Boulder Outgrows New School House In Its First Year

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Fourteen Teachers, 700 Students In 11 Grades; More Rooms Needed

3/5/31

With a growth from 550 pupils at the first of the present school term to around 700 at the present time, Boulder City's school gives a striking manifestation of the fact that the Hoover dam community is one of comparatively young families, with an extremely high birth rate.

As the end of the first year of operation of the new school draws near a close it becomes likely that an additional temporary school building will be necessary to furnish additional housing for next year. There are 14 teachers now, conducting classes in eight primary and three high school grades, in addition to a kindergarten, operated on a subscription basis.

Private tuition schools of last year were supplanted this term by the school provided by the government, with teachers' salaries contributed by Six Companies Inc., and by the Babcock and Wilcox company. Excerpts are given here from a recent article written by City Manager Sims Ely, who is in charge of the school system.

"THE CAMP is a community of young families, the average age of the workers being about 34. There are already more than 800 children in Boulder City and the number is steadily on the increase, the birth rate being much higher than in any other town in the United States.

"No funds were available from state or national sources for schools. But last spring Congress appropriated $70,000 for construction of a school building, a brick structure of two stories and has 14 completed rooms. Two additional rooms can be provided in the basement when funds are available.

"As more than 80 per cent of the school children on the reservation belong to families of company employees and the bureau had no money for teachers, Six Companies met the situation with fine public spirit and agreed to contribute the sum of $18,800 to pay teachers in the elementary grades for the present school year, which opened September 26.

"THE SCHOOLS opened with an enrollment of 550 in the eight grades. The number in these grades was so large that the method of having the pupils attend in half-day groups was adopted.

"The census of last spring had shown a potential high school population of 90. It had been decided by the local officials of the bureau that, if funds could be found for payment of teachers' salaries, instruction would be given in the fundamental high school subjects of English, mathematics, history, and, if possible, general science, and one foreign language (Spanish), all for the first, second and third grades of high school. The Babcock and Wilcox company made a gift of $5,400, to be used as salaries of high school teachers or for such other school salaries or expenses as the bureau might find necessary the first year.

"IT IS EXPECTED additional accomodations will have to be provided in the form of a temporary building of four rooms, and completion of the two rooms in the basement, thus giving a total of 20 school rooms, inclusive of an assembly and study room for the high school.

The high school division opened October 10, with an enrollment of 109, comprising 45 in the eighth, 32 in the ninth, 20 in the tenth and 12 in the eleventh, with 500 in the seven lower grades, a grand total of 609. This has since increased to about 700, exclusive of the kindergarten classes.