

## **The Thanksgiving Fire of 1949**

Beginning in 1927, Coppell had one consolidated school which sat on Southwestern Boulevard. It was known as the Coppell School. The school served grades one through eight, with children completing their high school education in neighboring towns.

On the evening of November 24, 1949 a fire started in the Coppell School house. Students and teachers had gone home for the Thanksgiving break. No one was injured, but the building was destroyed. Coppell's volunteer fire department would not be formed for another nine years, and the cause of the blaze was never determined.

Students finished the term by attending classes in Carrollton schools.

In 1950, a new schoolhouse was constructed in Coppell. Builders utilized the existing foundation and created an 8000-square-foot structure. Long-time resident Barbara Lee recalls that the community rallied together for the recovery effort. Citizens offered up their time and talents toward rebuilding. Local men laid the boards that created the gym floor.

In 1959, the Coppell Independent School District was created, beginning the school's transition to a twelve grade system. In 1967, the Coppell School was renamed Pinkerton Elementary School, the name it retains to this day.

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