

## HISTORY OF McEWEN HIGH SCHOOL

The small town of McEwen, located in the western part of Middle Tennessee, fifty-eight miles west of Nashville, has always been interested in the education of its citizens.

There has been a parochial school operated by the Catholics in the community since 1855.

The first public school was begun in 1885. In the late 1890's, a stock company built a large building and dormitories and began to operate a private school. This school was known as "The Old College." This was located on the present site of the McEwen Manufacturing Company.

Some of the subjects included in the curriculum were French, solid geometry, plane geometry, Latin, American history, ancient history, English and trigonometry. An average of one hundred fifty students a year was enrolled in grades one through twelve. This school continued until 1917 when the city of McEwen bought the property and a nine months free school was begun for the first time.

Increased enrollment and desire for a larger campus area resulted in the purchase of a new location on the northern edge of the city limits. The city and county jointly constructed a building in 1927. This was a brick building consisting of twelve rooms and an auditorium.

The home economics department was established in 1928.

The basketball and football teams were organized in 1930.

The agricultural department was added in 1938.

The school lunch program was instigated in 1945.

In 1928, the first class consisting of three students, was graduated from McEwen High School at the present location.

In the early 1930's, the first large frame gymnasium was built on the school campus.

In 1930 the enrollment was about one hundred, fifty students and the faculty consisted of five people including Mr. E. O. Stroud, who was Principal until 1942.

In April, 1946 this building was destroyed by fire. For the next two years classes were held in the gymnasium and in the Church buildings.

The present two story brick building was completed in 1948. It consisted of twelve classrooms, a library, auditorium and cafeteria.

In 1949 Miss Lonnie Chronister began teaching private piano lessons in the school.

Many improvements have been made recently. These include six classrooms, a band room, a new brick gymnasium, agriculture building, new cafeteria, and expansion of the library.

The school now has a faculty of twenty-four teachers and an enrollment of 650 students. It is served by eight busses. The cafeteria staff consists of six cooks and one supervisor.

Mr. Byram Phy became principal in 1953 and presently serves in that capacity.

McEwen High School serves the community well. Many of its graduates go on to higher learning and establish themselves in positions of great responsibility. It is proud of its accomplishments in the past and looks forward to even greater achievements in the future.