

HISTORY

The Nickerson Normal College opened August 30, 1898 with an enrollment of 78 students; this increased to 281 by the close of the year, June 9, 1899. Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, Illinois and Missouri were represented in the student body the first year. The name of the College was changed to Nickerson College in 1903.

The Reno County High School was organized in 1903; Mr. E. B. Smith was principal of the high school and also president of the College.

The first building was the remodeled South Side School Building to which a chapel was added; this became known as the Main Building; the library was built in 1906 and the Commercial Building in 1910; the Farm Mechanics Building, later known as the shop, was built in 1911. The gymnasium, which was part of the Commercial Building, burned in December of 1954; bonds were voted for a new building in 1955 and it was first occupied in 1956.

The YMCA was organized in the College in 1900; they first met Sunday afternoons and later on Thursdays from seven to eight p.m. Bible study was begun the first year with a small group which grew to six different Bible and Mission study classes with sixty enrolled; meeting time was five a.m. on Saturdays throughout the year. The YMCA in high school is now called Hi-Y.

The YWCA was organized in 1901, the first in Kansas; the name was changed to Girl Reserve in the mid twenties and is now Y-Teen.

In the school year 1901 and 1902 the Websterian and Delphian Literary Societies were organized; these societies met each week, the Websterians on Friday night and the Delphians on Saturday night; programs consisted of debates, parliamentary drills, discussions, orations, essays, recitations and music. Each organization sponsored a girls basketball team and a boys football team; the Delphians had an orchestra and the Websterians a chorus.

The Nickerson Normal College had a football team only during the years of 1898, 1899 and 1900. These teams were all victorious and played such schools as Cooper College of Sterling, Friends and Fairmont of Wichita and the State Normal of Emporia. Football was organized at the high school in 1912 and was played intermittently until 1920; since then it has been played continuously.

Basketball was organized in 1901 by George Marteeny and F. A. Mundell, but interscholastic games were not played until 1903-1904. In 1912 and 1913, RCHS won the first two state tournaments sponsored by the Kansas State High School Athletic Association now known as the Kansas State High School Activities Association.

Girls Basketball was organized at RCHS in 1908. The state association never sponsored girls bas-

ketball but RCHS girls won what was known as the state championship in 1911 and 1912.

A chapter of the National Honor Society was inaugurated at the school in 1931 for the purpose of developing scholarship, leadership, character and service; this society is still active.

There have been five high school principals: Mr. E. B. Smith from 1903 to 1916; Mr. C. L. Cole from 1916 until his death in 1918; Mr. F. A. Mundell from 1918 to 1946; Mr. Willard Munson from 1946 to 1951; Mr. Solomon Humbargar from 1951 to the present time.

Enrollment during the teens was between four and five hundred in all departments but later dropped to less than 150; the current rise began in the late forties and in September 1961, had reached 332.

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| <i>Nickerson Normal College</i> | <i>1898-1903</i> |
| <i>Nickerson College</i> | <i>1903-1915</i> |
| <i>Reno County High School</i> | <i>1915-1924</i> |
| <i>Reno Community High School</i> | <i>1924-1955</i> |
| <i>Nickerson Rural High School</i> | <i>1955-1966</i> |
| <i>Nickerson High School</i> | <i>1966-</i> |