

Life at Peoria High School in the 1920s

- The school was small with only 63 students in the 1921-22 school year. By 1925-26, however, the number of students had doubled in size to 128.
- Students got to school by different means such as by horseback, walking, or with their parents in the old Model T cars.
- Before coming to school students who mostly lived on farms had to do their chores such as milking the cows or feeding the chickens.
- The school had a newspaper called “El Camaleon,” which means in Spanish “The Horned Toad.” It was a school newspaper but was read by everyone in the community since it had local news also. The newspaper started in 1924.
- The community was very proud of the school’s academic programs, especially that all of the teachers were certified in the subject area in which they taught.
- Every Wednesday the students would come together and listen to a speaker on a topic that was deemed important to the school or the community.
- The name for the athletic teams was originally the Eagles but was quickly changed by the student to the Peoria Horned Toads.
- The athletic teams were not very successful due to the low number of participants and that other districts had started their athletic teams much earlier. Peoria played such schools as Prescott, Chandler, Glendale, North Phoenix, Casa Grande, and Litchfield.
- The old elementary auditorium had its floor lowered so that there could be basketball games indoors. One surprising thing is that during the 1920s the first girl’s basketball team was formed. It was coached by Mrs. R. H. Drake and had an 8-game schedule.

- The school offered classes like agriculture and home economics and clubs like student council and debate.
- One tradition that was established during this time was that the Junior and Senior classes had to perform class plays.
- There was a freshman initiation at the time.
- Classes provided entertainment for Peoria High School such as competitions, stunts, and offering refreshments.