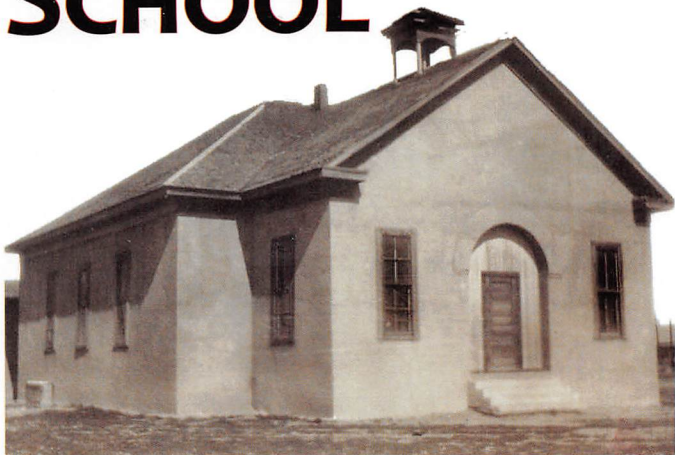# BLACKWELL SCHOOL



## MARFA, TEXAS

Education in Marfa for children of Mexican descent dates from the 1880s and is commemorated today in the historic adobe schoolhouse built in 1909.

Mexican American students were not separated from their Anglo counterparts by state law, like African-American students were. Yet virtually every school district in Texas established separate elementary schools for Mexican American children through *de facto* segregation—echoing segregation found in all aspects of community life. In Marfa, where the majority of the population was Hispanic, that school was the Blackwell School. Blackwell closed in 1965 when Marfa schools integrated.
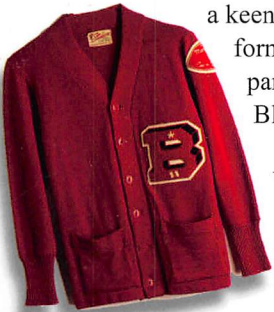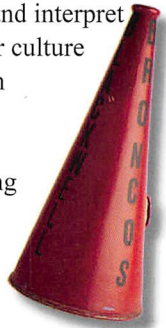
## OPEN SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS
### 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.

**ALL ARE WELCOME, ADMISSION IS FREE**

The original schoolhouse, and grounds on which it stands, provides an authentic setting to commemorate and interpret a time when "separate but equal" dominated our culture in ways essential to understanding the American experience.

The Blackwell School Alliance has been working 15 years to preserve the stories, legacy, and buildings associated with the this school. In this time, we have discovered that this is much more than just a local story or a Hispanic story or even a Texas story: this is a truly American story. And as such, the Blackwell School has the opportunity—and the responsibility—to reach a broader audience. We have both a keen interest from our immediate family of former students and the support of partners far and wide to ensure that the Blackwell School will live on.

We expect 2022 is the year that the United States Congress will designate the Blackwell School National Historic Site as a unit of the National Park Serivice to be managed in perpetuity—a fitting tribute to our former students and all people who have lived these stories.

Please visit the Blackwell School at 501 South Abbott Street, at West Waco *two blocks west and three blocks south of the four-way stop light.* For more information, visit www.theblackwellschool.org.

Mrs. Newsome's second grade class, early 1960s.