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HJR641

By Representative McMillan

RFD

Rd 1 15-MAY-2001

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF THE LATE MRS. NELLIE LEE ELMORE CLARK.

WHEREAS, the death of Mrs. Nellie Lee Elmore Clark, whose good deeds earned for her the respect and admiration of the countless individuals whose lives she touched, brought immense sorrow and loss to people throughout Baldwin County; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Clark received a scholarship to Hampton University, Virginia, where she studied educational supervision and its effect upon rural boys and girls; she later earned a Bachelor of Science Degree and a Master of Education Degree in Elementary Education from Alabama State University; and

WHEREAS, holding firm to the conviction that education is the key to success for our nation's youth, Mrs. Clark was instrumental in building fourteen Rosenwald Schools in Baldwin County and was presented a Silver Loving Cup by the State Department of Education; she also displayed outstanding leadership qualities as a classroom teacher and principal of Douglasville High School and principal of the Bay Minette Middle School; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Clark provided equal support to her profession as an active member of the Local Teachers Association, the Alabama Teachers Association, and life member of the National Teachers Association and National Parent Teachers Association; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Clark was a faithful member of the Zion Methodist Church, where she dedicated her great talents and abilities through her musical abilities as a singer and organist and member of the Board of Trustees; and, in 1971, the Clark Day Care Center was named in her honor; and

WHEREAS, the high esteem in which Mrs. Clark was held by her loving family, myriad of friends, and other individuals fortunate enough to have known her stands as a testament for others who strive for the best in personal and community life, and her memory will live forever in the hearts and minds of those who were privileged to have known her; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby recognize with gratitude and praise the life and service of the late Mrs. Nellie Lee Elmore Clark of Baldwin County and do further direct that a copy of this resolution be presented to her family as an expression of tribute and esteem.

Resolutions, Congratulatory

Clark, Nellie Lee Elmore

BALDWIN COUNTY SCHOOL HISTORY

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dr. A. R. McVAY
R. L. SMITH
PHYLLIS CAMPBELL
JEAN MALEC
RAEANNE LONG
SAM WATSON

1985 Heritage Project Copies
- Harriet Oudaw
NOV 1985

LIST OF OLD TIME SCHOOLS IN BALDWIN COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

Note: an * indicates photos currently in the collection of the Heritage Project.

SCHOOL NAME	LOCATION
AARONVILLE	SOUTH OF FOLEY
ANTIOCH	NEAR MONTROSE
ANNA T. JEANES	NEAR TENSAW
*BALDWIN COUNTY HIGH	SOUTH OF FAIRHOPE
BALDWIN COUNTY TRAINING	BAY MINETTE
*BARNWELL	DAPHNE
*BARTLING see NARROW GAP	
BATTLES	BATTLES WHARF
*BAY MINETTE GRAMMAR	BAY MINETTE
*BELLE FOUNTAIN	BELLE FOUNTAIN COMMUNITY
*BELFOREST	BELFOREST COMMUNITY
*BLACKSHER	BLACKSHER COMMUNITY
*BOATYARD	TENSAW
BOHEMIA	NEAR SILVERHILL
*BRADY	NEAR BAY MINETTE
BREWTON	NEAR ROBERTSDALE
BROMLEY	WEST OF STAPLETON
*CANEY BRANCH	NEAR LILLIAN
CARPENTER (1910) -REDHILL (1920)	NEAR CROSS ROADS
CAULEYS STILL	NEAR SEMINOLE
CHASTANG (1910) -WHITEHOUSE FORKS (1920)	WHITE HOUSE FORKS
CLEAR SPRINGS	
COTTAGE HILL see LAKE	
DAPHNE	DAPHNE
DARANTS CHAPEL	CROSS ROADS
DYAS	DYAS
*ELBERTA	ELBERTA
ELLISVILLE	WEST OF LOXLEY
*ELSANOR see MARSH	
*FAIRHOPE	FAIRHOPE
*FAIRHOPE HIGH	FAIRHOPE
*FOLEY	FOLEY
FORT MORGAN (1920)	FORT MORGAN
FRANK see WITTS	
FRISCO- FRISCO CONSOLIDATED	NEAR RABUN
GASQUE	EAST OF FT. MORGAN
GATESWOOD	GATESWOOD COMMUNITY
GOODHOPE see MCGILL	

GREEK	MALBIS
*GREENWOOD see NEGRO BRANCH	
GULF SHORES	GULF SHORES
HADLEY	NEAR RABUN
*HALLS FORK see WEEKLEY	
HAMILTON (19140 –HOLLINGER (1920)	NEAR BELLE FOUNTAIN
HIGH PINE	NEAR BAY MINETTE
HOLLINGER see HAMILTON	
*JACKSON	
JOSEPHINE	JOSEPHINE COMMUNITY
*KOEHLER	
KRUGER	NEAR SUMMERDALE
*LAGOON	WEST OF GULF SHORES
LAKE (1910) –COTTAGEHILL (1920)	SOUTH OF STOCKTON
LANGHAM	LOTTIE COMMUNITY
LANGHAM- LOTTIE	
*LATHAM	
LITTLE RIVER	LITTLE RIVER
LOTTIE	LOTTIE COMMUNITY
LOXLEY	LOXLEY
McGILL –GOODHOPE	NEAR PERDIDO
MAGNOLIA SPRINGS see WITTS	
MARLOW	MARLOW
*MARSH (1910) –ELSANOR	EAST OF ROBERTSDALE
*MIFLIN	MIFLIN
MONTROSE	MONTROSE
MORISTON	NEAR BELLE FOUNTAIN
*NARROW GAP (1914) –H.C. BARTLING (1920)	NORTH OF ELBERTA
*NEGRO BRANCH (1910) –SPOTSWOOD	
GREENWOOD	NEAR SUMMERDALE
NEW HOPE	
NEW LIFE	NORTH OF BAY MINETTE
NORTH RIVER PARK	EAST OF FAIRHOPE
OAK	NORTH OF GULF SHORES
ORANGE BEACH	ORANGE BEACH
PALMETTO BEACH	EAST OF FT. MORGAN
*PERDIDO	PERDIDO
*PERDIDO BEACH	
PERDIDO STATION	
PHILLIPS –PHILLIPSVILLE	NEAR BAY MINETTE
PINE GROVE see WHITE	
PLEASANT PLAINS	NEAR PERDIDO
*PLEASANT VIEW	
*POINT CLEAR	POINT CLEAR
RANDALL	WEST OF MAGNOLIA SPRINGS
REDHILL see CARPENTER	

RIVER PARK see TIERNEY (TIMNEY)	
*ROBERTSDALE	ROBERTSDALE
ROSCOE	EAST OF BON SECOUR
ROSEDALE	NORTH OF FOLEY
*ROSINTON	
*SAVANAH	NORTH OF STOCKTON
SCRANAGE	EAST OF LITTLE RIVER
SEIFERT	NEAR LILLIAN
SEMINOLE	SEMINOLE
*SILVERHILL	SILVERHILL
*SONORA	
*SOUTH RIVER PARK	
*SPANISH FORT	SPANISH FORT
*SPOTSWOOD see NEGRO BRANCH	
STAPLETON	STAPLETON
*STOCKTON	STOCKTON
*STYX RIVER	STYX RIVER COMMUNITY
*SUMATRA	NEAR SUMMERDALE
SWIFTS MILL (1910)	
SWIFTS CONSOLIDATED (1920)	BON SECOUR
*TENSAW	TENSAW
TIERNEY -RIVER PARK	EAST OF FAIRHOPE
UNDERWOOD see YUPON	
*UNION	NEAR MAGNOLIA SPRINGS
VAUGHN	NEAR STOCKTON
*WEEKLEY (1910) -HALLS FORK (1920)	
WEEKS	WEEKS BAY
*WETZELL HILL	
WHITE -PINE GROVE	
WHITE HOUSE FORKS see CHASTANG	
WITTS -MAGNOLIA SPRINGS (1920)	
RICHARD K. FRANK (1928)	
MAGNOLIA SPRINGS	MAGNOLIA SPRINGS
*YUPON -UNDERWOOD	WEST OF MAGNOLIA SPRINGS

Baldwin County Schools

Shelved In Baldwin Room

LOOKING BACK

A glance at school conditions of Baldwin County fifty years ago, or less, is enough to convince even the uninformed what great strides have been made in the County's educational setup.

Rural consolidation and improved roads have done more than any other factor toward school progress. To accommodate the larger enrollments brought about by consolidation, a building program of over \$5,000,000 has been expended in constructing new buildings and improving others. In 1918 there were 90 white schools in the County, 60 of them being one-room buildings.

Many of these buildings were totally unfit for the purpose, being poorly ventilated and constructed and almost impossible to heat in the winter.

As early as 1799, William Pierce established a school at Mims Landing at the present site of Tensaw, the first public schools of the state. As new settlements sprung up in the county, patrons of education would often teach the children in their homes. Until the birth of a county educational system around 1900, education was a private affair in the hands of the individual himself. Usually families of a community banded together and hired a teacher to instruct their pupils.

Accredited schools, uniform courses of study and the unit standard of computing credits was unknown at the time. The few who attended colleges from the county at the

time were usually required to take entrance examinations. Athletic competition between schools was unheard of and there was little or no interests in extra-curricular affairs.

Often the community citizens of the gay nineties would gather at the school house for old-fashioned spelling bees or speaking contests. Because schools were the only community center, other than the church, they were often the scene of public gatherings and often the same building served for both school and a church.

Superintendent S. M. Tharp, elected to succeed J. S. Lambert in 1918, begin his term about the time when agitation for consolidation began. At the time many pupils walked five miles or more each way in order to attend school.

Beginning at Rosinton, the consolidation of most schools in the county was soon made and there is not a school in the county that is not served by at least one bus. Practically all these new structures are of brick or tile, modern throughout and made to specification of the state department of education.

Most of the schools have been equipped with electricity, plumbing and modern heating systems. Better equipment was used for school laboratories and the libraries have been improved.

For the 1952-53 school year 10,000 pupils were enrolled in Baldwin County schools with a teaching force of 311 both white and colored. Around 80 buses carry pupils to school centers, one bus traveling 38 miles each way every school day. Bay Minette, Fairhope, Robertsedale and Foley have accredited high schools while Perdido, Loxley, Daphne, Summerdale and Stockton have junior high schools. The county is scattered with grammar schools.

Educational requirements for teachers are gradually being raised. Today it is impossible to get a certification with less than 3 years college work. High school teachers are required to have 4 years, as a rule.

Under Mr. Tharp's administration, we secured State Text books for grades one through six. Compared with the one reader of olden days our children have a wealth of excellent materials to work with.

Our educational system has progressed until it is one of the best in the state. To you, Mr. Tharp, we give much of the credit for these great improvements, and outstanding accomplishments. It would be futile for us to attempt to express in words our appreciation and gratitude of your untiring service, loyalty and cooperative spirit which made these possible. We have chosen this method of expressing our appreciation. In the pages of this book we have attempted to give you a picture of "Baldwin County Schools Through the Years."

Loose Pictures

- Douglasville School
 1895 Caney Branch School
 Koehlor School closed after 1919
 1898 Interior of Fairhope's 1st public school
 1898 Pupils in front of Fairhope School
 1904 Fairhope's larger building
 1906 Robertsdale School with poles
 Spanish Fort 1 room school
 Spanish Fort 1 room building with students
 Spanish Fort students
 1911 Robertsdale School of 1906 with students
 1912 New Robertsdale School
 1909-25 Fairhope Elem. and High
 1920-25 School Buses and 4 room school – Elberta
 1924 Spanish Fort on room school
 1925 Rosinton School
 1918 Foley – Best in Baldwin County
 1914 Loxley- 2 teacher school
 1908 Page from Robertsdale Register
 1932 Robertsdale debating team – (Kenneth Cooper)
 Loxley – Brick Building- (Mr. McGowan and Mr. Smith)
 Silverhill Little Hall building being moved in
 Robertsdale Voc. Center
 Daphne Normal School

Annuals

- Books
 1799 Boatyard School (picture from History of Baldwin County)
 Balcoala Pg. 45 – Girls On Train
 1927 Balcoala – High School Band
 1945 Fairhope – High School Band (several girls included)
 1962 Bay Minette - High School Band (bands now have majorettes)
 1976 Fairhope – High School Band (majorettes, Rifle Corp, & Flag twirlers)
 1925 Girls Basketball Team Elberta
 Elberta 1941 Elberta School Building
 Jubilee Elberta School Picnic (shows school bus)

Faculty

- 1922 Balcoala (teachers with very serious expression)
 1948 Balcoala (teachers still serious shows several men)
 1963 Foley (teachers have relaxed expressions)
 1976 Fairhope – Page 196 (faculty of today)
 1954 Bell Fountain Cafeteria (1 lady in kitchen)
 1954 Bell Fountain School

- 1922 Balcoala – Home Ec (cooking room)
- 1927 Balcoala – Home Ec (spelled H. E. with rolling pins)
- 1948 Balcoala – Home Ec (shows girls in kitchen)
- 1981 Robertsdale Home Ec (shows girls in kitchen)

- 1953 Foley – Pictures of McGowan, Smith, McVay (we also need a pic. of Tharp)

- 1923 Balcoala Football team (page 40)
- 1941 Bay Breeze – Fairhope Football team (page 26)
- 1962 Balcoala Football Team
- 1980 Foley Football Team (Page 167)

Annuals

- 1926 Balcoala Baseball Team

- 1922 Balcoala Basketball Team
- 1981 Robertsdale Basketball Team

- 1981 Robertsdale Girl's Basketball Team
- 1981 Robertsdale Girl's playing Tennis

- 1981 Balcoala Boys Track Team
- 1981 Balcoala Girls playing volleyball

1985 Slide Show Project

Baldwin County has often been accorded the honor of being first, or the best, in many areas, and the field of education is no exception. Out of a love for children and a realization of the importance of educating them for their role as responsible adults and a sincere dedication toward that aim has grown one of the finest school systems to be found anywhere.

Baldwin County Schools — this is your life.

(Music and Credits)

Where did the story begin? Let us travel back in time to the year 1799. John Pierce built the Boatyard School in what is now Tensaw. It was the first public school in Alabama and may very well have resembled this building.

Listen closely! One can almost hear the shouts of the children, the Halls, Byrnes, Weatherfords, McGillivarys and Durants, as they played in the sandy schoolyard.

The only books were owned by the teacher and probably included a Webster's Spelling book, a Colonial New England Primer, and the Bay Psalm Book—a geography and an arithmetic. Just imagine! No blackboards, no crayons, no Title I, II, III monies, no accreditation standards and no new math!

Mr. Pierce dedicated many years of service as a schoolmaster. He was so dedicated he managed to elude many attempts by young women to relieve him of his bachelorhood.

During the early 1800's, patrons of education often taught the children in private homes for a fee. The late 1800's saw the emergence of the little one-room schoolhouse. It was typical of the average country school in Alabama at the time. It was of frame construction, with a board-roof, few windows and one door. Building inspectors and fire marshalls would have had a field day with that. A big wood stove stood in a conspicuous place near the center of the room.

The little schoolhouses sprang up across the county like mushrooms and encountered what often seemed to be insurmountable problems such as the lack of equipment and materials, the transient nature of teaching personnel and finances—problems we don't see in our modern age.

The availability of materials depended entirely upon the ingenuity of the teacher. One student's most vivid recollection of his teacher was that he made erasers out of his old pants. Now that's what one could call "taking hold of the problem by the seat of the pants".

The people of Baldwin County have always been dedicated to education. In the Fairhope Courier, dated May 1, 1896, an article entitled "Another Adjunct of Civilization" was recorded which contained the following statement: "At last we have a school!" That first school quickly outgrew its small building, and this larger one was built.

Working together was the theme of the day. This look at the interior of the Fairhope School in 1898 shows just how far that theme was extended. Two and sometime three children to a desk was a common sight.

It was about this time that Marietta Johnson arrived in Fairhope and made a lasting contribution to early education. She later opened her own School of Organic Education.

Fairhope continued to grow and the interest in quality education matched that growth. When the school outgrew its quarters, another larger one was built.

The early wooden, often poorly constructed schools were at the mercy of the elements. The temperature was often the same inside and out, in every season. But no, this is not an example of shabby workmanship. It is an attempt to prop up the Robertsdale School after the fierce winds of the 1906 hurricane attempted to blow it away. The learning process was not to be interrupted!

The Robertsdale School continued to grow. Just look at all those students! School was fun! They didn't mind the double desks (some of us wish we could have been seated that close to a special friend). They didn't mind the onesquare yard of blackboard, the water buckets, dippers, or wood-burning stoves. The older boys even gathered the pine knots used for fuel. The schoolday was from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

By 1912, the school would no longer hold the students. Besides, it was considered unsafe because of the earlier hurricane damage. (Only six years in an unsafe building?) A new concrete block construction was the answer.

In 1913, the Birmingham News carried an article by the State Supt. commending the teachers and patrons on a good school with high achievements... It was declared a "Model School". The enrollment continued to climb and ... can you believe it? - In 1918, the increase necessitated using the auditorium for classes.

We hear statements today such as "Children just aren't as nice as they once were." or "We would never have behaved that way in my day!" If so, why did the first principal in Elberta leave so quickly? He couldn't endure the mean boys. The year was 1906.

Look at these charming youngsters at the Spanish Fort School. Miss Lillian Shambo, who went to school in Spanish Fort, was denied a position upon her graduation from Daphne Normal because she was too little and too young. (90 pounds and 16 years old) The Supt. said the Spanish Fort kids were the meanest; they had run off more teachers than any other school in Baldwin County.

Miss Lillian finally got an appointment to Spanish Fort. She taught grades 1-8 in this school of 35 students. The restrooms were of the "outside variety" and water was drawn from an open well in front of the school. The children could not have been too bad, for Miss Lillian's main concern that year was the dangerous open well shown here.

Remember syrup pails and lard buckets? They were yesterday's answer to Spider Man lunch boxes. One can almost picture a group of barefoot children skipping to this one-room school on a warm spring morning, their buckets and pails swinging at their sides. Those pails were always full of goodies, goodies to be shared with "teacher". One Spanish Fort student remembered that one little girl always had onions on her sandwiches. That pail made the smell permeate everything in it. So... teacher never ate the child's cookies or cake, no matter how sweetly offered. Teacher was always "too full" or "getting a mite too fat".

Decisions! Decisions! What program will the Textbook Committee select? There are so many to choose from. Not so in the old days. The choice was limited. The Blue Back Speller and the McGuffey Readers were among the most outstanding books.

"Teachers back then could teach! They didn't have to do all those ridiculous reports." This page from a register from the 1920's certainly looks familiar. By the way, at a School Board meeting on October 29, 1909, it was voted that the salaries of teachers sending in incorrect reports which had to be returned for correction, be withheld until the next succeeding pay day. Let's hope that rule never surfaces again.

(Music)

Daphne Junior High School has its beginning as a training school in connection with the Daphne Normal School. The students were used for practice teaching classes. Later when it became apparent that the State Board of Education intended to abandon the Daphne Normal School as a teacher training school, the citizens of the community began to realize their need for a public school.

Education in Bay Minette started in private homes and small public buildings. Just after the turn of the century a new school was built in the center of town. The citizens were appalled at the size of the building. Every prophesied that the building was much larger than would ever be needed. Why, it actually contained six large classrooms, a belfry room, and a large auditorium. Listen to this excerpt from the 1923 class history: "In 1919 the school was so crowded we were forced to use a corner of the auditorium for our classroom. We were further hindered by falling stove Pipes." The present High School was built in 1921. Bay Minette had the first high school in the county.

Douglasville Elementary provided a place for Black children to go to school in Bay Minette. This building was later moved to the Douglasville High School campus. Aaronville High School, near Foley, began in 1937 in a one-room frame building. Before the consolidation of schools, there were small Black schhols in every community.

Baldwin County Training School was founded as the Eastern Shore Missionary Baptist Academy in 1889. The 18 acre plot and two one-room buildings were deeded to the county and state for public school use in 1915. The Training School was the only high school in Baldwin County for Blacks at the time.

Public education in Foley began in a one-room school in 1908. Like other communities, Foley grew, and the need for a new school became apparent.

In 1917, J.B. Foley, Sr. donated the land and a two-story brick building was erected. The school was known as the Baldwin County Agricultural School and was the first school in the county to take advantage of the Smith-Hughes Act which provided for Home Economics and Vocational Agriculture in the high school curriculum.

Agitation for consolidation began around 1918. At the time, there were 86 white schools and 20 Black schools in the county. The majority were in one-room buildings. The Rosinton Consolidated School was the first in the county to be built on the State Aid Plan.

Its interesting to note that the principal of Rosinton was a former student there, as was his father. His grandmother was the first PTA president in Rosinton. So many Baldwin students have returned to the school system which gave them their start in education.

(HOLD SLIDE HERE)

And so they came, eager to learn. But how did they get there? Many came on foot, fording swollen streams and braving the elements. Mule-drawn wagons brought others. Model T's chugged along. Later, private buses provided transportation.

Students traveled from South Baldwin by train to the High School in Bay Minette. The caption says, "The Foley Train is mentioned in the Bible—'and the lord made all creeping things'".

In 1941, Elberta boasted a bus for the consolidated school. It was in August of 1941 that the school board authorized the Supt. to purchase the first county-owned school bus.

The bus fleet that rolls across the county today is something to see. It is certainly another indication of growth in the system.

(Cut 1st tape)

Most school records indicate the schools in Baldwin County were plagued by hardships during the 30's. In the Board minutes of June 19, 1931, it was stated that the Supt. was authorized to inform teachers that it might be necessary to cut the term and also salaries probably 10 or 15 percent. In August of that year, it was suggested that some form of script be issued to teachers each month if funds were not sufficient to meet payrolls. Salaries ranged from \$55 to \$105 a month.

In 1932, the elementary schools were closed at the end of the sixth scholastic month, February, and in 1933, supervision in Baldwin County Schools was discontinued.

Despite the hardships, the 30's had a positive side. Our own former Supt., A. R. McVay, who has dedicated so many years to education in Baldwin County, graduated as Valedictorian of his class in Robertsedale. This picture was taken upon his appointment as

Quite often, one's high school interests follow one through life. Such was the case with this young man on the right. His experience as a member of the Robertsdale debating team helped to launch a successful career in law in the county. This former School Board president, present school board member, and advocate of education is known for his ability to "argue the point", no doubt a carry-over from his days on the debating team.

Of course dedicated teachers have formed the backbone of the system. My, what somber expressions!... That's no small wonder when one considers this resolution adopted by the Board in 1914.

"Whereas, in past years, some of the teachers of the Baldwin County Schools have indulged in excessively in social pleasures to the great neglect of their duties as teachers and to the great detriment of the schools over which they presided, and Whereas, teaching in the judgment of this Board, is a profession, which requires thorough planning and preparation of the classroom work of each day, and that dissipation of any kind is subversive of the nerve force which teachers should ever hold in reserve for the faithful and efficient performance of their duties in the school room" therefore, be it resolved.

That beginning Sept. 28, 1914, any teacher, who, during the five school days of any school week may attend dances, or other social functions of like character, instead of employing his evenings in the planning and preparation of his classroom work...or who may spend his evenings in entertaining in her house or at her boarding house... shall be deemed guilty of a violation of his contract, which may be immediately terminated.

As you can see, the expressions softened through the years. Teachers seem to be more relaxed. After all, learning should be a happy experience for both teacher and pupil. This should make teachers smile. Lord Brougham once said "Let the soldier be abroad if he will, he can do nothing in this age. There is another personage, a personage less imposing in the eyes of some, perhaps insignificant. The SCHOOLMASTER is abroad, and I trust to him, armed with his primer, against the soldier in full military array."

Through the years, the teachers in Baldwin County have been privileged to work with leaders of the highest caliber. The first Supt. was J.D. Driesback. In 1893 David Byrne was Supt. Dr. J. S. Lambert succeeded him and served until 1918. S.M. Tharp, shown here, served this county for 35 years. It was during his administration that the Baldwin County School System was recognized in a Look Magazine publication as one of the top 100 schools in the nation.

These two gentlemen came up through the ranks of the school system to serve the county as supts. Candler McGowan led the county for 22 years. He was followed by A.R. McVay, shown in an earlier picture. The young man on the right is our present Supt. R.L. Smith and like his predecessor, John Pierce, he has managed to remain free...so far.

The importance of a hot lunch for students became apparent and through the efforts of concerned individuals and early PTA groups known as School Improvement Associations, various types of lunch programs developed. From hot plates to portable to portable food carts-advances were made. This one-cook kitchen in Bell Fountain was quite an accomplishment.

Today our cafeterias feed several thousand each day in the larger schools and large numbers in the smaller schools. The School Lunch Program has become an integral of our system.

(Music 7)

Music has always had its place in education. This early picture of the Baldwin County High School Band is indicative of the bands of that day. Notice the scarcity of female members, or for that fact, members period.

In the 40's, the Fairhope Band boasted a few more members, a few more girls and a drum major.

As the years past, bands grew larger and were often led by lovely majorettes.

Today, no band would be complete without majorettes, drum majors, a rifle corp, flag twirlers and other added attractions.

Home Economics has been a recognized part of the curriculum through the years. After all, it was very important that consideration be given to the training of young ladies for their proper role. This was the "cooking room" in Bay Minette in 1922.

This innovative group used the tools of their trade to spell out the initials of their club.

Over the years, the Home Economics program has grown as well as the facilities used for teaching the programs.

Ah yes, sports. No school would be complete without its athletic department. The principal of Elberta was very proud of his champions in 1925. Girls could be outstanding in other areas besides the kitchen.

Of course football has always been with us. Aren't they rugged looking? The coach said "Look tough!" The guy on the left is surely trying.

Quite an impressive group! They had some very impressive scores that year as well.

As school enrollments increased, the size of the teams increased. The players even seemed to get bigger. We have an athletic and physical education program today that we can be very proud of. It provides many opportunities for girls and boys. Its interesting that when the 1906 hurricane necessitated moving the Belforest School to the Hemingway house, many adjustments had to be made. However, it was duly noted that boys and girls did continue to have separate play areas. Shades of Title IX!

Here are just a few of the physical education activities available to students today.

The Baldwin County School System has grown and expanded to meet the needs of all its 16,000 plus students. Educators have always considered the "total child" concept and all of the child's needs and have planned and developed physical and curriculums accordingly.

In 1970-71, the composition of schools changed, as total integration was accomplished in the system. Consolidation through the years and integration reduced the number of 21 white and 10 black schools in 1956 to our present 19 integrated schools. After the Federal Court Order, 10 Black schools, among them Vaughn, were closed and 145 Black teachers and 3,000 students were placed. The County School System sold bonds to provide its own revenue to accomplish desegregation process was a smooth one, with very few incidents. This speaks well of our system and the people of this county.

Remember the McGuffey Readers of yesteryear? The curriculum was limited for the most part to the 3 R's. This English program, which was authored in our county and adopted by 20 other systems is just one example of the material available to our students.

It was the ambition of the system that every teacher have a record player, overhead projector, tape recorder, and a slide projector and that every group of rooms have a 16mm. Projector. Although funds do not always allow such ambitions to be realized, the availability of equipment is more than adequate and a far cry from the meager teaching aids of long ago.

The county also has two vocational centers, one in Robertsdale and one in Bay Minette which are designed to train high school students in specialized skills which will enable them to enter the work force when they complete their two-year program. Child Care and Guidance, Clothing Production, Drafting, Mechanics and Horticulture are just a few of the courses offered.

Since its beginning in the mid 50's, the Special Education program in the county has provided specialized and individualized instruction and training for those students who meet the criteria for placement. The classes provide the one to one contact that is so necessary for children with special needs.

In the beginning, programs were designed to help children with speech difficulties and to provide classes for the educable and trainable mentally retarded.

Expansion resulted in classes for the learning disabled and emotionally disturbed. Two classes at Daphne Middle School were established for the deaf and hearing impaired. These classes, one of which is shown here, serve the entire county.

Classes for the gifted, home training for the severe/profound and special teachers for the blind/visually handicapped are now included in the program in which 100 Special Education employees serve approximately 2,000 students.

The Title I program for educationally deprived students has been an asset to the system and provides the supplemental training so essential for some students. An educationally deprived child is one who functions between and below grade level. The program covers the areas of reading and math.

Title III provided funds for Educational Professional Development Programs. Title IV provides for teaching materials and Title VI provides for extra teachers and teaching materials for Special Education.

Students today are fortunate to be provided with free textbooks which are distributed through the Educational Resource Center. This important addition to the system also houses the offices of supervisors. Notice the advantageous position of the cannon. I wonder if anyone has ever considered the implications of that.

Cleanliness is next to Godliness. In the early years, teachers were responsible for inspiring their students to assume janitorial duties. In 1912, the Board minutes reported that the children of the Loxley School refused to do janitor duty. The matter was resolved by setting an incidental fee of 25 cents per month per child. A janitor was hired with the proceeds. Today we are fortunate to have a contracted janitorial service in the schools.

Despite the problems of overcrowded classrooms and a few outdated buildings, the schools in our county are to be congratulated for jobs well-done. The System has weathered a great many problems as well as storms, but has always overcome them. We have 19 schools in the county that we can look upon with pride. Let's take a look at them

The present Crossroads Elementary School was built in 1920. The original building has seen several additions.

Like Crossroads, the original building of 1918 forms the foundation of the White House Forks School. In 1921 an a room was added and in order to express their joy, the community levied a 3 mill tax upon themselves to cover the huge expense. We could have used a little of their enthusiasm last summer.

One of the early teachers in Bon Secour taught for \$11 a month. That was dedication!

The original school in Summerdale, built in 1913, was equipped and partially paid for through the efforts of the School Improvement Association. Just another indication of the supportive efforts of PTA in Baldwin.

There was a big dispute over the location of the Stapleton School after it was built in the 1980's. Which side of the branch should it be on? One man solved the problem by literally tearing the school apart and moving it.

The Perdido School was also moved by oxen and mules to its present location. Names mean a lot. Dr. Norton donated the land for the Elsanor school provided the school be named for his wife, Elsa Norton.

Education began in Silverhill in 1896 and has continued to be the center interest in the small Baldwin community.

Yes.....

From John Pierce to Leslie Smith

The sands of time have run.

From one-room schools and hickory sticks

Baldwin County, look what you've done.

You've weathered the force of some mighty gales..

You've outgrown potbellied stoves and lunches in pails.

Your strong arms have embraced all those who came

By wagon or on foot, regardless of name.

Gone are the wagons drawn by the horse.

Replaced by brand new diesels, of course.

Gone are the teachings of yesteryear.

Electronics, calculators, and computers are here.

As one great poet said not long ago....

One ship drives east and another drives west

With the selfsame winds that blow.

'Tis the set of the sails

And not the gales

Which tells us the way to go.

Like the winds of the sea are the ways of fate,

As we voyage along through life:

'Tis the set of a soul

That decides its goal,

And not the calm or the strife.

You've been through a lot, Baldwin County, tis true

And many, many people owe a lot to you.

We take this occasion to honor your role.

For over the years, you've set many a soul.

HISTORY OF THE MAGNOLIA SPRINGS SCHOOL

The first public school bell rang in Magnolia Springs in September 1918. Mrs. Maribah Walker Massey enrollment twelve in an old frame building known as the town hall. This first school house was not ceiled and the wind whispered around the rafters while the teacher conducted her classes. Seats or desks were unknown so rough benches and old chairs were used.

The three Rs were the order of the day. The school term was four or five months long and the teacher received the fabulous salary of Forty dollars a month.

Miss Lillie Wetzel acted as county superintendent which bridged the gap between the time of Mr. Lambert and our present beloved superintendent Mr. S. M. Tharp. Mr. Frank Fuller was president of school improvement.

Some of the names of the children of the first school were as follows; Fuller, Benson, Carson, Shindler, Nelson and Underwood.

I want to pause for a moment to pay tribute to the first teacher of this first school in Magnolia Springs. Mrs. Maribah Walker Massey, the wife of a soldier in France and the mother of a three months old daughter, lived in a room on the end of the school house. She did all her own house work and cared for her baby. During the school day she would have occasional assistance from the school children to help tend the baby. Mrs. Massey attended four days of institute, took care of herself and her baby and taught school. This is an example of the courage of our Baldwin County pioneer teachers.

Another of the teachers of the first school was Mrs. Mack Moore who is still a resident of Magnolia Springs. Mrs. Moore's love for the Magnolia Springs School has never grown cold through the years.

In about the year 1920 a beautiful new modern brick school building was ready to take the place of the old Town Hall.

The principals of the new school were as follows; Mrs. Harper, Mrs. Louis, Mr. Edwards, Mrs. Robinson.

THE HISTORY OF PERDIDO SCHOOL

The first school at Perdido was established in 1885 and was about one mile from the site of the present building. It was a small log house with a fire place at one end. The children sat on a plank placed on two blocks of wood cut from a tree. Three of four of the children had a desk of their own made by their father.

The first teacher in the little log school was Miss Rancie Fork. The forest was burning one morning as Miss Fork was on her way to school and her hat caught fire by the sparks from the fire.

Some years after this a frame building with glass windows replaced the log building. In 1903 the people voted to move the school about two miles from the original site to a part of the community which was more thickly settled. Miss Winnie Wilcox (Mrs. Camp) taught that year in a small tenant house on the Hilary Thomley homestead.

After a year or two at the Thomley settlement classes were resumed at the original school. A two room building replaced the frame building and in 1914 Mr. Lincoln Babcock from Dyas moved the building with oxen and mules to the site where the present school building stands.

The school term was three months and the teachers were paid \$35.00 per month. The salary was set by the trustees.

Home of the teachers who taught before 1914 were: Miss Bell Franklin, Miss Richerson from Stockton, Mr. Kindrick, Miss Jeanie McGowan, Miss Lewis, Miss Willie Mae Oxford and Miss Ethel Abrums.

After the building was moved in 1914 another room was added and Miss Marie Little was principal with Mrs. Winnie Camp and Miss Lizzie Thomley as teachers. Miss

Clara Hall taught in 1913-16. Ella Rodgers, Fred Stewart and W. C. Carter taught during the years from 1916-21. In 1921 a fourth teacher was added and the Masonic Lodge was used as the fourth class room. Mr. C. C. McKelvey were J. C. Lewis, Mr. J. M. Vance. Mr. J. H. Bennett, Mr. John Huff, Mr. S. H. Moseley and Mr. Duck.

Mr. Charles Weekley served as a trustee from 1906 to 1913 and was a member of the County Board of Education from 1916 to 1931. Mr. Charles Weekley Sr. was a county trustee before 1916. Mr. John Havard served as a trustee of Perdido School for twenty years.

The school at Perdido grew as smaller schools were consolidated with it until the faculty reached fifteen with an enrollment of over four hundred. In 1936 the large school building burned which was built in 1922 or 1923. We now have a nice Junior High School at Perdido.

In the early twenties Good Hope and Pleasant Plain schools were consolidated with Perdido. They were joined by Knoll School and Phillipsville School in 1927, High Pine School in 1928, Dyas in 1930, Halls Fork in 1948 and langham- Lottie in 1951.

HISTORY OF POINT CLEAR SCHOOL

As far back as most people can remember there has been a Public School at Point Clear. More than seventy-five years ago there was a one-room school building on what is now the Ollenger place. I have been told that it was taught by Dr. Schowalter's grandmother. Dr. Schowalter was a prominent doctor in this area some years ago.

Miss Naomi Rogers who was principal of the school from 1913-1917 gave me an interesting glimpse into the past. When she went there to teach, the building was a straight jacket frame building with three rooms and a front porch. The equipment was typical of the times. She had the upper elementary grades and the seventh grade. The one other teacher had the primary grades. At the back of the building there was a pump. The grounds were fenced in and full of pine stumps. This was the building near the present Baptist Church and was used until 1924. At that time they had seven months of school. The enrollment was between 91-96 children. The seventh graders took a county examination which was given to all children completing the seventh grade at that time. She said all her children had lovely manners and she was proud of her school. She spoke very fondly of Mr. Otto Zundel who was a most cooperative trustee.

Miss Colene Brodbeck remembers the programs the school used to have at the old Point Clear Hotel. She played the piano at some of the graduation exercises. She did not attend the Public School. Her family had teachers in the home.

The Brodbeck and Zundel families were leaders in the community and school over a number of years. Mr. Otto Zundel served many years as a school trustee. Later Mr. Arnold Brodbeck was a trustee.

In 1917-1918 Miss Clara Hall was principal. Miss Sara Street (Mrs. Carl Yenns) and Miss Louise Johnson (Mrs. George Lundberg) were the other teachers. They used the 6-3-3- plan.

Miss Edna says of her years at Point Clear, "When I went to Point Clear in 1920, we taught in a wooden building near the Baptish Church. We had closing exercises. The Eight Grade had graduation exercises. Some of the school patrons made a temporary stage. We had a nice time. After that we gave a play or two in the old Point Clear Hotel. We used tables for the stage.

Mr. Ledbetter from the state department and Mr. Tharp met several times with the patrons of the school and the new school building was planned and built-completed in 1924. It was one of the first if not the first in the county that Mr. Tharp built after he went into office in 1918. At first there was no auditorium. We used one of the class rooms for an auditorium. Miss Grace and Miss Nina McRea and I were the first teachers who taught in the new school building. We had a big all day affair when the new building was . I spent some mighty pleased years there and have lots of sweet memories of them.

In 1929 the auditorium was added to the building. During the thirties the grades above the sixth grade were sent to Fairhope. For some time then there were only two teachers. I did not find out just who all the teachers were during that time but for several years Miss Cecile Stapleton taught the upper grades. Miss Wilson always taught the primary grades. In 1946-1947 the school began to grow. Mrs. Carl Yenne went to the school in 1947. She had taught before she was married back in the old building. The school got electric lights, in-door restrooms, and a lunchroom. The active P.T.A. worked

hard on these projects, and with some generous donations and Mr. Tharp's cooperation the school made rapid growth. The wise program of consolidation was on its way.

In 1948 Mrs. Yenne and Mrs. Pearl Nelson helped to bring about the consolidation of Riverpark with Point Clear. Some of these children had been going to Fairhope. But Point Clear was better able to take more children had been going to Fairhope. It had rooms that's had been vacant. The grounds were improved with the planting of grass in the front yard.

Sixth Grade graduations were one of Mrs. Yenne's big programs of the year. Her baseball games with other schools were enjoyed. Point Clear boys were pretty good I hear, in spite of the sandy ball field. They played barefoot.

1950 marked the end of thirty years at Point Clear for Miss Wilson. The people of Point Clear honored her with a tea and presented her with gifts. She had been with them many years and they loved her dearly.

When Mrs. Wingrad became principal in 1950, she had the task of making the consolidation of Barnwell with Point Clear a success. This she did.

The P.T.A. planned to install gas heaters this year; however, this work was not completed until 1953. The county furnished the heaters. The P.T.A. had Ponder Co. do some of the work.

Plans for a fine new lunchroom were made.

With Miss Day's help music became a more important part of the school day for the children.

In 1952 Mr. W. F. Bower became principal. He had one of the busiest years most any principal could have. The lunchroom was begun and completed. The dedication of

the opening of the lunchroom was in the form of a banquet. A nice plate was served by the P.T.A. The auditorium was made lovely with Spring flowers. The guests at the banquet were Mr. Tharp, Mr. and Mrs. McGowin, Miss Dixie Johnson, and the County Board Members.

During the year all the heaters were installed and put into working order. The auditorium was freshly painted.

A school store is run by the sixth grade. This store makes it possible to have some of the new equipment and supplies that were so badly needed.

A Student Council has been organized. A newspaper is started.

A physical education program includes a basketball team.

The school is fortunate in having a patron who give of her time and talent to bring music into each classroom that wants music. Mrs. Paul Davenport plays for singing, programs, The Rhythm Band, and gives private lessons to all who want to take.

Music is becoming more and more important in the daily program. We can thank Miss Day for this. She has helped us so much with aids, encouragement, and her presence.

The present faculty consists of the following:

Mr. W.F. Bower, principal and Sixth Grade Teacher

Mrs. Katherine Dobbins, Fifth Grade Teacher

Miss Rita Moore, Third and Fourth Grade teacher

Mrs. Leoma Stubblefield, First and Second Grade Teacher

The number of children in the school at the present time is about 100.

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All indications seem to be that Point Clear are proud of the progress we have made in recent years and to Mr. Tharp who has made all this possible we are thankful.

Mrs. Leoma Stubblefield

HISTORY OF ROBERTSDALE SCHOOL

Robertsdale was founded by the Southern Plantation Development Company of Chicago, Illinois in the year of 1905, after the L. & N. railroad began the building of its branch line from Bay Minette to Fort Morgan. The name Robertsdale was a compliment to an officer of the company, Dr. B F. Roberts. – This company built the first school which was a two story frame structure. The first floor of this building was finished rather crudely and was divided into two rooms by a flimsy board partition. The front room was the hallway as well as class room as there was only one entrance. The primary grades used this room. They had one square yard of blackboard, a few double desks, some tables and chairs. Other equipment and materials depended entirely upon the ingenuity of the teacher. Both rooms had water buckets and dippers, a pitcher pump in the yard with a long drainage ditch where the younger children made mud pies. Each room had a long iron heater in which great logs were burned. The fuel was gathered about the school yard. This supply was not entirely exhausted until 1910.

During the hurricane of 1906 the building was damaged by the high winds- Later the building was straightened and braced with four tall pines, one at each corner giving the building a somewhat grotesque appearance. A local wit always referred to them as flying buttresses.

(unable to read next two pages)

The old building was razed and the new building erected on the same site. The contractor was Mr. J. B. Adams of Michigan, who had moved to Baldwin County in 1909. The cement for the blocks was mixed in a small cement mixer powered by a gasoline engine.

The principal for year 1914-15 was a Mr. Curtis (from a northern state), and Miss Rona Armistead was the primary teacher. This was a good year, for the school Improvement Society continued working on the interior of the new building. The County Board of Education was supplying equipment, and a piano was purchased which was a great asset to the entire community. Mrs. George Lacey from Loxley began a music class, and she was also very generous in using her talent for the benefit of the school.

Because of ill health Mr. Curtis moved away at the end of the year, and Mr. G. A. Strong once more became principal, remaining from 1915 until the spring of 1913 when he resigned to go into government service. His assistant teachers were: Miss Edna Armistead and Miss Bertie Poos, Miss Rona Darle Armistead (a cousin of Edna Armistead) became the principal on Mr. Strong's resignation and completed the school year 1913. The increased enrollment necessitated using the auditorium. (The old familiar theme-war, teacher shortage, increased enrollment.) Miss Florence Burns served as principal from 1913 to 1920. Miss Mabel Korridge and Miss Edna Armistead were her assistants. Expansion continued during this period as Baldwin County was having a land boom, and shipping of truck crops to northern markets had begun in earnest.

In 1920 Mr. C. F. Taylor of Chic became principal and coincident with his arrival a need was felt for a much larger facility to accommodate an ever increasing population. The old school – now the Robertsdale City Hall – was gradually enlarged to its present

size, and in 1927-28 the high school was moved into new modern building at our present location. The building site of ten acres was a gift from Mrs. Steddard, and the Board of Education subsequently purchased additional acreage, ultimately increasing the acreage to fifty seven. Prior to this transition, school was held in the Methodist and Christian churches, Nasonic Hall, an apartment house, and the regular school plant.

Under the leadership of Mr. Taylor our plant has now become one of the four largest in the county. On the present faculty of twenty eight, there are seven teachers who attended Robertsdale School, viz: Mrs. Eura Lee Harding, Miss Kathryn Snider, Mr. Virgil Buck, Miss Iva Blackburn, Mr. Jerry O'Donnell, Mrs. Lilda Mahoney, and Mrs. Bertie Gilbert. The first five of the above mentioned graduated under the present senior sponsor, Mrs. Inez Hiles, who is the oldest faculty member in point of service with the exception of the principal. To the teachers both past and present who have served over the years much credit is due for their effort to develop a philosophy of life and a discriminating sense of values in boys and girls.

School people have experienced the heights as well as the depths over the years, but it is gratifying to look about us to see the results of the school, Our former pupils represent all walks of life and form a well balanced citizenry which is encouraging and supporting the school in which they were educated.

And let us not forget our leadership during the past three decades which has stood always for growth, understanding, and progress of our youth. We do think that this year of 1953 does not end that leadership, but we expect to continue to profit from the rich experience of one who has dedicated his life to the youth of his county.

ROSINTON SCHOOL

No other single factor has contributed more toward the integration and expansion of Rosinton community than the consolidation of its schools.

Prior to 1919 the children of this community attended four separate one-teacher schools. On May 7, 1919 the County Board of Education secured a loan of \$1,700.00 from the Baldwin County Bank, to which sum the State of Alabama added \$650.00, for the purpose of building a consolidated school at Rosinton. This building, two classrooms and a library was the first in the county to be built on the State Aid Plan.

The original consolidation united the schools of Antioch and Rosinton in 1919-1920 with Miss Lillian Hodgson as principal and Miss Margaret McGrew as assistant. This consolidation was attended and made possible by opening up a new road, past the new school and entailed bridging Mill Creek which flanks the school property on the west. This new road gave ready access to the school and marked the beginning of wider community intercourse.

The original enrollment of one-hundred-forty pupils was permitted to continue their studies through the tenth grad in 1921 by the addition of a third teacher who used the smaller room originally intended for the manual training. The teachers at Rosinton that year were Mr. Howard Roper, principal, Mrs. Lillian Kennedy and Miss Annie Killingsworth, assistants. Mrs. Kennedy served Rosinton continuously from this appointment until illness, so serious that it resulted in her death, compelled her to lay down her books and her plans for "her children" in the spring of 1953.

The initial success of the consolidation and public acceptance of the idea bought the schools of Hollinger and Styx River together with Rosinton in 1923 when two more

classrooms were built onto the school and a fourth teachers added to the faculty. This daily transfer of children from the latter school districts necessitated a common mode of travel therefore bus service was instituted in Rosinton. In 1925 a movement for further consolidation led to the building of a Senior High School at Robertsedale and bus transportation was furnished for all pupils above the eighth grade.

Parental interest in school matters led naturally to periodic meetings of adults in the school building where matters of common interest were discussed and divergent opinions resolved. These meetings, becoming more frequent with the years have crystallized into organizations which have been a potent factor in developing among the people of Rosinton a civic and social consciousness. In 1926 the first P.T.A. was organized with Mrs. A. Anderberg as the first president. The school has always had an active P.T.A. since that time. The Farmers' club and Helping Hand Club are two outstanding organizations and most recently the Rosinton Players may be noted as directly associated with the school, its activities, and the interests aroused there.

In 1941 a new room was added and a fifth teacher required to take care of the enrollment which by then had reached one-hundred-seventy students. About this time Mr. E. Lundberg was secured to teach music in the school and a piano was bought for the school.

1941 a water system was installed and in 1948 modern rest rooms were built.

A number a lunch plans were tried over a period of years. In 1938-1939 Mr. Norman Dawson sold sandwiches and drinks in a small building of their own which they brought to the campus. The mothers of the community took turns preparing meals at the school. This did not work too well and Mrs. Lott took over the management with

mothers taking turns helping. Finally Mrs. Lott assumed full responsibility and for a while served lunches on a screened back porch of her home next door to the school. In 1946 the school began its lunch program with Federal Government reimbursement. Subsequent improvement in the school lunch room facilities and program have been continuous.

For years the urgent need for an auditorium was the subject for conversation whenever school-minded patrons met. At the beginning of the school year 1948-49 construction of a \$35,000 brick auditorium was commenced. About one year later it was completed and on November 3, 1949 special dedicatory services were held. Now within its walls fellowship, hard work and much fine entertainment are shared by students, faculty, patrons and friends.

Many recent improvements have been made in the school and much equipment added. Perhaps the most notable and helpful is the large electric schedule clock which helps so much to keep the school functioning in an orderly efficient manner.

Principals who have served Rosinton School are Miss Lillian Hodgson, Howard Roper, Lillian Kennedy, W.C. Johnson, M.C. Marchan, J. C. Tharp, O. F. Harper, W.C. McGowan, Roger Barnhill, George A. Strong, Omer J. Gebhart, Gerald P. Robinson, W.F. Taunton, David Petty and David Howell. Each in his own way has served and left an imprint on the school and on the community. For every good, both tangible and intangible we are grateful to these and the many who taught with them.

Remembering when they studied and played on its campus, patrons of Rosinton School experience a sense of patriotic pride and love for their Alma Mater; nevertheless,

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they are reminded that their children have for their school the same building, and they hope for the experience of "The Chambered Nautilus".

SILVERHILL SCHOOL

When Silverhill was founded in 1896, plans were made for the building of a school house as soon as enough "Land Seekers" would bring their families to the Colony.

A building, 22x30, was erected in 1898 which was use until 1903. The enrollment increased so rapidly that a larger building was necessary. The original school house was then used as the Land Company office by the Founder, Mr. Oscar Johnson. It is now the town library sponsored by the N.P.C. Library Club.

While a two story building was being erected, school was conducted in the local Baptist Church.

The first two teachers, Miss Millie Anderson and Miss Sarah Carlson, were paid by the Land Company. The third teacher, Mr. Owens, was the only man teacher until about 1929, when Mr. James Dailey became principal.

With the growth of the Colony came a larger school enrollment which called for a two-teacher school. These two young ladies were Miss Pearl Campbell (Mrs. N. Noonan) and Miss Mary Ferinear (Mrs. Killebrew) both of Bay Minette, Alabama. They taught here several years, and it was during their time that the "School Improvement Association" was organized in about the year 1907. The late Mrs. T. A. Johnson (Mother of Mrs. Lundberg) was the first chairman, and the Mesdames Oscar Johnson, O. P. Forsman, Alfred Carlson, Charles Lyrene, Mr. Oscar Johnson and Dr. O.F.E. Winberg were among the Charter members.

Miss Evelyn Wilkes (Mrs. Frederick Vaill of St. Augustine, Florida) a gifted young lady who came to Silverhill from Terre Haute, Indiana with her parents and sister, would substitute and assist the teachers. Later, she became a teacher in the school; also

in the County. She became an assistant in Supt. Tharp's Office and later became well known in larger education circles in the South and Florida.

Other early teachers were the Misses Mildred Hall, Xeripha Bryars, Ella White and Lilla Simmons. Miss Hall was the organizer of the Non Pareil Club, which since 1906 sponsored the town Library.

Miss Agnes Johnson (Mrs. O.W. Utter) daughter of the founder, Mr. Oscar Johnson, began teaching as assistant to Miss Pearl Campbell in about 1914. She later became principal of the school with Miss Evelyn Wilkes as assistant, and later Miss Louise Johnson (Mrs. G. Lundberg). It was at this time that County Superintendent, J. S. Lambert resigned to take up a position with the State Dept. of Education and that Mr. S. M. Tharp, a native of Clark County, but principal of the Bay Minette School, became County Superintendent. Miss Agnes Johnson discontinued teaching in 1921, but Mrs. Lundberg continued teaching because of ill health.

Miss Lillie Belle Emmons was the next principal with assistants Miss Winifred Cherry and Mrs. Lundberg in 1923. The number of teachers was increased to four when Miss Cherry was replaced by Miss Fannie Lane Emmons and Miss Essie Garrett (Mrs. Harry Linden) was the additional teacher. Other teachers were the Misses Julia Kathers and Lena Ferguson of Stockton and Little River. It was during these years that Mrs. Lundberg introduced basket ball into both the school and community.

In the year 1921 the Silverhill Community and Fair Association was organized with Mr. Charles Lyrene as chairman and Mrs. Lundberg as Program chairman. The Annual Fairs and Evening Performances were begun in the two room school house. This building proved too small, so the community decided to build two more rooms to the

Coloney-owned school house. The school building was then used for all community activities until the Community Hall was built in 1924. After that, the school programs, the School Improvement Association meetings (now changed to the P-T A) were held in the Community Hall.

In the years 1928 and 1929, the state built a new six class room school building with a large auditorium, an office and kitchen, directly across the road to the South of the original building. The teacher that year were Mrs. Lundberg, principal and the Misses Genie Ora Tharp (Mrs. Ivan Carlson) of Grovehill, Miss Irene Young of Bay Minette, Miss Frances Williamson of Ashland, Alabama. During that year the Fohemia School was consolidated with Silverhill and the first school bus carried the Grade School Children into Silverhill, and the High School students to Robertsdale. Mr. Dave Forsman was the first School Bus Driver.

Mr. James Dailey was the next principal with others following in this order: Kessers. Martin Simmons, Dupree Mason, V. D. Moore, M. Phillips, R. Gates, Mesdames Rosa McCloud, W. Wingard and Messrs. G. Robinson and D. Petty.

Other teachers serving throughout the years have been the Misses A. Pepper, Bernice Miller, Alice Mannich, Theresa Guarisco, Evelyn Nelson, Margaret Huggins, Marjorie Jewell, Lillie Belle Emmons, Earline Moore, Evelyn Correll, Mildred Havel, Gladys Rogers, W. Kirkland; the Mesdames M. Donham, Ocie Sever Smart, Aiken, Phillips, D. Mason, V.D. Moore, E. Greene, Edna Saye Reding, M. Eastburn, P. Blackburn, J. Meredith, D. Petty, Mr. J. Hicks and Rev. Don Eckerholm.

The present faculty of 1953 are Mr. G. Robinson, Mrs. C. Vick, Mrs. (Mildred Havel) F. Engstrom, Mrs. C. Anderson, Mrs. I. Carlson and Mrs. G. Lundberg.

During Mr. Moore's principalship, the progressive education methods were introduced into Silverhill and Baldwin County Schools under the supervision of Mrs. N. Hayes.

P-T A FoundersDay Dinners in all the splendor, beauty and attractiveness, the delicious food, and fine entertainment were started while Mrs. Wingard was principal. These continue to be a success, financially, socially and professionally, and draw crowds from far and wide as well as locally.

The present school campus consists of ten acres with a beautiful pine forest to the rear, a well-kept lawn to the front, azaleas and other shrubbery surrounding the premises. This is interspersed by ample play ground area for the various grades.

The entire school is heated by butane gas, a well equipped kitchen serves plate lunches which are eaten in the individual rooms; each grade has its own library; the school has a movie projector, a film strip projector, a record player, a piano; equipment for various ball sports; drinking fountains, and modern bathrooms.

County Music Supervisor, Miss Carolyn Day has created much interest and enthusiasm in Music and singing. The Grade children have participated in the County music Festival in singing, folk dancing, rhythm, harmony and symphonette bands. Formerly the Annual County "Field Days" were enjoyed.

The children in the school have access to music in piano, orchestra, band, ballet, tap and music fundamentals, with the following being available for instructions: Messrs. C. Lundberg, J. Novak and the Mesdames Roberta Chamberlain McCue and Geo. Lundberg.

Boys and girls 4-H Clubs have been conducted throughout the years. Spring Festivals with the crowning of the May Queen were originated by Mrs. Lundberg in 1942. The entire Royal Court was taken from among the school children, all of which later participated in the Annual May Day Festival at Daphne. This is now all sponsored by the Home Demonstration Club.

As the years have come and gone and progress has been made, it points to the one at the head of the County Education Department, Supt. S. M. Tharp, who has so valiantly led the schools of Baldwin County through good times as well as hard times. We give apprediation and praise to him, and to our local trustees, Messrs. Emery Johnson, L. Chandler and Albert Phillips.

Among the P-T A. Chairman who have served here at Silverhill have been; Mrs. T.A. Johnson, Mrs. O. Johnson, Mr. P. Forsman, Mrs. Forsman, Mrs. D. Forsman, Rev. K. Derlin, Mrs. C. L. Chandler, Mrs. Albert Phillips, Mr. J. F. Smart, Mr. G. L. Chandler, Mrs. Arnold Chandler, Mrs. W. Foukel, Mrs. O P. Swanson, Mr. Axel Rundquist, Mrs. J. Harden.

P-T A. officers for the coming year are chairman, Mr. J. Konicky, Vice Chairman, Mrs. J. Sykora, Secretary, Mrs. A. J. Bianco, Treasurer, Mr. George Lyrene.

Special recognition is given to Mr. Emery Johnson who served as Treasurer for the P-T A. for twenty years.

SONORA

Sonora school was built in 1903 by the land company who was bringing settlers to that section and wanted to have a school for them to send their children to.

This same company paid the teacher's salaries for one or two years.

The first teacher was Miss Ethel Budd whose parents had moved from Wisconsin, to a home on the Dixie road about one mile west of the school, and next was Miss Hazel Dahl whose parents had setteled one mile north of Summerdale and were from Chicago. She drove a horse and buggy to go and come each day.

She was followed by Miss May Fait, Rev. I. N. Kembrough, (a Baptist Minister) Mr. Goodman, Miss Cora Brown, Essie Owen, Miss Margaret Barlow, Miss Alpha Sherman, Cora Wolf, Flora Johnson, Miss Dora Owen, and A.B. Carlton.

In 1923 the school was consolidated with Summerdale.

The building was remodeled and is now a community house where every month and sometimes every week there's a club meeting or a get together for parents and children.

Now we have a live P. T. A. that meets once a month.

The school has a projector, a record player, and each room a library suited to its grade. The county pays for many of the things we have in use now.

STAPLETON

The people of Stapleton met together in June, 1892 to build the first school house on land donated by Mr. Walter Sibley. The school was known as the Walter Sibley School. The teachers were paid by the parents of the children that attended school. The first teachers at this school were Mr. Owens, Miss Helena Sibley, and others.

In order to have the school more centrally located, the people decided to build another school near where the Primitive Baptist Church now stands. Mr. Charlie Trawick donated the land and the school was built, but the location did not prove satisfactory, as several of the children had to cross a branch in order to get to school, and during rainy weather they could not get across which caused them to miss too much time out of school, so the parents of the children on the other side of the branch objected. Mr. J. O. McHathey took his mule, wagon, and ax, went over and knocked the planks off the school building and hauled them out to Stapleton. Mr. Erwin Ward donated some land, and a one room school was built. Miss Ella Rogers was the first teacher. Mrs. Leila McKinley and others. Mr. John Dean was appointed trustee of the school, then Mr. McHathey served for five years. During the time when he was trustee, he got up a petition to get an election for a district tax (3 mill tax). The election was granted and the tax law passed, which greatly helped the school. Mr. Shumore Lambert was appointed Superintendent of Education, the first for Baldwin County. Then Mr. S.M. Tharp was appointed Superintendent. He had two rooms built on the school, one on each side of the original school room, and three teachers were added instead of one. A cloak room was turned into a kitchen in order to serve their plate and ate at their desk. Later a lunch room was added. The Butane gas system was installed by Mr. H.V. Harroll and paid for by

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donations from the patrons of the community. An electric pump was bought by the Board of Education and installed by the patrons. Also, drinking fountains were put in all the rooms. A new brick building was added, also sanitary rest rooms.

STOCKTON SCHOOL HISTORY

The Stockton School, previous to the year 1918, was taught in the Masonic Lodge by Mr. H M. Dobbs, (Now a bishop in the Methodist Church), Miss Zoe Dobbs, Mr. J.C. James, Miss Lillie McMillan, Mrs. M. M. McMillan), and a Mr. Smith.

The school was then moved to a new site and was taught by E. M. Kesbit assisted by Miss Letha Mae Crosby, and Miss Ethel Moore. Later Mr. Vaughn assisted by Miss Serena Crosby. After Mr. Vaughn left W. P. Perry, now of Birmingham Southern, taught. He was followed by Mr. Hicks and Mr. W. F. Hodges.

Supt. S. M. Tharp assumed the duties of his office beginning Dec. 4, 1918. During the ten year period up to the time the schools were consolidated, the Stockton School building was the site of what is now the Methodist Church.

Behind a rambling long "L" shaped porch, were three class rooms, two of which could be converted into one by sliding doors through the middle. Across one end was a low stage, over which a wire was stretched. using coverlids for curtains.

Wide slanting boards in rows were used as desks. The seats were double, straight back, crude heavy benches, on which letters were deeply curved -- as O.X.B., and P.A.B, -- Initials of Doctors, Lawyers, and business men gone out from that school.

A pitcher pump from which coolers were filled, furnished the water supply.

Teacher's salaries in 1918-20 were Ninety, Seventy-five and Fifty Dollars, increasing in two years to One Hundred Ten, Ninety and Eight Dollars.

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During the years 1920-1924 8,000 was spent on school equipment and a new class room. Previous to this, equipment was bought at the expense of teachers and pupils.

Transportation at this time was rough going, as there were no bridges and no graded roads. It was done on foot, or bicycles, in buggies and carts to a distance of ten miles or more over swollen creeks and along muddy roads. At lunch time, we sat around the school house and ate dinner.

In 1926, thirteen acres of land was deeded to the School by Mr. A. B. Crosby. Lovely rolling land, desireable for a well drained play ground.

A new building of six classrooms and auditorium was made possible by a County loan of \$250.000 and district tax. At the time Teachers were I. P. Mason, Letha Bryars, Carolyn McMillan, Olive Thomley, Jessie Lee Bryant, and W. F. Hodges. Dr. W. H. Hastie was Trustee.

Trustees were increased to three the years 1926-29, G. A. Robinson, Y. A. Cox, and J. H. Hastie. In 1929 two more teachers were added, J. R. Till and Mrs. Quinn. Later Dr. Hastie was replaced by McMillan as trustee; F. A. Bryant replacing Robinson. Embree Smith and Ulmer Bradley were other acting trustees up to the year 1938, when Henry Bryars with Y. A. Cox and Embree Smith were retained as trustees until present date.

Teachers added through the years were Miss, Frances Till, 1956, Mrs. Cause and Mrs. Morris, 1940-41. Mr. Till resigned in 1941. D. P. Mason began in 1945. Mrs. Ethel McMillan, Mrs. Rose Smith and Miss Vencille Thompson also began in 1947-48. Miss Davis replacing Mrs. Thomley in 1948-49. In 1949-50 Miss Vivian Murphy, Mrs. Ruth Young, Mrs. Gatlin, and Miss Forell. In 1950-51 Mr. Francis Rasberry and Mrs. Echols were added.

The present faculty in I. P. Mason, D. P. Mason, Letha Bryars, Carrie Biland (Mrs. McMillan) Rosa Smith, Mrs. Hinterliter, Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Hearn.

A cafeteria completely equipped gives place to desk tops in class room where lunches were previously served. An electric pump gives ample water supply for the school system.

Swings, merry-go-round, slides and see-saws lend action to the elementary grades at play period. Over the green, rolling, mowed grounds are groups of children playing in every direction.

For a number of years Mrs. C. W. Bryne has most ably taught Piano Music in the school. A Steinway Grand Piano to the amount of \$3600 has recently been added.

A painted fence protects the playground from the paved highway. Holly and Oak trees give shade. Beautiful shrubs are clustered about the red brick building.

SUMMERDALE SCHOOL

The first school in Summerdale was held in 1907 in what is now the Massonic Hall.

It was taught by Miss Hazel Dahl, and at first there were only five pupils.

The town was growing so they had two teachers, Miss Alice Brown and Miss Serle, then Miss Brown and Miss Evelyn Wilkes.

The next school was built in 1913 and was a three room building and a large hall. Miss Mary Stelzemuller and Miss Edna Childress were first teachers to teach in it.

It was remodeled and rooms added as enrollment increased.

The first school to consolidate with Summerdale was Marlow 1921-1922 term. Then followed the Underwood (or Yupon) and Sonora, and last was Greenwood.

The brick school was built in 1928, and a room added to each wing in 1938. There are now about 275 pupils attending Summerdale school.

This growth is due to consolidation.

The school has a well equipped cafeteria.

When the three room school was built, the school Improvement Association had to have bazaars, suppers and plays to help pay for equipment, and a balance on the building fund too.

THE HISTORY OF WEEKS SCHOOL

Many of the ancestors of Weeks school had very little chance to go to school. One of the grandfathers of some of my pupils stated that he only went to school three months in his life. Another old settler told me that she went to school some, but her father happened to be financially able to send her to a paying school.

The earliest school in this community was taught by Mrs. Margaret Breton in a one-room building on her premises. This began in 1876 as a paying school for Creole and White children.

The next school that we have record of was taught by Mrs. N. Z. Lipscomb, Sr. in her home. This was also a paying school.

Later Mrs. Breton taught in the old Vincent De Silves place in a one-room house owned by William Sisson. This was the first public school. The teachers taught for a term of three months for a salary of \$25. a month. This also was for Creole and White children.

In 1894 there was a Creole school at Alex Boudan House, right by the Nolte Creek bridge. This was a paying school.

Then school was held in the Marshall Setain House, about ½ mile east of the Boudan place.

The Cooks School was built in 1900 near the John Cook place. This was a public school; and the Creole children and some White children who lived east of the Nolte Creek attended it.

In about 1916 Mr. Joe N. Weeks, realizing the need for education for his children, hired a teacher to teach in the upstairs of his home. The children on the west side of the Creek came here.

There were very few students who attended.

After six or seven years, this house was torn down and moved to the present location of the home of Mrs. Joe N. Weeks.

In 1924, a schoolhouse was built on Joe Weeks's land, which accommodated about 25 or 30 Creole children.

The Weeks School and the Cook's School consolidated and moved to the Catholic Church grounds in 1932. School was held here in a two- room schoolhouse for a period of 18 years.

During the time that school was held in this building, from 1935 to 1938, school lasted only seven months a year. From 1938 to 1940, a school year was eight months. Since 1945, we have had a nine-month school year.

In the past few years our school has made progress. In 1950 we moved into our present school, which has three rooms, a stage, and two inside bathrooms. One teacher was added to our school, which gave us a faculty of three teachers. Up to this time, we had only two teachers to teach through the eighth grade.

In 1952, we increased our faculty to four teachers. Our boys and girls now have the opportunity to graduate from high school.

We have a well-equipped playground with adjoining picnic grounds. Our playground equipment includes two tennis courts, two volleyball courts, and a skating rink.

Place: Baldwin county Board of Education

King: Sometimes children were not able to attend school because of having to work on their family's farm or help provide for their families. Weeks' community was a farming community; did this affect their student's performance?

- Weeks: No, parents were very strict. Everyone went to school.
- King: What vacation time did you have in school?
- Weeks: Like the rest of the schools, we got out for two weeks during Christmas. We didn't have spring break because we would get out early in May for the farming seasons.
- King: How were the students categorized?
- Weeks: By the year(age). Everyone was taught on the same level even if you were more advanced. One year, the students were given academic tests on the state level. They gave it to all the students in the upper grades. It was around 1955 or 1954; I was going (to school) there.
- King: What time did classes usually start and end?
- Weeks: Around 7:30 or 8:00 or shortly after. And for most the entire time we walked to school. And of course ended at 3:00.
- King: You said you attended Mass in the mornings before schoolwork actually started. How long did that last?
- Weeks: Yes, we took it at St. John's Catholic Church. It was a daily ritual that lasted maybe half an hour. That Church has been there for more than 90 years. The first two-room schoolhouse was on church property. The Priest, Father Lorgan, was the principle. He was an Irishman who transferred here from further north in Alabama.
- King: How were students disciplined when they misbehaved?
- Weeks: Well, once I was in second grade and I was talking a little too loud. The teacher hit me across the head with a broom handle and split my head open. They took me to a retired doctor in Magnolia Springs where I had to get stitches. My mother was not too happy so she wrote a letter to the school board telling them of the incident. Let's just say that teacher was later released.
- King: Did the students have certain breaks, for example spring break or winter break?
- Weeks: No, we didn't have spring break because classes got out early in May so we were able to farm during the seasons.
- King: What were the means of transportation to and from school?
- Weeks: We walked to school. We did receive a bus later around 1956 or 1957. If you were a certain distance from the school, they'd pick you up, but I lived about a mile away with my grandmother at the time so continued to walk with others that chose not to ride.

King: Do you have any closing remarks on your experiences in Weeks School?

Weeks: The only problem that I had is that it was a non-accredited school and we weren't allowed to attend those other schools. I was in the military and there were many wonderful opportunities available, but because I didn't attend a non-accredited school they weren't offered to me.

Also there was a door-to-door salesman one time that was selling the Encyclopedia Britannica set. I helped my mother raise the money to buy the junior and major full editions. They were just under \$300. The school didn't have a library, so we purchased our own books. I used the encyclopedia on my schoolwork. Also Mr. Benson gave us a list of books that the children needed for school, so the children went out and purchased their own textbooks.

TORNADO

February 10, 1981 wasn't just an ordinary school day. The weather was bad....

Rain slashed against the windows...this cold, dark winter day... coming down now in torrents...a terrific roaring, children screaming, the roof falling, cement blocks crashing...utter darkness...the lights had fallen on a student...near hysteria... minutes crawled like snakes...a fireman...ambulances...go to buses...in the back... leave all possessions...go immediately... warmer on the buses.... "Where are we going"?...shivering with damp and cold, the students plodded down the long corridors of the high school...knowing that death had been very close...a quiet spot in the hall...high school students and faculty members gazed...with shock and compassion. With the taste of dirt in her mouth, hair streaming in her face and tears blinding her eyes, this teacher...taken home...the kindness of a friend.

Before I could make one step to close it, the door flew off just as if a supernatural force had done it.

My arms were just not big enough to hold all the children...

by that time the room was coming apart...

Even now I can hear the voice of Melissa N_____ close by my desk, calling my name as the wind raged around us.

I told them to let go of me so I could look out of the window to see how things were. They wouldn't so we all went over to see what had happened.

As soon as things stopped falling students began creeping out from beneath their desks...

sirens began to scream. When the rescue workers came to our room we discovered we were barricaded in...

...the lights went out....

...screaming parents were dashing across the campus searching for their children.

I said "Hit the floor." Where did they hit the floor? Behind my desk, under the table and along the inside wall under and all around me. Believe it or not they were calm and quiet for the moment.

I crawled to the door and peeked out the small window. I was horrified at the scene I saw.

We all went down on our knees and covered our heads with our hands.

I felt weak and had to concentrate on controlling tears...I felt so inadequate...

My son was in a room that had been destroyed. This room is located directly across from mine. He watched and waited for my classroom door to open. He said that he was so afraid that my door would never open.

Because of the bad weather my reading class got off to a slow start. The students were restless — and so was I.

Being in new surroundings, I was desperately trying to remember if there were a tree near our room that was bound to....

At about this time a wooden block flew through one of our windows....

The horrendous roaring had ceased and we could hear the wind and the rain.

Jean made the comment that it looked like tornado weather and we discussed where to take the students if we had one. We also tried to tell S _____ B _____ where she would be safest if one hit.

About that time the sky turned a sickly shade of green and I strongly stated, "Move NOW!" They came across the desks and got against the wall behind me. They pulled each other down and across desks but all were down and protected when the blow came.... They checked on themselves and each other.

One of my students who had left with his father ran back to ask me to please not get into my car since there was a power line on top of it. Also that it was now totally without windows!....

...glanced out my classroom door and saw a cloud in the west that was as black as night and the wind began to pick up and limbs were flying across the roof making terrible noises....

...crouched down around me. They wanted to be touching me....

...the lights went out....

I saw Mr. K _____ coming up the hall followed by children crying, limping, bleeding and wet.

...pressure in my ears caused them to pain me and the lights went out.... At this point the roof of the building started to lift off until about 14 or 16 feet had been torn off. The walls and the floor of the room were trembling and everything was over....

at that moment I knew a tornado was coming. I didn't see it or hear a train roaring...I just knew. I remember telling the students...."Hit the floor!"

...the worst time for me was when I knew I had to see if everyone was still alive.

As we stood there with it raining on us one student asked, "Do we have to pay for our books?"

...three of my homeroom students came running to me in their P.E. clothes, barefoot, wet and shivering from the rain. They told me that many of the students were lying under bricks in the gym.

The first warning we had was when our cafeteria roof ripped off with concrete slabs, glass, water, rocks and tar falling all over us...we got under tables...lying in water and glass. Our school looked like several bombs had dropped on it.

The complete blackness was as frightening as the wind...

The parents started to run into the school looking for their children. One of the students held a flashlight for me while we checked schedule cards to tell parents what rooms their children were in when the storm hit.

One man hyperventilated when he was unable to find his son...we thought he was having a heart attack...upset...difficult to tell whether they were seriously injured...cooperated in helping load ambulances and later in loading uninjured students onto buses.

...weather had gotten increasingly inclement...pulled down shades to keep from seeing it...reminded students what to do in case of a tornado...even walked through the procedure of going to the wall away from the windows and crouching...heard the roar...shouted...run to the wall...stayed there...eternity...as I looked up to pull him down, the ceiling and roof were being blown away...concrete was falling in the room...I didn't sleep that night.

...saw the sky getting unusually black...five minutes later the lights went out...felt a strange sort of pressure.

Shortly after the last substitute teacher had been hired for the day, I began receiving calls from parents and students wanting to know if school would operate as usual. One of the callers was from the radio station...learned that my blasé, "Of course, why not?" answer had been broadcast. Weather department...conditions favorable for tornados...9 buses late, 6 announced...homeroom later in the day when more accurate count could be made...mistake...last buses around 8:30...returned to office...come check the weather...hurried to intercom to sound the alert...lights went out...covered my head...on floor...building shuddering, glass breaking...seemed to stop...looked at gym...H_____ to call fire department and

ambulances...ran to gym...scene was fearsome. T_____ J_____ lying on floor...a large pool of blood...carotid artery...alive... account for all students...working on pile of rubble at south wall ...Fred M_____...hurt...having convulsion...met incoming ambulances...get the two boys...returned to office...try to bring order out of chaos...remove all students to high school...phone was working...calls arrived from TV station...still concerned...someone trapped...systematic search...S_____ H_____... discovered...back... injury... left campus in wrecked truck...hospital check on injured... orderly confusion...returned to school...began...long 40 hours... combating rumors...making plans for reopening school...Thank God... no deaths.

...students...very restless...pulled the window shades...get very dark...objects began moving...the lights went out...midst of a storm...get under desks and tables...so many students already there I had no room...raised one window shade...see broken tree limbs...downed wires...opened door...realized we were in real trouble...tree limbs in library door...moving down corridor toward office...Mrs. L_____ came stumbling down the corridor saying she needed help in her room...saw condition...felt sick...students crying and comforting each other. Many students...bleeding...some... hurt arms and legs...no roof on room...decided to move students to V's room...helped one another as we stumbled through the debris... applied paper towels...anything else we could get...load...buses... to high school.

...the roof started to come off...get down...unable to get out of the room because the door was blocked...then I saw my car...knew we were blessed to be alive...took us home...worried all day about the other students.

...turned what should have been a day of celebration...our daughter's 14th birthday...into a nightmare...the lights went out...

...the arrival of parents, friends, family members, policemen, ambulances and news reporters added to...pandemonium...haunt many of us every time the lights go out...

...said "To-day would be a good day to know about tornado drills" ...feel the tension in the air...knew this was the dreaded tornado... the belly crawl trying to get under the desk...children crying and moaning ...nails in their feet and glass in their hair...one look at the gym...felt my heart sink...ran to see...ever felt so helpless...my arms weren't big enough to hold all the children...asked me if I were scared...there just wasn't time...got home...a complete basket case.

He was reaching for the intercom when the tornado hit and glass started coming in from all the windows...I remember that one foot was sticking out and I drew it under the desk thinking that steel beams might fall from overhead and break my foot...saw Mr. L_____

running for the front door...yelled...our gym...call the fire department...looked for my glasses...read me the fire department number...called...then police...Coach C _____ came running in... get all the ambulances...called the Board of Education...send some help... By this time...students bleeding and hurt filling the office...first aid the best we could...got R _____ P _____ to apply pressure to his head for me...the most welcome sight in my life...three Bay Minette police cars...Mr. V _____ was bringing students who were hurt into the office...he was carrying them in his arms...pass the word for all students not hurt...walk carefully...bus parking lot...get on buses...looked for school megaphone...couldn't find it...started the word...parents...she used a flashlight...gave room numbers and directions to parents. Mr. C _____ brought money from canteen...asked for umbrella to hold over Sarah H _____ until the ambulance could get her...raincoat...locked money in safe...without help except each other for 15 minutes. I know now tornado drills are helpful. Another thing...remember...before buses left...phones out and yet a call got through from a New York newspaper and TV station...after the tornado...men from Weather Bureau came to school...told us.. tornado never showed up on Mobile radar nor on National Weather radar...New Orleans... our tornado born right here...no way they could have warned us...

...accounted for every student except one...ten minutes of searching...found...had escaped to girls dressing room...safe.

...I drive a school bus...working in the little school store... so bad decided to turn on radio...so much static...about that time I saw it...ran to open the door...flew open and knocked me back... didn't know anything for a while...came to myself the top was gone...hear the children crying...began to pray...

...8:20 A.M...getting to the gym to open the doors...noticed the weather was getting worse...heard loud noise...looked toward roof...yelled at the children to run...ran into me and knocked me down...looking over my right shoulder...one boy hurt with another pulling at him...not to move him...another child hurt... not to be moved either...check on injuries in dressing room...the canteen...found Mrs. H _____ lying on the floor...my raincoat... to check for injuries in the classroom...people arriving from everywhere...for someone to go through one of these and not believe...is unthinkable.

...Tuesday morning, February 10, 1981...raining so hard..thought about waiting in the car...slackened...make a run for it... brilliant decision...bell rang...excited...students drifted in... excitement turned to apprehension...eyebrows raised and eyes... widened...no one said a word...shades pulled...grew darker and darker...like night...the lights went out...get under desk... cover heads...by this time things were falling in around us... prayer...things stopped falling...shock...began reliving with each other what they had just experienced...sirens...barricaded in ...cement slabs against our door...cleared a path to our door... doorknob blown out...searched frantically...located half the

doorknob...were led outside...our first good look at the destruction...students began to cry...some of their friends injured...no one killed...surveyed teachers parking area...not a window unshattered...every car.

...I felt the coolness on my back...looked around...the wall had been blown out...ceiling began to fall...the wind shifted my desk and chair...ran to storage room...ceiling fell in front of me...looking at tin and tree limbs flying...roof caved in... insulation fell over me...could not see...glasses had fogged up...calm until I saw W___ D___... using the phone and holding a bloody towel to his head...one student came to school just because her mother told her not to. She was in here calling her mother to come out in this awful weather to pick her up...the phone rang...a lady from Stockton wanting to know if we were going to let school out...the phone...popping and cracking...the windows...began to break...it is over...Andrea..jumped up and ran to room 6...couldn't get into room... debris piled against door...looked into window...students standing together...OK...they were. I called Andrea's name and she answered me...we started trying to piece our school back together...started going to the rooms looking for roll books and registers...stayed and worked and answered questions all afternoon...soaking wet...chilled ...finally got a ride home.