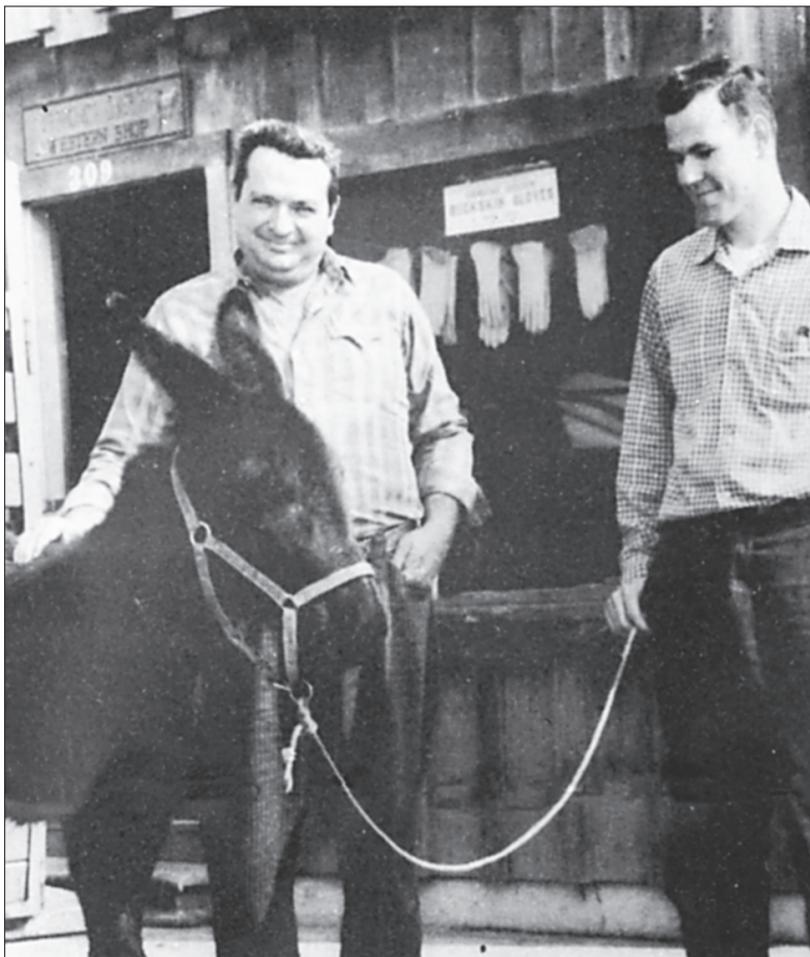


# HISTORY & FOLKLORE



From *Illustrated Press of Liberty County*, Thursday, March 21, 1963 – Merl Shockley, left of Shockley's Western Shop in Dayton, delivers a burro to Marion Magee of Lowe's Town House Restaurant. The burro is for Marion and Patti's baby girl, Twyla. The little animals can be had for from \$75 to \$100.



From *Liberty Gazette*, Thursday, April 15, 1971 – Ricky Myers lets fly with the discus at the recent Trinity Valley Relays. The LHS Panthers finished second in the meet to Humble's well-manned field forces.

From *Texas Illustrated*, March 1997 –

## Building the Hardin School, 1939-40

by Kevin Ladd

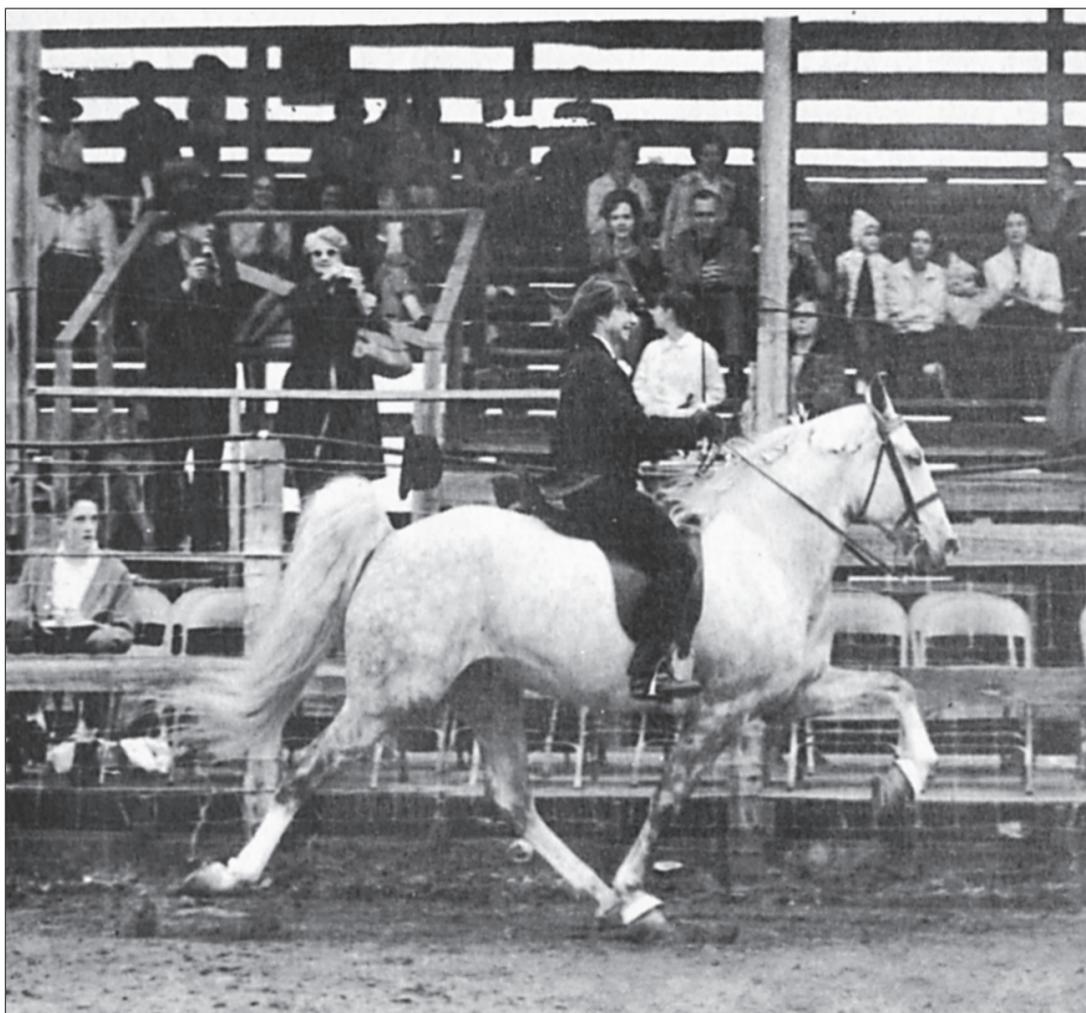
The ceremonial joining of five small school districts – Hardin, Lakeland, Marysee, Moss Hill and the old Young school from the Tanner Settlement – was effected early in 1939 and resulted in what was then called the Hardin Consolidated School District. It was further combined in the early 1940s with community schools in the northern portion of the county, resulting in a district that measured some 30 miles in length. It was, perhaps, a marriage of convenience and has not always been completely harmonious – but it has endured.

Soon after the consolidation, voters went to the polls on June 24, 1939, and approved a \$150,000 bond issue that provided for the construction of a school building to serve students in elementary through high school. The new school was to be constructed on a 16-acre tract of land donated to the district for that purpose by Col. R.W. and Geraldine Humphreys of Liberty, land that Mrs. Humphreys had inherited from the Hardin side of her family.

W.H. Randolph, the district's first superintendent, put together a complicated school program for the 1939-1940 term, utilizing three of their five old buildings. Grades 1, 2 and 3, dubbed the primary department, would attend the old Hardin school. The intermediate department, grades 4, 5 and 6, would be sent to the Lakeland school. Junior high, consisting of grades 7, 8 and 9, would attend school at Moss Hill. Arrangements were made for the high school grades to attend either Hull-Daisetta or Liberty, with the Hardin district paying for their tuition and handling the transportation of the pupils to those campuses.

The first board of education consisted of J.K. Turner, president; J.W. Walters, vice president; and C.G. Shaubarger, secretary. Other trustees were J.C. Barefield, E.T. "Ed" Cessna Jr., C.C. Hanchey, and Stewart G. Ratcliff.

The new school district organized a six-man football



From *Liberty Gazette*, Thursday, April 15, 1971 –

The Liberty Lions Charity Horse Show, performed for the past seven years in Liberty, will not be presented this year for lack of a sponsor. Officials express hope of getting a civic group to sponsor this fine if lightly-attended show and getting it into Boyt Arena later in this year to keep the string unbroken.

Seen here is Paula Alford on "Smith's Sabre," her family's magnificent Tennessee Walking horse, in Boyt Arena in 1966.

team in the fall of the school year and called themselves the "Hardin Blue Jackets," a name that at least matched the school colors of royal blue and gold. A pep squad was quickly organized with Dortha Merle Creel, Opal Duhon and Gordon Creel, all taking some part in its organization. The school afterward adopted the hornet as their mascot, which had served in the same capacity over the intervening years. Curtis Lindsey was the first coach and would later serve alternately as high school principal and superintendent.

The school board quickly awarded a contract to Myers Construction Company of Beaumont, with C.L. Myers supervising and C.W. Work listed in newspaper accounts as the project foreman. Work began in October, and the building was completely framed in by December of that year, with brick already up on half the structure.

The board met in January 1940 in the office of Liberty County School Superintendent Mrs. B.B. Sapp to open bids and look at samples of school furniture. The prices and supplies are extremely interesting 57 years later. The spacious auditorium, which was designed for 528 people, was outfitted with so-called "opera chairs" from American Desk and Manufacturing Company of Temple for a total price tag of \$2,247.08 (or \$4.26 each). The bulk of the furniture came from the Beckley Cardy Company of Houston. Student desks were made of birch wood and topped with linoleum. Tables were similarly outfitted on top with steel end panels. "Posture chairs," used in conjunction with the tables were also of birch.

The furniture came to \$7,441.63. Venetian blinds cost the district \$1,379.63, and stage curtains for the new auditorium were approved at a cost of \$1,017.27. A "state-of-the-art" public address system was purchased from International Business Machine for \$1,844. Total price tag for all of the furnishings came to \$13,929.63.

The school was completed shortly before the end of the 1939-1940 school year and has served the district well over intervening years. Superintendents have included W.H. Randolph, J.H. Slack, C.R. Lindsey, R.M. Sowers, E.R. Brice, Dr. Tom Pate, Tom Miksch, Raymond Trotter, Clarence E. Stanzel, Bob Parker, and Allen Sheffield.

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