

# A BRIEF HISTORY OF RUSSELL PUBLIC SCHOOL

**1869** - Russell's first public school was taught in a building erected as a residence, which use to stand just west of the Southside Tavern.

**1872** - R.R. Fogg (lumberyard owner) donated the wood to build the first school.

**1898** - First brick school house was erected.

**1902** - No graduates due to the change from a 3 year program to a 4 year requirement.

**1913** - Second brick school house (which serves as the core to our present bldg.) is built.

**1918** - No graduation due to World War I.

**1926** - Designated a Normal Training High School, offering a 2 year course which enabled graduates to teach in rural schools.

**1927** - Old gym, stage, Home Ed. and Shop, plus 2 other class rooms are added.

**1939** - Hot lunch program inaugurated.

**1946** - A class entirely consisting of girls graduates.

**1958** - School reorganization comes and 2 rural school houses are moved to the present day Bob Parker lot and serve as the Music and Industrial Arts class rooms. A third rural school house is moved 2 blocks east of the main bldg. and serves as the Kindergarten bldg. from 1958-1962. Also this year, the Russell Bluebird boy's basketball team plays in the State Tournament and receives 4<sup>th</sup> place in Class B.

**1959** - The present Football field is acquired and football returns to Russell. There was a football team as far back as 1913, but was discontinued at some point. Also, the student body elects their very first Homecoming Queen - Miss Patricia McKinley.

**1960** - Boys baseball is replaced by boy's track.

**1961** - The New gym and six class rooms are added.

**1963** - A fire breaks out and necessitates extensive renovation of the core bldg.

**1964** - Girl's track appears, but the softball program pays the price and it gone by 1966; only to return sometime in the 70's.

**1965-66 Season** - The Russell Bluebirds become the Russell Trojans.

**1971** - Baseball returns, but girl's track exits for a few years.

**1973** - A Morton Bldg. is added as a Music room but now serves as the school's I.C.N. room.

**1978** - Tennis court added.

**1982** - Volleyball rears its competitive head for the first time in school history.

**1987** - Bill Jeffries Bldg. acquired and serves as the new Industrial Arts and Vo-Ag class rooms. Also this year, Russell joins Chariton in shared Wrestling.

**1989** - No longer a part of the Empire Conference, but members of the Bluegrass Conference.

**1994** - Six player girls basketball is replaced by 5 on 5 girl's basketball.

**1995** - First Homecoming King, Conrad Elmore is elected.

**1996** - Soccer comes to Russell. Chariton players are invited to participate.

**2000** - Football team switches to an eight man format.

**2008** – State of Iowa closes Russell school district at the end of school year on June 3rd. On June 19th, the Chariton school board decides to demolish the Russell school once ownership is transferred on July 1st.