



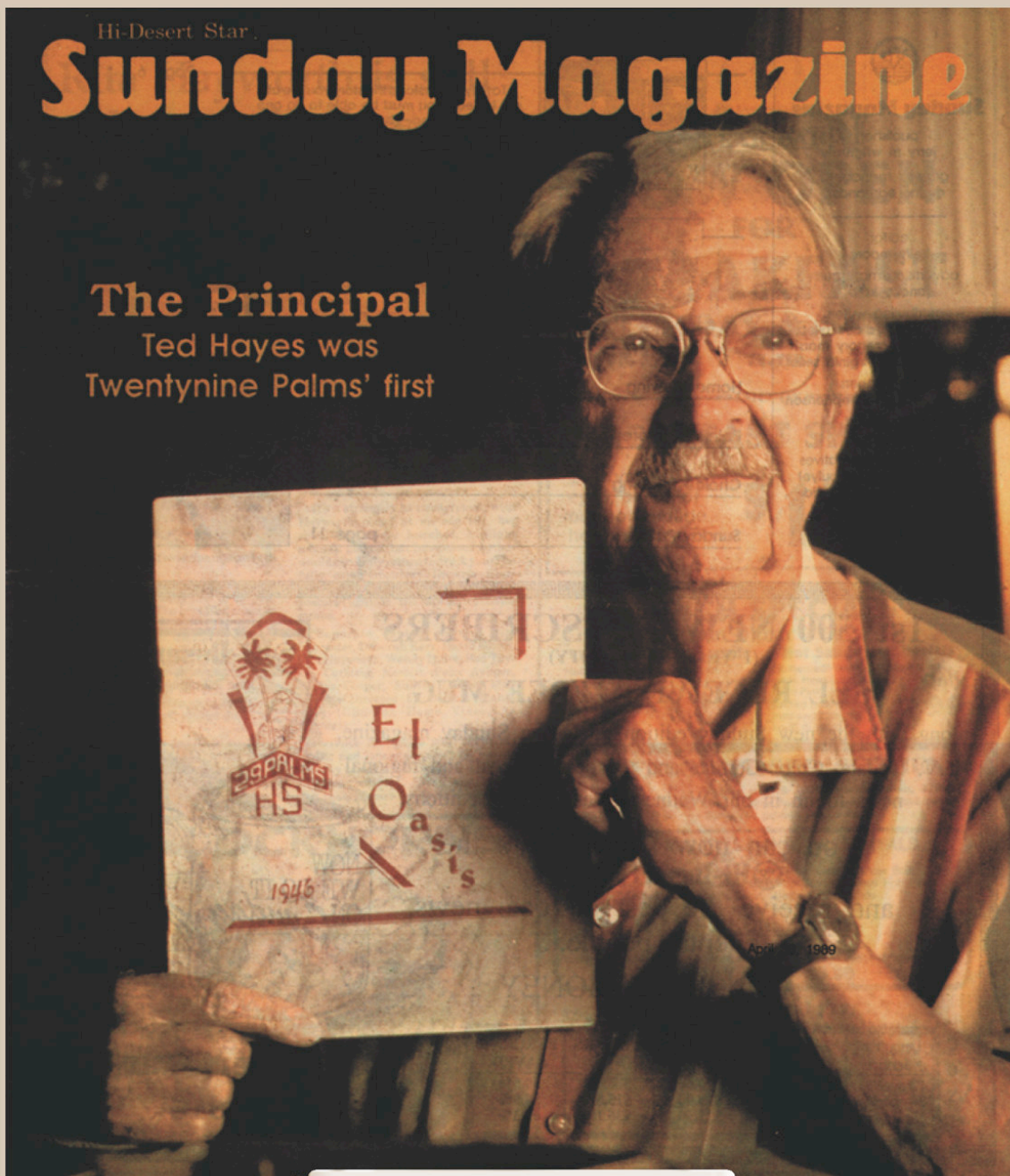
## Theodore M. "Ted" Hayes

Ted Hayes upon his retirement in 1969 had devoted 35 years of his life to the education of children in the small desert community of Twentynine Palms. He is best known for being the first teacher and principal of Twentynine Palms High School. He and his wife, Mary, moved to Twentynine Palms in 1934. Until that time, students going beyond the 9<sup>th</sup> grade had to go to Riverside to complete their High School education. Ted became the first High School teacher and taught all subjects except music, which Mary taught, to freshman and sophomores. He first taught in a one-room schoolhouse, without a roof for the first year or so. The second year he was also appointed the High School principal and oversaw a graduating class of five students.

Ted Hayes was born and raised in Pasadena and earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Occidental College. Teaching

jobs during the Depression were scarce and Ted had been up and down the state looking for a position when he heard from a friend that there was a job opening in Twentynine Palms. He came out and interviewed with Mrs. Helen Bagley who was on the school board and she was instrumental in hiring Ted Hayes. When Ted and Mary first came to Twentynine Palms, they lived in the Legion Hall across from Luckie Park that only had a cold sink in the kitchen, an outhouse, and electricity only from sunset to about 9 o'clock at night. It was a real treat when the Legion Hall had meetings and they would have electricity until 11 at night.

Ted over the course of the next 35 years saw the growth of the High School from a one-room schoolhouse with 17 students, to the modern High School of today.



# Hi-Desert Star Sunday Magazine

**The Principal**  
Ted Hayes was  
Twentynine Palms' first



1946

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**THEODORE M. HAYES "TED"**