

Welcome to the Putnam City Schools Museum! It has been a dream of many alumni for years--a place to showcase the history and memorabilia of Putnam City Schools.

The gathering of memorabilia began in 1984 by several graduates who were afraid that unless someone began collecting items from the history of the school district, many things with historical value would be discarded and memories would eventually be forgotten.

The district provided a building, the former Waggoner's store located at N.W. 40th and Grove, for a museum. Operated as a showcase for all schools in the District, the museum board of directors are seeking alumni from all the schools to assist in the development and collection of artifacts and to help in operating the museum.

Volunteers for the museum have gathered shelving units and furniture and arranged displays from cases of materials that had previously been stored in the Arnett Building.

Alumni, former students, teachers and staff from all schools who wish to join the museum committee, donate items or help in any way, are encouraged to contact Jim Shields, 787-7029 or shieldsjc@aol.com; Mike Brake, 767-9379, or brakescribe@cox.net; or Sheron Rodgers, 721-551, or sheronroddgers@cox.net. The mailing address for the museum is **Putnam City Schools Museum**

**P.O. Box 561**

**Bethany, OK 73008**

and the phone number is 787-2207 and the e-mail address is putnamcitymuseum@att.net



In the spring of 1914, pioneer families in the Council Grove Township gathered to find ways to provide their children with the best education possible. They combined four one-room schools into a consolidated district--resulting in a far-reaching view toward the future. This insight and wisdom led to the creation of the Putnam City School District.

Today the Putnam City Schools are still offering the best education possible, with a thorough curriculum and teachers and administrators who share a passion for learning with the students who will soon be leading our country.

For the 1914 school year, classes were held in the I.M. Putnam Building (later renamed the Arnett Building in 1916). In 1915 classes were held in the new two-story buildings at N.W. 40th and Grove, with 160 students and six teachers in attendance. Many students walked to school or rode horses, which could be stabled in a shed

near the school building. Some students rode the Interurban, and others were transported in horse-drawn vans provided by the district.

The first graduating ceremony for seniors was in 1919 when three students, Etta Green, Charles McKinney and Verde Stinchcomb, graduated from Putnam City High School.

Sports has always been a big part of student activities. The first track team was organized by Freda Matthews in 1917. Throughout the years student/athletes in the district have excelled in both team and individual sports with many moving on to top collegiate and professional teams.

During the years, the school progressed and adapted to the subtle changes in society. Despite setbacks, like two major fires to school buildings, progress was inevitable for the district. By 1957 changing demographics prompted a building campaign away from the original campus as two new elementary schools were built.

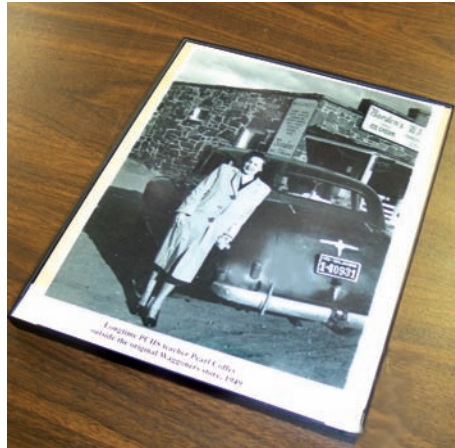
Continuing growth resulted in a new high school at N.W. 50th and Grove which opened in 1958. When graduation classes exploded to nearly 1,000 students, construction began on Putnam City West, which opened in 1968, and then another high school was needed and Putnam City North opened in 1978.

Today the Putnam City School District includes 18 elementary, five middle and three high schools. In addition, the district operates the Academy, an alternative school for students requiring a special learning environment.

Now approaching the second century of service, the district looks forward to the future--but, the past is not forgotten!



*Preserving  
the memories  
of days  
gone by!*



# Putnam City Schools Museum

Open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month or other times by special arrangement.