

CENTRAL

HIGH



SPARTANS

Janifer Peters

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THE HISTORY OF CENTRAL MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

Resting in an era surrounded by Avenues "u" and "T", the first Central School was found. Some believed that it was constructed originally as a hospital and some remembered it always as a school. Nevertheless, the wooden structure contained four large rooms 48x50' and accommodated grades one through seven.

The first known principal was Professor W. H. Young; the first teachers were Mesdames Alice Smith and Lang. The principal also taught classes. After a few years, Mr. Crush, who became the first photographer, and Mrs. W. H. Young were added to the faculty. Also, under the direction of Professor Young the first band was organized.

Second in command of Central School was Professor Z. D. Le Noir. Under his guidance were Mrs. Ethel Smith, Mrs. Le Noir, Mrs. Dunn- Johnson, Misses Robert and Antoinette Bell, Mrs. Johnson, Misses Emma Smith, Mary and Fanny Broome, Pearl Verna B. Jackson, Susie Smith and Mesdames A. L. Hover, Mary Travillion and Cora Washington.

Vocal music entered the school with the coming of the third principal, Professor B.P. Smith. Professor Smith, a former member of the original Fisk Jubilee Singers, which led to the first musical group.

The Central School now housing grades one through eleven, greeted its fourth principal, Professor Gaddis Hall. Added to the faculty were A. L. Jordan, who replaced O.N. Johnson as shop instructor, C.E. Dwellingham, and Mrs. Martha Travillion.

Athletics made its advent shortly after 1928. The line of coaches for the athletics events were Dr. Cooper, M.C. James, Pat Malone, Charlie Dillworth, Gully Carter, A.L. Jordan, J.C. Crump, Walter Redford, and Clifton Nelson.

With the efforts of Miss Thelma Dorset, A.L. Jordan and N.C. Crump, the name "SPARTAN" was given as the school mascot. The first football team consisted of Willie L. Manning, Reggie Simmons, Adell Stevenson, V.L. Collier, Willie Brown, Otha Halbert, William Bailey, Earnest Holloway, Rushell Franklin, Hansel Travillion, John Perkins, Lester Butler, James Smith, Levell Stewart, and Hosea Sayles. In 1938 and 1939, the Spartans won their first state championship under Coach John Walter Redford. In 1945 and 1946, Central won two more State Championships under Coach Clifton Nelson.

The first track team was organized in 1935 with J.C. Crump as coach. The team consisted of A.V. Jones, Pearlie Pernell, J.C. Strickland Freddie Sawyer, Willie Burns, Clifton Nelson, and John Anders.

Basketball appeared in 1935 under A.L. Jordan. The first team included Henry Spann, Lattimore Holmes, Freddie Sawyer, Leroy Hawthorn, Clifton Melson, Leonard Thomas, Charles Ray Dillon, and A.V. Jones.

The first baseball team included Willie L. Manning, Otha Halbert, Rushell Franklin, L.D. Owens, Ernest Martin, Lovell Stewart and V.L. Collier.

After the return and brief administration of Professor B.P. Smith, A.L. Jordan "took the reins" as leader for the most progressive Central School. Many of the Mesdames V.L. Nash, E. Tyronne, Grace Perry, Mrs. Franklin, Mrs. Speights, Miss Alvin T. Robertson and John Foster.

Under the leadership of Mrs. B.B. Manning and J.C. Crump, the first Spartan newspaper came to light. The copy was a two page-typed edition, containing news of the school. Due to some unknown causes, the wooden classroom building was burned and classes were held in the various churches.

In 1945, the second era began under the leadership of Principal A.L. Jordan. The Central Memorial High School was born. The "Memorial" was added to pay tribute to the veterans' who had given their lives in World War II. There were 22 classrooms in this building housed on 3 ½ acres of land. It was built under the supervision of the Bogalusa School Board. The superintendent was M.J. Israel, and board members were B.D. Talley, Jr., Corbett Mitchell, Andrew Seals and T.J. Mc Daniel. Added to the faculty of the new school were Mrs. Ruby Ray as home economics instructor, Miss Jean Tanner, Miss Addison and Mess Rosalind Johnson.

The post war era of the fifties made it necessary to put on a platoon or double say shift. Added to the faculty were Mrs. I.Y. Hollins, Robert Hodge as Band Director, Mrs. Vera Moody, Misses Dorothy Burns, Ada L. Hannibal, Winona Williams, and Coach Albany Jones. Also Misses Doris Conerly, Callie Hewitt, Maude Carter and Nellie Fobbs, Lucious Jefferson, Ray Adams, Leon Burns, and J.D. O'Neal, Mrs. Mary Chatmon and Mrs. Orastein Monk came around the same period.

Drama, which was previously done by Miss Taggard and Mrs. Mary Travillion, was organized again by Miss A.L. Hannibal.

In 1954, the new Central Memorial High School was built at 1403 North Avenue. This two building plant consisted of twenty-two classrooms, a library, a cafeteria, a set of offices and a gymnasium. The curriculum was improved making necessary the addition of new instructors who included Mrs. B. Augustus, Miss Velma Galatas, Crosby Copeland and Miss Juanita Welch.

In 1956, the sixth principal was named, J.C. Crump and to his staff he added Normel Keller, Larry Powe, Johnny Bland, L.X. Speight, Mesdames Georgis Martin, G. W. Gibson, Margie Greer, Charlotte Moye, and Maxine Small. Also, Gary Rudolph Davis, Thaddeus Newman, Misses V.L. Mims, Jo Ann Bumfield, Mrs. G.P. Moses, and Miss M.J. Berry. Also in this period the new auditorium was built to seat 621 persons; this made the third building on the campus.

There are other events which have one particular place in such a history. One is the "Miss Central" contest which was held each year around Homecoming. In an effort to list the queens of the school, the following names appear: Mary Johnson, Bennie R. Robinson, Orastein Ward, Alton Kenny, Evelyn Harris, Juanita Hall, Audrey Buckley, Josie Jones, Mary Keys, Jancie Baham, Laura Patterson, Alvia Bickham, Barbara Hicks, Sherril Young, Willie B. Expose and Barbara Robinson.

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The second event that has been in existence almost as long as the school is the "Big Broadcast." This variety show was begun by Mrs. Ethel Smith in 1934. "The Big Broadcast" was named after a movie of that time.

Music for this affair was furnished by the original Rhythm Aces. The show was first held on the porch of Central School. Mrs. Ethel Smith organized this program in order to raise funds for the school. Some thirty years later, "The Big Broadcast" is still one of the leading activities of the school.

In the relatively short history, Central Memorial boasts of being one of the first schools accredited by the Southern Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges. Other scholastic accomplishments worthy of note are: graduates accepted into any school in the country and graduates returning to be employed in the system from which they were graduates.

As for extracurricular activities are concerned. Its athletic department has consistently been hailed by the colleges and universities. Students received offers to do further study in the area of athletic training.

Its drama department has not only excelled, but has had numerous students who have entered the field of speech and drama.

Central musicians, both instrumental and vocal, have brought credit to themselves and the school.

All in all, there was not an activity on campus that has not helped Central to become even greater than it was.

There was always room for advancement, this the "Central Family" knew. Each year brought about changes and the only way to cope with this change was to strive to make one's effort better. One example is that many teachers who only had a "T" certificate returned to school/college to become better qualified, and many began working on their Master's Degrees in the mid 50's.

No one could tell what the fourth era of Central would be like, but one can safely say that if the past was any criterion for the future, then with the solid background laid

by those who touched Central, there was certainly was no need to fear. When the next phase of Central's History is written, there will be no gaps in the story, for these persons now concerned with the school are working assiduously to surpass, if possible, any endeavors set forth by their predecessors.