

# 1950-1959

## Mansfield Independent School District celebrates a century of education

The Mansfield Independent School District celebrates its 100th anniversary this year with a look at the past century. Each month the *Mansfield News-Mirror* will print a decade in the life of the district.

The first decade, 1909-1919, appeared in the Oct. 23 edition, the second, 1920-1929, ran in the Nov. 20 section, the third, 1930-1939, was in the Dec. 18 paper and the fourth, 1940-1949, ran in the Jan. 20 *News-Mirror*.

This week features the 1950s.

### 1950

■ The population of the United States is 150,697,361.  
■ The first self-service elevator is installed in Dallas.

**Feb. 9:** Sen. Joseph McCarthy of Wisconsin sparks the Red Scare by claiming that Communists have infiltrated the government.

**March 8:** The school board votes to pay \$2,209 in unpaid bonds and interest for the Lone Star school district and \$525 of unpaid bonds and interest for the Gertie school district, both of which were recently annexed by the Mansfield district. Trustees also appoint Mrs. Pigg as tax assessor and census counter.

**March 28:** Trustees decide to sell the site of the Lone Star School to J.W. Galloway for \$250.

**April 1:** Olen Tipps, Dave Wilson and Dennis Bradley are elected to the Mansfield school board.

**April 11:** The city of Mansfield purchases the electric plant from Milton Farr, issuing bonds to pay for the plant. The city produces its own electricity until 1953 when it begins buying power from Brazos Electric Power Cooperative.

**April 25:** Ivan Coble is elected secretary and G.H. Stewart is elected president of the school board. Trustees rehire Willie Pigg as high school principal for another two years. All other teachers, including Ben Barber, Thelma Jones, Erma Nash, Mary Orr, Mary Lillard, Alice Ponder, D.P. Morris, Janet Brockett and Charlotte Anderson, are also rehired. Only John Hudson, a teacher at the Colored School, is not rehired.

**June 22:** Trustees hold a called session to discuss selling bonds to build a new grade school. The board also decides to sell the old school bus and buy a new one.

**June 25:** North Korea crosses the 38th Parallel into South Korea.

**July 7:** The United States resumes the draft after fighting breaks out in Korea.

**July 25:** The school board hires E.J. Stone to paint as much of the school building as time and money allow, starting with the classrooms, halls and then the auditorium.

**Aug. 18:** After the resignation of homemaking teacher Jean Simpson, trustees hire Nina Jo Allen to take her place.

**Aug. 29:** The school board decides to pay the balance above the state apportionment for a commercial bus to take black students in the higher grades to school in Fort Worth.

**Sept. 30:** The school board applies for federal funds.

**Oct. 2:** Charles Schultz begins a comic strip about kids and a dog called Li'l Folk, which becomes Peanuts.

**Nov. 7:** Trustees hire Elizabeth Smith to teach for the remainder of the school year.

**Nov. 7:** Democrat Alan Shivers is elected governor of Texas.

**Nov. 27:** The school board meets with Mr. Newton of Citizens National Bank of Cameron to finance a new school bus for \$2,998.

■ Walt Disney releases "Cinderella."

### 1951

**Feb. 26:** The 22nd Amendment, barring anyone from serving more than two terms as president of the United States, takes effect.

**Feb. 28:** Trustees extend Superintendent R.L. Huffman's contract for two years and high school principal Willie Pigg's contract until June 30, 1953.

■ Disc jockey Alan Freed uses the term rock 'n' roll for the first time.

**April 7:** Ivan Coble and Joe Stone are re-elected to the school board.

**April 11:** President Harry Truman fires Gen. Douglas MacArthur as supreme commander of the Allied forces in the Pacific.

**May 1:** G.H. Stewart is re-elected president and Ivan Coble is re-elected secretary of the school board.

**June 15:** Trustees decide to ask the county school board to exchange the Mansfield school district's 24-passenger school bus for a 36-passenger bus because the present bus isn't large enough to serve Mansfield's colored students. George Smith, O.E. Metcalf and Buster Mills are appointed as the Board of Equalization to re-appraise property values for the school district.

**July 9:** The school board votes to set the tax rate at \$1.25 per \$100 of property value with 75 cents for local maintenance and 50 cents for a sinking fund.

**July 26:** The U.S. Army disbands the last all-black regiment, the 24th Infantry, assigned to the 25th Division in Korea.

**Aug. 17:** Thelma Jones and John Hudson are hired to teach at the Colored School.

**Aug. 18:** Annual cost for college tuition in the United States is \$1,800, the Associated Press reports.

**Aug. 23:** Trustees vote to buy 960 portable seats for



Mansfield High School band from 1955 or 1956

\$2,700 for the football field.

**Aug. 28:** The school board sells the school bus to Kennedale for \$720.

**Sept. 8:** Forty-nine nations sign the Japanese peace treaty in San Francisco.

**Sept. 20:** Trustees receive a petition from E.A. Rosier signed by 38 voters to hold a bond election to raise \$135,000 to build a school house in the district. Trustees set a bond election for Oct. 6.

**Oct. 6:** Voters decide to issue \$135,000 in bonds to build a new school.

**Oct. 15:** "I Love Lucy" debuts on CBS.

■ J.D. Salinger publishes "The Catcher in the Rye."

**Nov. 16:** Trustees vote to sell the Colored School to Brookland High School for the best price possible. The board also decides to buy a new 60-passenger bus.

■ "The African Queen," "A Streetcar Named Desire" and "An American in Paris" are hit movies.

### 1952

**Jan. 16:** The "Today" show debuts on NBC. By the end of the year 17 million people in the United States have TVs.

■ Oslo, Norway, hosts the Winter Olympics.

**Jan. 29:** Trustees hire Stanley Brown Architectural Firm of Dallas to build a new school.

**Feb. 8:** Princess Elizabeth takes the oath of ascension to become queen of the British Commonwealth. Her father, King George VI passed away Feb. 6.

**Feb. 14:** The school board buys the Foster land to build a new school.

**March 6:** Trustees order a plaque for the corner stone of the new school building.

**March 8:** A mechanical heart is placed in a patient for the first time. The patient dies three days later.

**April 7:** The school board looks at alterations on plans for

a new Negro School building.

**April 9:** Trustees canvass votes and declare Jimmie Lewis and Joe Patterson elected to the school board, defeating incumbent G.H. Stewart who had served on the school board since 1940. Ivan Coble is chosen president and Joe Stone is elected secretary of the board.

**April 17:** The school board is given citations and an injunction request by J.W. Patterson and others to enjoin the trustees to build the new school on the selected site. Trustees hire the law firm of Cantry, Hanger, Johnson, Scarborough and Gooch to represent the board.

■ The first Holiday Inn opens in Memphis, Tenn.

**May 8:** Eighteen firms bid to build the new school building. The board votes to give the contract to The Grimland Construction Company for \$116,339.

**May 16:** The school board selects pearl brick from the Acme Brick Company for the new school building. Trustees decide to construct a 6-foot-tall steel-link fence along the school property.

**May 28:** Facing legal action, the Mansfield school board decides to begin construction on two new schools.

**June 24:** Trustees put high school principal Willie Pigg on 12 months of salary because his job also includes assessing taxes and taking the census.

■ Helsinki, Finland, hosts the Summer Olympics, where the Soviet Union competes after not participating for 40 years.

**July 29:** The Mansfield school board hires W.O. Crawford as principal of the grade school, Julia Wrotenbery as a teacher in the white school and Bertrell Hallum as a teacher in the colored school.

**Aug. 12:** The City Council votes to put city employees on Social Security.

**Aug. 26:** Dave Wilson resigns from the Mansfield school board. Mrs. Dave Wilson was then hired as a lunch room worker.

■ Dallas gets its first professional football team, the Texans. The team folds the same year after the owner is unable to meet payroll and returns the franchise to the National Football League.

**Sept. 30:** The white school bus drivers are to be paid \$90 per month to drive, grease and wash the buses in Mansfield. Drivers who don't want to grease and wash the buses will earn \$85 per month.

**Oct. 28:** Trustees approve plans for a government addition to the new elementary school.

**Nov. 1:** The United States explodes the first thermonuclear bomb at Enewetak Island.

**Nov. 24:** The Mansfield

school board agrees to create a band and buy instruments. Trustees accept a \$76,650 bid from Ratcliff Construction Company to build an addition to the elementary school.

■ Hit movies are "Singin' in the Rain" and "High Noon."

■ Ernest Hemingway publishes "The Old Man and the Sea."

### 1953

**Jan. 20:** Dwight D. Eisenhower is sworn in as president of the United States, becoming the first Texas-born president.

**Jan. 27:** The Mansfield school board buys six acres of land for \$350 per acre from W.P. Swaim for the Thompson Estate to build an athletic field.

**March 11:** The school board agrees to pay Mr. Pendergrass an extra \$25 per month to make up for the closing of the G.I. School. Trustees allow churches to meet in the school gym.

**April 3:** The first issue of "TV Guide" hits newsstands.

**April 7:** Trustees canvass votes and declare Ira Gibson, O.C. Rawdon and Horace Howard as new school board members. Ivan Coble is re-elected president and E.J. Stone is elected secretary of the school board.

**March 5:** Soviet Union ruler Josef Stalin dies at age 73.

**April 28:** Mansfield trustees invite the Webb school trustees to meet to work out plans so that Webb's above-grade students can attend Mansfield schools. The school board agrees to pay head coaches an \$800 annual supplement with athletic funds and/or maintenance fees.

**May 11:** A tornado kills 114 and injures 597 in Waco.

**May 29:** Edmund Hillary and his Sherpa guide Tensing Norgay become the first men to climb Mount Everest, the world's tallest mountain.

**June 5:** The Rio Grande River completely dries up during a drought.

**June 30:** The school board decides to sell the west Colored School and to add driver's education to the high school's curriculum.

**July 14:** Mansfield trustees agree to build at least a 200-foot walkway at the Negro School, sell the old Negro School and the old school bus.

**July 17:** Sells Service Station opens at the corner of Main and West Broad streets. The station is still in operation.

**Aug. 26:** Mansfield trustees decide to charge high school students \$12.50 per month and elementary students \$7.50 per month who have transferred from their home district and then transfer back to their home district. The board sells the old Colored School. Trustees sell George Ballweg the acre of land where the old Gertie School stood for \$100.

**September:** Erma Nash El-

ementary School opens for first-through eighth-graders with an enrollment of 440 students and a staff of 15. The school will have football teams, boys and girls basketball teams, cheerleaders, a pep squad, a band and majorettes.

**Sept. 19:** Trustees agree to allow school buses to transport athletic teams, bands and pep squads to and from athletic events.

**Oct. 27:** Trustees agree to accept bids to build a pump house and to construct one after accepting the lowest bid.

**Nov. 24:** T.M. Moody, John Lawson and others come before the Mansfield school board to ask for additional equipment, janitorial service and other requests for the Negro School. Trustees agree to some requests but say it is impossible to grant others.

■ Texas golfer Ben Hogan wins the U.S. Open, the U.S. Masters and the British Open.

**Dec. 29:** Trustees make plans to dedicate Erma Nash Elementary School on Jan. 31, 1954, the 100th anniversary of education in Texas.

■ "The Robe," "From Here to Eternity" and "Shane" are hit films.

### 1954

■ Texas women get the right to serve on juries.

■ Mansfield's first housing development on the east side, Hillcrest Addition, begins construction. The developer requested that 400 acres be annexed into the city.

**Jan. 26:** John Hill meets with the Mansfield school board to see about constructing an athletic field for night football and baseball that could also be used by the town baseball team.

**Jan. 31:** In an official dedication at 2:30 p.m., the school board officially names the elementary school for Erma Nash, who taught and served as an elementary principal from 1924-1963.

**Feb. 23:** Trustees allow the Baptist congregation to meet in the school while its church is being constructed.

**March:** Erma Nash donates \$100 to plant 73 evergreen trees at her namesake school. The PTA donates a Miracle-Whirl, a metal merry-go-round for the playground.

**April 6:** Trustees canvass votes and declare O.M. Wilshire and Hubert Beard elected to the school board.

**April 7:** Joe Patterson is elected president and Ira Gibson is chosen secretary of the school board.

■ Hit movies are "On the Waterfront" and "Rear Window."

**May 17:** The United States Supreme Court decides in *Brown v. Board of Education* that separate but equal facilities violated the Fourteenth Amendment.



Mansfield High School majorettes in 1958

# 1950-1959

## Mansfield Independent School District celebrates a century of education

**May 25:** C.J. Prater is hired as the city's first police chief. He serves until June 1. Lois Stricklin is hired July 14, 1955, but only serves until Aug. 13, 1955. Jimmy Clardy serves from Aug. 26, 1955, until Sept. 1, 1955. Low salary and requiring the chief to use his own car keep turnover high.

**June 8:** The fine for not having a driver's license was raised from \$5 to \$10.

■ J.R.R. Tolkien publishes "The Fellowship of the Ring."

**June 29:** School board president Joe Patterson appoints a committee to see about remodeling the teacher-age for band and music.

■ In *Hernandez v. State of Texas*, the United States Supreme Court recognized Mexican Americans as a group whose rights had been violated by Jim Crow laws.

**July 5:** Nineteen-year-old Elvis Presley records "That's All Right, Mama" at Sun Studios in Memphis.

**Aug. 13:** T.M. Moody, John Lawson and Mark Moody go before the board. Trustees pass a resolution that the colored they must put any presentations in writing and present them during a school board meeting.

**Aug. 19:** Glenn Harmon is hired as a teacher in the elementary school. Trustees vote to buy an acre of land near the athletic field from W.P. Swaim for \$950 to use as a parking lot.

**Sept. 7:** School opens in Mansfield.

**Oct. 26:** High school students ask to have a party and after-party dance in connection with the homecoming football game. Trustees took no action.

**Nov. 30:** The school board decides that students who marry must drop out of school but will be allowed to be readmitted if they bring their parents before the administration. Trustees rule that if females become pregnant they must drop out of school.

**Dec. 2:** The Senate votes to censure Sen. Joseph McCarthy of Wisconsin, who started the witch hunt for Communists in America.

### 1955

■ Polio shots are given in schools for the first time.

**Jan. 25:** Trustees vote to allow the school board president and secretary to sign notes for short-term loans to pay for school operating expenses.

**March 29:** The Future Farmers of America hold a father-son banquet in the school gymnasium.

**April 5:** School trustees canvass votes and declare J.R. Lewis and Billie Arbor as new members of the school board. O.C. Rawdon is chosen president and Ira Gibson is elected secretary of the board.

**April 5:** W.A. "Bud" Halbert becomes mayor of Mansfield.

**April 12:** Jonas Salk announces that he has produced a vaccine for polio.

**April 25:** Trustees vote to set the school tax at \$1.25 per \$100 of property value with 75 cents to go for maintenance and 50 cents for bonds.

**June 23:** Amon G. Carter Sr., longtime publisher of the *Star-Telegram*, dies at age 75 after a series of heart attacks.

**June 28:** Mansfield to build all-weather combination basketball courts, tennis courts and volleyball courts on the elementary ground and at least one tennis court at the high school. Trustees also decide to hire Central Texas Iron Works of Waco to build a permanent grandstand for 1,050 people for \$7,250 on the athletic field.

**July 17:** Disneyland opens in Anaheim, Calif.

**July 26:** T.M. Moody and others present the school board with a petition to immediately end segregation in the Mansfield Public Schools. Trustees vote to continue segregation for the school year. A committee is appointed to study bus-



Erma Nash Elementary School in 1953

ing colored high school students to Fort Worth. Willie Brown is hired to teach in the Colored School.

**Aug. 22:** Mansfield trustees discuss ending segregation and the possibility that it could be worked out in the future.

**Sept. 27:** The school board learns that a record number of students - 285 - have enrolled in the high school. The Segregation Committee reports that the black students who ride the bus to school in Fort Worth seldom miss the bus.

**Sept. 30:** Actor James Dean, 24, dies after crashing his Porsche Spyder into a telephone pole.

**Oct. 8:** Trustees discuss what they should do after the *Star-Telegram* reports that the school board, superintendent and district have been sued by three negro students who sought enrollment in the Mansfield district but were denied because they are black. They discuss hiring an attorney to represent them.

**Oct. 25:** The school board decides to allow the Civil Defense to use the press box at the athletic field as a lookout tower and to install a telephone.

**Nov. 8:** Trustees vote to notify T.M. Moody that he will no longer be allowed to use the well on the grounds of the Colored School, to remove his water pipe from the grounds and to send him a water bill.

**Nov. 22:** The school board looks into hiring house movers to move two buildings from Carswell Air Force Base that had been assigned to the school district.

**Nov. 29:** Tom Beard buys a house on the high school campus for \$128 and agrees to move it off the grounds.

■ Hit films are "Rebel Without a Cause," "East of Eden" and "Marty."

**Dec. 1:** Rosa Parks, 43, refuses to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Ala., and is arrested. She is fined \$10 and sparks a boycott of the buses. In November 1956, the Supreme Court rules that bus segregation is illegal.

### 1956

**Jan. 31:** The school board decides to buy two new buses.

■ Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, hosts the Winter Olympics.

**March 27:** Trustees discuss the segregation problem.

■ Federal minimum wage goes up to \$1 per hour.

**April 7:** O.C. Rawdon, Harry Blissard and Melvin Meeks are elected to the school board.

■ Hit movies are "The King and I," "Giant" and "Around the World in 80 Days."

**April 10:** O.C. Rawdon is chosen president and Billy Arber is elected secretary of the school board.

**April 19:** Actress Grace Kelly marries Prince Rainier III of Monaco.

**April 24:** Trustees agree to pay the head football coach a \$1,000 stipend per year as a supplement to his salary if necessary. They also accept a pair of Quonset huts from Carswell Air Force Base for the field house at the football field.

**May 8:** Trustees hear accu-

sations from homemaking teacher Ruth Schley against homemaking teacher Dorothy Gibson, but do not take action.

**May 21:** The United States tests the first aerial hydrogen bomb over Bikini Island.

**May 29:** The school board's segregation committee discusses the issue with the board and plans are discussed.

**June 11:** Mansfield hires M.L. Kittrell as the new head football coach for \$4,900 and names James Coble as line coach with an \$833 supplement to his salary. Trustees vote to charge \$16 per month to elementary transfer students and \$20 per month to high school transfer students.

■ Melbourne, Australia, hosts the Summer Olympics.

■ Mansfield purchases its first police car, a 1956 Chevrolet four-door sedan, for \$1,542.

**June 26:** Thurman Van Sickle is hired as head basketball coach and assistant football coach in Mansfield.

**July 31:** Bertrell Hallum resigns as principal of the Colored School; W.O. Crawford resigns as principal of Erma Nash Elementary School. The school board requires students in first through fifth grades to be vaccinated for smallpox before starting school, and students in first through 12th grade be vaccinated before starting school in 1957-1958. A group including a *Star-Telegram* reporter meets with the school board to discuss desegregation.

■ After not having a school band for a long period, the school board hires Sally Pierce to teach students music starting in the fifth grade. Later band uniforms are acquired from Lamesa, which had old uniforms for sale for \$100. The band club lets people pay to put their birthdays on a calendar and sells the calendars.

**Aug. 30-31:** An angry mob forms at Mansfield High School to prevent three black students from attending. Effigies of the students are hanged at the school. Gov. Allan Shivers sends in Texas Rangers to keep the black students out.

■ The Mansfield Public Library has to move out of Memorial Hall at the corner of Main and Broad streets when the building is torn down. When the new City Hall is built on the same site, the library moves in and becomes part of the city budget. The site was originally the location of the grist mill started by Ralph Man and Julian Feild to start the town.

**Sept. 9:** Elvis Presley makes his first appearance on Ed Sullivan's "Toast of the Town."

**Oct. 30:** The Mansfield school board votes to set the tax rate at \$1.25 per \$100 of property value with 95 cents for maintenance fee and 30 cents for the sinking fund.

### 1957

■ Kowbell Rodeo opens on North Main Street in Mansfield. The indoor rodeo will run for the next 47 years.

**Jan. 21:** Dwight D. Eisenhower is sworn in as president of the United States for a sec-

ond term.

**Jan. 28:** Six women approach the school board about the dress code at Erma Nash Elementary School.

**Feb. 26:** Mansfield trustees want to increase the Negro School from an elementary school to a junior high if approved by the County School Board. Superintendent R.L. Huffman is asked to look into building a lunchroom at the Negro School.

**March 26:** Bill Swaim offers to sell 3 1/2 acres of land and a shop building adjoining the school grounds to the district.

**April 2:** Roland A. Turck becomes mayor of Mansfield.

**April 11:** Trustees canvass votes and declare O.M. Wilshire and Hubert Beard re-elected to the school board. O. C. Rawdon is re-elected president and B.J. Arber is re-elected secretary of the board.

**April 30:** Milford Briscoe, Ira Briscoe and Billy Bennett ask the school board to use the Negro School to hold church services while their church is under construction.

**May 28:** Trustees decide not to enroll non-teacher personnel for Social Security.

**June 25:** Janet Brocket resigns. School trustees table plans to construct a lunchroom at the Colored School.

**July 6:** Althea Gibson becomes the first black person to win at Wimbledon. She wins the singles and doubles.

**July 25:** The school board finds out that the spare Ford school bus is not worth more than \$70 and donates it to the Mansfield Volunteer Fire Department. The district decides to set up a general bookkeeping system.

**Aug. 6:** Louise Cabaniss is hired to teach in the district.

**Aug. 13:** Trustees unanimously pass a resolution that the district cannot afford to violate the provisions of House Bill No. 65, which takes effect Aug. 22. The bill allowed school districts to hold elections to determine if they want a dual system of integrated and desegregated schools.

**Aug. 27:** The district hires a janitor for the Colored School.

**Sept. 3:** School opens in Mansfield.

**Sept. 24:** Trustees hire Fred Baumgardner as band and music director, decide to purchase a piano and allocate \$600 for shop equipment.

**Sept. 24:** The Little Rock Nine integrate the Arkansas high school. President Eisenhower sends troops after Gov. Orval Faubus defies the federal order to integrate.

■ Ford introduces the Edsel, named after founder Henry Ford's son. The car is discontinued two years later.

**Oct. 4:** The Soviet Union launches Sputnik, the first artificial satellite.

■ Wham-O begins producing the Frisbee.

### 1958

Sources: "The History of Mansfield, Texas Mid 1800-1965" by the Mansfield Historical Society; Texas Almanac; Mansfield Independent School District school board minutes; Bartleby.com; National Geographic News; infoplease.com; state master.com; encyclopedia-titania.org; firstworldwar.com; archives.gov; sciencedaily.com; utexas.edu; history.com; absoluteastronomy.com; Star-Telegram archives; city archives; City of Mansfield election register; Texas State Library and Archives; www.wsu.edu: Brief Timeline of American Literature, Music and Movies; factmonster.com; Lone Star College - Kingwood; World Book Encyclopedia

Street to Main Street.

**Sept. 29:** The U.S. Supreme Court rules unanimously that schools in Little Rock, Ark., must integrate.

### 1959

**Jan. 3:** Alaska enters the union as the 49th state.

**January:** Berry Gordy Jr. forms Motown.

**Feb. 3:** Singers Buddy Holly, J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson and Ritchie Valens die in a plane crash near Mason City, Iowa. In 1971, Don McLean will immortalize "the day the music died" in his song, "American Pie."

**Feb. 24:** School trustees vote to help the Negro School with finances for the lunchroom. Trustees also approve an overnight trip for the band to Round Rock, provided two or three band mothers and the band instructor's wife go.

**March 9:** Mattel's Barbie doll is born, selling for \$2.50.

**March 17:** Willie Brown, principal of the Mansfield Colored School, dies.

**April 7:** After canvassing the votes, trustees declare Ira Kimbrough, Forrest Bratton and M.M. Meeks are new members of the school board. B.J. Arber is chosen president and O.M. Wilshire is elected secretary of the board.

**April 9:** The first seven U.S. astronauts are chosen by NASA.

**May 4:** The first Grammy Awards are held with Ella Fitzgerald and Henry Mancini each winning two awards. "The Chipmunk Song" also wins two awards.

**June 19:** A committee made up of Hence Myles, Mattie May Kirby, W. Killingsworth, McLendon Moody and Lee Elhicks appeared before the school board to discuss the Colored School and teaching personnel. The district repays the Mansfield Chamber of Commerce \$700 for lights at the athletic field.

**July 30:** Trustees vote to start school Sept. 8, take two days off for Thanksgiving, two days for Easter and one day for the Stock Show.

**Aug. 20:** Theopolis Mennifee resigns and G.C. Chatham is chosen as principal of the Negro School. Hence Myles, Rev. F. Pilot, J.F. Lawson, Robert Howard and Royston Bennett ask the school board if the Negro School could get screens on the lunchroom windows and if the school could teach shop, homemaking and typing. Trustees say they will consider it.

■ Fort Worth schools are desegregated after two families file suit. A court rules that the schools are to be integrated grade by grade.

**Aug. 21:** Hawaii enters the union as the 50th state.

**Sept. 29:** Erma Nash is granted a leave of absence for the rest of the school year without pay after breaking both of her hips. Trustees deny Friendship Baptist Church the use of Erma Nash Elementary to hold services.

■ Hit films are "Some Like It Hot" and "Ben-Hur."

**Oct. 27:** School trustee Ira Kimbrough resigns after learning that he does not reside in the district.

**Nov. 10:** The school board decides to turn the high school into a junior high building and to construct a new senior high school. Trustees decide to invite the school boards from Rendon, Bludworth and Webb to discuss it.

**Dec. 26:** The district decides to pay Bill Swaim \$2,500 for land near bus barn. Two teachers are reported to have been smoking at the grade school.

■ Fire phones are installed in the homes of the city's 13 firefighters.

**Jan. 13:** School trustees vote to pay \$825 to raise the stage at Erma Nash Elementary by at least 18 inches and to spend \$4,750 to build a lunchroom at the Colored School.

■ The cost for a first-class postage stamp goes up a penny to 4 cents.

**Feb. 2:** A rodeo from the 62nd Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show in Fort Worth is broadcast on NBC, starring Roy Rogers, Dale Evans and Gabby Hayes.

**Feb. 25:** The girls basketball team wins a playoff game for the District 11A championship. The team went on to be the bi-district champions.

■ The Brooklyn Dodgers and New York Giants move to California.

**March 24:** Elvis Presley is inducted into the U.S. Army.

**March 25:** The homemaking class makes dinner for school board members before their meeting. The district receives a gift from the federal government of 65 acres of land east of town on the McKnight farm for vocational agriculture purposes.

■ "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," "Vertigo" and "Gigi" are hit movies.

**April 5:** B.J. Arber and A.E. Coble are elected to the Mansfield school board.

**April 11:** Texan Van Cliburn, 23, wins the Tchaikovsky International Piano Competition.

**April 22:** O.C. Rawdon is chosen president and B.J. Arber is elected secretary of the school board.

■ Wham-O starts selling the Hula Hoop for \$1.98 each.

**May 27:** The school board decides that there will be no Wednesday night baseball, school plays or other activities on Wednesday nights.

■ Truman Capote publishes "Breakfast at Tiffany's."

**June 2:** Alex Crowder is chosen as the new girls basketball coach at Mansfield High.

**June 28:** The Mackinac Bridge, the world's longest suspension bridge at 8,614 feet, opens, linking Michigan's upper and lower peninsulas.

**July 8:** Trustees vote to build a field house at the athletic field.

**July 22:** The school board agrees to a contract with Dr. Percy Cook to build a bus barn.

**July 29:** Trustees set a tax rate of \$1.25 per \$100 of property value with \$1 for maintenance and 25 cents for the sinking fund.

**Aug. 8:** The school board decides to pay \$10,300 to Owen Metcalf to build a field house.

**Aug. 26:** The district decides to spend \$1,000 to build a 12-foot x 24-foot concession stand as an addition on the field house.

**Sept. 8:** The City Council changes the name of Water