SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies is a rather inclusive title. You will find such subjects as American history, world history, sociology, economics, American problems, and civics under this heading. Here in Phillips County, as elsewhere, the names have changed but many of the basic areas of study remain very nearly the same.

After studying history, geography, social problems and related subjects in the elementary and junior high school, the students enter studies of special areas in high school. American government is studied as one of the first subjects in this area at the ninth grade level.

Let's go back about four decades and look at social studies. At that time the area of world history was largely covered under the title ancient history. Lucy Martin taught as many as sixteen students in her classes of this subject. She also taught American history and civics. At least 19 students were in each of these classes. Such surnames as Lappart, Clayton, Coyne, and Colver appeared on the class rolls. At Amherst, Dean Murray was teaching history, along with several other subjects. The class roll included such surnames as Bauer, Snyder and Jung.

American history and civics were taught in Phillips County High School in 1926. World history was the title of another course instead of ancient history. Leona Schonauer was the instructor and student surnames included Biddle, Spindler and Kennedy.

As the depression of the 1930's deepened (1931,1932) citizenship was one of the courses taught. At least twenty-five students attended this class taught by Helen Hautz. Mr. Romine also instructed in this subject area of world history. Names such as Kramer, Sprague and Groshans were on the class rolls.

During the war years (1943-1944) Mr. Eicher and Mr. Price shared the teaching load in the social studies area. Colorado history (8th grade level), American history and economics were offered. Class sizes varied according to the subjects: 32 pupils in civics and 24 in economics.

As the Eisenhower administration was getting underway (1953, 1954) Mary B. Hill was teaching United States history. Robert Oenbrink was instructing classes in American problems and American government. Class sizes were 38, 14, and 35 in the order that the subjects are mentioned. Alberts, Fisbeck and Deselms were among the pupil names at the time.

By 1958, the instructors involved in the social studies program included Mrs. Salomons, Mr. Cheatham, Mr. Werner, Mr. Trautman and Mr. Lynch. World history, American history, sociology, American government and social problems were the subjects taught by these teachers at that point in our history.

During the present school year 1962, 1963 instructors from kindergarten through grade twelve are endeavoring to teach subjects in the social studies area with varying degrees of success. Mr. Haynes, Mr. McMillen, Mr. Garretson, Mr. Bernard and Mr. Blackie are among those involved at the junior high and high school level.

Sources include:

Summary from County Superintendent's Office
Class record books (Instructors)
School annuals