

## Schools

During the mining boom of the 1880's the outlying mining and ranching towns such as Rosedale, Kelly and Datil had their own elementary schools. Socorro had several elementary schools including the "little red schoolhouse," a public grammar school, and the Mt. Carmel parochial school operated by the Loretto Convent. It was fairly common practice for Socorro students to switch from one school to another. There was no public high school until a four-room adobe structure was built in 1913. The "new" high school (long since gone) was built in 1920 by the same contractor who built the Val Verde Hotel.

Many of the problems faced by teachers in the old days sound familiar today. Mary Watson, a teacher in Lemitar, Luis Lopez, and Socorro during the 1920's had classes disrupted by boys older than she was. She called in a County Supervisor who advised the boys they would be better off herding sheep.

In the interim from 1895 to 1913 many students enrolled in high school classes offered by the New Mexico School of Mines which was established in 1889 and completed in 1893. In 1895 the Legislature of the Territory of New Mexico required all publicly funded colleges to offer preparatory courses to supplement the public elementary schools and ease the entrance of students into college. To this day, many students in Socorro High School also take college level courses in math and science at New Mexico Tech University which evolved from the School of Mines (still so-called by many local people).

The School of Mines nearly passed out of existence during world War II when enrollment dropped to 15, but a wave of returning veterans led to its reorganization as an Institute including the New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources, the College, and the Research and Development Division. In 1951 the name was officially changed to New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology. Initially the only graduate program was a Ph. D. in Earth Science, but over the years several M. S. programs were added and eventually Ph. D. degrees were offered in many fields.



Elementary school in Kelly, NM



Elementary school in Datil, NM



© J. E. Smith Collection

Park City School



Socorro elementary school

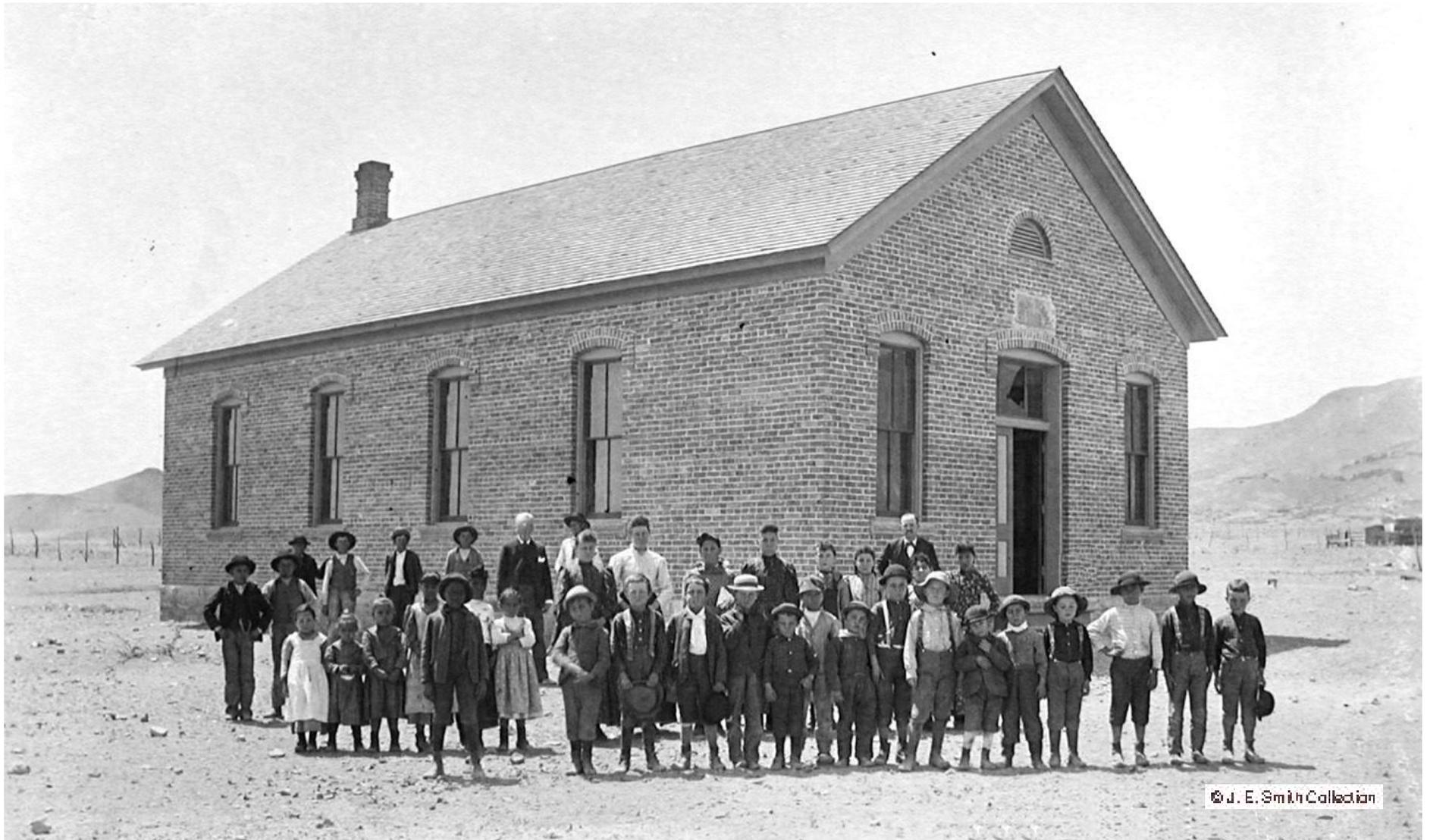


© J. E. Smith Collection

The "Little Red Schoolhouse," Socorro



The Lottie Jones Private School in Socorro



© J. E. Smith Collection

Park City School



© J. E. Smith Collection

Datil elementary school



Students and teachers of Mt. Carmel School



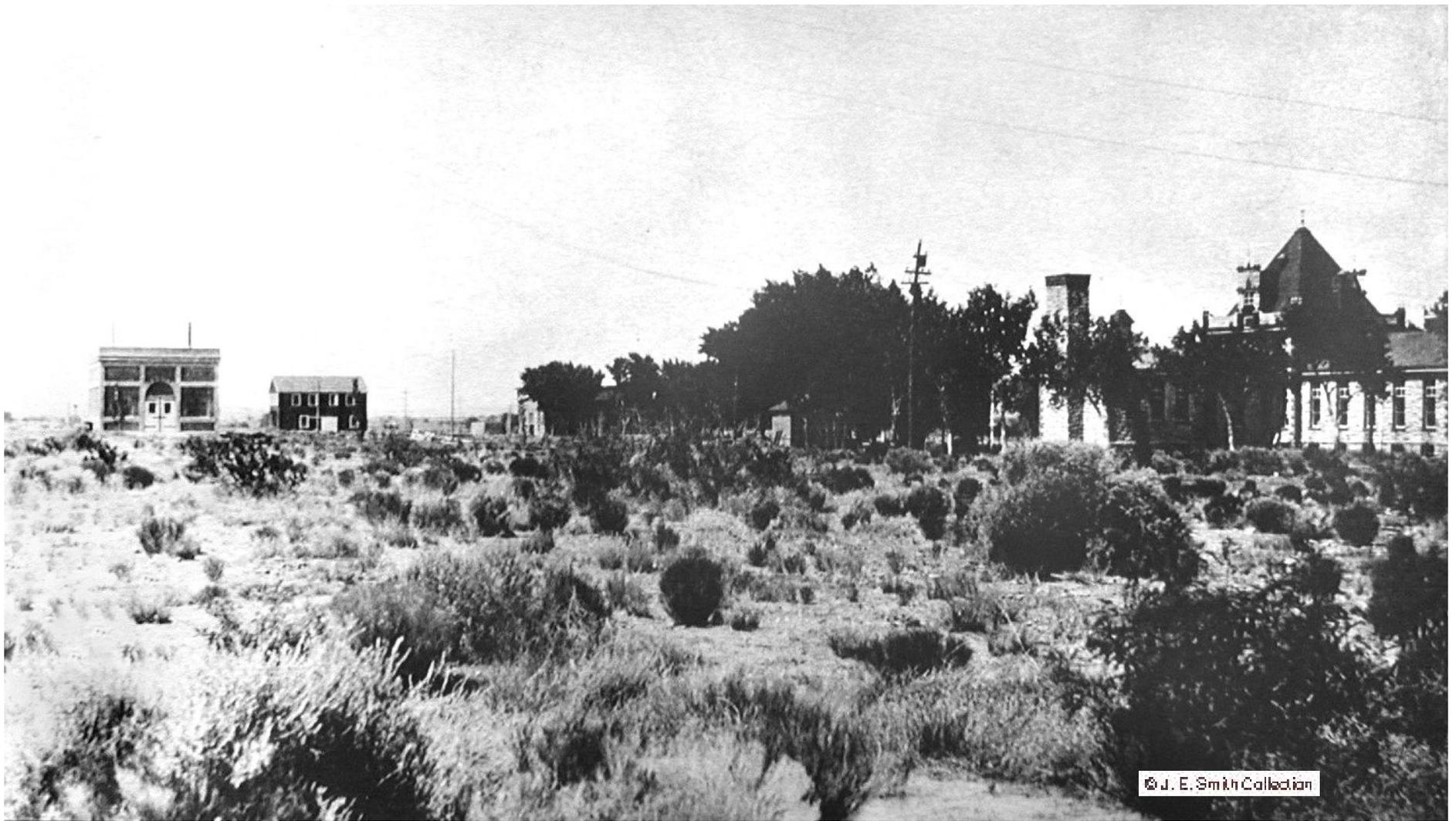
Mt. Carmel School



Little Red Schoolhouse in winter



Socorro high school, 1920



Early School of Mines, Old Main building at right



School of Mines, Old Main building, destroyed by fire in 1928 and replaced by Brown Hall



Fayette Jones, School of Mines



Mineral Museum, School of Mines



Martin Speare, Librarian on right - Weir Hall in Background



School of Mines - New Mexico Tech, 1940's. Farmland east of Leroy Place. Major buildings L to R:  
Assay building, Weir Hall, Science Hall, Brown Hall, Wells Hall, Gymnasium, Dormitories



Present Day Brown Hall



Present Day Cramer Hall (formerly Science Hall)



Present day Parkview Elementary School in Socorro