

History of the Basketball Gymnasiums for Crawfis College High School 1916 - 1939 and Blanchard High School 1940 - 1951

From 1916-1939, the students from Gilboa went to school at Crawfis College High School.

At the conclusion of the 1939 school year, Crawfis College High School lost its charter, was relocated in Gilboa and renamed Blanchard High School.

GYMNASIUM #1 1916 - 1939

This gym was at the old site of Crawfis College High School. In 1917, both the girls and boys' team were coached by Miss Della Luginvilla. This was the first and only time that a female coached both teams. It was common in this era for men to coach both teams, but not women.

This gym was probably typical of the era – the largest room that could be found that was “narrow, short and had a low ceiling”.

In the late 1920's, Marie (Fenstermaker) Williams, mentioned that she played in the old Grange Hall in Gilboa.

The new school was completed in Gilboa and played its first game on November 22, 1940. Blanchard High School fielded basketball teams from 1940-1951.

In 1952, Blanchard consolidated with Pandora to form a new school named the Pandora-Gilboa Rockets.

GYMNASIUM #2 1940 - 1951

Blanchard's new school and gymnasium was dedicated on Sunday, September 15, 1939. Judge Matthias stated that “It has been a great number of years since a building was dedicated at Gilboa and the citizens should be proud that this dedication gives their children the advantage of attending a modern school”.

The Pandora Times had an article on the first game. “Coach Van Trout is getting his Pandora Fleetwing quintet prepared for the game at the new Blanchard High School gymnasium floor at Gilboa tonight on Wednesday. The first game will begin at 7 o'clock when the cubs of the two schools vie. This will be the first game on the new Blanchard floor and the fans from the area should avail themselves at their inaugural event. The Blanchard girls will play the Alumni of their school between the boys' game.”

The coach for the girls and boys' team of Blanchard was Melvin R. Harman.

This gym was used for 12 years, 1940-1951. The floor dimensions were 42 x 64. It had bleachers on one side and a stage with bleachers on the other. The seating capacity was 500.