Lincoln School Oral History Project

The 9,000 word document below contains direct statements concerning Lincoln School from the recorded minutes of the Joplin School Board. Data transcribed by Brad Belk February 4, 2019.

1902 (First entry –)

The Class Day exercises at Lincoln School were held on Friday, May 23, 1902 in the afternoon at the school located at 4th and Pennsylvania. The program consisted of the orchestra, the salutatory by Birdie May Owens, class history, class prophecy, the valedictory by Charles Andrew Young and an address to the 7th grade.

The Commencement exercises for Lincoln School were held on Monday, May 26, 1902 in the high school auditorium.

Pupils of Lincoln School were given a holiday on Monday, September 22, 1902 so they could take part in the Emancipation Day celebration being held in Pittsburg, Kansas.

1903

(January 3rd entry) The most successful fall term in the history of Lincoln School, both as to enrollment and work accomplished.

The graduating class of Lincoln School held their Class Day program on Friday, May 15, 1903 which consisted of chorus and solo music. Salutatory – Bertha Beatrice Hughes, Valedictory – Fay Antoinette Carnahan, class history and class prophecy. The graduates were Fay Antoinette Carnahan, Bertha Beatrice Hughes, Maude Irene Cope and Archie May Cope.

The Commencement exercises for the graduating class of Lincoln School was held on Monday, May 18, 1903 in the auditorium of Joplin High School. The program consisted of essays and musical numbers. There were four graduates in the class. The diplomas were presented by superintendent J. M. Gwinn.

The Joplin Globe was used as a sounding for and against the schools. One example was a letter complimenting Professor Brooks for his work at Lincoln School and his attempt to increases enrollment.

1904

The Lincoln School Commencement was held in the auditorium of the high school. Present was a large crowd composed of colored people of the city, the school board and friends and patrons of the school. The diplomas were presented to the four graduates by professor B. F. Allen, A. M., president of the Lincoln Institute.

1905

The colored school had been marked by more than the usual increase in enrollment at the end of the first month and some of the rooms were decidedly crowded. In the hunt for those absent by not enrolling, it was found the pupils and their parents had left town. It was believed it was because of the vaccination ordinance. Some kept them out rather than have the vaccination and then left town during the summer to go to school some where these ordinances were not in effect.
1906

The Baccalaureate sermon for the graduating class of the Lincoln School was held at the First Baptist Church on Sunday, May 13, 1906 with the Rev. H. H. Curtis conducting the service. There were nearly 400 people present.

The Commencement exercises of the Lincoln School was held in the high school auditorium on Thursday, May 17, 1906. This was the most successful of any graduating exercises ever held by Lincoln School. The program consisted of music, the Salutatory by Earl Hatcher and Valedictory by Emma Stover. Mayor Lyon participated in the exercises by presenting a gold medal offered by C. S. Poole, president of the board of education to the pupil making the highest grades. The medal was awarded to Emma Stover. The presentation of the diplomas was by Rev. J. S. Dorsey of Springfield to Earl Hatcher and Emma Stover.

1907

The largest class in the history of Lincoln School received their diplomas during services in the high school auditorium on Thursday, May 30, 1907. The five graduates were: Emma Clare Mitchell, Maggie Mae Browne, Mary Magelene Hoops, Robert Sherril Hatcher and Johnny Edward Cole. The Rev. W. F. Jones of the First Methodist Church delivered the commencement address. Johnny Cole was presented the gold medal offered to the member of the class who made the highest grades by Mr. S. A. Baker, principal of the high school. The diplomas were presented by Rev Jones.

1908

On Tuesday, July 7, 1908 the Board of Education opened the bids for the erection of Lincoln School. After first look, they rejected all the bids but they awarded the contract to the firm of Helem and Co. of Webb City. Their bid was for $11,487.00

During the meeting on Tuesday, November 10, 1908 the Board voted to dispense with mid-winter graduation exercises and that they be held at the close of school. They also set Friday, November 20, 1908 be fixed as opening day at Washington, Lincoln, Central, and Jackson buildings so parents and patrons could come in and see the improvements. The Board authorized the payment of $3,500 minus $100 for the Lincoln School.

On November 20, 1908 the four schools were opened to an informal inspection during the afternoon. A program was held at Lincoln School and teachers were present to guide visitors through the school.

At the meeting of Tuesday, December 1, 1908 the Board officially named the school building on East 7th Street the Lincoln School and sold the old Lincoln School site on 4th and Pennsylvania to Manley Landreth Machinery Company for $6,200.

1909

The Commencement exercises of the graduating class of Lincoln School were held at the school Friday, May 28, 1909. The program consisted of musical selections and orations by the students. The gold medal for the student with the highest grade was presented by Mrs. Ellis Brand and the diplomas were presented by Mr. J. H. Spencer, president of the School Board.

1910
The commencement exercises of Lincoln School were held Friday night, May 27, 1910, in the high school auditorium. The program for the evening was furnished by the members of the class, together with number with other students of the school. The honor students of the class were Nellie Burress, Valedictorian, and Jesse Walker, Salutatorian. Each of the honor students was awarded a gold medal for their work in school. The members of the class which was the largest in the history of the school were: Mabel Brown, Jesse Walker, Nellie Burress, Ruby Hoops, Mary Brown, and Lela Crowe. Superintendent of schools G. V. Buchanan presented the diplomas to the graduates.

(From 1911 to 1915 no entries recorded)

1916

At a Board meeting on Thursday, September 21, 1916 the superintendent Joseph Sparks was instructed to provide the proper equipment for the instruction of ten pupils in the domestic science department in the Lincoln School.

1917

C. S. Bankard read a communication from the Park Board offering to equip a play ground for colored children if the Board would grant them a portion of the Lincoln School grounds. The Board voted to grant the use of the ground at Lincoln and accept their proposition to establish a playground.

1918

The closing exercise of Lincoln School was held on Friday, May 24, 1918 in the high school auditorium. The main address of the program and commencement was given by Prof. I. E. Page of the Baptist College at Macon, Missouri.

The Board received a report of the investigation conducted by W. W. Kenoly, principal of Lincoln School, relative to the attendance in Lincoln School of colored children residing in Webb City. Mr. Kenoly recommended that payment should be made for 998 days attendance. The average cost per pupil, exclusive of supplies, for the month of June 1918, for Lincoln School was $3.07, making the total amount of tuition due $153.19. Superintendent Harris recommended that an itemized bill be sent to the Webb City Board of Education. The Board concurred.

1920

The closing exercises of the Lincoln School were held in the high school auditorium on Wednesday, June 9, 1920. The feature of the program was the play,” Hiawatha.” C. S. Bankard, president of the School Board presented a diploma to Mildred Young, who was the only graduate of the school this year. Miss Young also presented the graduation essay “The Results of Work”. The school chorus provided music for the program.

1921

The Lincoln School commencement was held in the high school auditorium on Wednesday, June 15, 1921 for three graduates. They were Lenora Lindsay, Inez Flemmings and Sabra Mae Everett. The program consisted of music, speaking and dancing. The commencement address was given by Dr. A. Benson Clark, member of the Board of Education, and the diplomas were presented by W. N. McDonald, president of the Board of Education.
1922

The graduating exercises for Lincoln School were held Wednesday night, May 17, 1922 in the auditorium of the high school. The class consisted of three girls who received diplomas presented by C. A. Trusty, vice president of the School Board. Those graduating were Opal Myers, Matilda Solomon and Thelma Ivy. Following the graduation, a three-act Japanese playlet was presented with students of Lincoln School making up the cast.

1924

September 2, 1924 Board meeting – To conclude its business, the Board voted to establish a kindergarten for Negroes in a vacant room in the Lincoln School.

1925

At the October 6, 1925 Board meeting – The Board endorsed the following plan for the first stage of the building program - - - 3. Rehabilitation of the following schools, making them thoroughly modern, and as far as possible, fireproof, as contemplated in the survey Jefferson, Lafayette, Lincoln Elementary and High School, McKinley and Freshman High School.

1926

January 5, 1926 Board meeting – Smith and Van Pelt: The rehabilitation of Jefferson and Lincoln Schools and the building of the new Longfellow School, work on all of which must be completed by August 15, 1926.

March 2, 1926 Board meeting – The architects were instructed to proceed with plans and specifications for a five-room building for Longfellow School. They also approved preliminary plans for the remodeling of Lincoln School.

At a special session of the School Board on Tuesday, May 11, 1926, the Board opened bids for the remodeling of Lincoln School. The following were accepted: For the general contract, Greenwell Construction Company ($6,713); for electrical work, The Chandelier Shop ($297). The Board deferred the bid for the plumbing and heating contract until a special meeting to be held later. The tax levy of $1.60 per $100 valuation that was voted earlier was divided as follows: teachers’ fund 77 cents, incidental fund 23 cents; sinking fund, 35 cents; interest fund 25 cents.

The Board accepted the bid of Gelz and Lorenz on the pressure system at the bid of $3,990 for heating and plumbing of Lincoln School.

It was announced that extensive repairs had been made on Lafayette School at 18th Connor, Jefferson School at 2nd and McKinley and Lincoln School at East 7th Street.

At the December 7, 1926 Board meeting – the Board then made the final payment to A. S. Greenwell Construction Company on the general contract on Lincoln School.

1930

The Board then voted that Smith and Van Pelt, architects, be instructed to proceed at once with the plan for additions to Washington School, Longfellow School and a combined auditorium/gymnasium for Lincoln School - - -
Graduation exercises were held on Friday, May 16, 1930 for five boys and girls of Lincoln School. The graduates were Opal Flippin, Hazel Flippin, Cordelia Meeks, Ralph Mason and Shirley Crosby. The program highlight was an original playlet, “The Eve Before the Gun”, oration by Shirley Crosby, valedictory address by Cordelia Meeks. Principal W. S. Crosby presented the class and the attendance awards were given by superintendent Koontz. The program was ended by the Methodist Episcopal Church choir.

On September 2, 1930 practically all building projects of the Joplin school system would be completed in time for opening of school. Lincoln and Longfellow were ready for inspection. - - - Final payments on the plumbing and heating, electrical contract, general contract and architect’s fees for Washington, Lincoln and Longfellow schools were approved.

(1931, 1932, 1933 no references to Lincoln School)

1934

On Friday, May 4, 1934 the Lincoln High School track team left for a the state Negro interscholastic track and field meet in Jefferson City. The trip was made possible through donations from Girl Scout Troop #14 of which Mrs. C. W. Cuther was captain, the Lincoln PTA, and the LHS Class Club.

1935

According to a school nurse’s report showed soup kitchens, under a federal project, had organized serving an average of 240 children each day. Lincoln is one of the eight schools mentioned.

Three pupils from Lincoln School were presented diplomas at the school’s 1935 commencement exercises. The diplomas were presented by Herbert Wheeler, member of the board of education, to Nadine Crossley valedictorian; Jacqueline Curtis, salutatorian; and Marian Lindsey.

The Negro high school at Lincoln School was given an accredited high school rating by Supervisor Keigh of the state department of education, who visited the school for an inspection. Lincoln School graduates who planned to enter college or university would be given 17 ½ units credit for four years’ work.

Fall 1935 Enrollment at Lincoln High School was 29. High school grades had been established at the school five years before. Marion Dial was the principal.

1936

A committee from Lincoln school appeared before the board on Tuesday, December1st, to request action to provide a gymnasium for their school. A committee of Mr. Casey and Mr. Wheeler were appointed to look into and report back to the board.

Mr. Casey, a member of the business committee, reported that the old auditorium at North Junior High could be remodeled to make a satisfactory gymnasium for Lincoln School children. The board voted that all phases being satisfactory, the board should proceed with making the old North Junior High auditorium usable as a gym for Lincoln School at an approximate cost of $300. The matter was left to the business committee with the power to act and they would take it up with the WPA supervisor.

1937
At the Board meeting of Tuesday, March 2. The Educational Committee submitted three educational policies . . . 1. If money is available, teachers’ salaries should be raised at least 5% for the next year, and more if possible. 2. Immediate steps should be taken toward the organization of a junior college. 3. Provision should be made for a more satisfactory physical education for the colored school.

On Saturday, March 13, the Joplin Lincoln High School’s basketball team went to the finals of the Negro tournament at Jefferson City, Missouri, losing to Poplar Bluff 30 to 13. Lincoln High School had defeated Springfield to advance to the tournament.

The work in Lincoln School for Negroes also received praise from the state educator, (Missouri state superintendent Lloyd King) who said the school used approved teaching methods. (This information came via a letter from King to Joplin Superintendent Elliott.)

The Joplin Lincoln High School football team opened its season at Junge Stadium on Friday October 8. Their opponent was Lincoln High of Carthage, whom they defeated 24 to 0. The Joplin team was coached by M. W. Dial.

On a holiday tour through Oklahoma, Lincoln High School’s basketball team won 2 games and lost 2. The Booker T. Washington School of Tulsa defeated Lincoln High School 24-13. Later Lincoln team beat a McAlister team 27 to 6 and Ft. Gibson 18 to 15. The last game with Summit near Muskogee LHS lost 24 to 19.

1938

(January) Marion Dial, coach, stated he was forced to cancel the remaining games scheduled for the season because a gymnasium was not available for home games. Four games were cancelled.

On Friday, March 11, Joplin High School was again included on the first class list with 67 ½ again of high school work, according to notification from Lloyd W. King, state superintendent of schools. The Lincoln High School was also approved.

B. R. Van Pelt, supervising engineer of the WPA for the Joplin area presented plans for additions to Eagle Picher and Lincoln Schools to the Board. A two-room addition was proposed for Eagle Picher, which would increase the building to six rooms with an additional book room and closet space. A combination gymnasium and larger auditorium was planned for Lincoln School to replace a small auditorium. Van Pelt was authorized to prepare estimates for the projects, which would be built with WPA labor.

The School Board received a letter on Tuesday, April 19, 1938 from the directors of the Joplin Chamber of Commerce recommending that the Joplin School Board call an election for a bond issue of $100,000 to provide for a junior college, an extension to Eagle Picher School and a gymnasium for Lincoln School. The Board also receive a letter from the Junior Chamber of Commerce endorsing the action of the Chamber of Commerce.

The Joplin School Board voted to take immediate steps to finance two additional rooms on the Eagle Picher School because of overcrowded conditions; a gymnasium/auditorium for Lincoln School; and adequate facilities for the junior college and vocational education classes.

It was noted during the Board’s discussion of the proposed bond issue that should the bonds be issued, WPA labor would be used in much of the work, particularly in building the gymnasium at Lincoln School and the addition to Eagle Picher School.
Carrying the endorsement of parent teacher associations, civic clubs, and other organizations and prominent citizens, a proposed $100,000 bond issue for school improvements was placed before voters in the Joplin school district as a special election on Tuesday, May 10, 1938.

Money obtained from the sale of bonds should carry by two-thirds majority, would be spent for the following projects: * Remodeling the old North Junior High building at 4th and Byers for the junior college and vocational classes * Adding two classrooms to the Eagle Picher School in Smelter Hill to relieve overcrowding * Building a combined auditorium/gymnasium at Lincoln School for Negroes and remodeling the existing playroom at the school into two additional rooms.

Excavation work for the auditorium/gymnasium addition to Lincoln School for Negroes was started the first week of school by the WPA crew.

Professor Elliott announced that the foundation work for the construction project at Lincoln School and the construction of a two-room addition to Eagle Picher School were virtually complete. Work on both projects were expected to be finished by Spring, 1939.

1939

The Lincoln High School basketball team opened its season on Friday, January 6, 1939. They defeated Carthage Negro team 13 to 8. It was the first game of the season for both teams.

Supervision of the Joplin High School, Lincoln High School, and the care taken by the Board of Education in selecting teachers for the two schools, were commended in a letter from Lloyd W. King, state superintendent of schools and L. H. VanDyke, director of high school supervision. . . The senior high had 67 approved credits and Lincoln School had 19 approved credits.

On Friday, March 3, Lincoln High School defeated Springfield in a Negro high school basketball game 25-10. This entitled Joplin to go to the state tournament at Jefferson City on Monday, March 9.

The Southwest District Association of Negro Teachers met at Lincoln School on Saturday May 13, 1939. Approximately 358 teachers attended. M. W. Dial principal Lincoln was president of the association and Miss Thelma Meeks, a teacher at Lincoln, was secretary. A general meeting was held in the afternoon. Officers were elected at a general session following a dinner at the school.

A Baccalaureate service was conducted on Sunday May 14, for the graduating class of Lincoln High School in the school auditorium. Music was provided by the mixed chorus and the high school chorus. The sermon was given by Rev. J. T. Smith

Commencement exercises for the graduating class of Lincoln High School were held on Wednesday, May 17 at the school auditorium. Special music for the program was presented by the high school chorus, the junior high girls and vocal solos.

Total enrollment for the final month of school was announced on June 7, 1939. Of the 6,886 students enrolled, 1,158 attended the high school, 270 attended junior college and 58 attended Lincoln School.

A contract for a bronze plaque for Lincoln School listing the names of board members and those in charge of construction was awarded to General Steel Products Company, who submitted the low bid of $55.
On Friday, October 13, Dr. Sherman Scruggs, president of Lincoln Negro University in Jefferson City, spoke at the dedication services for the new Lincoln School gymnasium/auditorium. State Senator Allen McReynolds of Carthage and Rev. Cliff Titus of the Joplin School Board also spoke.

1940

Lincoln High School defeated Baxter Springs 24-5 to open its basketball season. Lincoln was a member of the Southeast Kansas League, which had seven members.

On that same day (December 20, 1940) Lincoln High School of Joplin defeated Claremore, Oklahoma Lincoln High School 20 to 8 playing in their new gym.

1941

The Board then received word by letter from state superintendent Lloyd W. King that the white high school was retained as a first class school with 59 units approved. The colored school was also retained as a first class school with 16 units approved.

The same night, Saturday, March 1, the Lincoln High School Tigers ended their basketball season with a victory over Fort Gibson 20-18.

The baccalaureate service for eight graduates of Lincoln High School was held in the auditorium on Sunday May 11, 1941. Special music was presented by the choir and the sermon was given by the Rev. W. M. Jackson.

The commencement exercise for Lincoln High School’s Class of 1941 was held Wednesday, May 14, 1941. Special music for the program was presented by the mixed chorus and girls’ glee club. The commencement speaker was E. J. Hawkins of Fort Scott, Kansas, E. A. Elliott superintendent, presented the class to Charles Wells president of the Board of Education. He presented diplomas to Betty Lou Gipson, Lela Mae Gipson, Delores Solomen, Naomi Thompson, Naomi Powell, Opal Thompson, Laverne Watkins and Clifton Boyd Cox.

1942

On Tuesday, March 3, a letter was received from Lloyd V. King state superintendent, announcing that the white senior high school was again rated “first class” with 70 ½ units of credit approved. The colored school Lincoln High School was approved unclassified with 12 ½ units.

A committee from Lincoln, Alcott and Eagle Picher schools appeared before the Board and asked for the privilege of using the Lincoln kitchen for canning purposes during the summer, as all canned products from the WPA garden project were to be used for hot lunches for school children only. The Board voted to grant the request with the stipulation that all products canned in the building be used for school lunches and that the project be closed before the opening of school in the fall.

The baccalaureate service for the eight graduates of Lincoln High School was held on Sunday May 17 in the Lincoln auditorium. The Rev. W. T. Mitchell, pastor of Trinity Methodist Church, gave the sermon.

Commencement exercises for both high schools were held on Tuesday May 19th. The Lincoln commencement was held in the school auditorium. The speaker was Dr. Sherman D. Scruggs of Jefferson City. The class of 1942 was presented to Charles Wells who presented the diplomas to Lettie
A one-week scrap drive with the Joplin schoolchildren taking the lead, was launched on Monday, October 5. The drive ended a week later with large piles of salvage material on all the city’s 19 school grounds. It was estimated that the collection weighed about 150 tons.

1943

(On May 14, 1943) Class Day for the graduating class of Lincoln High School was held in the Lincoln auditorium. The program consisted of the class history, class poem, class song, class prophecy, valedictory address by Evelyn Mae Tutt and the presentation of two books *The Life of George Washington Carver, What the Negro Thinks* to the library.

The (baccalaureate) service for Lincoln High School was held in the auditorium. The Rev. Robert F. Marble, minister of First Methodist Church delivered the baccalaureate sermon.

Commencement exercises for the graduating class of 1943 were held on Wednesday, May 19 in the Lincoln auditorium. The program consisted of the commencement address by Dean Bryant, dean of Lincoln College in Kansas City, the class presentation by M. W. Dial, principal and E. A. Elliott, superintendent and the acceptance by Clifford Casey, president of the Joplin Board of Education. He presented diplomas to Laura Mae Fowler, Edithem Holt, Minola Kennedy, Allene Luster, Walter Meeks, Robert Stevens, Ernestine Thomas and Evelyn Tutt.

1944

Lincoln High School was also approved as a first class school with 17 units of credit.

The baccalaureate for the graduating class of Lincoln School was held in the school auditorium on Sunday, May 14. The sermon was by Rev. J. R. Guyton of Carthage. Vocal soloists furnished music for the program.

Commencement exercises for the 1944 graduating class of Lincoln High School were held on Tuesday, May 16, 1944, at the Lincoln School auditorium. Music for the program was furnished by the mixed chorus, girls’ glee club, girls’ ensemble and the entire class.

Horace Hughes, a professor at Booker T. Washington School in Tulsa, Oklahoma and editor of the *Tulsa Eagle* delivered the commencement address.

The class was presented by M. W. Dial principal, and Roi S. Wood, superintendent of schools, Clifford H. Casey, president of the Board of Education accepted the class and presented diplomas to Frank Allen, Merle Banks, Anga Lee Harper, Helen Thomas and Betty Belle Wright.

Joplin’s Lincoln High School opened the 1944-45 basketball season at home with a 32-23 victory over b Springfield Douglas.

1945

The Lincoln High School Tigers won the Negro Class B state basketball championship after winning their first two games over St. Charles and Mexico. After returning home from Jefferson City, the team was
honored with a victory dinner in the Lincoln school auditorium on Tuesday, March 13. The team was coached by Gandy Smith and principal M. W. Dial.

Eleven seniors graduated from Lincoln High School in 1945. Baccalaureate services were held on Sunday, May 20, 1945 in the school auditorium. Music for the program was provided by the mixed chorus, senior boys and audience participation. The Baccalaureate sermon was given by Rev. P. A. Felder, pastor of the Mount Hebron Baptist Church of Pittsburg, Kansas. He was assisted by three other local ministers.

The commencement exercises for Lincoln High School graduates were held on Tuesday, May 22, 1945 in the school auditorium. Music was provided by audience participation, mixed chorus, the senior class and vocal soloist. The commencement address was given by C. C. Hubbard, principal of Hubbard High School at Sedalia, Missouri.

Mr. Roi S. Wood, superintendent, presented the class to Mr. C. Ray Carlson, president of the Board of Education, who presented diplomas to the following graduates: Carl Bills, Jr., Bobbie Bradshaw, Lottie Christman, Donna Haggerman, Carl James, Jr., Dorothy Mitchell, Rose Marie Powell, Peggy Reaves, William Reaves, Luvernia Smiley and Herman Stephens.

Joplin’s Lincoln High School opened its basketball season on the road on Friday December 3, with a loss to Springfield, 19-12.

1946

Results of an inspection of Joplin schools were announced on Wednesday April 17. The inspection was made by W. J. Willet, state supervisor of public schools and John F. Wilson county superintendent. The Lincoln High School was also rated a first class school with 18 3/4s units. . . . The school transportation program was also approved.

A Class Day exercise was held for the three graduating students of Lincoln High School. A style show of dresses made by the girls of the home economics department were presented in a combined program in the school auditorium. The Class Day portion of the program included a vocal solo, the class prophecy by Myrna Lee Bartz and the class will by Francis Stinnett.

“Forward Ever, Backward Never” was the motto of the graduating students of Lincoln High School who heard Rev. P. E. Sneed of Pittsburg, KS, deliver the baccalaureate sermon in the school auditorium on Sunday May 19. Music was provided by the mixed chorus and audience participation. Three local ministers assisted in the service.

Three students graduated at Lincoln High School completed graduation requirements and were honored at the commencement exercises on Tuesday, May 21, in the school auditorium. Music for the program was provided by the senior class, girls’ glee club, vocal soloists and the mixed chorus. The commencement address was given by Miss Pearl Swartz, head of the English department of Washington Technical High School of St. Louis, Missouri and president of the State Association of Negro Teachers.

The class was presented by Mr. M. W. Dial, principal, and Roi S. Wood, superintendent. The class was accepted by Mark D. Henderson, president of the Joplin Board of Education who presented the diplomas to Josephine Allen, Myrna Bartz and Francis Stinnett.

Lincoln High School opened its football season on Wednesday, September 25 and were defeated by Bartlesville Douglas High School 20 to 7 at Junge Stadium.
Joplin Lincoln High School opened its basketball season at Claremore, Oklahoma, in an invitational tournament. In the first game, they defeated Nowata 25 to 5, but lost in the second game to Pawhuska 30 to 25.

1947

Joplin’s Lincoln High School Tigers won the 6th annual Tri-State Negro High School Basketball Tourney on Saturday, March 1, by defeating Bartlesville 40 to 35 in the Lincoln gymnasium. This was the third time Lincoln High School had won the tournament.

Joplin Lincoln High School Tigers took third place in the Missouri Negro High School Basketball Tournament at Jefferson City on Saturday, March 8. They defeated Mexico 33 to 23, lost to St. Charles 48 to 47 in the semifinals and recovered to beat Caruthersville 51 to 44 to win the third place trophy.

The Tigers played one additional game after the state tournament. They defeated Coffeyville 44 to 37 in the Southeast Kansas Conference Championship. They finished conference play with a record of 12-1 and a 19-3 season record.

The baccalaureate service for the nine graduating seniors of Lincoln High School was held on Sunday, May 18 in the school’s auditorium. Speaker for the service was Rev. C. W. Watkins, pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church.

A class of nine students graduated from Lincoln High School at commencement exercises held on Tuesday May 20, 1947. Music was presented by the mixed chorus and girls’ glee club. The commencement address was given by Earl Thomas, principal of the Lincoln High School in Kansas City, Missouri, and president of the Missouri State Association of Negro Teachers. Mr. M. W. Dial and Roi S. Wood presented the class to Mark Henderson, School Board president who awarded diplomas to Norma Bryant, Daisy Edmondson, Cletis Harris, Betty Pyles, Shirley Ransom, Betty Reaves, Frank Stinnett, Eugene Terry and Jack Wright.

Lincoln High School of Joplin went down to a 21-0 defeat in its first football game of the season to Bartlesville Douglas High School. The game was played in Bartlesville.

Joplin Lincoln High School opened its basketball season on Wednesday December 3 with a 37 -19 win over Joplin Veterans of Foreign Wars at Lincoln gymnasium.

1948

Joplin’s Lincoln High School Tigers romped to the championship of the Negro basketball tournament held in the Lincoln University gymnasium in Jefferson City on Saturday March 13, 1948. Joplin defeated St. Charles 57-45. On their way to the championship, the Tigers defeated Booneville 38-35 in the semifinals.

The baccalaureate service for the graduating class of Lincoln High School were held the same day as the high school service, Sunday May 16. Music for the program was by audience participation, vocal solos and a vocal ensemble. The sermon was given by Rev. B. C. Brock, pastor of the Handy Chapel Methodist Church of Joplin. He was assisted by three other local ministers.

Commencement exercises for the four graduating seniors at Lincoln High School were held on May 18, in the school auditorium. The mixed chorus, girls’ glee club and two ensembles furnished music for the program. The commencement address was given by Dr. G. Robert Cotton, president of the Kansas
Vocational School of Topeka. The presentation of the class was made by M. W. Dial and Roi S. Wood, to Mark D. Henderson, School Board president, who presented diplomas to Ben Morris Bradshaw, Halleburton Cox, Roy Lloyd Gilmore and Wardell Rudolph West.

A fast-moving team from Douglas High School at Bartlesville, Oklahoma, smothered Joplin Lincoln High School Tigers 20-8 to open the 1948 football season.

Joplin's Lincoln High School defeated Wagoner 14-13 in the last game of the season. The game was played in Wagoner, Oklahoma, and left Lincoln with 2 wins, 1 tie and 2 loses.

Lincoln High School defeated Vinita, Oklahoma's Negro school team 39 to 21 in a basketball game that opened the season for the Tigers on Friday, December 10, 1948.

1949

A class in auto mechanics for Negroes opened Monday, January 24 in the old Purkett building at 14th and Main Streets. The class was postponed from its planned starting date of January 17 because of the ice storm.

On Thursday, May 26, Class Day exercises were held for the eight graduating seniors of Lincoln High School. The class song, history, prophecy, poem and will were included in the program.

Baccalaureate services for the eight graduates of Lincoln High School were conducted Sunday afternoon May 29 in the Lincoln auditorium. The Rev. M. G. Edmonson, pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Neosho, delivered the baccalaureate sermon. He was assisted by three local ministers. The mixed chorus presented special music.

The commencement exercises for the graduating seniors of Lincoln High School were held in the school auditorium on May 31, 1949. Music for the program was given by the mixed quartet, girls’ glee club and vocal and instrumental solos. The commencement address was given by D. F. Martinez, state supervisor of Negro schools in Missouri. The class was presented by Principal M. W. Dial and Superintendent Roi S. Wood. The class was accepted by Mr. Joe Harding, president of the Board of Education, who presented diplomas to Rose Mary Beasley, Francis Edmonson, Marlene Mason, Leon Powell Jr., Rea Faye Powell, Harold Wadkins, Lonnie James Woolard and Wayne Wright.

Joplin's Lincoln High School football team ended its season on November 11, by defeating Bartlesville, Oklahoma Lions 19-0 at Bartlesville. The win made the season's record for the Tigers with 3 wins and 2 loses.

The hiring of a music teacher, preliminary to organizing an orchestra at Lincoln High School was authorized by the Board of Education. The Board also voted that adequate repairs be made at the Lincoln School for another room.

Joplin's Lincoln High School basketball team defeated Douglas of Parsons, Kansas 34 to 22 in the Southeast Kansas Colored Conference. Prior to the game, Lincoln had won three games and lost two; two of the wins and one of the defeats earned in the Pawhuska, Oklahoma tournament. Other games included a 45-8 victory over Vinita and a 25-24 loss to the alumni five.

1950
After being authorized in November to hire a music instructor for Lincoln High School, the Board employed James C. Ewery as the music instructor to begin on January 30, at a salary of $266.67 per month for 4 ¼ months.

The expenditure for caps and gowns was eliminated from the preliminary budget for the 1950-51 and Lincoln High School, Joplin High School and the junior college were advised that the school district would not pay rental on them for the 1950 school year.

On Saturday, February 25, Joplin’s Lincoln High School took the tri-state basketball tournament championship by edging out Pawhuska, Oklahoma 48-45. The tournament was played at the Lincoln gym.

Lincoln High School won the state Class B Negro basketball championship at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, defeating Mexico 56-38 in the finals. It was the third Class B state title for Coach G. W. Smith’s Tigers who last won the event in 1948.

A special assembly was held at Lincoln on Monday, March 13 as students and teachers gave the team a big welcome. That night, a banquet in their honor was held at the Negro Service Council Center at 122 Main Street. The coaches Gandy Smith and principal M. W. Dial, the faculty and parents of the athletes were honored at the banquet sponsored by the chamber of commerce and public school system.

In making its debut to the public, the newly organized Lincoln High School band was well received by an audience of approximately 400 people in the school auditorium. Under the direction of band director James C. Ewery, the musicians played four selections and one encore.

Sunday May 21, was baccalaureate day for both Lincoln High School and Joplin High School. The Lincoln service was held in the school auditorium. Music was presented by the girls’ glee club and a vocal soloist. The sermon was given by Rev. J. T. Smith, pastor of Unity Baptist Church, who spoke on “Qualified Leadership.” He was assisted by three other local ministers.

Approximately 350 people witnessed the commencement exercises at Lincoln High School on Tuesday, May 23, 1950. The girls’ glee club and the school band presented music for the program. The commencement speaker was James E. Andersen, principal of Dunbar Elementary School in Wichita, Kansas. Following his address, the class was presented by Cecil Floyd, assistant superintendent of schools, and Professor M. W. Dial, Lincoln principal. The class was accepted by Hebert Van Fleet, vice president of the Board of Education, who presented diplomas to the following graduates: Peggy Burney, John Calhoun, Lewis Cortez, Herman Fowler, Susie Reaves, Richard Woolard, and Mary Wright.

More than 450 persons attended open house at Lincoln School on Thursday, August 31 to view the recently completed remodeling of the building. Except for the gymnasium, the building had been completely redecorated and remodeled with tile flooring, cushion-tone ceiling tiling and fluorescent lighting in all rooms. Eleven classrooms had been equipped with new or refinished furniture and woodwork. Several rooms have been added.

Approximately 1,524 Joplin public school children in three junior highs and the junior and senior students at Lincoln School received chest x-ray tests without cost at the Jasper County Tuberculosis Hospital west of Webb City.

The Lincoln High School Tigers traveled to Kansas City, Kansas to play their first football game of the season against Sumner High School. It was not a good day, as they lost to the Spartans 19-6.
Delegates to the 18th annual session of the Missouri branch of the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers arrived in Joplin on Wednesday, October 4. The opening session was held at Lincoln High School. The high school band and other pupils provided special music and workshops were held on Thursday and Friday. Mrs. Maurene Wilson of Lexington, Missouri was elected president to serve during the coming year.

Lincoln High School ended its football season on Thursday, November 9, 1950, racking up a final victory of 18-0 over Wagoner, Oklahoma. The Tigers ended their season with 4 wins, 1 loss and 1 tie.

Lincoln High School trounced Hubbard of Sedalia in opening game of the basketball season played in Lincoln Gym on Friday December 1, 1950.

1951

Baccalaureate services for the seven members of the graduating class of Lincoln High School were held on Sunday, afternoon May 20, at the Lincoln auditorium. The Rev. E. B. Martin, pastor of the Handy Chapel, A. M. E. Church, delivered the baccalaureate sermon. He was assisted by Rev. William Buford. The commencement exercises for the Lincoln High School Class of 1951 were held on Friday, May 22, 1951 in the high school auditorium. The commencement address was given by P. G. Porter of Olathe, KS. He was a Grand Master of Prince Hall Grand Lodge, A. F. and A. M. of Kansas jurisdiction and a tax examiner with the Kansas Department of Revenue and Taxation. The graduating class was presented by M. W. Dial, principal and Roi S. Wood, superintendent. The class was accepted by Mr. Joe Harding, president of the Board of Education, who presented diplomas to: Mary Austin, Richard Cox, Shirrell Cortez, Mae Gilmore, Lorraine Gunn, Herbert Hutchison and Cecil Terry.

Lincoln School’s band, now a year old, made its first uniformed appearance in a concert at the school auditorium on Monday, September 17. The 40-piece band was under the supervision of James C. Ewery. The brilliant uniforms of maroon and gold were made possible through contributions by clubs, organizations, teachers, parents, business firms, and fund-raising entertainments. The band was made up of elementary, junior high and high school students.

Mr. Roi S. Wood, superintendent of Joplin schools, made the “see the uniforms” speech. Members of the Board of Education were present and the public was invited. Some 300 to 400 people attended the concert and faculty reception.

The Lincoln High School Tigers scored a 12-0 win over the Douglas Dragons in Bartlesville, Oklahoma in the opening football contest of the season for both teams.

Lincoln High School Tigers opened the basketball season on Saturday, December 1, in the Bartlesville invitational Basketball Tournament. Unfortunately, they lost a thriller, 53-52, to Nowata, Oklahoma.

1952

The Lincoln High School Tigers won 44 to 42 victory in overtime over Geary, Oklahoma in the finals of the Tri-State Basketball Tournament.

Lincoln High School Tigers left for Jefferson City, Missouri, to take part in the Missouri State basketball tournament for Negro high schools. They drew a first round bye, defeated Cape Girardeau 51-37 in the quarterfinals, defeated Festus 63-42 in the semifinals and won the Missouri State Negro High School Class B basketball championship by defeating Mexico 63-34. The Tigers had one more game to play before the season ended, which they won, leaving them with a 14 wins and 12 losses record.
School officials and civic leaders honored members of the Lincoln High School Class B Negro basketball champions at a banquet attended by about 100 people at the Negro Service Council Center on Tuesday, March 25, 1952. William C. Markwardt, civic leader, was the principal speaker. The boys were presented certificates of merit by the Chamber of Commerce. Gold baskets were awarded to the players at a school ceremony.

Class Day at Lincoln High School consisted of a rhythm band, a playlet and the class song, history, prophecy, will and poem, which were presented by the members of the graduating class. Several musical numbers helped make up the program. May 16

The Lincoln High School baccalaureate service was held at the Lincoln auditorium for nine graduates of 1952. Special music was presented by the junior high school girls. The Rev. M. G. Edmondson, pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Neosho, gave the sermon. He was assisted by Rev. William Buford.

The commencement exercises for nine graduates of Lincoln High School were held on Tuesday, May 20, 1952 at the school auditorium. Two musical numbers were presented as part of the program. The commencement address was given by Dr. S. H. Thompson, principal of Sumner High School in Kansas City, Kansas. Principal M. W. Dial presented the class to Mrs. Reba Blanke, vice president of the Board of Education, who presented diplomas to the following graduates: Alan D. Davis, Andrewleen Edwards, Clara Bell Edmonson, Otis Fields, Viola May Hayley, Naomi Nettles, Willie May Poole, George A. Powell and Charlene J. Thomas.

Football season opened in Joplin on Thursday, September 18, 1952. Lincoln High School was the first team to open the season. They started in the first period and went on to defeat Bartlesville 25 -12 at Junge Stadium.

The Lincoln High School football team cancelled the last game of the season when Tulsa would not give Lincoln any guarantees after many calls and letters. The Tigers finished the season with two wins and four losses.

Lenpak, Oklahoma defeated Lincoln High School 38-30 in the first basketball game of the season for the Tigers.

1953

According to a report received by the Joplin Board of Education, Lincoln School was up to standards for Negro schools set up by the Missouri State Board of Education. The school had been toured by A. L. Redmon, state superintendent of schools for Negro children. The report covered supervision, equipment, educational programs, the efficiency of organization, special services, transportation, facilities, and the condition of the school building.

Lincoln High School Tigers rolled to a 50-32 victory over Springfield to win the tri-state basketball tournament on the Lincoln court on Saturday March 7. The following week, they went to Jefferson City to play in the Missouri Class B Negro high school basketball tournament.

Baccalaureate services for the eight graduates of Lincoln High School were held on Sunday afternoon, May 24, in the Lincoln auditorium. The Lincoln School band and vocal solo provided music for the service. The baccalaureate sermon was given by Rev. William Burford, assistant pastor of Unity Baptist Church. He was assisted by Rev. L. T. Thompson and principal M. W. Dial.
A short play, “The Letter”, was presented by the senior class of Lincoln High School during the Class Day program on Monday afternoon, May 25th. The program also consisted of the class history, prophecy, poem, will, class song and musical numbers. Bobby Terry was Master of Ceremonies and Ogis Field was the class president.

Eight members of the senior class at Lincoln High School graduated at a ceremony in the school auditorium on Tuesday, May 26, 1953. Special music for the program was provided by the girls’ octet and an instrumental solo by senior Billye Bradshaw. The commencement address was given by Dr. Charles M. Hoard, dean of men at Lincoln University at Jefferson City. The class was presented by principal M. W. Dial to superintendent Roi S. Wood, who presented the class to Jack Fleischaker, president of the Board of Education, who presented diplomas to: Billye Bradshaw, Milder Brandy, Ogis Fields, Emma Fowler, Joseph Gunn, Carol Logue, Charles Stephens and Bobby Terry.

Kansas City Lincoln School took advantage of Joplin Lincoln High School’s fumbles and spotty passing to defeat the Tigers 25-0 in a nonconference opener for both teams in Kansas City on Thursday, September 17, 1953.

The Lincoln High School Tigers ended their 1953 football season with a road game in Bartlesville. The Bartlesville Dragons rolled over Lincoln 26-6. The Tigers concluded the season with 1 victory and 7 defeats.

The Lincoln Tigers of Joplin went on the road to open the 1953-54 basketball season on Tuesday, November 24. They went to Jane, Missouri to play White Rock High School Roosters, who hit the nets for a 70-40 basketball victory.

1954

The Joplin Lincoln High School Tigers were overwhelmed by Marionville 65 -41 in the opening round of the Sarcoxie Class B sub-regional basketball tournament.

Lincoln High School wound up its 1953-54 basketball season on Friday, March 5, dropping a 61-41 decision to Springfield Lincoln which scored its second win of the reason over the Tigers.

Two bands, eight soloists and one duet of the Lincoln High School music department participated in one-day state music festival held at Lincoln University at Jefferson City, Missouri, on Friday, April 9. The marching band received a 2- rating and the concert band was given a 3+ rating. Thirty-eight music students made the trip.

Senior Class Day exercises were held in the auditorium at Lincoln High School on Friday, May 21. The program consisted of musical numbers, a tribute to the teachers, class will, history, and prophecy, presentation of the class colors to the juniors, class poem and presentation of gifts to the school, M. W. Dial, principal, and teachers. Ann Terry served as mistress of ceremonies for the program.

Baccalaureate services for the graduating seniors of Lincoln High School were held in the school auditorium on Sunday, May 23, 1954. Music for the services was provided by the high school, band, a cornet duet and junior high school chorus. The baccalaureate sermon was given by Rev. M. McMillan, pastor of the Handy Chapel A.M.E. Church of Joplin. He was assisted by two other local ministers.

A capacity crowd at Lincoln High School witnessed the graduation of nine seniors on May 25, 1954. Musical solos provided special music for the program. Lewis W. Clymer, Kansas City lawyer, presented a curators’ scholarship to Elese Frazier, top ranking student of the high school.
The commencement address was given by state representative J. McKinley Neal of Kansas City. He was an eight-year member of the Missouri House of Representatives and also executive secretary of the Negro Chamber of Commerce in Kansas City.

Principal M. W. Dial presented the graduating class to superintendent Roi S. Wood, who in turn presented the class to Mrs. Reba Blanke, president of the board of education, who presented diplomas to: Constance Cortez, Earl Van Cox, Gail Davis, Elese Frazier, Lawrence Gunn, Maxine Rodgers, Eugene Roscoe, Helen Scott and Anne Terry.

During a meeting on July 13, 1954 – Racial segregation in Joplin came up for consideration during the meeting, but further decisions on the question were deferred until such time as the Supreme Court’s anti-segregation ruling was further clarified.

The board discussed rumors to the effect that the Negro school in Joplin would be closed the following year. Superintendent Roi S. Wood clarified the matter by declaring that “Lincoln School for Negroes grades 1-2 would definitely be open next fall as usual. The Junior College was the only Joplin school at which special provision for integration of Negro students has been made.”

The question of whether non-resident Negroes would be allowed to enter the junior college was brought-up. Wood pointed out that since non-resident whites were allowed to enroll in the city-owned college, non-resident Negroes would also have to be allowed entrance.

Kansas City Lincoln High School defeated Lincoln High School Tigers 33-6 at Junge Field. It was the first game of the 1954 season for the Tigers.

Bartlesville Douglas High School took to the air at Junge Stadium on November 9, and completely befuddled Lincoln High School Tigers. The Tigers lost 45-0 in their final game of the season.

The Lincoln High School basketball team played their first game of the season on the home court against Vinita, Oklahoma. Although they led early in the contest, the Tigers could not curb a late rush by Vinita as they started the season with a 53-47 loss.

1955

Joplin Lincoln High School basketball team closed out the regular season losing to Springfield Lincoln 62-42. The Tigers finished their season with a record of five wins and eleven losses.

The Lincoln Tigers entered the Mt. Vernon Sub-Regional tournament. Unfortunately, they lost to Pierce City 64-63 in the first round, which ended their season with 5 wins and 12 loses.

Baccalaureate service for two graduating seniors of Lincoln High School was held in the Lincoln auditorium on May 29, 1955 at the school’s auditorium. Special music was presented by the seventh and eighth grade students. The baccalaureate sermon was given by Rev. M. G. Edmondson. He was assisted by Rev. J. T. Smith.

The smallest graduating class in the history of Lincoln High School, consisting of two seniors, heard assistant school superintendent Cecil Floyd prescribe methods for facing a vastly changing world during the next 25 years. After presentation of the class M. W. Dial, school principal and Roi S. Wood, superintendent of schools, diplomas were awarded by Mrs. Reba Blanke, president of the Board of Education presented diplomas to Dorothy Brown and David Edmonson.
(Although the recorded minutes exact date is not clear, it seems that they may have been submitted on July 16, 1955 the following occurred.) – A letter was read from the graduating class of 1956 at Lincoln High School requesting permission to continue attendance at Lincoln School. The School Board then passed a motion that the following policy be adopted by the school district.

1. That Negro children in the school district be permitted to attend Lincoln High School or Joplin High School in grades 10, 11 and 12 during the 1955-56 school term.
2. That Negro children in the school district in grades 1 through 9 inclusive be permitted to attend the school district wherein they resided or Lincoln School.
3. That boys who attended Lincoln High School be permitted to enroll in Franklin Technical School and Joplin High School ROTC program if they so desired.
4. That white children who lived in the Lincoln School area be permitted to attend Lincoln School if they so desired.

After a week of school in 1955 – 95 students were enrolled at Lincoln School.

Coach Gandy Smith’s Lincoln High School Tigers opened their season on the road Tuesday, November 8, 1955 in a non-conference game. It was not a good trip as Lincoln lost to White Rock 58-38 in Jane, Missouri.

1956

The most important business discussed at the meeting was that grades 7-12 be eliminated at Lincoln School for the 1956-57 school year and that white or Negro pupils in grades 1-6 could attend Lincoln School or the school district in which they lived.

Four of the five teachers teaching at Lincoln School junior and senior high classes were assigned to other buildings in the school district. The fifth teacher was not re-employed due to the fact that Lincoln School was being closed and that there was no vacancy in teaching area for which he was prepared. Forty five pupils in grades 7-12 would move to other schools in the Joplin system.

The annual Class Day assembly at Lincoln High School was held on Friday, May 25, 1956 in the school auditorium. Betty Beltan was the mistress of ceremonies for the program which consisted of musical numbers, class history, class poem, will, class prophecy and class song.

The baccalaureate service for the five graduating seniors of Lincoln High School was held Sunday, May 27, 1956 in the school auditorium. Special music for the program was given by the Girls’ Glee Club and a vocal solo by Fred Gaston. The baccalaureate sermon was given by Rev. L. G. Cooper, pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church. He was assisted by two local ministers.

Commencement ceremonies for five members of the Lincoln High School graduating class were held in the school auditorium on Tuesday, May 29, 1956. Special music for the program was provided by Lincoln High School band, the senior class and three instrumental numbers. Commencement speaker was Gerard T. Bryant, administrative assistant at Manual High School in Kansas City, Missouri who worked as a teacher in many foreign countries. He spoke on “Opportunities in the Wide Wide World.”

The graduating class was presented for graduation by M. W. Dial, principal and Roi S. Wood superintendent of schools and was accepted by Mrs. Reba Blanke, president of the Board of Education, who presented the diplomas to Betty Jo Belton. Dorothy Brazil, Jannie May Cunningham, Carol Laverne England and Ronald Melvin Powell.
The Lincoln School faculty and student body participated in ceremonies which marked the final activity for the school. Ronald Powell acted as master of ceremonies and gave the introductory talk. Farewell speeches were given by Carolyn England, Fred Gaston, and Maurice Reeves. The assembly opened with “This is My Country”, followed by a prayer by Doris Wright. The school song was sung and Doris Wright acknowledged all the teachers. Each faculty member was acknowledged by the student body. Faculty members were: Mrs. B. Smith, Miss Thelma Meeks, Mrs. B. Stafford, Mrs. Mary Lee, Miss Louise Anderson, Mrs. Mary Fuller, Gandy Smith, Clem Billingsley and M. W. Dial, principal. A special award was given to Dial who had taught at Lincoln for 24 years. He was made honorary principal of the school. “Auld Lang Syne” was sung as the closing number for the program and Dial led a chain prayer.

The baccalaureate service for the five graduating seniors of Lincoln High School was held on Sunday, May 27, 1956 in the school auditorium. Special music for the program was given by the Girls’ Glee Club and a vocal solo by Fred Gaston. The baccalaureate sermon was given by Rev. L. G. Cooper, pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church. He was assisted by two local ministers.

1957

At the school board meeting on May 21, 1957 – Lincoln School, which would be abandoned in 1957-58 as a school following complete integration of students in Joplin public schools, would be the site for the training program, along with local hospitals.