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PHILIP'S

...a history of a town & family

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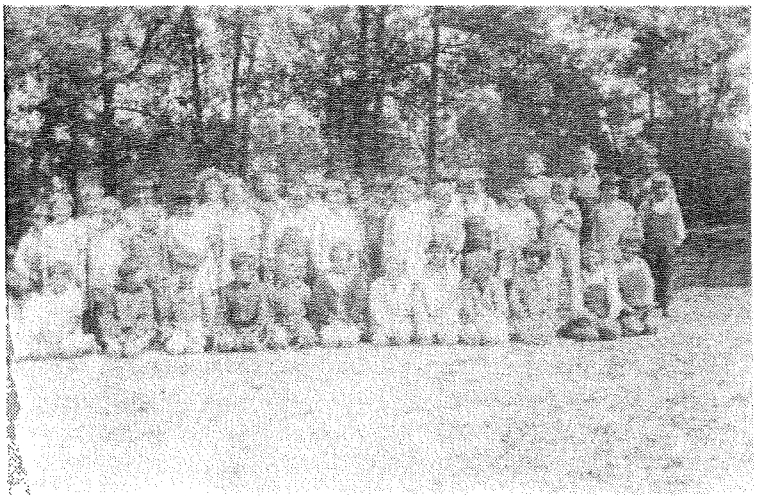


Although Mr. Phillips did not have a chance to receive an education in his early life due to having to work as a young boy, he believed in education. In the beginning, the children had to walk or ride in a wagon to High Pine to attend school. Because of the rains that would overflow the bridge, it was impossible at times for the children to attend school. In 1920, Mr. Phillips told his wife that a school was needed in the community. She agreed with him, so he started out to survey the community to determine how many children needed to attend school in the area. He found that there were enough children to start a school and it made him very happy.

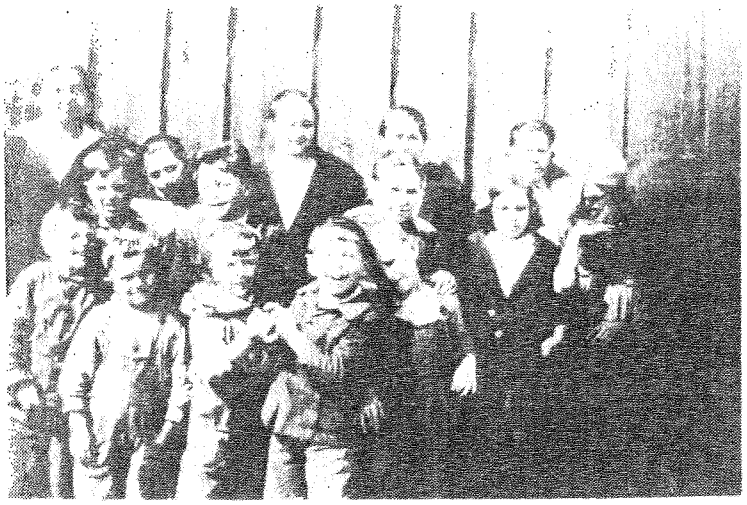
Mr. Phillips went to worked immediately and had timber cut and sawed into lumber and had the first school house constructed. It was built by the Thompson brothers and their father and was completed in 1920 in time for Mr. Phillips to see about a teacher.

He went to see Mr. S. M. Tharp, the Supt. of Education, about obtaining a teacher. Mr. Tharp told him that he could assign a teacher to the school, but the school would have to have a name before he could send a teacher.

Mr. Phillips, Mr. Will White, and Clem Sanks talked about this and Will White said, "How about naming it Phillipsville?" The other two men agreed with this and the school took the name of The Phillipsville School.



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The school opened in September, 1920. On that day the parents and children assembled at the school and Mr. J. L. Phillips opened with a prayer and gave an inspiring speech to the group. He introduced Miss Lucie Mearl, who was the first teacher of the Phillipsville School. The school year began on a happy note.

The following teachers served the Phillipsville School.

Miss Lucie Mearl — September 1920 to May 1921.

Miss Tempie H. Page — September 1921 to May 1922.

Miss Alice King — September 1922 to May 1923.

Miss Thelma Norris — September 1923 to September 1924.

Miss Lealer May Havard — September 1924 to May 1925.

Miss Pauline Andrews — September 1925 to December 1927.

Note: Copies of Miss Lucie Mearl and Miss Pauline Andrews talks made at the recent reunion, are included later on in this book.

The photograph on the previous page shows the class in 1926. There were seven grades and Miss Andrews had a real task on her hands teaching the large number of students. However, she did it in a professional manner and has received praise from all her former students for the remarkable task she performed.

The photograph at the top of this page was made in 1923 when there were only six grades. Miss Thelma Norris has her group standing beside the school house. There were only 14 in school on the day the photograph was made.

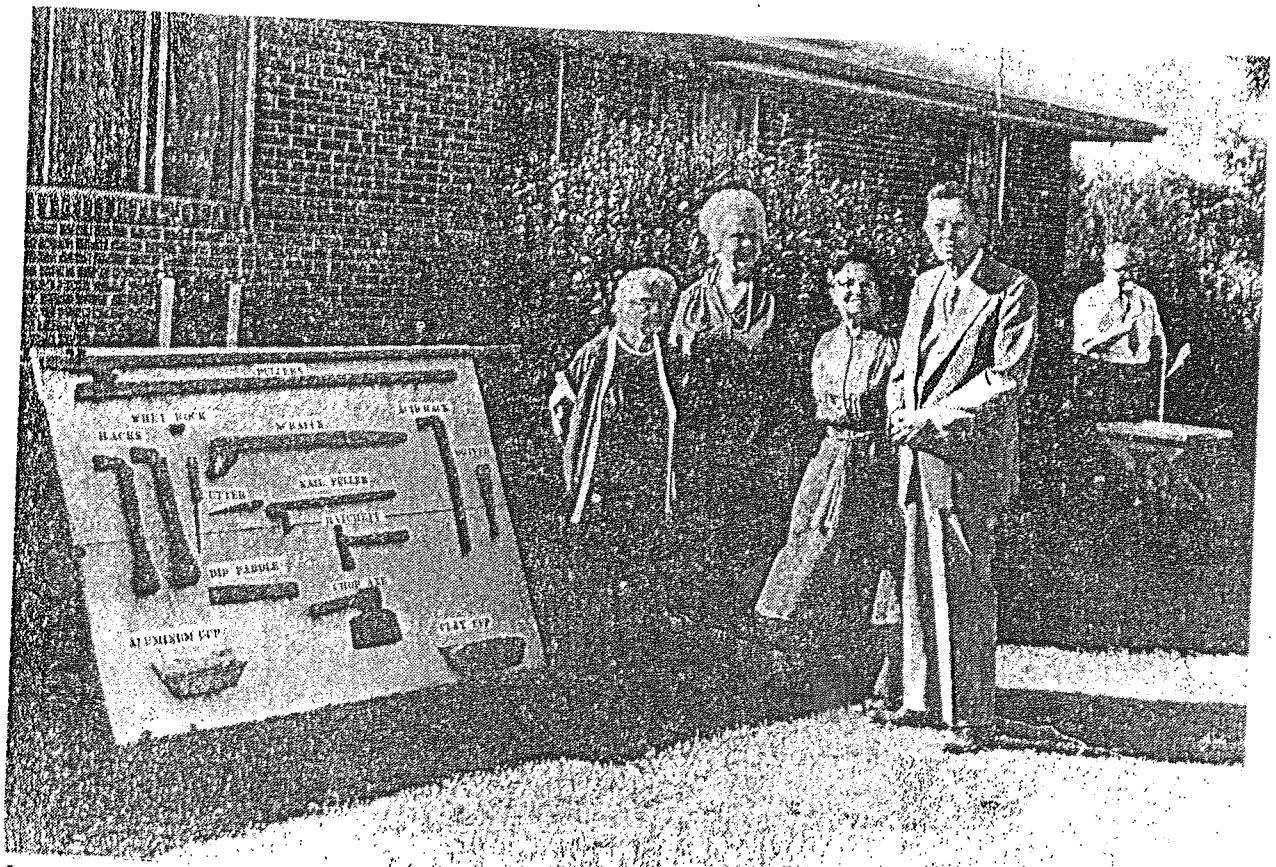
It would be hard for students today to realize how the students were taught by just one teacher. But the students enjoyed it. While one class was studying, another would be reciting or working on an assignment.

Recess was a great time when they played much the same games as students play today. Baseball among the boys was the favorite. The girls skipped rope or played drop the handkerchief.

Their lunch was brought in a bucket or lunch basket. It usually consisted of biscuits, sweet potatoes, beans in a cup, a piece of cake or fruit. There was never much bread as we know as loaf bread. The bread was usually made by the mother at home. The meal was never hot, but it was always enjoyed by all.

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We have the privilege of having today the first school teacher that taught in the Phillipsvile school. She taught one year, 1920-21. The year started in September with somewhere around 22 students. I'll let her tell you now more about that. Her name is Mrs. Lucy Merrill and I could go into a long history about what I knew about Miss Lucy, that is what everyone called her, but I will let her tell you about the school in that day. We are happy to have Miss Lucy Merrill today to tell you something about the first school held in this area. Miss Lucy.



Lucy Merle, Pauline Andrews, Susie Baggett, and Emanual Davidson. John D. Baggett at the microphone in the background.

Mrs. Lucy Merrill

In 1920 the Phillipsville School began. I served as teacher that year. Dyas Creek separated the school from the High Pine school. Often the rains would swell the creek until children from Phillipsville could not cross on foot and had to be towed across. Mr. Laban Cain, who lived near the creek, often acted in this capacity. When the rains continued the water came over the bridge and often up on the trees on each side of the bridge. So, it became necessary to have a school which was more easily reached from the area of Phillipsville.

Mr. Jiles Phillips, who then operated a turpentine still in this area, gave the land for the school building in the community just across from his residence. Since the school ;had to have a name before it could become eligible for state funds, it was decided to call it the Phillipsville School, as Mr. Phillips had played such a prominent part in bringing this project to completion. The community is now known as Phillipsville. Now there are many well-built and attractive homes and farming is the main industry, done in the most modern way.

So, in September 1920, a group of parents and their children gathered in the completed building for a dedication service. Mr. Phillips gave an inspiring talk, read a scripture, and offered a prayer. The people of this area were distinctly moral and Christian parents. The school from the first served as a church during special meetings. There is a church now, across the road and a short distance from the old school.

During the school year, I lived in the Phillips home just across from the school. I, as a member of my own close family, enjoyed the motherly way Mrs. Phillips welcomed me into their home. Mr. Phillips cooperated in making the school year a success.

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The children that comprised this school came from the homes of people who worked for Mr. Phillips, his own children, and from those on either side of the creek who were nearer to this school than to their own schools, High Pine and Hall's Fork.

Surely the people of the Phillipsville area and of the adjacent areas are deeply grateful to Mr. Phillips and his wife, who have now gone on, for promoting this project which made available to children this chance to attend school in all kinds of weather.

At this time the children are taken by bus to Perdido. The spirit of this community which existed in 1920 that of love of school, home and church will continue to exist in 1979 and through the coming years.

To the adults who were once my pupils, to those who came after them and to my fellow teachers, I can only say "God Bless You."



John D. Baggett

What a wonderful speech! Thank you Miss Lucy. We have another of our former teachers with us today. We appreciate her and enjoyed having her in our community and in our school. She's been considered a part of the Phillips family ever since she was here. She won her way into the hearts of all those students, parents, and members of the community. We are happy to have Mrs. Pauline Andrews.

Mrs. Pauline Andrews Dees

My Friendship and Love for J. L. Phillips

The summer of 1925 I applied for a job to Mr. S. M. Tharp, Superintendent of Education of Baldwin County. These were his words: "Miss Andrews, I start my teachers with a small school, and promote from there. The Phillipsville School is owned by Mr. J. L. Phillips, a Naval Stores operator. He owns this Turpentine Community, good people, a nice place to board and I would say, the nicest thing I have to offer. He owns a nice country home, a store and furnishes homes for his workers. The school house is used as a Church, too. They have a daughter, Annie Belle, who is a teacher and you will enjoy