asterisks.

Many people who loved Arcadia have made contributions to this work. We hope you will find pleasure in it.

Charles C. Meek
Arcadia, Texas, A. D. 2002

In the Beginning . . .

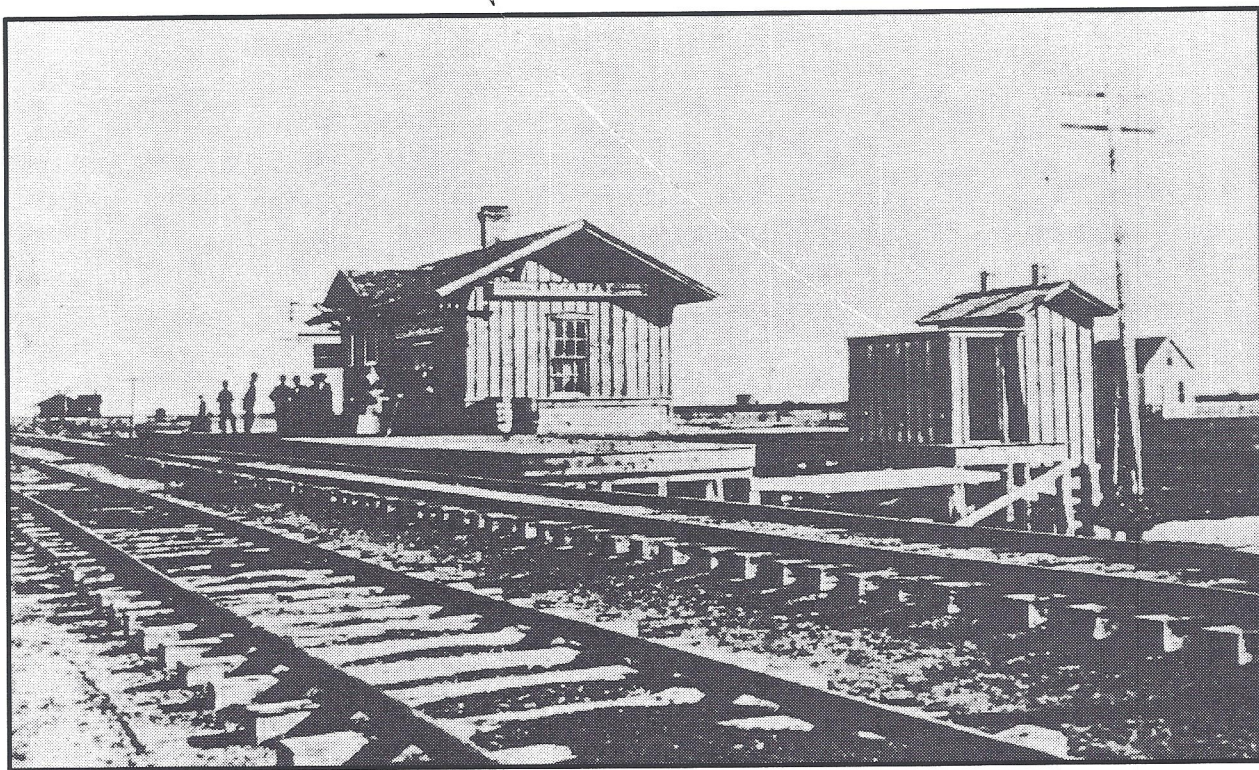


Figure 1. Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe Depot, Arcadia, early 1890's

The area of the Galveston County mainland now adjacent to the Santa Fe Railroad remained largely unoccupied until the 1890's. Before the Civil War a few families settled on Highland Bayou near what is now Hitchcock, where they farmed, transporting their crops by boat to Galveston. Several families also settled on Hall's Bayou near the timber line. These included the Halls, Perrys, Heinsons, and Owenses. They too transported produce down the bayou and across the bay to Galveston. Following the Civil War, several families began extensive cattle-ranching on the vast grassland.

It was the construction of the Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe railroad through the higher

empty plain between Hall's and Dickinson bayous in the middle 1870's that led to the establishment of four towns on the Galveston County Mainland along the line by the end of the century: Hitchcock, Alta Loma, Arcadia, and Algoa. Galveston business interests, in order to meet Houston's trade competition more effectively, built the new line from Galveston northwestward, spawning new towns through the undeveloped country as it went: Alvin, Sealy, Rosenberg, Temple, etc., completely bypassing both Houston and Harris County. Many of the towns were established by or named for Santa Fe officials and stockholders. In Alvin, the east-west streets of the original townsite are Galveston Santa Fe names: Willis, Sealy, Adoue, Blum.

located the new town of Arcadia. This will break the long run between Hitchcock and Alvin. Arcadia is to be laid out in town lots, and from the impetus given real estate values in Galveston County by the present encouraging report of the deep water movement, the sale of these lots will be quite interesting to real estate men. The thrift of the surrounding towns, Alvin and Hitchcock, argues well for the future of the particularly named Arcadia.”

Advertisements in *The News* during the week preceding March 19, 1890, announced a public sale of town lots, “surrounded by rich black loam and sandy lands, susceptible of highest cultivation, raising strawberries from \$700 to \$900 per acre; pears and grapes, \$600 to \$1000 per acre. The land is all sub-irrigated at a depth of 6 feet, and therefore free from results of drouth. These lands, owing to climate (for it rarely freezes here), to the sub-irrigation and to the healthful location, are more productive than any other lands in this state.” An excursion train to the sale site

was to leave Galveston at 9:30 A. M. on March 19, round-trip fare 50 cents, a fare good for any train to and from the site.

On March 20, 1890, *The News* reported on the event: “The special train carrying bidders and others to the ground left at 9:30 A. M. The train was made up of three coaches, carrying nearly 100 passengers. This party was joined by quite a contingent from Alvin, Hitchcock and other points on the mainland contiguous to Arcadia, swelling the total number attending the sale to about 150. Lots were sold by reference to a large canvas map. The majority of buyers took from two to four lots. Of the acreage property in ten-acre lots about 200 acres were sold. The entire sale netted \$16,282.” It is interesting that this amount is almost exactly the sum Mr. Runge had paid the previous year for the entire 4,428 acres of the Mary Austin League, the southwest corner of which almost touches the east side of the Arcadia townsite.

Henry J. Runge

Henry J. Runge, founder of Arcadia, was a member of a distinguished Galveston German-American family. His father, Henry Runge, a native of Bremen, had settled first in Baltimore, then in New Orleans, and finally in Indianola in 1845. There, his wife, Julia Hornung, gave birth to Henry J. Runge in 1859. During the Civil War the pair moved their family to New Braunfels, where there were other members of the Runge family. There were other members of the Runge family. Henry Runge moved his business to Galveston in 1866. He engaged in importing coffee, liquors and groceries through the firm of Kauffman & Runge, which also became one of the largest cotton-exporting firms in Galveston, shipping cotton to Mexico, England, France, Germany and Russia (Kauffman & Runge Papers, Archives, Rosenberg Library). The present Stewart Title Building at 22nd and Mechanic in Galveston was built as the firm's headquarters in 1881.

Following the elder Mr. Runge's death in 1874, his widow moved back to Germany, where her children were educated. One daughter remained in Germany, but Henry J., his brother Louis, and his sister Johanna returned to Galveston. Johanna married her cousin, Julius Runge of New Braunfels, but the couple settled in Galveston.

Henry J. Runge, who never married, became active in many business activities besides Kauffman and Runge, at one time or another serving as a director of Galveston Wharves, president of Galveston Gas Co., a member of the Cotton Exchange, president of First National Bank, and president of Texas Land and Loan Co. He was prominent in social life, long active in the Garten Verein, and president of the Aziola Club, a literary and social organization of the day. At the

time of his death in 1922, he was a director of several oil companies (*GDN*, May 6, 1922).

Mr. Runge's land acquisitions and sales reached many parts of the state. Just prior to his founding of Arcadia, he purchased the entire Mary Austin League. On Sep. 12, 1895, *The Galveston Daily News* noted: "Mr. Sias is now at work surveying and dividing the Mary Austin League for Mr. H. J. Runge."

Mr. Runge took a continuing personal interest in Arcadia, beyond his gifts to the town of sites for a public park, a church, a cemetery, and a school. He was said to have worked personally in the erection of the original wooden school, and in the planting of the first live oaks at the public park (named for him many years later). The Runge family, Henry J., Louis, and Julius and Joanna, owned a country place on the west side of Cemetery Road at Pine, and a 5-acre pear orchard across Cemetery Road. After H. J. Runge's death in 1922, the house was used as a rental property, and stood until 1952, when the Morris Sikes family bought the site. On the east side of Cemetery Road, a single survivor of the onetime orchard blooms erratically, still producing crops of pears after a century and more.

Henry J. Runge continued to entertain friends at the White Horse Inn for many years. A Feb. 1914 item in the *Mainland Messenger* noted: "Mr. H. J. Runge and Mrs. Taylor of Galveston, accompanied by four little girls spent Saturday in Arcadia. They visited the Arcadia schoolhouse in the morning and in the afternoon they took Kodak pictures." How sweet it is to found a community in the morning of life, to watch over it as it grows, then near the end of life, to visit the schoolhouse in the morning, and in the afternoon take Kodak pictures.

What's in a Name? – *Arcadia*

Pastoral poetry, based on the stories of shepherds, arose in ancient Greece out of the worship of nature deities. Originally the poetry was centered on these deities, but gradually shifted its focus to the life of shepherds in a rural setting. Since these nature cults had flourished in the mountainous, wooded central portion of the Peloponnese - that is, Arcadia - that name came to be associated with such poetry, as popularized in Greece by Theocritus and in Rome by Virgil. An underlying theme came to be that characters and settings stripped down to simple persons and places, can offer a more valid comment on the problems of life, than can stories told against the background of the complicated societies of cities. Thus *Arcadia* came to be associated with the simple, more valid life of the country.

Arcadia as a title came into literature in the early sixteenth century, with Jacopo Sannazaro's *Arcadia*, in which the hero (as seen by Arthur Livingstone two generations ago in *Encyclopedia Americana*), "driven wandering by love, goes breathing the sighs of his melancholy spirit through the groves of Arcadia, inhabited by the most erudite, aesthetic and delicately sensualistic shepherds imaginable." Sannazaro's romance had a number of imitators in several European literatures, and entered English literature in Sir Phillip Sidney's *Old Arcadia* at the end of the sixteenth century. The tone for future use of the name was set in the opening words of the work: "Arcadia among all the provinces of Greece was ever had in singular reputation, partly for the sweetness of the air and other natural benefits, but principally for the moderate and well-tempered minds of the people who . . . were the only people which . . . gave neither cause nor hope to their neighbors to annoy them." A nineteenth century real-estate developer could not have said it better. And it fit in wondrously well with the Jeffersonian dream of

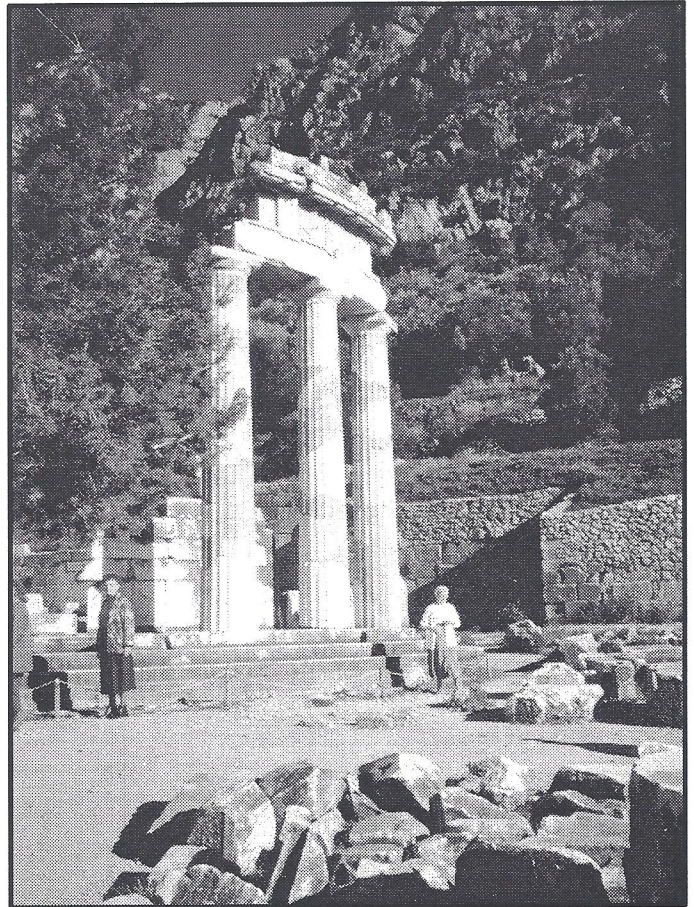


Figure 1.

an America based on an educated, self-governing, rural agriculture-based society, free from the evils of great cities.

Henry Runge, with a Continental education, well knew the connotations of "Arcadia," as did dozens of other speculators and developers of the time. It had such efforts as "Pleasant Valley" and "Roaring Springs" beaten hands down, so much so that the 1996 Rand-McNally Road Atlas still listed six states in the U. S. with Arcadias, not counting perhaps a half-dozen other states where Arcadias still exist although not listed, and perhaps another dozen that, like Texas, have lost their Arcadias.

Make No Small Plans

It is not known who devised the layout for the town of Arcadia, but it is an extremely efficient one. The central core is a six-by-eight block grid of 300'-square blocks, divided by 80' streets. The plan is set square with the tracks of the Santa Fe, which bisects what would be a central tier of blocks, with the main street, Jackson Avenue, perpendicular to the tracks, with three blocks to the east and three blocks to the west of it. Jackson has a 120' right-of-way, the same width as Twenty-fifth Street in Galveston. It is the only street to cross the railroad. The depot was on the south side of the tracks on the west side of Jackson. The east-west streets, beginning with the most northerly, are numbered, First through Eighth, except for the two flanking the railroad, Ida Bee and Beriton.

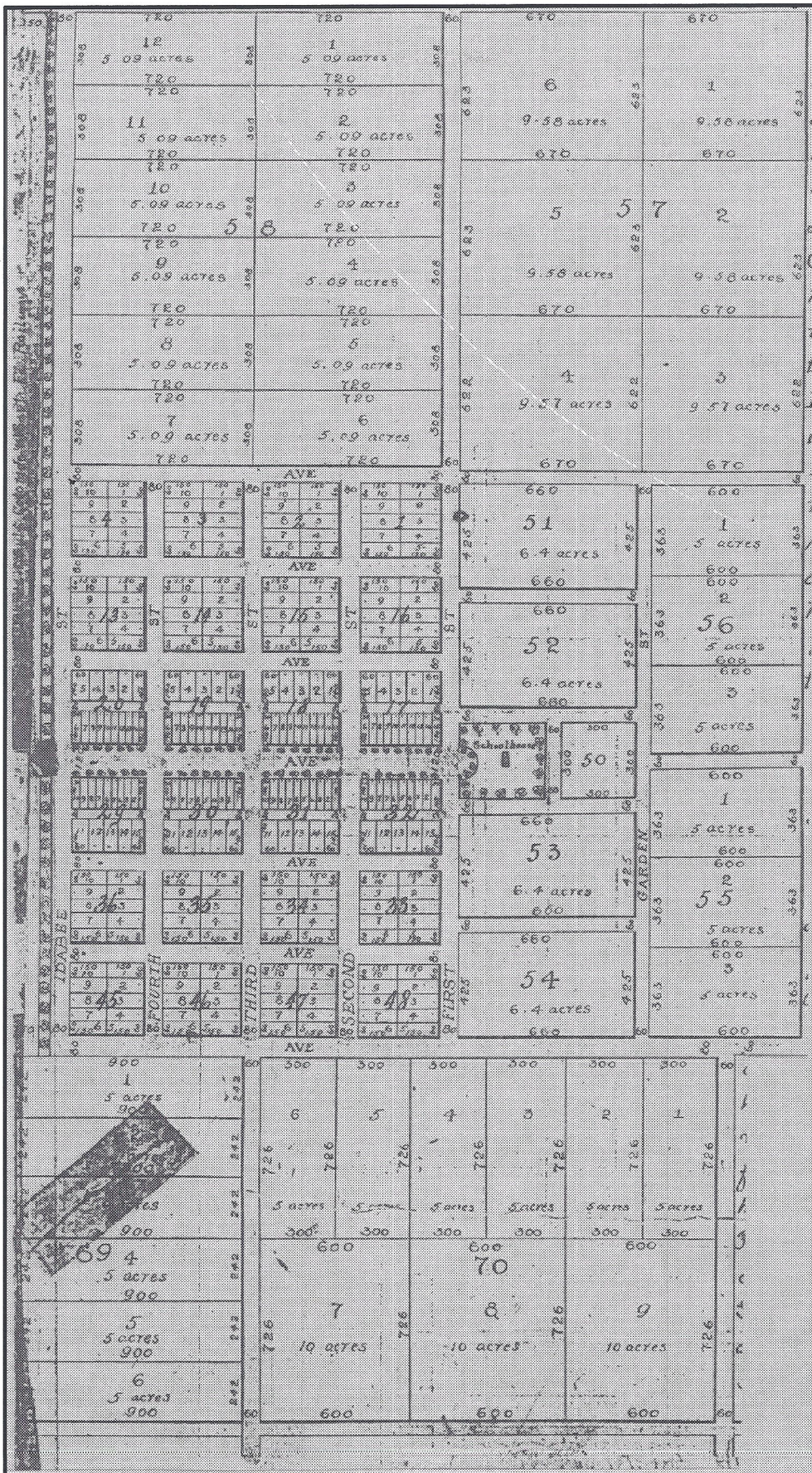
The north-south streets are labeled avenues (from west to east, Scott, Downey, Terry, Jackson, Peck, Frost, and Cark), and are named for persons somehow associated with the founding of the town. Jackson no doubt is T. W. Jackson, chief land agent for the Santa Fe. J. Wharton Terry was the chief legal counsel of the Santa Fe; his large tract of land west of the townsite would become the site of a lake and farm. H. L. Downey and W. A. Frost each bought two town lots on the opening day sale, but since the streets were already named, they must have been investors in the project. Scott, Peck, Cark, Ida Bee and Beriton have yet to be positively identified. C. E. Angell is listed in the plat as co-owner of the land, but his role in the partnership is not clear.

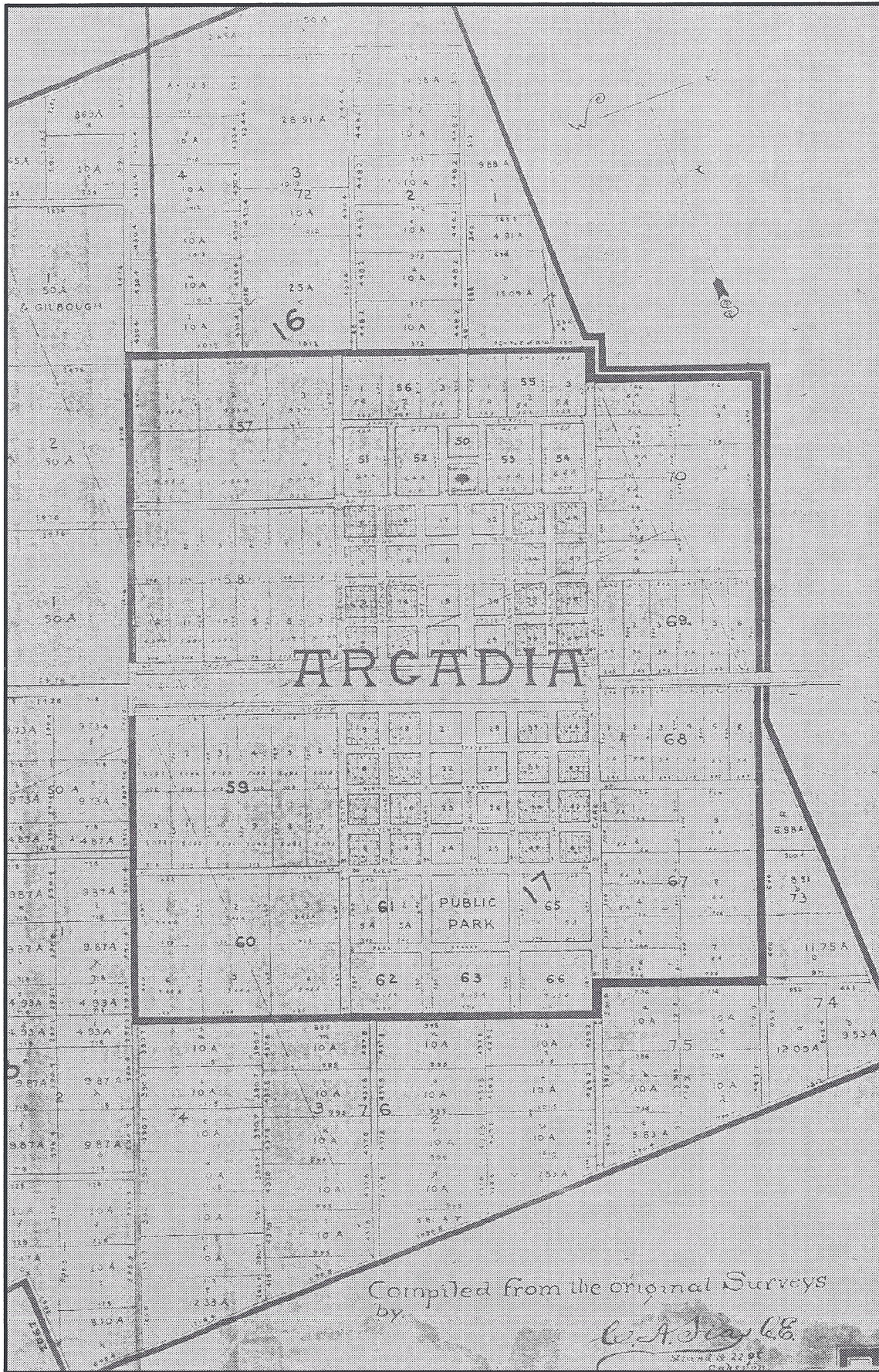
In the central core, each block was divided into ten lots, facing north and south, except along each side of Jackson Avenue, where each block had a 20' north-south alley, and the lots faced east and west. The block fronts facing directly on

Jackson were divided into ten 30' lots, indicating this was intended as the business street. Since the undivided strip of land along each side of the tracks was not marked off into lots, it must have then been a part of the railway right-of-way, except the strip extending along the south side of the tracks, which was reserved for public use. This is where the Thelma Webber Community Center now stands.

Outside the central core are 22 large blocks, divided into lots varying from 5 to 10 acres. These blocks are ranged on all four sides of the central rectangle, with the largest acreage on the west, extending to Elm Road. Road rights-of-way in this section are 60'. At the north end of Jackson Avenue was a 2½-acre plot set aside for a school house. At the foot of the street was a 10-acre tract reserved for a public park. Having the main street set within the bounds of these two public spaces about 2/3 of a mile apart, gives a compactness and human scale to the plan that continues to make it a comfortable space.

One year after the establishment of Arcadia, the Angell-Runge Addition to the Town of Arcadia was platted. This is a modified rectangular area, surrounding the original townsite on the north, west and south, once more with the greatest extent being to the west. The interior roads and the blocks are set square with the townsite, although many of the roads are not direct continuations of roads within the townsite. The boundaries of the Addition are set square with the compass, creating highly irregular lot shapes and sizes at the outer perimeter of the Addition. The 20 blocks are divided into lots varying from 5 acres to 50 acres. The majority of the lots are about 10 acres. Nine of them are 50-acre lots, apparently already reserved to investors. Roads within the Addition were platted on a 60' right-of-way.





The White Horse Inn



Figure 1. White Horse Inn

In 1896, in order to house and entertain prospective land purchasers and business travelers, Mr. Runge had Galveston contractor John Polinard construct The White Horse Inn on the northwest corner of Ida Bee and Frost. The building was to remain one of the most prominent landmarks in the community for forty years.

The inn faced south, so that its full front and side elevations were readily seen from passenger trains passing on the Santa Fe. The

station was about two and a half blocks away, on Jackson Avenue on the south side of the tracks. The inn was two-storied, with a hipped roof and a south frontage of about 80 feet, divided into seven bays. A similar wing extended north along Frost Street, its central two bays projecting about four feet and topped with a gabled pediment. A first-floor porch extended the full width of the main front. The building apparently was painted a light color, with white trim and darker louvered shutters on all the windows.

In the 1910 U. S. Census Malcolm and Louise Russick are listed as proprietors of the Inn. They were thoroughly-trained innkeepers from Austria-Hungary. During these years, Oscar Link was the chef. His food attracted a large and influential clientele for the restaurant. The White Horse's period of greatest documented popularity coincided with the time of World War I. After the opening of the Galveston Causeway in 1912, the county road along the Santa Fe connecting the Hitchcock, Alta Loma, Arcadia, and Algoa communities with Alvin and Galveston was passable for automobile traffic, although the journey over the oyster shell road was still something of an adventure. Mr. Runge's continued interest in the Inn helped it to maintain a following of patrons whose names are still familiar today. They came for weekend excursions to the country by automobile or train. The *Mainland Messenger* reported many items such as these:

Aug. 3, 1913. "Mr. and Mrs. Moritz O. Kopperl of 1003 24th Street, Galveston, celebrated their fifteenth wedding anniversary on Sunday evening by giving an informal dinner party to a number of friends at the White Horse Inn, Arcadia. 28 invited guests were present."

Feb. 4, 1914. "Saturday night Mr. John Sealy of Galveston entertained a party of eight with seven o'clock dinner."

Feb. 21, 1914. "Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Kempner entertained a party of nine at seven o'clock dinner. On the 29th Miss Stuart of Houston brought four friends from the Galvez Hotel and entertained with a 7 o'clock dinner. Mr. Jules Muller from Galveston entertained a party of 8 at 7 o'clock dinner. Afterwards they attended the dance at the Oleander Country Club [Dickinson]. Dr. Haden of Galveston entertained a party of 10 at 1:00 dinner Sunday."



Figure 3. White Horse Inn, North Half of East Side. Isobel Hill and Jim Hervey

If It Grows, Plant Ten Acres

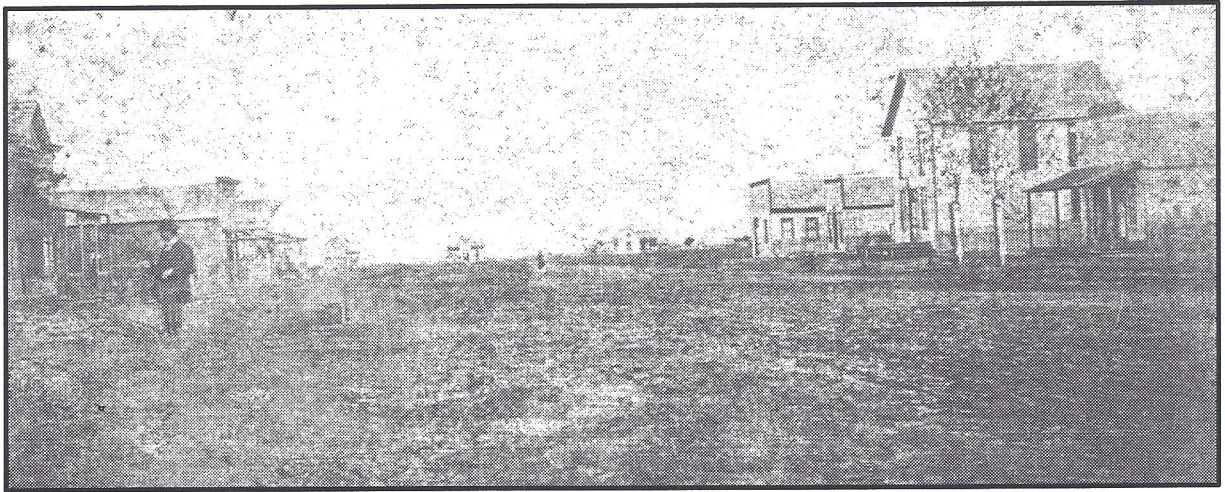


Figure 1. Jackson Avenue, looking north toward the school, early 1890's

The first advertisements for land at Arcadia boosted it as suitable for pears, strawberries and grapes. The early settlers began to plant pear orchards as early as 1892. Hundreds of acres were planted, and commercial nurseries were established to provide plants. Soon what was to be one of the main problems in each of the agricultural “booms” began to become apparent: Growing a crop is only the first step to success – it must be marketed. As early as Sep. 10, 1896, the *Galveston Daily News* reported, “The need of a practical fruit growers’ association is being felt and the matter of organization in being agitated.”

During the decade scattered *Daily News* items note the progress of the growers: “Keifer pears are now being shipped from here and good prices are realized” (Sep. 10, 1896). “Rain is much needed and is necessary in order to secure a fall crop of Irish potatoes” (Sep. 10, 1896). “Rain is much needed, although planting is being done right along. The Keifer pear crop will be light this fall, the fruit not being over two-thirds the usual size” (Sep. 25, 1897).

At first, crops went to market almost exclusively by rail, but after the 1893 completion

of the Wagon Bridge from Virginia Point to Galveston Island, the situation began to change, as noted in an Arcadia item in *The News*, January 18, 1896, “Vegetables are being taken to Galveston by wagon and sold with good profit. This mode of marketing will be carried on still more extensively whenever the county extends the shell road to this place.”

Among the non-resident investors in Arcadia was J. Wharton Terry, chief legal counsel for the Santa Fe, who bought several large tracts of land west of the townsite. The *Galveston Daily News* reported on September 9, 1896, “The artificial lake of J. W. Terry will be the largest lake of the kind probably in the coast country.” Here Mr. Terry set up something of an experimental farm, with a number of buildings, including a weekend home. The *News* reported on September 23, 1896, “Mr. J. W. Terry has secured some expert French and Italian truck farmers and has leased them tracts under cultivation.” This is a reference to the Daura family, newly resettled from Rockport, whose descendants were to remain in the community permanently.



Figure 4. John H. and Nettie Davis Meek

The extent and scope of early plantings is startling today: “Berries and garden crops are being planted extensively. The tenant of Mr. J. W. Terry will have **sixty acres of cabbages** this fall. The fall crop of Irish potatoes will prove very short.” (*GDN*, Nov. 3, 1897).

“Cold waves are becoming frequent and give warning that the small fruit and vegetable planting season is at an end, but this winter will find the farmers here with a good acreage of strawberries well set and thrifty, an abundance of vegetables maturing and a large store of sweet potatoes, peanuts, hay sorghum, etc., laid up where the rains and frosts will not injure them” (*GDN*, Nov. 28, 1897). “Strawberries are beginning to move and are bringing good prices, \$3 to \$4 per crate. The quality of fruit this year is above the average, as the poorer varieties have been dropped by the growers. There was a severe norther last night, but the freezing point was not reached, so no harm is done” (*GDN*, Mar. 4, 1898).



Figure 5. An afternoon at Terry’s Lake



Figure 6. Joseph & Lydia Gilbert



Figure 9. John and Sarah Powers Family
 Row 1. George, Sarah Powers, Hazel, John Milton Powers, Emma
 Row 2. Warren, Maude, Edgar, Murl, Charles, Kitty, Joseph Chester

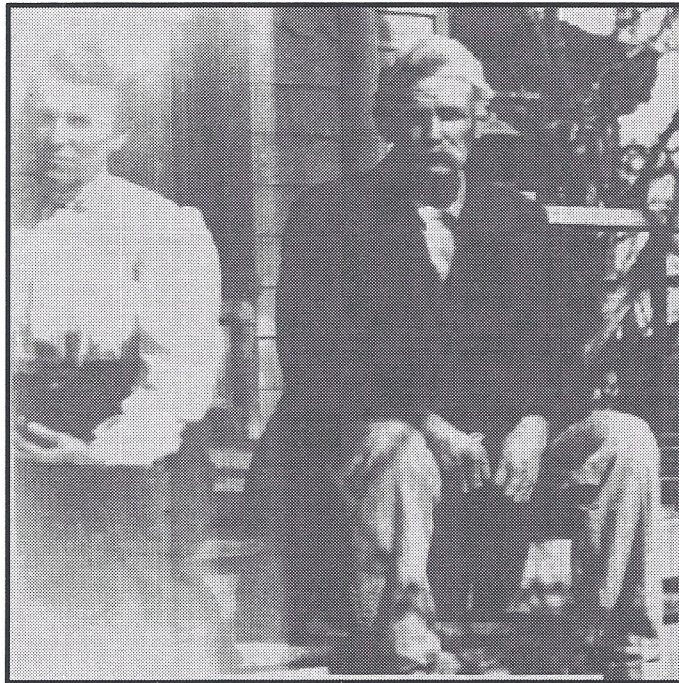


Figure 10. Margaret and David Hill

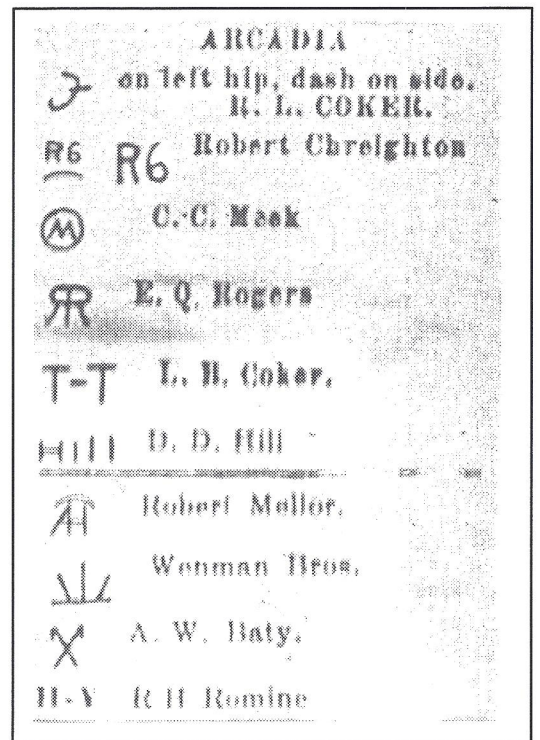


Figure 11. Early registered cattle Brands

The Little Red School House



Figure 1. Arcadia School. 1918-19

No records of the school at Arcadia exist for the period before the Santa Fe Consolidated School District began operations in December 1927. All information must be gathered from dim memories, tattered report cards, newspaper articles, fading snapshots, and a few printed programs of events.

The earliest printed reference yet found to the Arcadia School states that the school was taught in 1894-95 by **Professor P. H. Dawson [Hiram]** (*GDN*, Sep. 12, 1895). Whether this was its first year of operation is not now known with certainty. The building was a frame structure on the 2½-acre tract Henry Runge set aside in the original plat of the town in 1890, at the north end of the main thoroughfare, Jackson Avenue. In all likelihood it was a one room structure, with a

hipped roof, its entrance on the front through a short tower slightly advanced from the façade. It is said the Mr. Runge himself participated in its construction.

In 1895, there came a public dispute. After reporting on September 12, 1895, that “The trustees will in all probability select the former efficient teacher, **Professor P. H. Dawson**, for the Arcadia school,” the *Galveston Daily News* backtracked on September 18: “The school trustees are hanging fire in the selection of a teacher. The community seems to favor a gentleman for teacher, as the school is quite new and the pupils not sufficiently well under control to be readily [indecipherable – *pliable* ?, *pacific* ?], to a lady’s delicate hand.” No further comment is found through October 15th.

The teacher identification for the next two years is conjectural. The 1900 U. S. Census for Arcadia, taken in the first week of June 1900, lists both **Flora Hutchison** and **Harold Baldwin** as “school teacher.” A picture exists labeled “Flora Hutchison, teacher and friend.” (Franks/Meek Family Papers) But the first hard evidence is the signature of **Harold Baldwin** on a report card for the **1901-1902** school year. (Hill, French, Hoffman Family Papers) So it is possible that **Miss Hutchison** was the teacher for **1898-99**, and **Baldwin** for **1899-1900, 1900-1901, and 1901-1902**. However, it is also possible that **Miss Hutchison** taught **1898-1900**, and **Baldwin, 1900-1902**.

On December 22, 1899, Mr. Runge deeded the school site to trustees C. C. Meek, J. A. Heck, and L. B. Coker (Deed Book, Kaufman and Runge Papers). The school, like all other buildings in the town that did not collapse, was damaged in the Great Storm of September 8, 1900. But it was repaired to serve another eleven years.

In **1902-1903 C. W. Campbell** was the teacher for the school, and in **1903-1904, Julia Shirley**. (Signed report cards for Isobel Hill in Hill/French/Hoffman Family Papers)

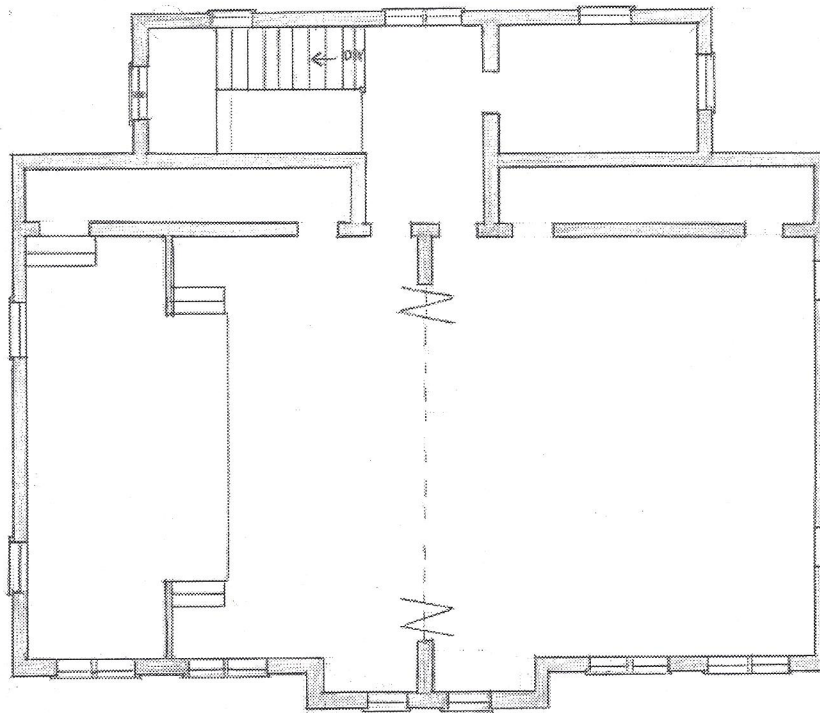


Figure 3. 2nd Floor of Arcadia School

As the summer wore on, progress was reported in *The News*: "Three carloads of brick for the new high school building came in today" (July 11), and, "The schoolhouse is being delayed somewhat by the lack of brick" (Aug. 11).

The 1911-1912 school year began in the old wooden schoolhouse, with a staff of **J. L. Hoshal** and **Miss Bertha Finger** (*GDN*, Jan. 28, 1912). Evidently maintenance of the old building had been neglected in anticipation of the completion of the new structure, because on January 12, 1912, *The News* noted that "the school, which has been closed for several weeks on account of not having a proper place to meet, will open one week from next Monday in the new building." Finally, on February 1, 1912, *The News* announced: "School opened in the new schoolhouse this week. Both teachers and pupils were glad to get to work. There is nothing better to build up a town than a good high school and Arcadia is blessed with a commodious building and a corps of teachers that would be credit to any place."

The Arcadia School is still believed to have been the first brick schoolhouse erected on the Galveston County Mainland. Within three years all the schools except Friendswood put up similar red-brick hipped-roof buildings: Alta Loma, Hitchcock, Algoa, Dickinson, La Marque, Texas City, and San Leon.

The new Arcadia school had a commanding presence, standing well back on its site at the head of Jackson Avenue. It had a moderately-pitched hipped roof. The central pavilion advanced about four feet from the front wall, rose several feet above the cornice line, and was surmounted by a Spanish-mission pediment, a flagpole on its crest. The entrance doors were reached from a three-step-high platform leading into a vestibule with four more wide steps up to the central hallway. The corner quoins, segmental-arched entrance and windows, and the base- and beltcourse marking the first floor level

were of buff brick slightly darker than the rosy red of the walls. The entrance featured a large twelve-pane transom window above the doors, and a multi-paned attic window in the gable. A belfry, not visible from the front, was on the roof above the upper stair landing, where a rope hung down for ringing the bell. A favorite prank was to volunteer to ring the bell, then pull the rope so hard that the bell turned over. Then a volunteer was needed to climb out on the roof to turn the bell right side up again.

About 1917, sycamore trees were planted by the Holbert Nursery on each side of the path from First Street to the school entrance. These still stand today. The school purchased the 2½ acre tract directly behind the original schoolyard. Paths led to the toilet buildings northwest of the schoolhouse. At the entrance path from Jackson Avenue was a turnstile, with hanging panels to keep cows from trying to get through. This was later replaced with a step-stile, which became a favorite lounging spot.

A baseball field was laid out behind the school, to the north and east. A clay basketball court was established to the west of the entrance walkway, and a sandpit for jumping events was near the east fence. Playground equipment at the southwest corner of the building, eventually included swings, see-saws, a merry-go-round, and the infamous Giant-strides, a high pole from whose top swiveling chains hung, with hand grips. Children could get a running start, then hoist their feet and swing through the air in a circle about the pole. The only drawback was that when the airman decelerated after coming back to earth, the oyster shell paving could wear through shoe soles in less than a week of recesses.

George Stowe, the architect of the Arcadia School, was one of the most prominent Galveston architects at the turn of the century. Among his designs still standing today are the Galveston Orphans' Home (21st and Avenue M) and the Clarke-Jockusch mansion (18th and Avenue I). A



Figure 6. Miss Daisy Petty, principal, 1916-20

In 1916-1917, Miss Daisy Petty began her four-year tenure as principal. Other faculty members were Miss Teena Smith, Miss Leona Haines, and possibly Miss Ruby Shaw.

At an undetermined time, a stage was installed in the west upstairs classroom, making it possible to turn the second floor into an auditorium by opening the folding doors between the two classrooms. The stage had a canvas backdrop depicting a woodland scene, and a rolldown canvas curtain at the front, with painted curlicues surrounding advertisements for area businesses, and a central panel showing a cow standing in a blue pond in a green meadow. Numerous school and public entertainments were held here over the years.

The 1917-1918 year saw Miss Petty assisted by Miss Eva Smith, Miss Ruby Shaw, Miss Berta Summy, and possible, Mrs. Teena Smith Franks (*GDN*, Sep. 11, 1917; Interview, Clarence Hoffman).

For 1918-1919 the staff consisted of Miss Daisy Petty, Eva Smith (grade 6), Lee Etta Baty (grade 4), Ruby Shaw (Primary), and Althea Smith.

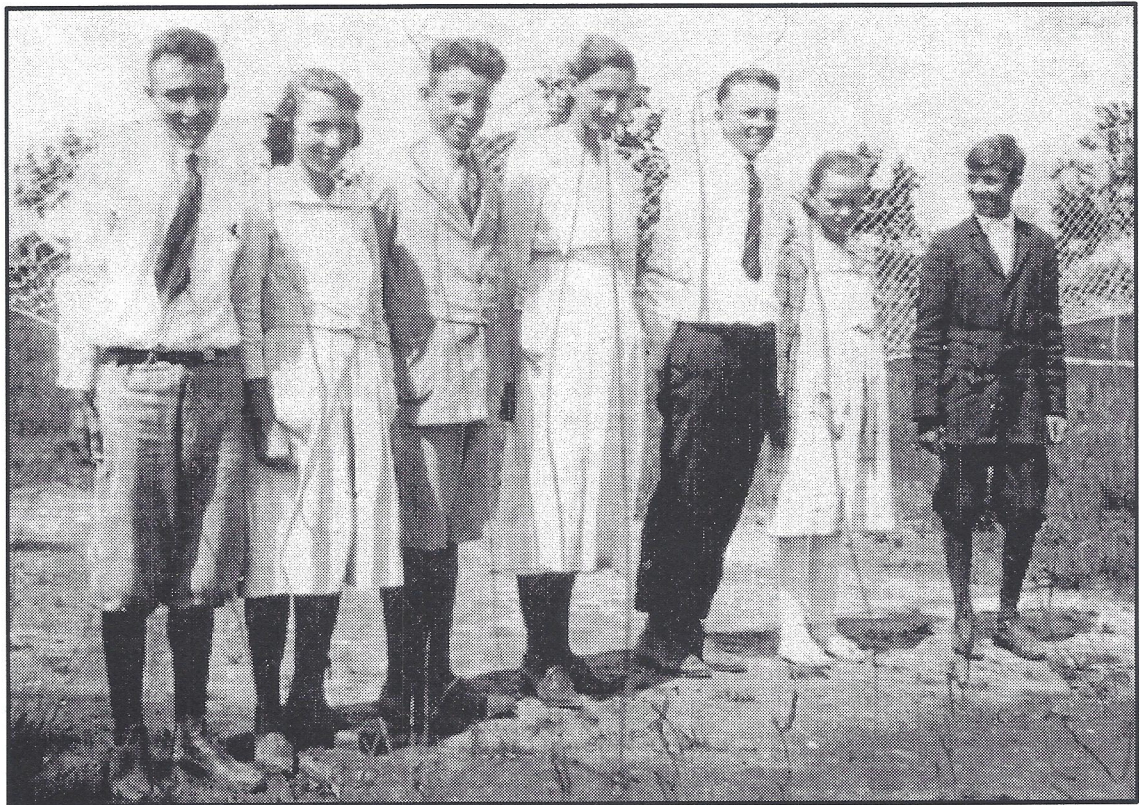


Figure 7. Bill Futrell, Rose Franks, Max Holbert, Virginia Belch, Brad Palmer, Lessie Marie Meek, Clarence Moore, 1918



Figure 11. Arcadia High School Girls Basketball Team, c 1921

Row 1. Unknown, Rosa Franks

Row 2. Unknown, Unknown, Alice Gilbert, Unknown, Unknown, Stella Franks, Nettie Palmo, Unknown, Beulah Palmo, Flora Belle Meek, Unknown

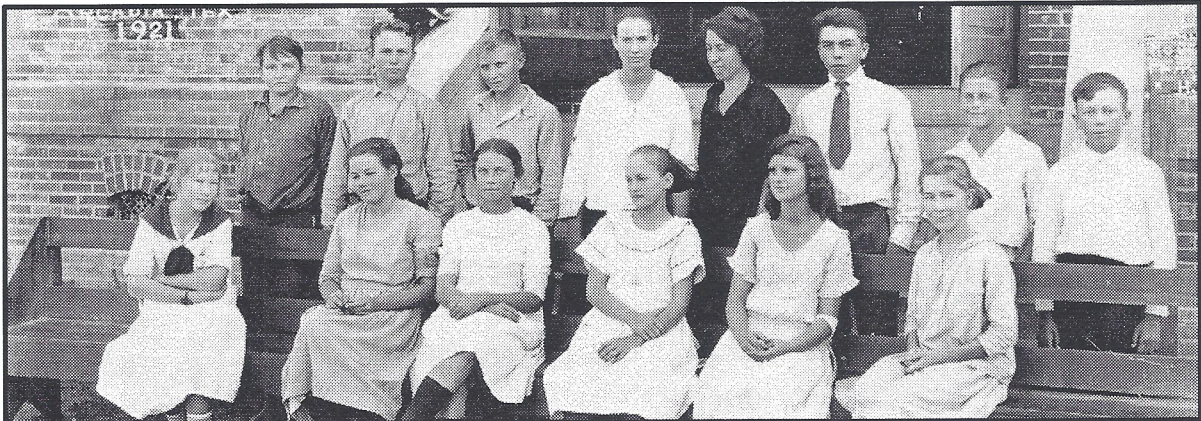


Figure 12. Arcadia School, 1920-21, grades 5, 6, 7

Row 1. Martha Orem, Norma Rogers, Margaret French, Alvera Person, Alpha Locke, Ollie Baker

Row 2. Leon Walker, Charlie Walker, Grover Polinard, Ruth Palmer, Runda Hart (teacher), Joe Linkey, Richard Travis, Dan Jones



Figure 15. Arcadia School, 1920-21, Primary Grades

Row 1. Bob Jones, Quinola Robertson, Harold Dyer, Mary Howell, Jeff Youngblood, Flossie Shannon, Wilburn Davis, Unknown, Unknown, Gertrude Powers, Unknown, Helen Guthrie, Roy Palmer, Charlie Holbert

Row 2. Daphne Powers, Catherine Schoenfeldt, Miss Alice Wilson (teacher), Mae Orem, Harry/Raymond Shannon, Louis Davis



Figure 16. Arcadia High School Basketball Team, c 1923, Champions of Galveston County 1922-25

Margaret French, Alice Gilbert, Stella Franks, Bertha Walker, Allene Jones, Beulah Palmo

In 1923-1924, Mrs, Jennie Sheffield was scholastic census was 131 (*GDN*, Sep. 8, 1923). Graduates from the high school were Bertha Walker, Louis Saunders, Dorothy Davis (?).

1924-1925 saw Miss Geraldine Morse of Waco as principal, and Miss Gertrude Roberts, Miss Thelma Wills, Miss Helen Corey of Cuero, and Miss Whitaker (*GDN*, Sep. 9, 1924). Graduates were Norma Rogers, Margaret French, Mary Belch, Grover Polinard, and Richard Travis.

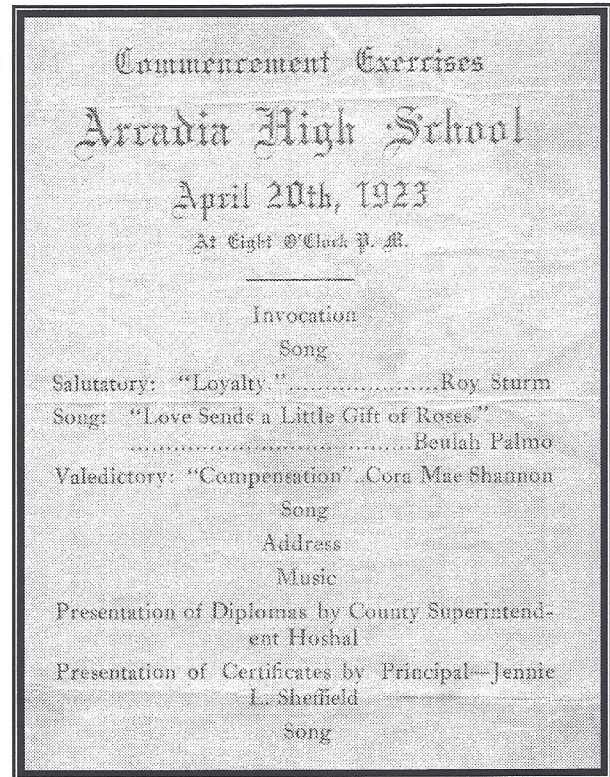


Figure 19.

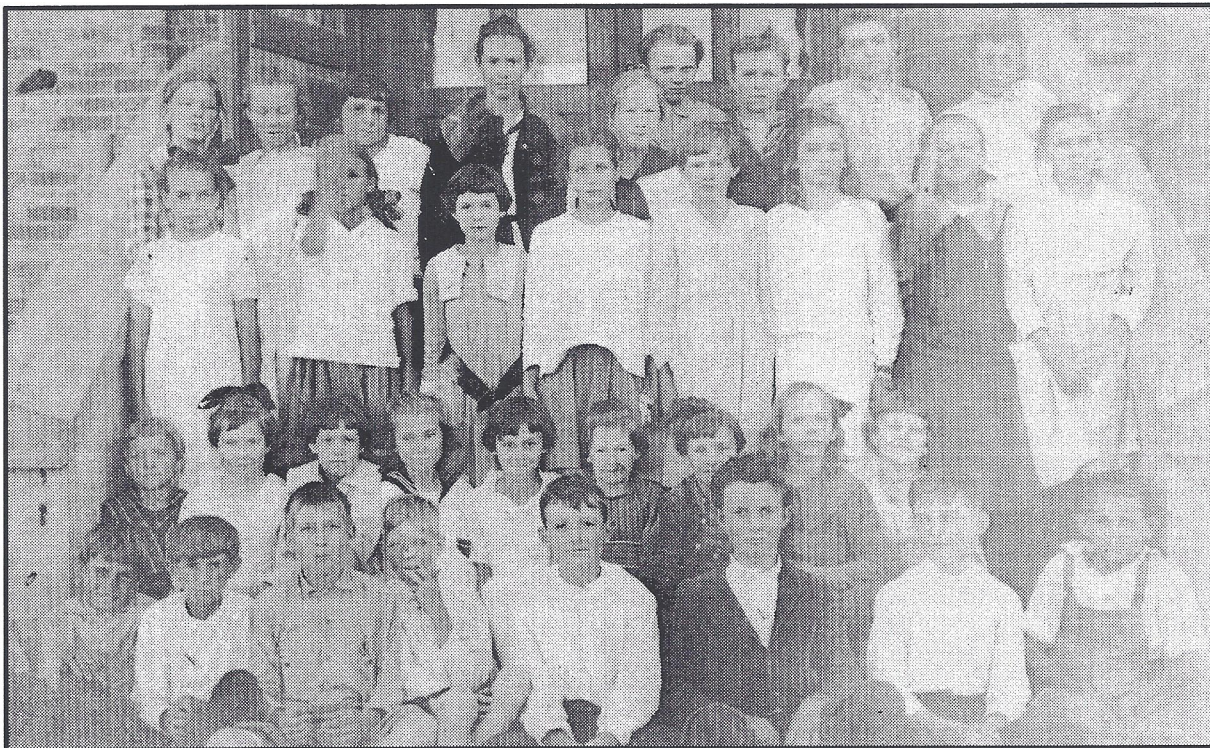


Figure 20. Arcadia School, 1921-22, grades 3-6

- Row 1. Durley Holloway, William Hoffman, Isom Palmer, Rufus Polinard, Raymond Hubler, Robert Webber, Roy Palmer, Harold Dyer, Charlie Palmo
- Row 2. Vivian Cook, Mary West, Doris French, Emma Schoenfeldt, Lucy Holbert, Berlie Rogers, Kate Anna Hoffman, Lois Meek, Vivian Locke
- Row 3. Mariam French, Bessie Stavelly, Margarita Saunders, Alma Youngblood, Virginia Shannon, Helen Gilbert, Alvera Pearson, Leona Linkey
- Row 4. Ozalee Day, Annie Schoenfeldt, Mattie Palmo, Ruth Palmer, Martha Orem, Lee Meek, Charlie Walker, Leon Walker, Charlie Holbert



Figure 23. Arcadia School, 1922-23, grades 3-4

Row 1. Daphne Powers, Muriel Wann, Marjorie Moore, Hazel Powers, Wildora Robertson, Mozelle Youngblood, Eula Locke, Venita Cargile, Blackwell Cargile, Carmen Saunders
 Row 2. Lois Meek, Kate Anna Hoffman, Thelma Moore, Mattie Stavely, Emmeline Jones, Nettie Lee Belch, Doris French, William Hoffman, Harold Dyer, Raymond Shannon



Figure 24. Arcadia School, early 20's, grades 1-2

Row 1. Aubrey Gibson, Louise Baty, Bill Robertson, Paul Wann, Malcolm French, Gertrude Powers, Janie Moore, Quinola Robertson, Dorothy Powers
 Row 2. Jean Jones, Raymond Goolsby, Della Meek, Reba Creppon, Estelle Gibson, Teresa Webber, Agnes Belch, Bob Jones
 Row 3. Flossie Shannon, Nellie Foster, Wallace Jones, Jeff Youngblood, Jack Foster, Herschel Jones, Bill Miller, Thomas Mailloux. Thelma Wills (teacher)

The *Galveston Daily News* noted in September 1926 that, "Newly installed equipment includes apparatus for teaching of courses in farm mechanics, vocational agriculture, cooking and sewing. The farm mechanics course includes woodworking and automobile mechanics, while the vocational agriculture course includes chicken raising and judging, cattle raising and milk testing, care and judging of animals, terrace draining, agricultural experiments, study of soil and agricultural conditions, and selecting of seeds and harvesting. The cooking course includes canning and preserving, cooking and baking, while the sewing course includes dressmaking and allied work." These new courses were an early example of the progressive movement to expand school curriculum beyond the traditional academic areas.

THE SENIOR CLASS
PRESENTS
"UNCLE FRED"
A COMEDY IN 3 ACTS
FRIDAY, APRIL THE SIXTEENTH

THE CAST

Aunt Sarah Holder	VIVIAN LOCKE
Uncle Joe Holder	CHARLIE WALKER
Amanda (colored)	BESSIE STAVELY
Laura Holder	MATTIE PALMO
Mayme Stoval	VIRGINIA SHANNON
Myrtle Rambo	MARGARITA SAUNDERS
Dottie Kimble	SELMA WILSON
Chester Pruitt	CHARLIE PALMO
Lefty	LEON WALKER
Shorty	CHARLIE HOLBERT
Spence	ROBERT WEBBER
Rev. Holder	DAURA PALMO

Act I. Uncle Joe Holder's home.
Act II. Rev. Fred Holder's home in Arizona.
Act III. Same as Act two, three weeks later.

Figure 27.

Another expansion of course offerings was noted in the *News* on April 9, 1927: "When manual training was added to the list of subjects

in October 1926, the students under the direction of Principal G. Kline, built their own workshop. The shop is equipped with a work bench and a full set of woodworking tools." The workshop mentioned was the wooden building facing 1st Street at the southwest corner of the schoolyard, later moved to the Santa Fe High School campus for woodshop, agriculture, and general classroom use. It ended its days as the little band hall at the east end of the campus, 1954-1961.

In April 1927, 116 pupils were in attendance at the Arcadia School. (For research purposes, their names and grades are found in Appendix A.) The 1927 graduates were **Ophan**

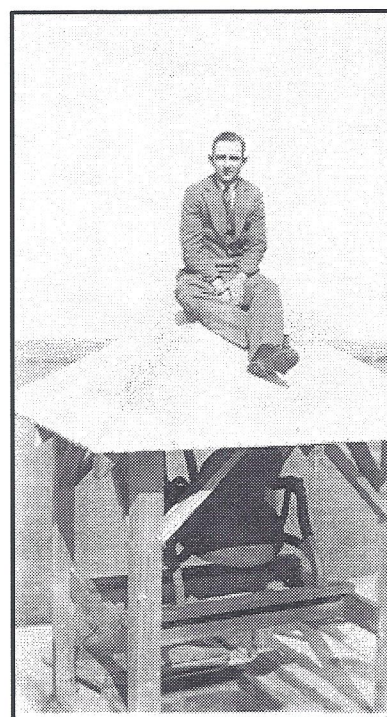


Figure 28. 1926, Robert Webber on Belfry

Guthrie, Lee Meek, Koy Beaver, Vivian Locke, Berlie Rogers, Dorothy Virginia Shannon, and Mariam French. They did not realize that they were to be the last graduates of Arcadia High School.

The three schools operated separately under the new board from December 1927 until the end of the 1927-1928 school year, after which a central high school was provided. (From this time, board minutes provide a primary, although incomplete, record of teachers.) Those who would have been the Arcadia graduating class of 1928 were not graduated, since the eleventh grade would be available the following year. Alta Loma and Algoa did not offer instruction past the seventh grade, so their high school students were already integrated into the high schools in Alvin and Dickinson. This cut into the number of prospective eleventh-grade students from those towns. All this meant that when Santa Fe High School graduated its first class in 1929, six of the seven graduates were from Arcadia: **Ophan Guthrie, Charles Palmo, Daura Palmo, Rufus Polinard, Margarita Saunders, and Selma Wilson.**

The opening of the Santa Fe High School in October of **1928** brought great and permanent changes to the Arcadia School. All students of the district in grades 6-11 were taught in the new building between Arcadia and Alta Loma. At first, two teachers were placed in Algoa, and the three teachers at Arcadia taught Arcadia 1st through 5th graders. **Miss Ellen Neal** of Houston was principal, and the other teachers were **Miss Dora Mae Smith** (later Barnes) and **Miss Helena Welker** of Alvin. (Teacher lists from 1928 through 1945 not otherwise credited reflect Santa Fe School District Board Minutes and the memories of former teachers and students.)

Beginning in **1929-1930**, Algoa was a one-teacher school teaching Algoa first graders and Algoa and Arcadia third graders. Arcadia first, second, fourth and fifth graders were at Arcadia. The three teachers were **Miss Dora Mae Smith, Miss Helena Welker, and Miss Bertha Miller.**



Figure 30. Arcadia School, 1928-29, grades 1-2

- Row 1. ___McPeters, Annie Steffens, Herman Stoneking, Lester Tully, Ernest Moore, Herbert Polinard, Dora Mae Smith (teacher), Earl Meek, Scott/Wade Wilson, Lois Newlin, Zada Powers, Robert Locke
 Row 2. Obie Rogers, Charles Gardenhire, Edison Pourchot, Jack Saunders, Dave Guthrie, Jack Long, James Linkey, Ralph Mattes, Julia Harding, Henrietta Rezek, Virginia Vick, Unknown, Omer Dodson
 Row 3. Warren Harding, Jim Harvey, Fred Harding, Unknown, Wade/Scott Wilson, Unknown, Clifford Robertson, George Locke, Unknown, Wilburn Newlin, Rex Gibson, Lynn Rush, Unknown, Douglas Mattes

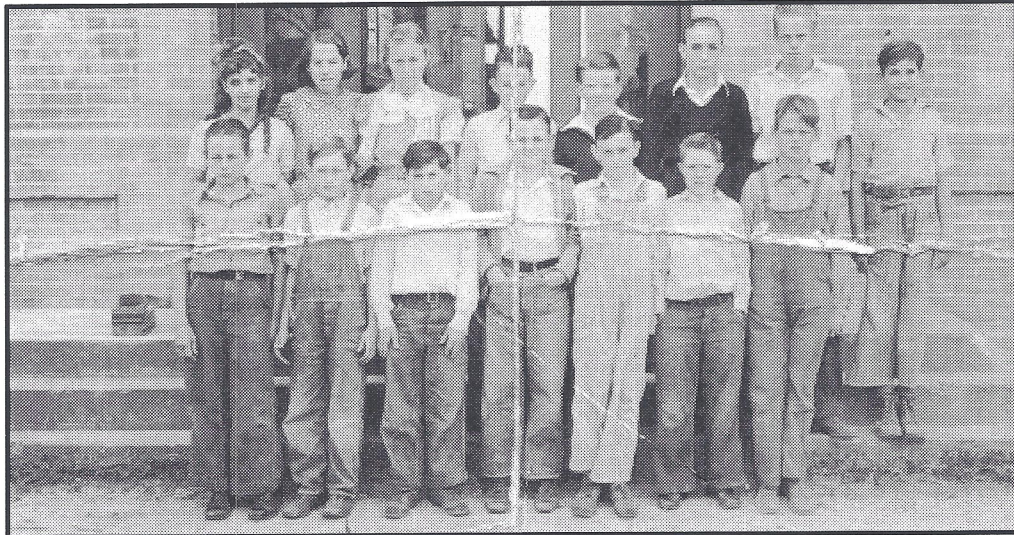


Figure 32. Arcadia School, 1933-34, grade 5

Row 1. Unknown, Obie Rogers, Boline Moore, Lynn Rush, Curtis Haney, Unknown, Lester Tully
 Row 2. Unknown, _____ Ewing, Annie Mae Steffin, Jimmy Lee Chiles, Dave Guthrie, Jack Skillman, Thomas Seay, George Robert Rymal

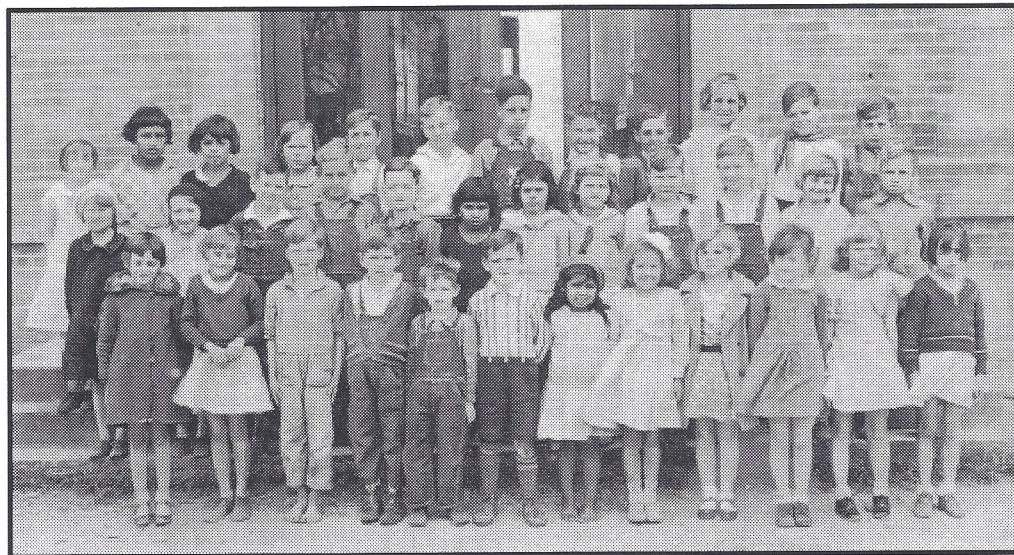


Figure 33. Arcadia School 1933-34, grades 1 and 2

Row 1. Unknown, Unknown, Clarence Harvey, Unknown, Vernon Moore, Leon Netter, Antonia Luna, Teresa Beaver, Evelyn McCarty, Nancy Jane Moore, Earline Woodward, Doris Linkey
 Row 2. Minnie Lee McPeters, Ouida Gardenhire, Unknown, Unknown, Alton (Buddy) Walker, Angelina Luna, Unknown, Mildred Tully, Tommy Van Dyke, Unknown, Rosalie Brandon, William Long
 Row 3. Arlene Haney, Unknown, Unknown, Unknown, Edward Harvey, Unknown, Unknown, Eugene Craig, Unknown, Unknown, Willie Caninberg, E. J. Stinson



Figure 36. Arcadia School, 1942-43, grades 1-2

- Row 1. Flora Luna, Unknown, Bobby McCandless, Unknown, Unknown, Unknown, Maurice Flora, Kenneth Beaver, Jim Roberts, Unknown
- Row 2. Patsy Crance, Mary Beth Gunn, Harry Holloway, Doris Harvey, Doris Moore, Tommy Brandon, David Locke, Bobbie June Linkey, Patsy Davenport, Joan Neshyba, Ruth Belch
- Row 3. Orval Newlin, Larry Earles, Unknown, Billy Yeaman, Unknown, Dean Large, Unknown, Unknown, Unknown, Olamae Beaver
- Row 4. Thelma Franks (teacher), Dale Bain, Unknown, Unknown, Unknown, Unknown, Frankie Sturm, John Henry Langer, Hala Joyce Powers, Unknown, Howard Linkey

1936-1937 Wiley Willingham, principal, began his long association with the community, with **Miss Darlena Dewy**, primary teacher, and **Miss Eva Baker** of Tomball, intermediate teacher.

For the **1937-1938** school year, **Principal Willingham** was joined by **Miss Catherine Newnham**, primary, and **Mrs. Imogene Morris**, intermediate. Mrs. Morris was the wife of W. O. Morris, Alta Loma principal, 1934-36; High School principal, 1936-39; Superintendent, 1939-41. Opening enrollment was 75.

In **1938-39** and **1939-40**, **Mr. Willingham** and **Mrs. Morris** remained, and **Miss Lillyan Fannin** taught grades 1 and 2. Algoa and Arcadia

sixth graders were taught at Arcadia, beginning in 1938. During these years the school always participated in the literary events at the county meets and regional meets sponsored by the Texas Interscholastic League, sending entries in spelling, declamation, ready writing, picture memory and other contests.

In the summer of 1939 the unused wooden building was moved to the Santa Fe High School campus, eliminating the favorite recess recreation - playing tag, with the front porch being base, and everyone required to periodically race around the building, pursued by him who was "it," attempting to lash them with daggers from the huge clump of Spanish Daggers in the southwest corner of the school yard.

During the World War II years, much shifting around of students occurred, in order to make the most of limited space, and to eliminate teachers having to teach more than one grade in the same room and at the same time. For the 1942-43 school year, Alcoa and Arcadia grades 1 through 4 were taught at Arcadia, with one teacher for each grade for the first time. Grades 5 and 6 were grouped at Alta Loma. **Mrs. Thelma Wills Franks** returned from Hitchcock, where she had taught since the year before the consolidation, and with her came **Mrs. Elizabeth Yaws Cowan**, a Santa Fe High School graduate, who had been at Hitchcock for ten years. Faculty: **Thelma Franks**, principal and first grade; **Edna**

Shireman (Mrs. S. W.) Dorrell, second grade; **Grace Lumpkin**, third grade; and **Elizabeth Yaws Cowan**, fourth grade. The grades 1-4 arrangement continued during the 1943-44 school year, with little change in faculty: **Thelma Franks**, principal; **Edna Shireman Dorrell**; **Elizabeth** (Mrs. T. A.) **Smith**; and **Elizabeth Cowan**.

In 1944-45, the last year of the World War II, Arcadia once more became a three-teacher campus, teaching Alcoa and Arcadia first through third graders. Faculty: **Thelma Franks** (principal), **Hattie Quail**, and **Elizabeth Cowan**.



Figure 38. Arcadia School, 1947-48, grade 2

- Row 1. Rees Marie Thomas (teacher), Betty Mae Ewing, Verva Roberts, Myrtle Dell Mott, Michael Eernisse, Jimmy Don Davenport, Frankie Lomica, Richard Alvers, Wayne Wilkerson, James Franklin Brandon
 Row 2. Ann Manwell, Rebecca Samford, Mary Lee Thompson, Billie Joyce Moore, Lydia Gilbert, Mary Elizabeth Morse, Elizabeth Lilley, Dottie Yarbrough, Barbara Freeman, Lillie Marie Johnson
 Row 3. Max Tully, Gus Taylor, James Earles, Thomas Calvin Sumrall, Bill Thompson, Jr., Louis Tully, Herndon Wellborn, Edward Lee Rose, Buddy Mailloux