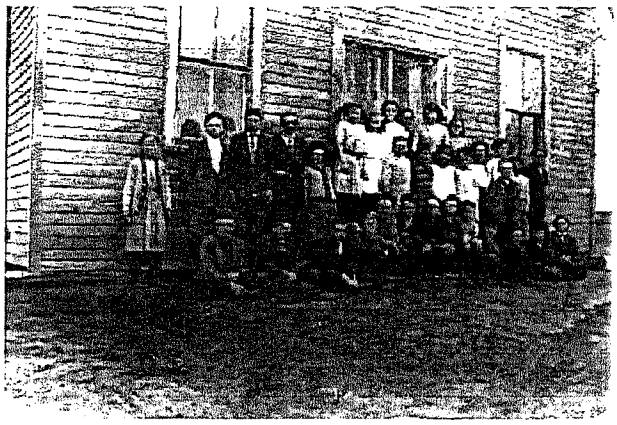
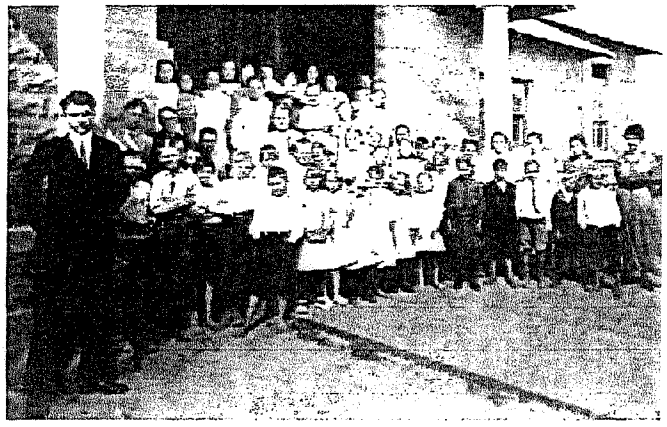
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from Edward Barbertee
8-23-05



HISTORY OF

ROBERTSDALE



Enjoy
Earl



principal
Virgil Burke

History of Robertsdale School

Robertsdale was founded by the Southern Plantation Development Company of Chicago, Illinois in the year 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 classroom 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.

As far as we have been able to ascertain the first session of school was in 1907-1908 with an enrollment of thirty-five pupils ranging from the first grade through the eighth. Miss Rose Clisby of Montgomery was the teacher. Some of the pupils in this group are: Harry Wilters, the present post master, Walter Hammond 2nd, Mrs. Alice Wilters Maynard, Leonard Neese, and Mrs. Hazel Low Walker of Bear Point. Miss Clisby continued as principal through 1910 and Miss Ruth Wadsworth was appointed to assist her in 1908-09. In 1909-10 Miss Leatha Bryars of Stockton replaced Miss Wadsworth. In the year of 1910-11 Mr. A. F. Moseley was the principal and Miss Lila Poos was his assistant. The enrollment had grown to sixty or more pupils as the ninth grade had been added. From 1911 to 1914 Mr. G. A. Strong was the principal, and Miss Lila Poos continued as teacher of the primary grades. Mr. Strong taught on whatever level lie found his pupils. Latin, algebra, and English history were among some of the courses offered. Previously, advanced pupils were sent to Silverhill.

Enrollment continued to increase, and the old building and equipment were in very poor condition; therefore the School Improvement Society was organized for the purpose of erecting a new building. There was much discussion as to the size of the building. One group thought two large rooms would be sufficient for all time while the opposing group held out for three rooms. After a very heated discussion the vote was cast in favor of the larger building. Every one bowed to the majority vote and cooperated in every way in the raising of funds. The old building was razed and the new building erected on the same site. The contractor as 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 Mr. Curtis (from a northern state), and Miss Edna 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 spring of 1919 when lie resigned to go into government service. His assistant teachers were: Miss Edna Armistead (cousin of Edna Armistead) became the principal on Mr. Strong's resignation and completed the school year 1918. The increased enrollment necessitated using the auditorium. (The old familiar theme-war, teacher shortage, increased enrollment.) Miss Florence Burns served as principal from 1919 to 1920. Miss Mabel Kerridge 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 Ohio 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 a new modern building at our present location. The building site often acres was a gift from Mrs. Stoddaard, and the Board of Education on subsequently purchased additional acreage, ultimately increasing the acreage to fifty seven. Prior to this transition, school was held in the Methodist and Cliristian churches, Masonic 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. Wilda Mahoney, and Mrs. Bertie Gilbert. The first five of the above mentioned graduated under the present senior sponsor, Mrs. Inez Lilles, 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.

Faculty *1952-53*

C.F. Taylor	Wilda Mahoney	Kathryn Snider	Olen Fuller
Mabel Buck	Iva Blackburn	Ethel Monk	T.V. Bishop
Ruby Gearhart	Inez Hiles	Lillie Belle Emmons	Edward Bankester
Lucille Snider	Joyce Meredith	Maude K. Cooper	Mildred Lee
Donald N. Ekerhoim	Kate Hooks	Prescilla Blackburn	Jerry O'Donnell
Eura Lee Harding	Virgil Buck	Ruby Jo Bishop	Frances Novak
Agnes Utter	Saidye D'Olive	G. W. Meredith	Bertie Gilbert
Lucile Marker			

Faculty 1952-53

C A Taylor
Virgil Adel
Kathryn Snider
Frances Novak
Mabel Buck
Saidye O'Dell
Ethel Monk
[illegible]
Ruby Gearhart
Bertie Gilbert
Lillie Belle Emmons
Lucile Marker
Lucile Snider
Wanda K. Coffey
Donald N. Ekerholm
Priscilla Blackburn
Eura Lee Harding
Ruby D. Bishop
Agnes Utter
Wilda Mahoney
Ollie Fuller
Ira Blackburn
L. V. Bishop
Inez Hiles
Edward Bankester
Joyce Meredith
Mildred Lee
Kate Hooks
Leroy M. O'Donnell

Historic School Documentary

10-21-05

Robertsdale School
Interviews:

1. Jane Willis Knight, student
    a. Student memories – 1st through 12th grade, her 1st grade teacher taught 5 members of her family, Principle was Mr. Taylor
    b. Native of Robertsdale, cheerleader her senior year, secretary of the Robertsdale High Alumni, Chairman of the Scholarship Program
    c. Humorous events – black pepper on heater as prank, dead opossum in desk drawer
    d. Lived in San Antonio for 30 years but never forgot home, moved back and became active in school once again

2. Bobby N. Farris, teacher for 9 years beginning in 1960, Assistant Principle for 6 years, Principle for 12 years
    a. Came to Gulf Shores in 1960 for a vacation while student at Southern Miss., came back after graduation because he loved community at first sight

3. Inez Springer, student, secretary for 31 years
    a. Graduated in 1943, 49 students in her senior class, graduation ceremony in auditorium
    b. Stood to watch football games, no seating
    c. Outside bathrooms when first began school
    d. Student during WWII, draft of boys in 1943
    e. Senior banquet in old gym
    f. No one traveled much due to gas rationing and not many people had cars
    g. Humorous events – man hooked car battery to fence around football field, shocked people when they touched it
    h. Days as school secretary – initially ran snack shop, then in charge of book room, when worked for Mr. Farris had her own office

4. Jimmy Gilbert, student 2nd grade through 12th, graduated in 1938
    a. Football team story – 1935, Mr. Taylor Principle received football uniforms from his brother who was Athletic Director at Ohio State, red shirts and Home Ec. Girls dyed pants red, best looking uniforms in the county
    b. Days as a student – mother was a teacher, taught 6th grade, worked on school newspaper and played football 10th through 12th grade
    c. Several Europeans in school at that time, barely spoke English, wide variety of people both in ethnic and cultural background

d. Elsie Spearman, Home Ec. Teacher responsible for visiting students in their home – his job was to drive her to each students home because she had no car, did so on Saturdays
e. Senior Class Party – at Restaurant in Spanish Fort, got into trouble for sneaking off to night club with date and other couple
f. Principle Taylor – whistled as he walked the hall to warn students he was coming – also taught students how to play soccer which was rare in the South at that time

5. Mary Sue Cooper (Sue Cooper), Vice Principle
    a. Days at school – Assistant Principle – school was K-12 then K-8 and then K-6 campus
    b. Her office initially in school auditorium, very small
    c. When school was K-12 there were classrooms in the auditorium
    d. Called Robertsdale a "Norman Rockwell" school, clean appearance, large school but maintained very well
    e. Interesting or humorous story – hiding of communication radio, hid in trash can and played Christmas music all day
    f. Initial impression of school was tremendous size, she took self guided tour to familiarize with the site – always fun to be at school

6. Ed Bankester, student
    a. 1st grade 1937, graduated May 1949 – 5 children in family had the same 2nd grade teacher
    b. Lunches – received lunches from family who prepared them daily, school didn't provide lunch
    c. While in 5th grade a mother kidnapped a child from campus – child located and brought back, afterwards the child's father had someone with the child at all times
    d. Bathrooms – outside, bad smell – great day for school when indoor bathrooms built
    e. Taught business classes at school
    f. Graduation – held in the auditorium
    g. WWII – came back to finish school, had 3-4 in his class that left and then finished, they were older than Bankester and his classmates

supplements individual classes, grade levels and special projects such as the math and science lab. The Pelican's Nest Science Lab received several grants and awards in 2000, including Best Community Environmental Education Project, Environmental Education Association of Alabama and Citizen Scientist Award and the Sea World/Busch Gardens Environmental Excellence Award Center for Marine Conservation.

Central Baldwin County Area Public Schools

ROBERTSDALE HIGH SCHOOL

A wooden two-story structure built in 1905 was the first home of Robertsdale High School. Six years later, it was replaced by a more permanent block building that taught grades one through eight. Students in grades nine through 12 attended classes in Bay Minette. In 1928, a building was erected and housed students in grades one through 12. This is the present site of Robertsdale Elementary School. In 1992, Robertsdale High School opened on Highway 59.

Situated along the campus' 50 acres are 58 instructional rooms, a media center and gymnasium, along with a football field house, football and band practice fields, and softball and baseball facilities.

CENTRAL BALDWIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Located on Highway 59 between the towns of Loxley and Robertsdale, Central Baldwin Middle School joined the Baldwin County Public School family in 1994. Its formation opened many doors, helping to bring the children of the outlying Loxley, Robertsdale, Silverhill and Summerdale communities, together to learn under one roof. The plant's incorporation also enhances the opportunities for those students who plan to attend Robertsdale High School.

Loxley

Another community founded in the shadows of Baldwin County's land rush after the turn of the 20th-century was Loxley, which is still a major player in the area's agricultural identity. In the years following its initial founding, Loxley became home to one of the county's few junior high schools at the time.

LOXLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Located on Chicago Street, Loxley Junior High School for grades 1-9 opened its doors in 1927. Mrs. Bertie Gilbert functioned as the site's earliest principal. In addition, successors W. Chandler McGowen, Leslie Smith and A. R.McVay also served terms as superintendent over the county's school board.

Fifty years later, a new junior high facility was constructed on County Road 49 to serve grades 7-9. The former junior high building became Loxley Elementary School and had classes for grades K-6.

In 1995, Central Baldwin Middle School was built north of Robertsdale, and students attending the former junior high were moved to CBMS, while the former junior high became the teaching site for grades 4 and 5 in the Loxley area.

Construction of a new wing at Loxley Elementary in 1997 provided 21 classrooms, a computer lab, library and gym. Currently, the school maintains educational, creative and extracurricular programs for about 350 K-6 students.

ROBERTSDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

In 1905, Southern Plantation Development Company of Chicago, Illinois founded Robertsdale, Alabama. This same company also built Robertsdale Elementary School, a two-story frame structure. The school's 35 students eagerly attended the grades 1 through 8 classes. In 1914, the School Improvement Society voted to build a three-room school. Additions were made until 1920, when a larger facility was needed.

In 1927, students moved into the larger building, which remains on the current site. It consisted of a main building, auditorium and agricultural building, which also housed a shop used for vocational classes. The present gymnasium was constructed in the 1960s, and in 1986, a science wing and cafeteria adjoined the facility.

SILVERHILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Founded in 1902 in of all places a Land Company office, Silverhill Elementary School housed the state's first "paid" teacher. A class of 25 students, of Swedish and Czechoslovakian descent, occupied the small office space, now the Silverhill Public Library. With an increase in enrollment, a new two-story building was dedicated in 1907 at the corner of Fourth and Eighth avenues. To better accommodate the eager students, the school decided to further divide the grades. Children in the 5th through 8th grades attended mornings, while primary up to 4th grade classes met in the afternoon.

In 1928, a new school was built, a brick building with six classrooms, an auditorium, kitchen and office. A fire that destroyed the building in 1955, gave the school a chance to expand its complex. By the next year, a new structure consisting of six classrooms, two restrooms, an office and boiler room, was added. In 1981, the current cafeteria was built, and in 1986, the kindergarten and middle school wings (now 2nd and 3rd grade classes) were created. The most recent addition include grade rooms 4 and 5, and the library wing.

THE BIRMINGHAM

BE00106.48

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1913

STORY OF ROBERTSDALE SCHOOL

RK BEING DONE ALONG EDUCATIONAL LINES IN A LITTLE TOWN OF BALDWIN COU

By FLORA MILNER HARRISON.

long gray [illegible] envelope addressed to [illegible] stamp to the

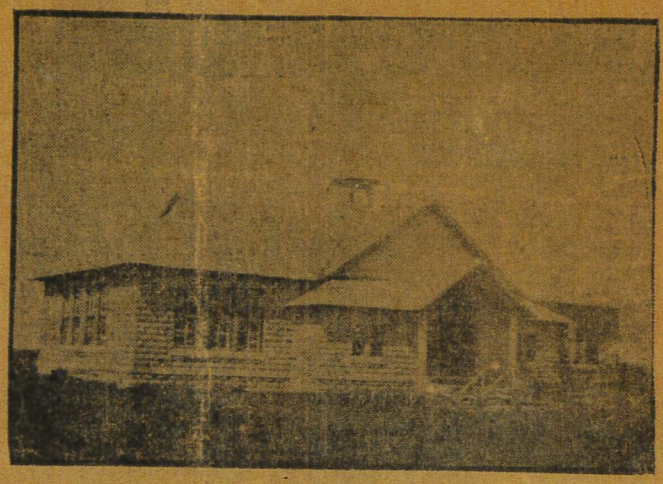
Those who live in or near Birmingham feel a greater interest in Jefferson county's schools than in those elsewhere in Alabama. They are justly proud of their schools in their own county and of the rank these take among those of the state. Jefferson is leading in the adoption of modern educational methods and in the acceptance of improvements in the course of study. Her rural and semi-rural schools have a high reputation for good management, logical arrangement of course of study, professional spirit of the teachers and their attitude toward progress in all lines of school life.

Other counties of the state are advancing and are making improvements and adopting new ideas in their schools. Many country and village schools are doing the best of work and are making wonderful progress. One of these is the school of Robertsdale, Baldwin county. The principal industry of Baldwin county is farming. There are many truck farms and there are a number of tobacco farms. A few years since that part of Baldwin in which Robertsdale is located was a pine forest. One could drive for miles without seeing a house. Nine years ago the Bay Minette and Fort Morgan railroad was built and the country was opened at once. The land was bought for farming and this is now one of the chief agricultural districts of Alabama. Many of the planters are from the north and others are native Alabamians.

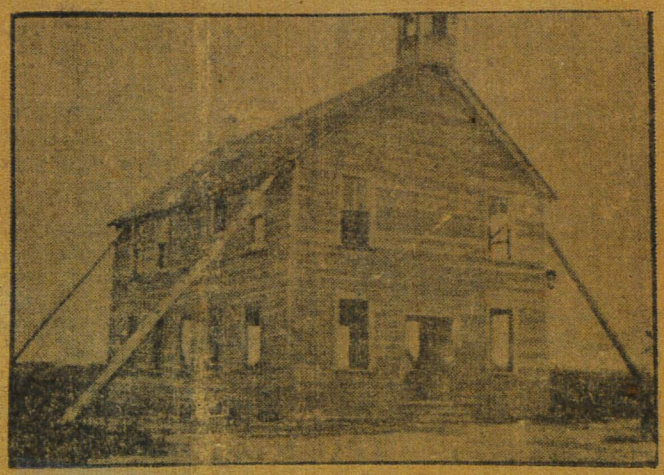
Robertsdale is a small town which was built on the railroad shortly after its completion. It is a thriving little town and is growing rapidly. It is surrounded by farms and is a shipping point and market for these farms. The town has five concrete buildings, one of which is a bank. There is one large brick [illegible] and a number of frame buil[illegible]

The School

[illegible] new buildings of the town is the schoolhouse. Robertsdale's first schoolhouse was a big, barren affair. It was unfinished, it had a single floor and was far from being attractive. In



New School Building, Robertsdale, Ala.



Old School Building at Robertsdale

MR. GEO. STRONG COMPLETES 39 YEARS TEACHING

ever-ready jokes are familiar to all the students of Foley High. And ten of those thirty-nine years have been spent at Foley, as assistant to our principal in matters of supervision and administration.

Before coming to Foley, Mr. Strong was principal at Rosinton Junior High School. He is married, has one son, who is a doctor in Montgomery, and two grandchildren, both boys.

May our assistant principle have many, many more years at Foley, is the unanimous vote of the students here!

Brief history of Robertsdale Schools. Information gathered by Mrs. Bertie Gilbert and Mr. R. L. Smith.

The date of the first school in the Robertsdale area is not fully documented. The Families who were here at the time give the date as 1870. These families, Creamer, Ard, Gulledge, etc. built the school themselves because of an interest in education that has become a tradition for Baldwin County. Some 3rd and 4th generations of students from these families are still attending the schools of the Robertsdale area. The old school building was still in use at least until 1901--1904 and is still standing on the Poos farm. By 1905 the Southern Plantation Development Co. of Chicago had large areas of land under option. This company built the first school in Robertsdale during this year. This was a two story wood structure; only the first floor was used. It was devided into two rooms. In September 1906, a severe hurricane damaged the building. The school patrons cut four tall pines and propped the old building on each corner. This building site is where the town hall is today.

The furnishings in the school consisted of double desks, one square yard of blackboard, water buckets and dippers and wood burning stoves. The fuel, pine knots, were gathered by the older boys with a wheel barrow and an axe. The day was from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Some of the early teachers were:

1905--1908	-	Ruth Wadsworth Leatha Bryars
1908--1910	-	Rose Clisby
1910--1911	-	A. F. Moseley Lila Poos Strong
1911--1912	-	George A. Strong Lila Poos Strong

In 1913 the Birmingham News carried an article by the State Superintendent commending teachers and patrons on a good school with high achievement.

Some other teachers during the following years were:

1914--1915	-	A. Curtis Edna Armistead (the salaries at this time were $50.00 for a teacher and $100.00 for the principal)

1915--1918 - Bertie Poos Gilbert
Edna Armistead
Earl Armistead

1918--1919 - Florence Burns
Mabel Kerridge
Edna Armistead

1920 - Mr. C. F. Taylor was added to the faculty.

By 1912, the populations had inoreased to the point where the old building would no longer hold them. It was also considered unsafe because of the earlier hurricane damage. The patrons met and organized "The School Improvement Society" for the purpose of building a school. There were some great discussions held and decisions were reached. The people built the school themselves. It consisted of two rooms and an auditorium. Concrete blocks were used for the construction. The concrete was all mixed by hand and made (one at a time) in a gasoline driven engine. The state contributed $800.00 for this project. Enrollment at this time was at least fifty. Some of the older students returned to school when the new building was completed.

By 1920, enrollment had increased and additions were made and continued to be made through the 1920's. The State and County appropriated money for these additions.

In the middle 1920's, plans were made to move to a new location where there would be sufficient acreage to meet specifications for vocational agriculture and home economics departments. Twenty acres were obtained and was a part of the Stoddard Farm.

The members of the Building Committee for the new school were:

R. G. Pearson
W. C. Hammond
W. P. Baldwin

On May 1, 1928, the contract was let to Sandbrook and Waldrop for erection of a Vocational Building at Robertsdale to plans furnished the State Board of Education for the sum of $8,317.00 to be built of brick and hollow tile. Mr. H.H. Starnes was employed as the first vocational Ag. teacher. He was paid $2,000 per year with $400 for expenses and $150 maintenance fund. Blance Williams was hired for the home economics teacher at $140 per month for nine months.

The main building as it is today was completed for the 1927--28 school year. The high school moved in, leaving the elementary students in the old building.

The vocational teachers for Robertsdale through the years have been:

Agriculture:

Mr. H. H. Starnes
Mr. Cetney
Mr. Benford
Mr. T. V. Bishop
Mr. Eddie Creamer

Home Economics:

Blance Williams
Elsie D'live
Mamie Reid
Fanny Alexander
Frances Pulliam Novak
Lucille Marker

Other information concerning the 1927--28 school year is as follows:

9 month school term beginning September 7, 1927. Christmas holidays were from December 23rd to January 2nd.

High school teachers for the year were C. F. Taylor, principal (taught 1/2 time) $183.33 per month for 12 months.

L. M. McPherson
Jane Hepler
Mary R. Sailor
Gladys Miller
Inez Smith

Inez Miles
Iva Blackburn
Kathryn Snider
Virgil Buck
Jerry McDonald
Eura Lee Hobbs
Wilda O'Mahoney
Bertie Poos Gilbert

Attended Robertsdale themselves

Elementary Teachers:

Helen Mims	Grade 6 -	$80.00 per month
Susie A. Dahlberg	Grade 5 -	80.00 per month
Esther Buzbee.	Grade 4 -	70.00 per month
Lucille Snyder	Grade 5 -	65.00 per month
Kathryn Snider (new teacher.	Grade 1&2	40.00 per month
Hellen Lundberg.	Grade 2 -	75.00 per month
Sallie Mae Herrington. , . .	Grade 1 -	85.00 per month
Azaline Buzbee	Grade 3 -	70.00 per month

Trustees:

R. G. Pearson

Walter Hammond

Mrs. G. W. Wylie

Bus drivers with contract:

E. B. Patterson - Rosinton to Robertsdale	$90.00
D. W. Fields - Loxley to Robertsdale	90.00
David Foresman - Silverhill to Robertsdale	55.00
W. H. Wiggins - Brewton School to R'dale	110.00

Sometime later the elementary school changed from an 8-4 to a 6-3-3 with 6th grade competency tests. Some of the supervisors were Miss Locke, Miss Hayes, Miss Cofield.

During the era from the 30's on the Baldwin County school system was judged to be one of the best ten systems in the United States. Robertsdale School was used for most of the demonstrations. The faculty drew high praise from the evaluators.

AGE-HERALD

EDITORIAL SECTION

BE00106.48

1910-11 a.f.m
1911-12 " "
1912-13 " "
1913-14 "

LUDING

the storm of 1906, when ships were blown out of their harbor at Mobile and the Mobile shell road was destroyed, this schoolhouse was badly damaged. It was afterward repaired to some extent; it was propped on either side and used for a while longer. It was more uncomfortable than ever, for it was extremely cold and leaked badly.

In February, 1910, a school improvement club was organized for the purpose of improving the school and repairing the building. In the summer of 1911 it was decided to build a new schoolhouse. The school already owned three lots in the western part of town. Half of this had been bought for a nominal sum and the other, together with the schoolhouse, was a gift from the late Mr. T. P. Hamm. The school trustees and an advisory board decided upon a three-room concrete structure, designed according to state adopted plans. The rooms are 32 by 24 feet with ceilings 12 feet high. Space between walls have an air space between them that keeps out moisture.

There are three cloakrooms, of ample size, and an entrance room with a handsome arched doorway. The north and south recitation rooms have seven windows each and the middle room has six. They are arranged so that the light comes from the left and from the rear. Two of the cloakrooms are lighted by small windows opening outside, and the other by large windows opening into the hall. The rooms are heated by stoves and ventilated by rectangular openings into the shafts. The floors are double, the walls are plastered and have a wainscoting three and one-half feet high with baseboard and quarter round molding for finish. The woodwork is finished with a natural stain. The ceilings are of metal, making the building practically fireproof. The rostrums in the three classrooms are movable so that they may be put together to form a stage for entertainments. The best of lumber was used for finishing the building and the roof has cedar shingles. In front of the belfry, where there is a new bell, is a flag pole. The cost of the building was $1784.51. The state fund gave $400 and the land has been deeded to the state. The other has been raised by the local school improvement association. Only $200 remains unpaid. The ladies of the town, the school children, and the business men have helped in raising this money. Subscriptions have been made and paid, some of the material has been donated, entertainments have been given, suppers, sales and bazars have been held, and the people have worked together to erect and pay for their school building.

As it stands today it is a credit to the town and a monument to the Robertsdale School Improvement association. Having concentrated their effort upon the erection of this building, the people feel a common interest and pride in the completed building and in the progress of the school.

At Work

This school has had the same teachers for three years: Mr. George A. Strong, principal, and Miss Lyla Poos, assistant. During their first year they taught in the old building. Last year the school was moved into the partially completed new building. There was a rough board floor, a temporary partition, and no ceiling. This meant all sorts of inconveniences for teachers and pupils, but it was better than the old building and it was tangible evidence of the attractive new schoolhouse that was soon to be theirs. They made the best of things and were rewarded by the comfort and pleasure of the finished building.

The teachers worked from the very first weeks spent in the new house to bring the school up to a high standard. They realized and accepted what might be called limitations—that theirs is a semi-rural school and is supported entirely by the public fund; that they must depend almost exclusively on their own resources for inspiration and for all things educational; that they are at a distance from a large town with its advantages. They are not deploring these possible disadvantages, but are finding and using the best things available, and they are trying to make their school one of the most efficient in its class.

During the past school year, while the building was being completed, the improvement association secured a library of more than 100 books. These are children's books and reference works. Most of these books were bought by the association and the others were given by friends.

A new piano, costing $350, is being paid for by the school children. They are proud of this addition to the equipment of the school and are working in earnest to pay for it. Smaller articles recently purchased are dark green curtains for the stage, and a United States flag, which flies from the top of the schoolhouse.

The school has a manual training club, which meets on alternate Friday afternoons for an hour's work. The children take pleasure in this new department, and their work is quite attractive. They have woven mats, napkin rings, baskets and other small articles.

An organized literary society meets on Friday afternoons, alternating with the manual training club.

Last spring a Boy Scout organization was begun. Two patrols of seven boys each were organized, the members taking the scout oath and learning the scout law before joining. The scout's motto is, "Do a good turn daily;" and this idea, together with that of self reliance, honor and trustworthiness, sums up the meaning of the movement. The scouts are taught first aid to the injured, woodcraft and are encouraged in wholesome fun. Soon after organizing, the Robertsdale boys had a tramp in the woods, cooked their own dinner and had a thoroughly delightful day out of doors.

Miss Poos is at the head of the Camp Fire Girls of the school. This organization is parallel to the Boy Scouts. Girls over 12 years may be members. Local clubs are composed of not more than [illegible] members in charge of a woman, who is called the guardian of the fire. This lady is chosen as one who will be a companion for the girls and who will direct their social interests. The Camp Fire Girls are taught house work, and promotion from degree to degree depends upon their accomplishments.

Miss Poos and Mr. Strong like the idea of making home duties and ethical training attractive, of showing the pleasant side of work and of opening to the young people a world of happy work and play; and they are trying, through these clubs and through their school extension work, to interest the children in these things. The clubs are aiding them in another way, for they afford the teachers and pupils a great deal of pleasure, and show the children that they can have good times among themselves, in their own little town, without deploring their lot in being away from a city or that wonderful place of Somewhere Else.

The Present Term

The school opened early in October for the present year. A new bookcase has been placed in the school and a number of new books have been added to the library. The classes in raffia are doing pine needle weaving, too. The boys have built a workshop in the rear of the schoolhouse and are busy with woodwork. They have made some stands to supplement the supply of window boxes and plant stands.

The school now has a department of domestic science. The Standard Oil company gave to the school a three-burner oil stove, and every Thursday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock a lesson is given in cooking or in sewing. The children are really interested in this work and their school at large. The older girls help in the care of the rooms and have charge of the plants. The boys get the wood and keep the fires.

Miss Poos has 40 pupils in the first, second and third grades. These little people take part in the literary programmes presented by the school. They recite memory gems and sing motion songs. Miss Poos has taught them several of these and they enjoyed singing them.

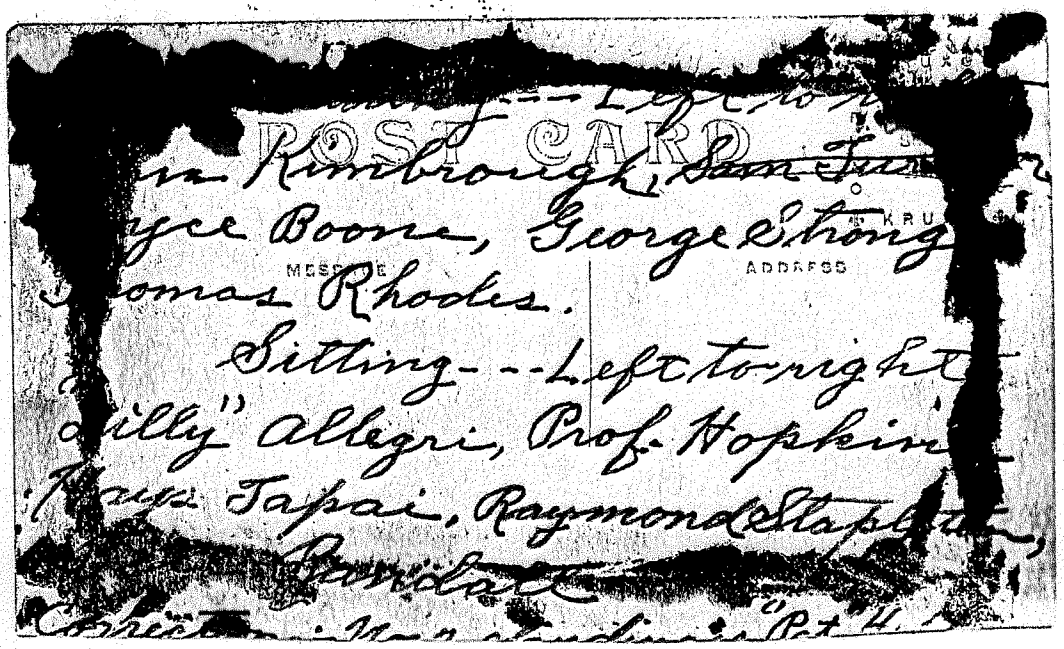
Mr. Strong's sixth and seventh grade geography classes have made a number of maps, using clay and putty. Their collection includes maps of each continent, of the United States, of Alabama and of Baldwin county.

Mr. Baker, state supervisor of rural schools, ranks the Robertsdale school very high. His judgment may be relied upon, since he visits the rural schools throughout the state and is in a position to compare their work. The attractive little school building, with its good equipment, the excellent work, adapted as it is to so many sides of the children's lives, all are the result of concentrated effort to make the school as efficient and as successful as possible.



See Date
Nov 9, 1913

BE00106.48


POST CARD
MESSAGE
ADDRESS
Sitting---Left to right
Thomas Rhodes.

BE00106.48







Bertie R. Gilbert
Dr 3782
Robertsdale
Ala. 36567

Robertsdale High School

Oct. 21

Sue Cooper [redacted]

Ed Bankester [redacted] yes

Bobby Farris [redacted]

Inez Springer [redacted] yes

Jimmy Gilbert re: Steven Grant - yes

BE00106.48

Jane Knight
P.O Box 367
Robertsdale, Al 36567 [redacted]

Jimmy Gilbert -
22775 Adams Dr.
Robertsdale AL 36567 [redacted]

B. N. FARRIS
13 Meeting St.
Orange Beach, AL
36561 [redacted]

Ed Bankester
707 Marks Ave
Bay Minette, Ala 36507 [redacted]

Inez Springer
P. O. Box 573
Robertsdale, Al. 36567 [redacted]

Sue Cooper

Pop Hammond - script / reginald store is where So. Furniture Mart - lived upstairs
Bakeler's parents kept teacher in their home -

Sharon Hayles - 947 -
Dasinger
across from Judy's
has many old photos

Michael Baldwin was Baldwin Supply -
collector of old photos
wife Carmelita taught at RDH a
couple of years
large white house W of school -

Study Hall Reed Dad & Teach -

Bobby Ferris is still an artist -

Chapel was held weekly in 1930s - Chairs
were 2 per a unit, legs & seats folded up -

1930's - 1940s - Professional play director
came in and used hi school students
to do the production. Co. should in proceed
with the school

Jimmy Gilbert was in some of productions

Stage + auditorium are the largest

Sue- each grade band had to put on an assembly during the year.

Curtain is family rec - funded by Inez's class reunion 2 yrs. ago.

Jenny 1938 graduated off the stage + (cap + gowns)
Inez 1943 graduated off the stage + cap + gowns

Emmy Boynton + Jerry Statch came back after war + went back to school + graduated later w/

Inez Willis - her brother graduated + when Mr. Taylor gave him his diploma (Mr. Taylor very small man) someone yelled out - Look, Willis dropped his handkerchief.

BE00106.48





BE00106.48





