

By: Ralph Palmer 3-87

Meridian High School actually started in the old red brick grade school with just one teacher and about 4 students, as a part of grade school # 33.

Meridian grade school board members, Dr. H.F. Neal, John Waggoner Ed Hartman & W.A. Palmer, joined with others in Idaho in getting the State Legislature to pass a law enabling grade school districts to join together and form High School Districts called Rural High Schools.

Meridian, 10 mile, Locust Grove and others joined together to form Rural High School # 1. A bond issue was put on the ballot but was defeated by some of the outside Districts.

The Board of Directors then got District #33 to place a bond issue to build another ~~another~~ school which they would lease to Rural High School #1.

This passed. The building was constructed and leased ^{to} Rural High School #1. The high school had been established in the old abandoned grade school located in the same block as the Methodist Church. Two classes, 1912 and 1913 graduated from this building.

The class of 1914 was the first class from the new building/

This was also the first time Meridian had a basket ball team. Some of these players were, Volney Watts, Rex Fuller one of the Knutson boys and Chester Palmer and Bob Pfost.

Boise and Nampa used ^Pto play Meridian as practise games only. In 1917 Meridian had a teacher, Mr. Morganthaler, who was a graduate of the University of Missouri and had lettered in foot ball. He put together a team consisting of, Alvin Hasberger, Tubby Kegler, Bill Rose, Jim Fuller and ~~John Williams~~ ^{Ford Watts} with Woody Wagner as sub.

They defeated Boise, Nampa and Caldwell for the first time. They were invited to play in the Southern Idaho - Eastern Oregon tournament held at the College of Idaho in Caldwell. They defeated Caldwell, Ruppert, Shelly and Enterprise Oregon and won the tournament. What a feat that was.

Morganthaler, the coach was dating the music Teacher and had taken her to the game. Orville Jackson had gotten the Inter-urban railroad to put 3 cars on to take Meridian people to Caldwell. In the excitement Morg had forgotten his date. We were half way back when some one ask him where his date was. She was not on the same car. She had however gotten on one of the other cars. So things turned out all right as they got married and they left Meridian and went Baker Oregon where Morg was hired as coach of their team.