

THE OLD SCHOOL BELL

Gastineau Breeze excerpts, May 22, 1940

“Of special interest is the history of the old school bell which has been placed on a square slab of concrete in the front lawn of the school through efforts of the local PTA as a souvenir to serve as reminder of the old school, teacher, and pupils.”

According to the Juneau Daily Dispatch ~ October 1, 1914

“Students of the Douglas High School raised, \$100 to purchase a new bell for the building. The bell arrived on the S.S. Jefferson on January 19, 1914. Was hoisted up to the belfry and rang out at 1pm on October 26, 1914. The bell and frame weighed about 900 lbs.”

In 1937 the big fire of Douglas destroyed the school and wrecked the bell, thus rendering it useless.

During the 1940's the Douglas Lions Club in conjunction with Val Poor built a frame for the bell and mounted the cannon on top. They were set on the front lawn of the building that housed the Douglas City Hall, Douglas Fire Stations, Douglas Library, and Douglas Jail which was located on 3rd Street in Douglas.

In the 1980's the new Douglas Fire Station and Library Building was constructed on the site of the old Douglas City Hall and the Douglas Lions and Val Poor separated the bell and cannon to move them to the current site of the Douglas United States Post Office, where they still reside to this day.

In 2008 the Douglas 4th of July Committee under the leadership of then President, Pat Peterson took on restoring the Bell & Cannon and finding the correct history of these iconic Douglas pieces.



Douglas School, a four-year high school started in 1906; school was destroyed by fire in 1937



Douglas USPS where bell currently sits, 804 3rd St, Douglas, AK