

Another amazing article from the San Juan Record written by Bill Boyle.

The school bell has an interesting history behind it. We couldn't find much information, so if you have any stories about the school bell, please share. It's fun to learn about Monticello and the hidden history everywhere.

New school dedicated

Wed, 09/17/2014 - 5:43am admin

DUST IN THE WIND

by Bill Boyle

These are remarks I made at the dedication of the new school in Monticello on September 9.

If you want to know what is important to a community, just look around a little. It becomes obvious. Monticello is no different.

Just drive around this little town and look and listen.

One of the first things you realize, if you're here long enough, is that bells are important in this community.

There are few other towns that ring a community-wide siren three times a day. What a great tradition.

I'm excited that a bell sits prominently at the entrance to the new Monticello Elementary School, which was dedicated at a community celebration on September 9.

This is no ordinary bell. It was cast in 1897 and has served the schools in this community for more than 100 years.

Bells are important in education. They mark not only the passage of time, but also signal when it's time to celebrate and to commiserate.

The bell in front of the new school was also in the bell tower of an earlier school, which still stands behind the Four Corners Meat Processing Plant.

The bell served as the fire alarm to the community. One night, in the middle of the night, the bell started to ring.

The townspeople came running, wondering what tragedy they may face. What they found was that someone had tied an old mule to the rope for the bell and it was the mule that was ringing the bell.

Bells also mark the time to celebrate. I was recently reading old newspapers about the end of World War II. That event was marked in Monticello by the ringing of the bell.

I hope everyone can take the opportunity to celebrate the opening of the beautiful new school by ringing the old school bell.