



HISTORY OF THE CALIFORNIA
INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION
SOUTHERN SECTION
(CIFSS)



29th historical “tidbit.”

CIFSS BECOMES INTERNATIONAL

It is interesting to note that according to the CIFSS Council minutes of March, 1940, the CIFSS became international. The State Council Meeting of February 10, 1940, approved the arrangements of CIFSS games with the **Instituto Tecnico Industrial** of Tijuana, Mexico. This was a boy’s industrial school located in the gambling center buildings at Agua Caliente. The February, 1940, CIFSS Council minutes state:

“A Mexican Boys School has been opened recently at Agua Caliente in Lower California. This school has asked permission to schedule games with schools of San Diego County. Mr. Perry had visited the school on request of the C.I.F. Office. Mr. Van Patten and the Releaguing Committee had also visited the school on a Committee trip to San Diego. It was the opinion of all who had visited the school that favorable action the request be granted...motion made to ask permission of the State Council for such games....passed.”

The school had been established in 1939 as a boarding school for rural students. The school occupied the old beautiful mosaic gambling casino complete with its own radio station and presses. The hotel became a dormitory for the students and the actual gambling hall became the library. The race track and golf club were one kilometer away from the main buildings. Carpentry, electrical skills and mechanics were taught to the students and the swim team worked out in the large pool. The school produced the “Hot Water” newspaper and the many refugees of the Spanish American War found their way to the school. Due to lack of resources the boarding school closed down in the 1950’s. When the school closed, many tunnels were found under the old casino that had been used by Al Capone to smuggle alcohol into the United States during prohibition.

Agua Caliente Hotel and Casino circa 1940



Al Capone