



# ASDB History

## 1912 - 2012

Created by Maureen J. Mazza  
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# History of ASDB

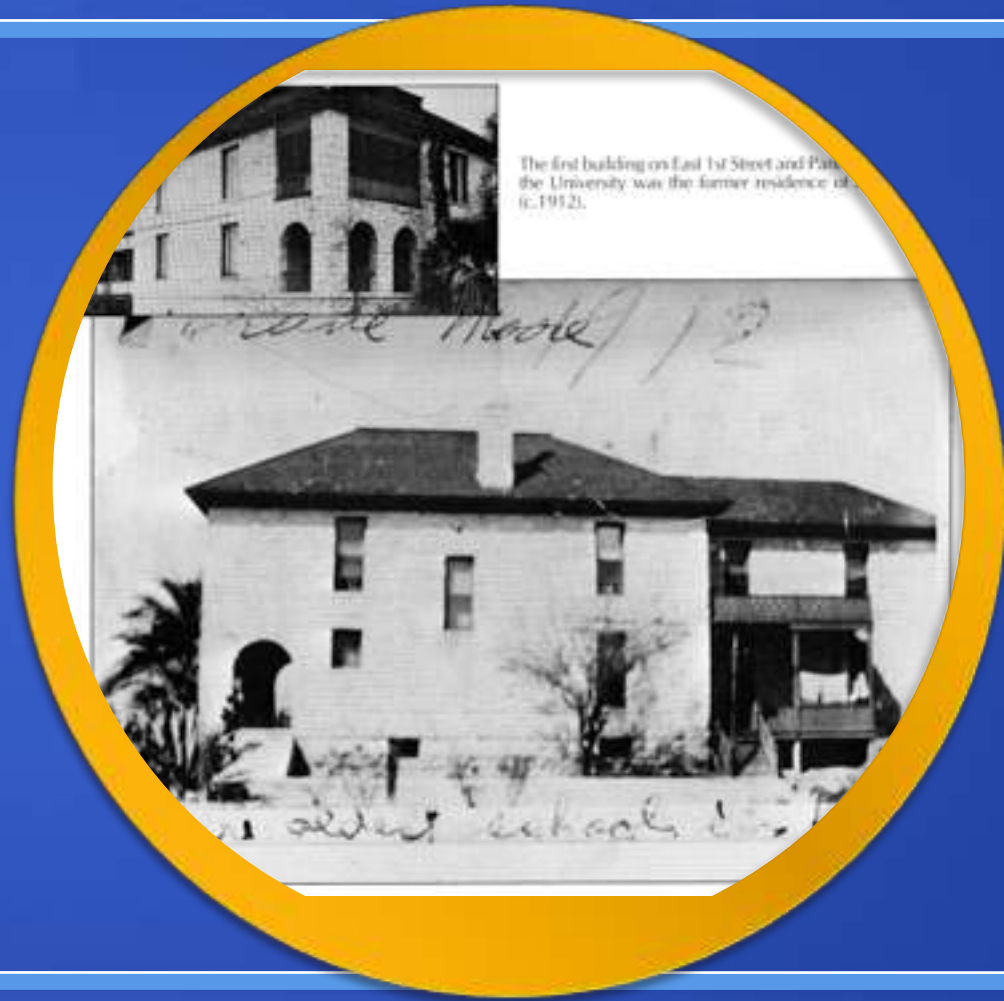
- Arizona's first state legislature in 1912 enacted a provision forming the Arizona Schools for the Deaf and Blind. Henry C. White was the first principal, appointed by Governor George W. P. Hunt, and classes began in October, 1912. Nineteen children with hearing loss were the first students, and classes were held in a converted residence on the campus of the University of Arizona in Tucson. Over the years, the school continued to grow, eventually becoming a public corporation governed by a board of directors. Through modernization of the physical plant, growth of the curriculum, and expansion of learning opportunities, ASDB continues to lead the nation in serving students with vision and hearing loss in the state of Arizona.

# ASDB Establishment

- The Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (ASDB) was established in 1912 as a department at the University of Arizona in Tucson. The first home of the school was a converted residence on the University campus.

# The First Building

The first building on East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Park Avenue near the University was the former residence of a professor.







Henry C. White  
1856 - 1921

# Henry C. White

- In 1911 Henry White, a deaf graduate of Gallaudet College in Washington, D.C. came to Phoenix from Boston for the sole purpose of establishing a school for the deaf. He had previously been instrumental in establishing the Utah School for the Deaf.
- Mr. White started a small class in Phoenix and when the legislature established the first school for the deaf and the blind in Arizona, he was appointed Principal.
- In the fall of 1912 nineteen deaf children were enrolled in the school in Tucson.
- The same year - Arizona became the 48<sup>th</sup> state on Feb. 14, 1912.

# ASDB Campus

- A growing population soon made the facility inadequate and the search for new facilities began.
- In 1918 the City of Tucson donated fifty acres on West Speedway, and in 1919 eighteen additional acres were purchased. Contracts were awarded in 1921 for the construction of four buildings: two dormitories, a kitchen and dining room, and a powerhouse. No classrooms were included, so a wooden building had to be moved from the University and converted into classrooms.
- Classes began on the West Speedway campus in October 1922.

# Current ASDB Campus

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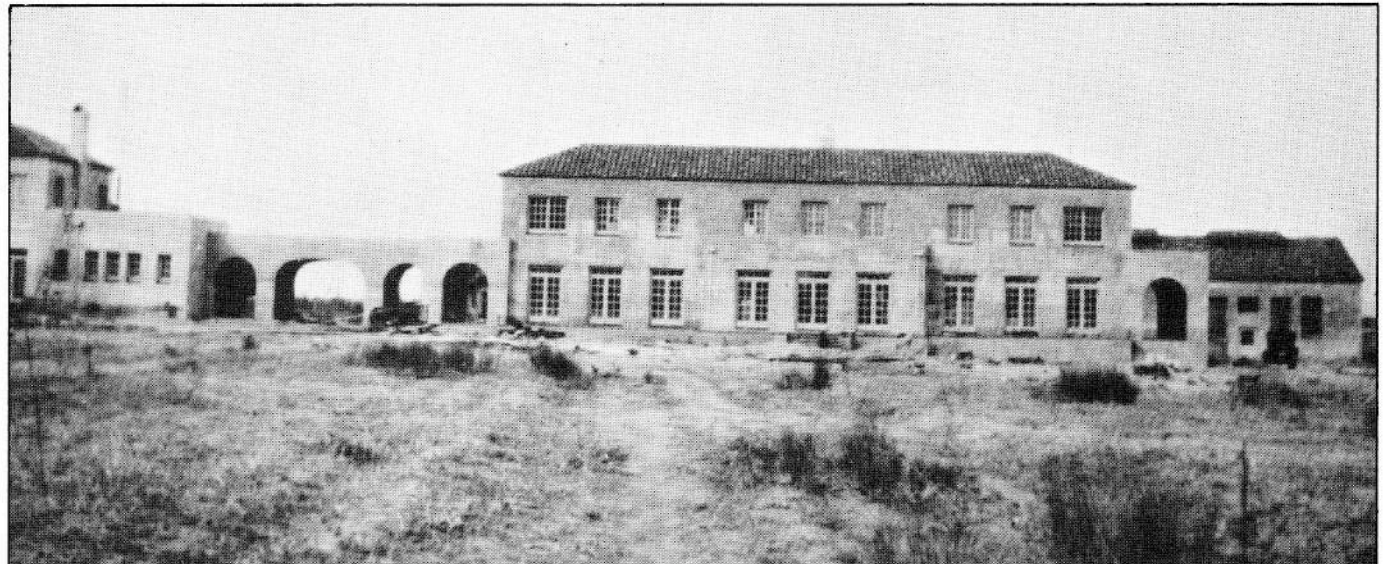
- The campus now has over twenty-five buildings as well as athletic and recreational facilities and beautifully landscaped and well maintained open areas.
- ASDB is a very special place for the students.
- The school colors are royal blue and white and the mascot is the Sentinel.
- For 100 years, ASDB has provided a well-rounded quality education through a variety of classes, sports, extracurricular activities, events and other programs for the students. We are proud of the precious and rich heritage of ASDB!



# 1922

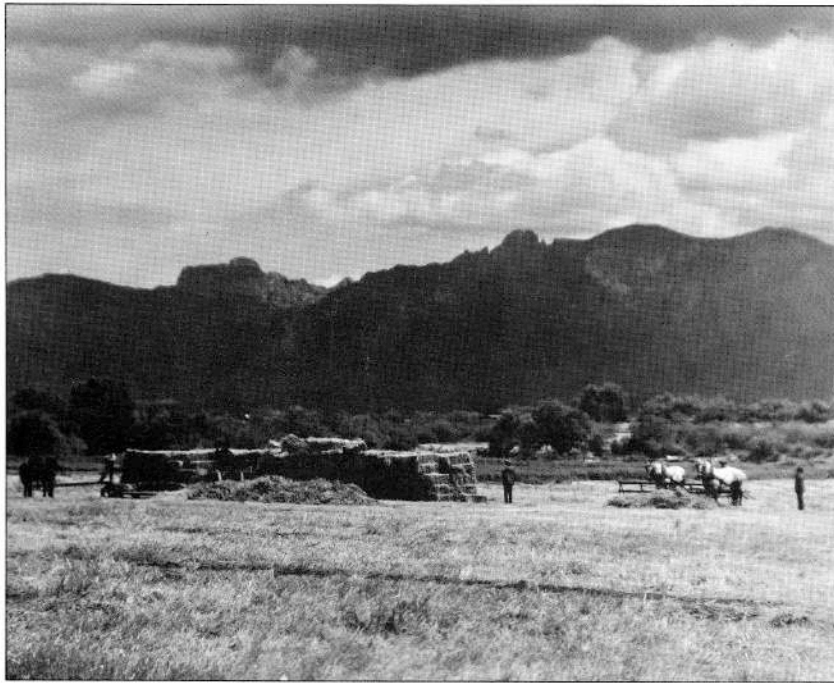


The Campus as seen from Speedway Blvd. And Grande Ave. (1922)



One of the original dormitories, broom shop, and part of the kitchen and dining room, viewed from the north (c.1922).





The original campus was surrounded by farmland; this land is now the ASDB football field (c.1924).

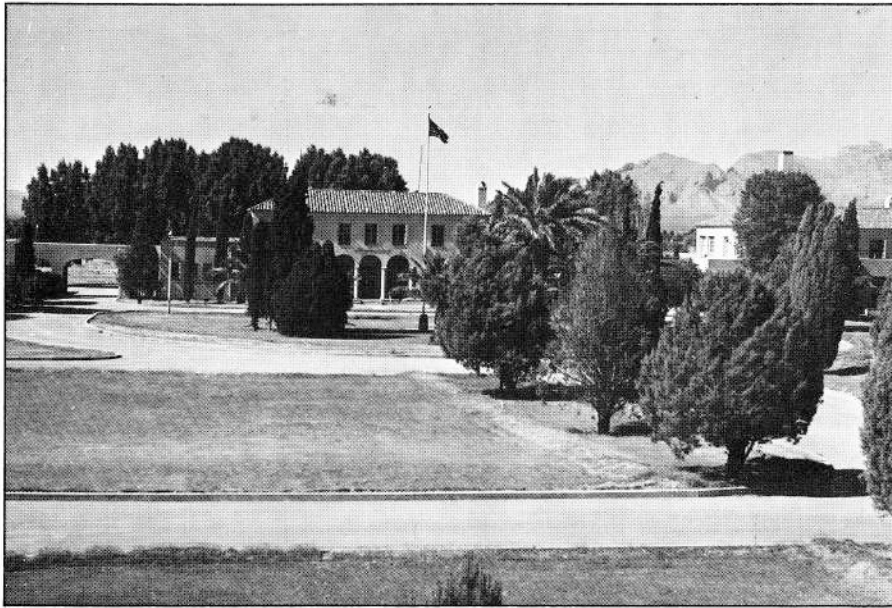


Mrs. Allen sitting on the porch of the infirmary, the original farmhouse on the new campus (c.1930).

The original campus was surrounded by farmland, this land is now the ASDB football field. (c. 1924)

Mrs. Allen sitting on the porch of the infirmary, the original farmhouse on the new campus (c. 1930)

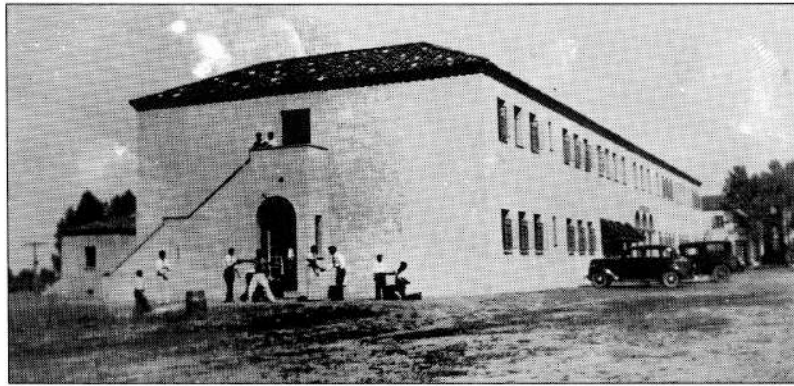




The main center building housed the Superintendent's office, the library, and dormitory facilities (c.1928).







Yuma was the original classroom building, constructed in 1936.



Yuma Classroom Building was located where the MS Building is now.





Glenn Cluff working in the laundry which is still in the original location (c.1930).

Former ASDB student Ed Nowell and the maintenance crew of the 1940s.



Emma, the cook, working in the original kitchen (c.1932).



Jackie Coker, the first deaf-blind student at ASDB (c.1940).



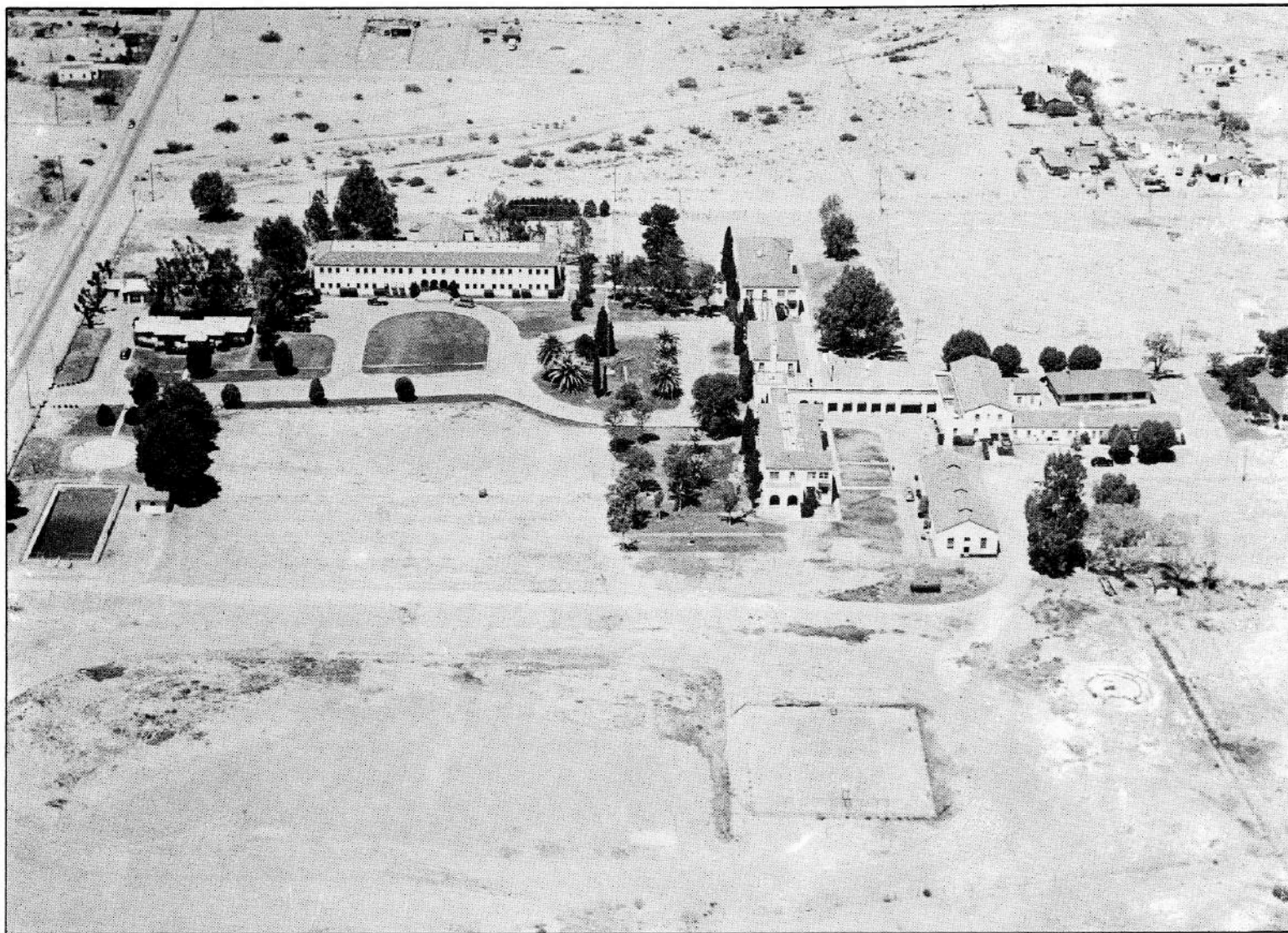
The playground outside of the dining room after a January snowfall (c.1949).

The ASDB Victory Garden in 1943.



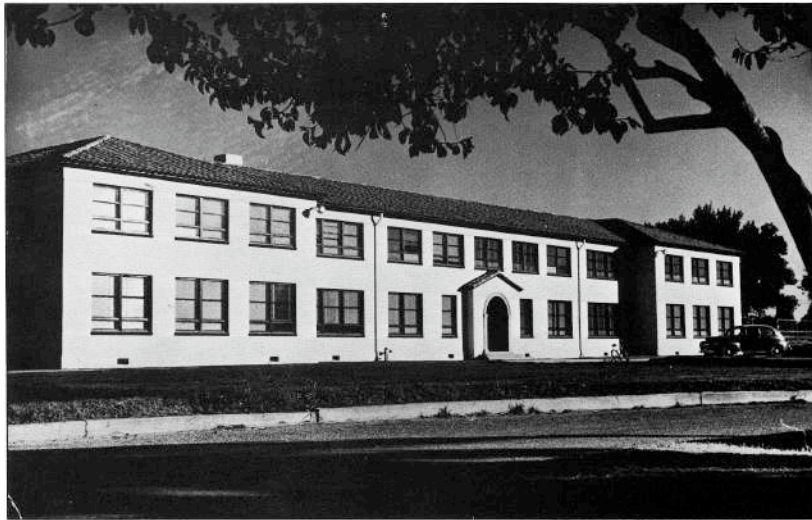
Children eating in the dining room (c.1940).





This aerial photograph shows the campus as it appeared in 1945. From the left are: the original Swimming Pool, Wading Pool, and Bathhouse; the Superintendent's Residence; Yuma; the Dormitories and Primary Hall; the Powerhouse; the Dining Room and Teachers' Building; the Vocational Shop Building; and the Infirmary. The boys practiced basketball in the outside court in the foreground and played their games at Bear Down Gym at the University of Arizona.





Hopi Building was constructed as an additional classroom and dormitory facility (c.1950).



**Hopi Building was located where  
Elementary School is now.**

## Current Palo Verde Dorm and Apache Dorm



As the student population grew, new dormitories were constructed and the original dormitories were dismantled.



The main entrance now features Papago Hall which was a dormitory but now houses the Department of Instructional Support Services.

**Papago Building was  
located where LRC is now.**



Dr. Howard Griffin served twice as Principal, for a total of 13 years (c.1925).



Roy F. Nilson was the first Superintendent in 1929.

# Superintendents

When established in 1912, ASDB was a department of the University of Arizona and under the general direction of the Board of Regents. The chief executive of the school at that time was the Principal.

Henry C. White	1912
Dr. Howard Griffin	1914
Dr. Clarence J. Settles	1922
Dr. E. W. Iles	1923
Dr. Howard Griffin	1924

In 1929, ASDB was separated from the University and became a public corporation with its own Board of Directors. The chief executive has since been known as the Superintendent.

Roy F. Nilson	1929
Robert D. Morrow	1932
Mrs. Robert Morrow	1941
Dr. Edward W. Tillinghast	1941
Dr. Ralph L. Hoag	1974
Dr. Barry L. Griffing	1983

Dr. Edward W. Tillinghast served ASDB for 33 years and during that time great achievements were made throughout the school. Advancements were made in the professional staff, the physical plant, opportunities for the students and the Phoenix Day School for the Deaf was established. Upon his retirement in 1974 the two-building complex of administrative offices was dedicated by the Board of Directors as the Tillinghast Administration Center.





Robert D. Morrow became ASDB's Superintendent in 1932. He later became the Superintendent of the Tucson Unified School District for many years.

Dr. Edward  
Tillinghast  
(c.1945). ♦



Dr. Tillinghast surrounded by Jimmy Goodson, Lois Barbaro, Kenn Riggs, Nancy Elkins, Rose Dimitri, and Mrs. Tillinghast at the traditional Farewell Ceremony (c.1956).





Ralph Hoag returned to ASDB in 1974 as Superintendent. He had previously been a Principal.



Superintendents  
from the 1990s  
to present

Mr. Rislov

Dr. Bartley

Dr. Randall

Dr. Lewis

Mrs. Woltman

Dr. Hoff

Mr. Hill (Present)



Barry Griffing

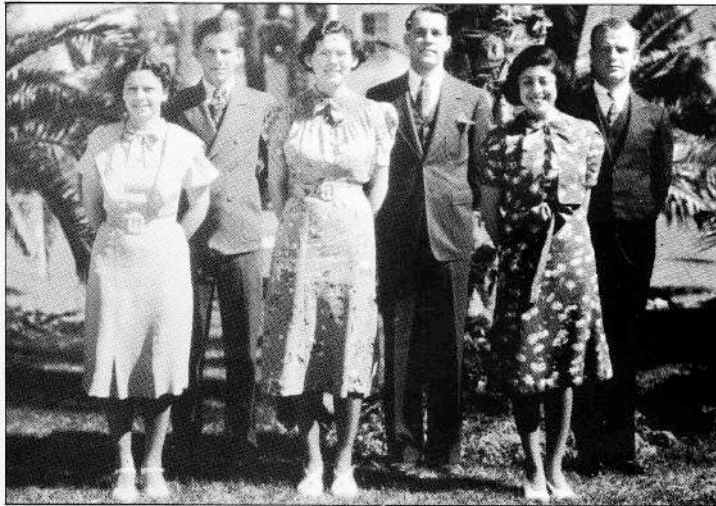


Superintendent

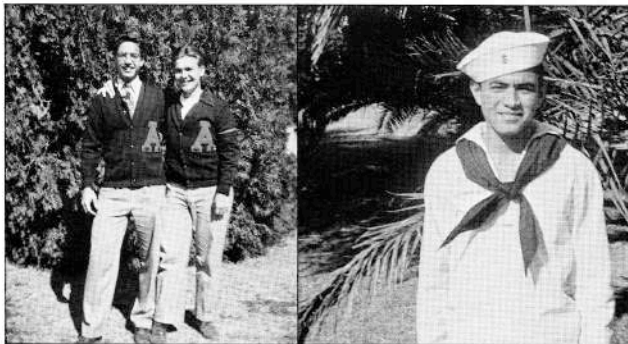




Supt. Morrow and the faculty  
(c.1929).



Students Chonita Granillo, Loel  
Francis, Olivia Valentine, Donald  
Hargis, Harry Greer, and Charles  
Jowles pose in 1938.



Lettermen Matt Asanovich and  
Rue Schurtz.

"Seaman" Angel Acuna (c.1936).



Dewey Havins graduated in 1926.





ASDB students in 1926.





The living room of the Girl's Dormitory (c.1922).



The living room of the Boys' Dormitory (c.1940).



These little girls are playing in their room around 1930.



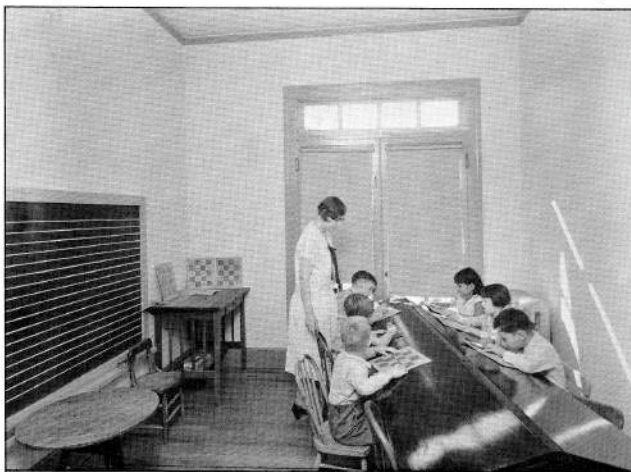
The highest slide on the playground (c.1940).



A primary bedroom in Hopi in 1951.



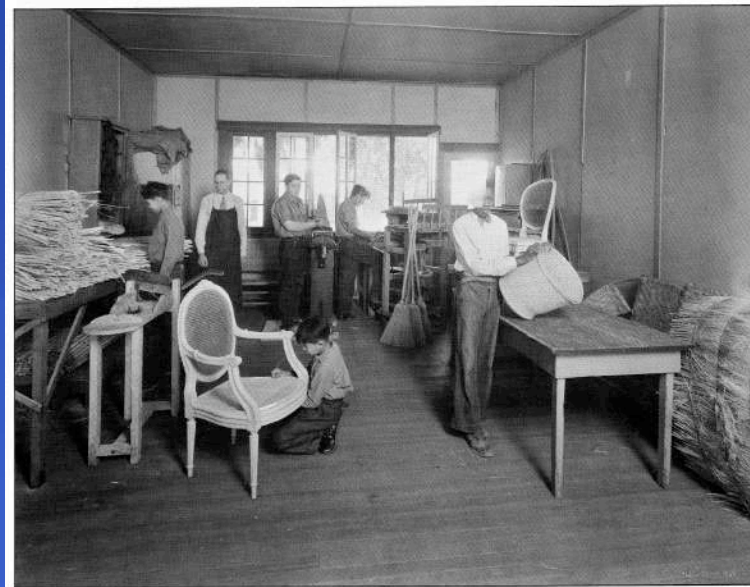
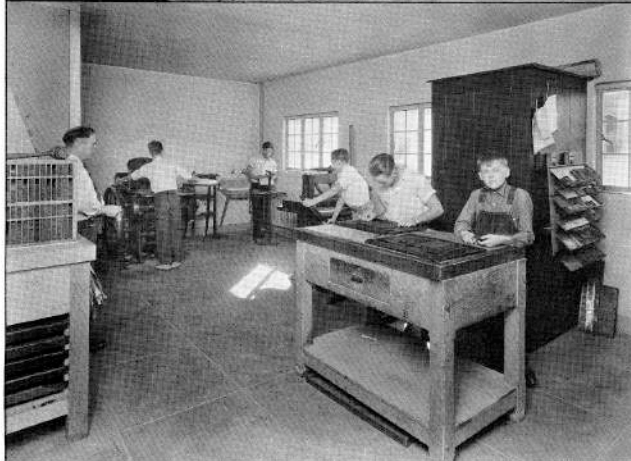
Mrs. Woodburn teaching drawing to deaf children (c.1930).



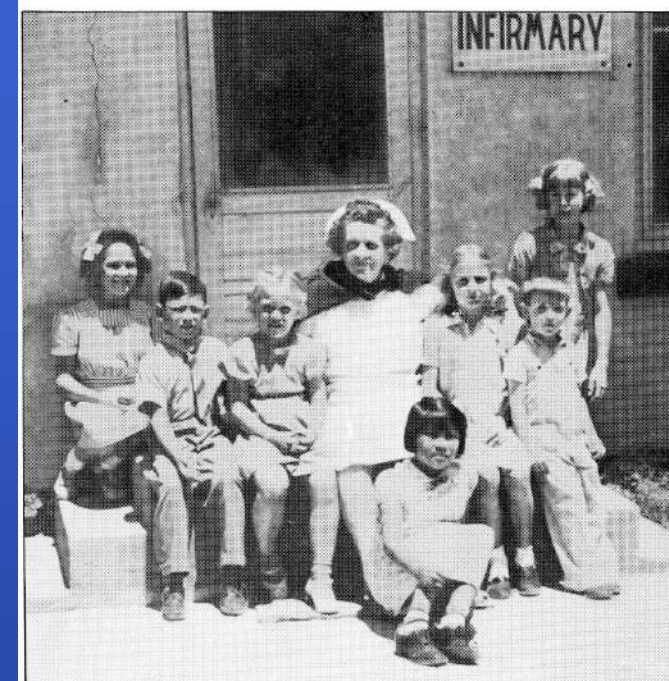
Mrs. Allen teaching "Domestic Science" (sewing) (c.1930).



Printing was taught in the deaf department for many years (c.1930).

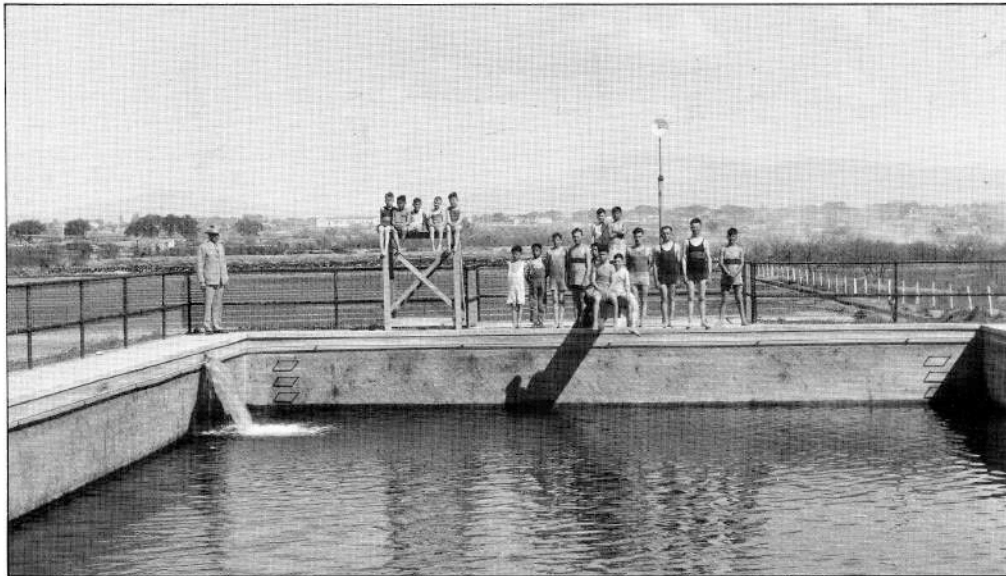


The boys' broom shop (c.1930).

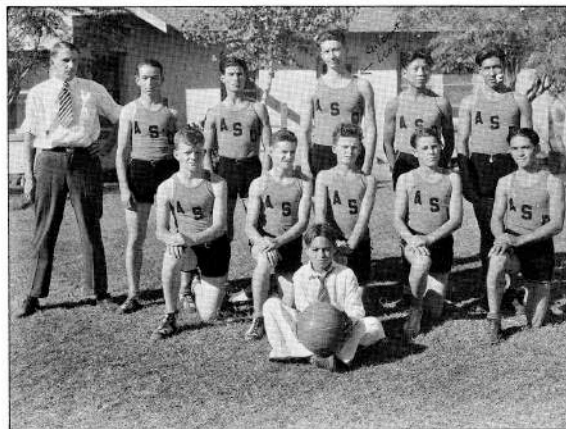
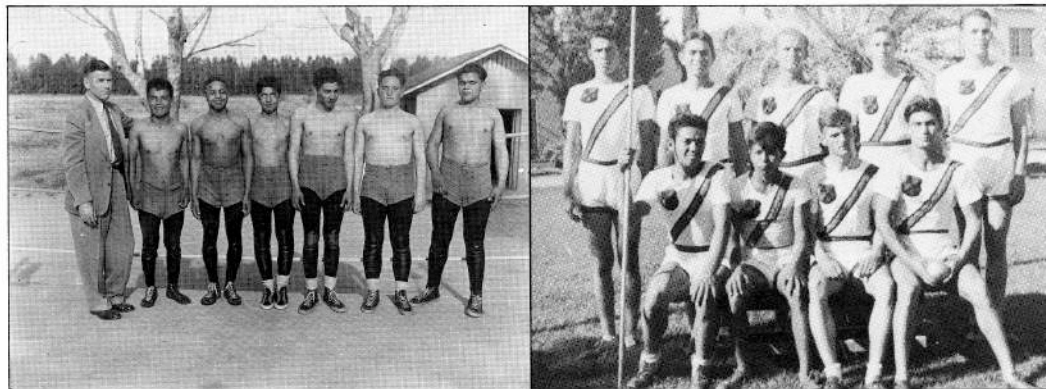


Nurse Caroline Spotts and students on the steps of the old infirmary in 1942.

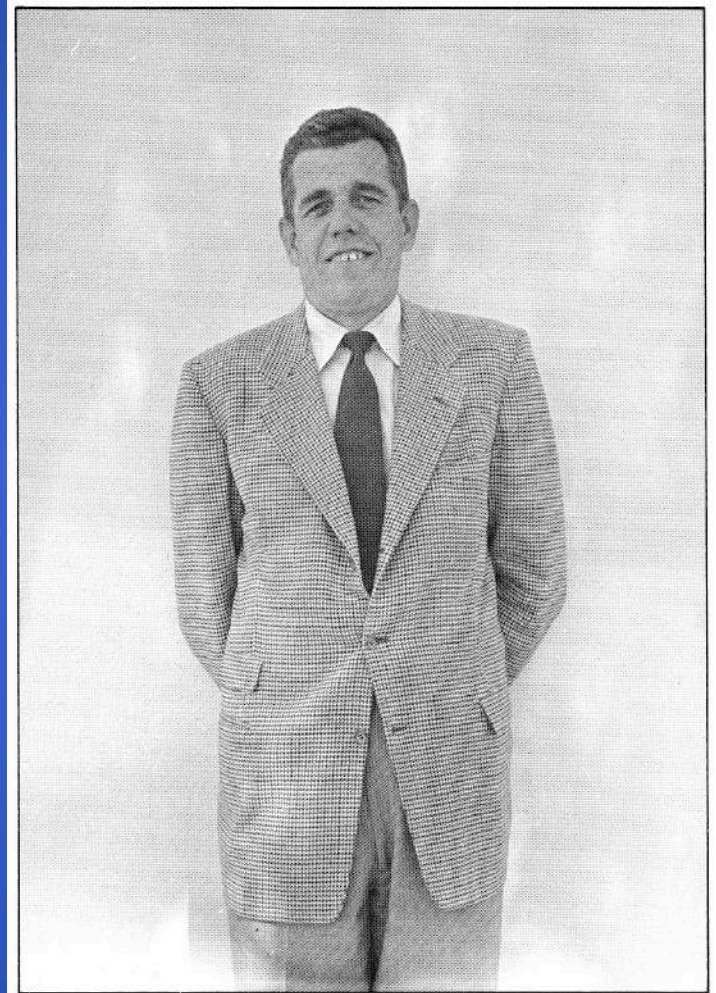




Dr. Griffin and some boys near the old "irrigation storage facility and inspection board" (c.1925).



Basketball, track, and wrestling teams in the 1930s.



Frank Sladek taught and coached at ASDB for 30 years (c.1951).

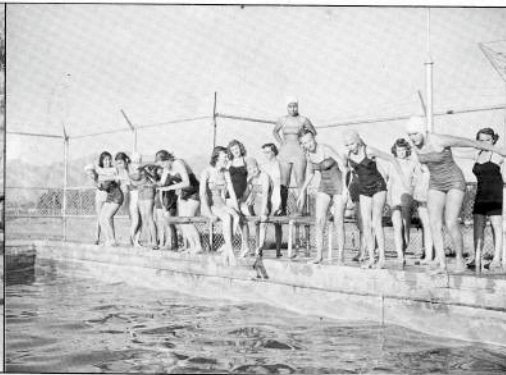




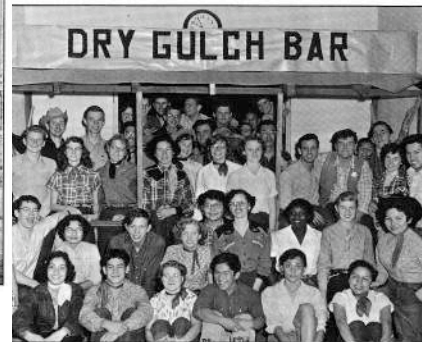
ASDB's tumbling team became well known in the 30s and 40s (c.1940).



Rodeo activities in the 1950s.



Girls swimming in 1955.



Cheerleaders in the mid 1950s.



The 1957 volleyball team.



Halloween in 1948.



Santa Claus was a welcome visitor in 1978.





The Girl Scouts of 1942.



The Sea Scouts, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Indian Maidens (Campfire Girls) of 1938.



Mary Faust and Cubs of 1961.



Boy Scouts pack up for a camping trip (c.1936).



Music has always been an important activity at ASDB.



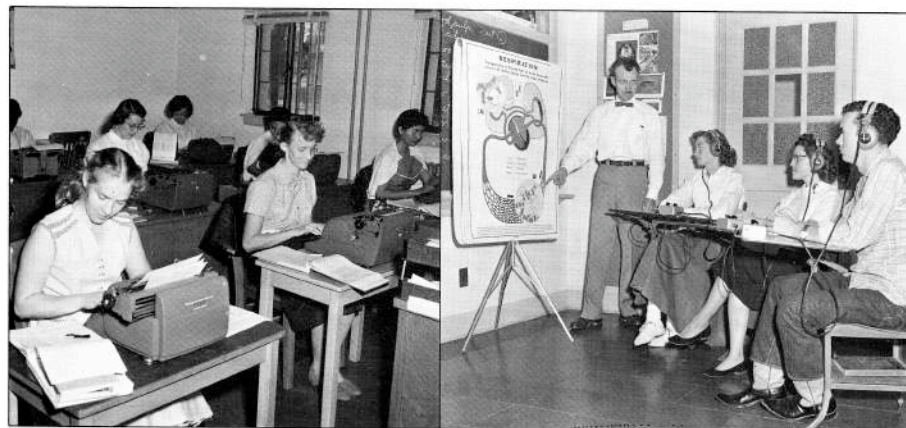


Visually handicapped children read a story together (c.1957).

Mrs. Frann Miescher taught deaf students from the 1950s until her retirement in 1985 (c.1957).



All facets of independent living were taught to visually handicapped students.



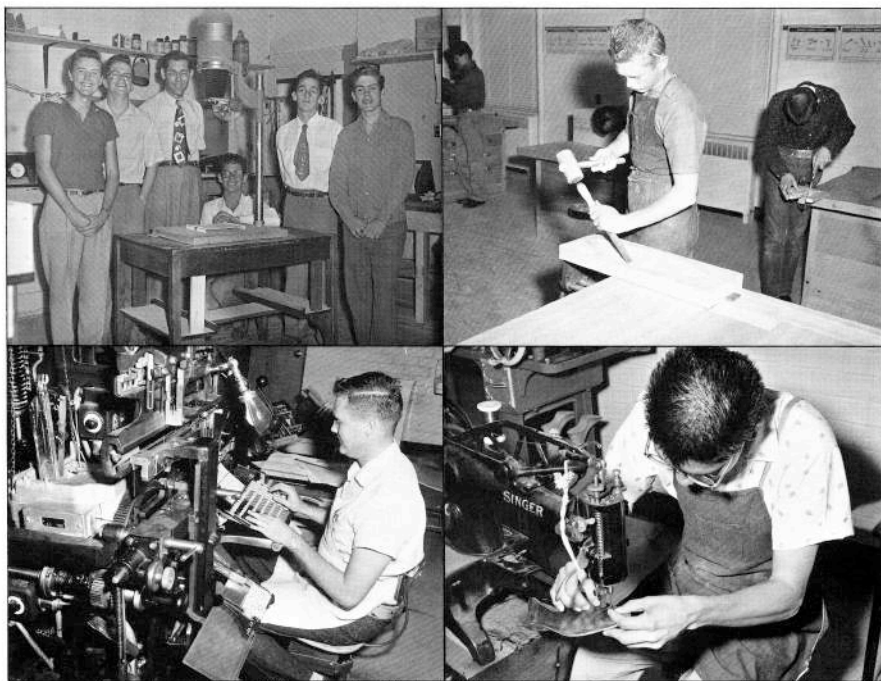
1957 typing class.

Wes Prilee teaching science to Barbara, Rose, and Arnold (c.1955).



Earl Rogerson was the Driver Education Instructor in the early fifties.





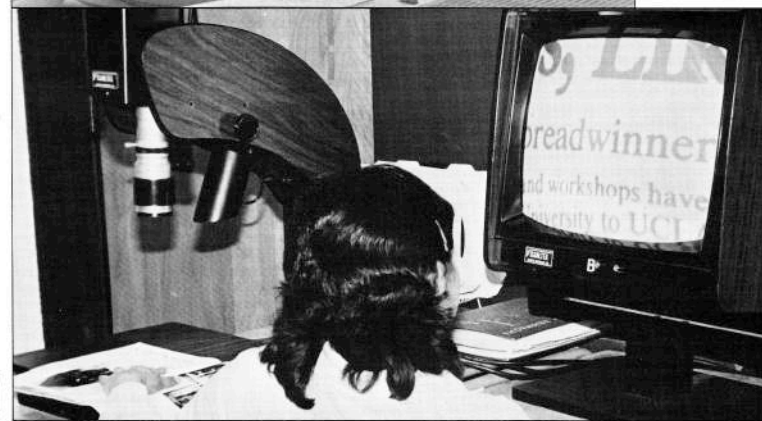
Some vocational classes during the fifties and early sixties included woodworking, typesetting, photography, upholstery and shoe repair.



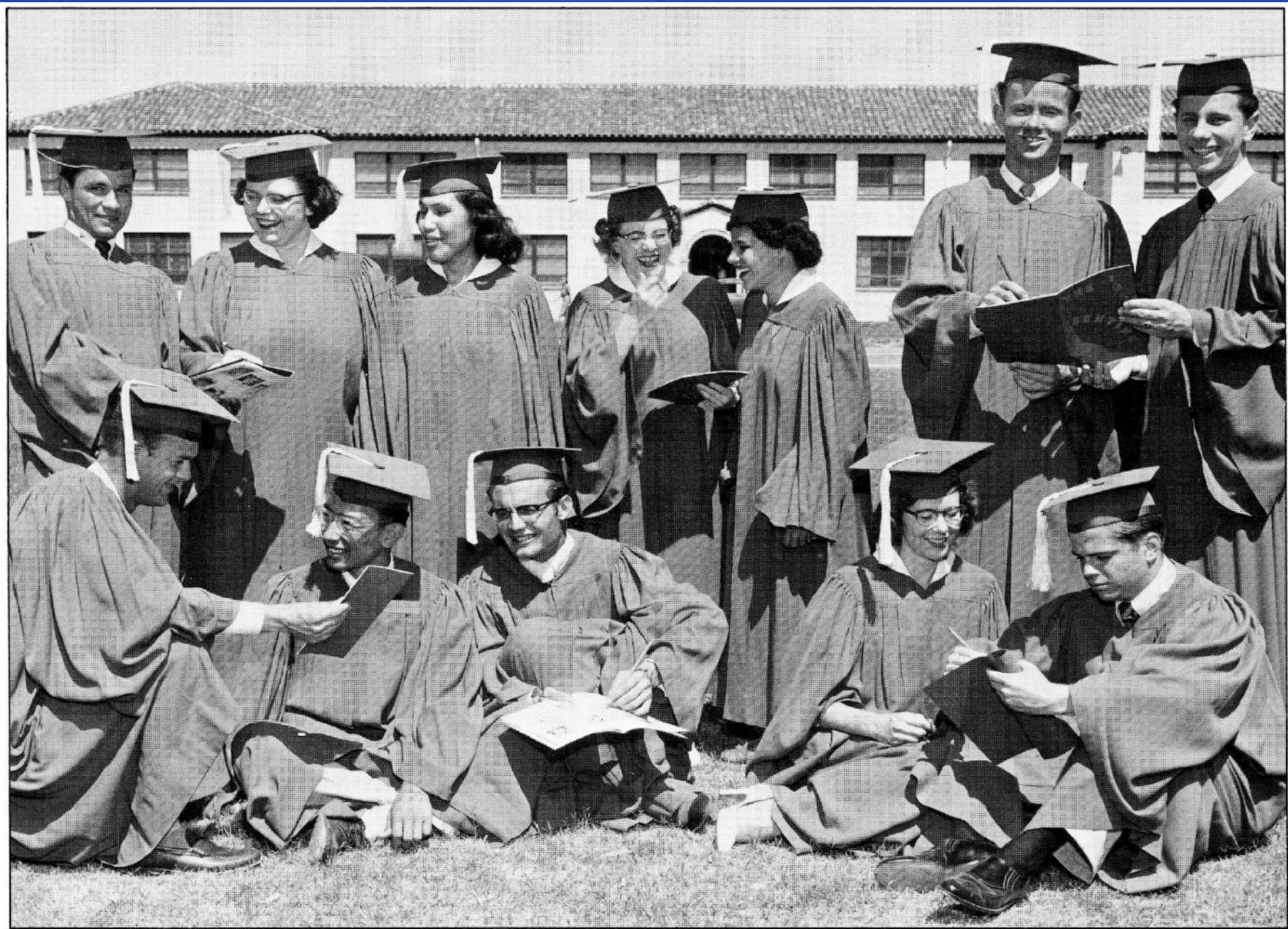
The first television was donated to the school by the South Tucson Lions Club (c.1955).



Technological advances have greatly enhanced opportunities for the visually handicapped.







The ASDB graduating class of 1955.





Over the years ASDB's programs have expanded to serve children from birth through 21.



Vocational education has changed considerably with the times.

# ASDB Trivia

- What year was ASDB established?
- 1912
- Who founded ASDB?
- Henry C. White
- Where was the original campus located in 1912? Which streets?
- University of Arizona – E. 1<sup>st</sup> Ave and Park Ave
- What year did ASDB move to the West Speedway campus?
- October 1922



# ASDB Trivia

- Elsie, Lucille, Jean and Lois came to ASDB in 1927. Who were they?
- Four milk cows produced many gallons of milk for the students and staff. Also, ASDB had chickens, hogs, and horses on the farmland.
- On March 28, 1930, ASDB experienced a misfortune. What happened then?
- ASDB closed due to insufficient funds. All the students were sent home and the school didn't re-open until the fall.
- In 1971, the Piper Power Company put pipes underground near Hopi Hall (current Elementary School). While digging trenches, something was uncovered. What was it?
- It was a complete skeleton which later proved to be approximately 900 years old.

# ASDB Trivia

- How many students attend ASDB from all over Arizona?
- Over 2,200 students
- Who is the gym named after?
- Frank Sladek
- How many acres?    at ASDB \_?\_    at PDSD \_?\_
- 65 acres at ASDB      13 acres at PDSD



# ASDB Trivia

- ASDB Tucson campus is on 65 acres. If the campus is a perfect square, then what will be the total length of the perimeter?
- **ASDB students – do your math work! 😊**
- PDSD campus is on 13 acres. If the campus is a perfect square, then what will be the total length of the perimeter?
- **PDSD students – do your math work! 😊**



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**Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
**To our dear ASDB!!!**

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