**Bits And Pieces Of School News**

These are just as titled, Bits and Pieces, and some do not have dates but thought they might be of interest to you.

In early days children were taught by their mother in their home what little education they received. Those who were better off financially could afford a Governess or Tutor to live in the home and teach the children. I did find this fact that there were 13 Academies in Arkansas in **1859** which would be just before Civil War, an Academy at Cane Hill and a college at Fayetteville. This college built up a good reputation but was forced to close in 1861 after war broke out.

After close of War in **1872** the University had 14 buildings. There were Church sponsored colleges. Arkansas College at Batesville; in 1884 Methodist Church sponsored College at Altus, Arkansas, and later in 1890 it was moved to Conway and took the name of Hendrix College which is still there. Galloway female college at Searcy in 1888 and Henderson College 1891 at Arkadelphia and a Baptist College named Ouachita at Arkadelphia.

All schools were closed by the Civil War but during reconstruction days the first free public school was established.

**1860** the free schools provided for less than one fourth children of the state so Governor Murphy recommended establishing the free school system based on taxation on property to educate children and that was established in 1867.

**Old Valley School On Preserved Morse's Place**

This school was almost where Dave Morse's house sat later. This was a one-room log building and I understand Rev. Davis was the first teacher. The blue-back speller was the equipment which was used for reading as well as spelling. Split logs were the benches and one had to be very careful how they sat down or they would get pinched. There was a well in the school yard; this was where they got their drinking water. School was a short term of four months during the winter months when the children could not work in the fields. This was also a subscription school where parent paid so much per pupil. Some of teacher I have located were for this school and also the one in Dyer by Baptist Church: Rev. Davis; Miss Fanny Rhinehart; Miss Ella Burkhead; Jim Galloway; Ira Faust; Julius Faust; Terrell Rhodes; Jessie Neal; Quince Galloway; and Dora Belle Haydon who became my mother.

**1925: The Teachers Association**: The teachers who attended this meeting from Dyer were: Miss Katy Lou Crouch, Mulberry; Homer L Robinson, Dyer; J. F. Porter, Alma; A. E. Holcombe, Alma; Mrs. E. H. Floyd, Dyer; Mrs. Delia Selby, Van Buren; Mrs. T. W. Moss ***[aka Dora Belle Haydon Moss]***, Dyer; Miss Nancy Cottrell, Dyer; Miss Delena Cottrell, Dyer.

**April 12, Alma**: The following Smith-Hughes Agricultural students left Friday morning to motor to Fayetteville where they entered contests at the Interscholastic meet held there Friday and Saturday. Among the group was Carl James of Dyer.

 **1838-1839**: In section 36, Township 10, Range 30 as early as this, regular school was held by Mr. Smith and succeeded by Dr. Ayres. A log house and an attendance of 30 pupils.

**Florence Loomis Bennett's First School In 1885**

Floyd Loomis was a director on the school board at Dyer until 1918. The first school in town was a white building south of where the Baptist Church stands today, on land donated by Stephen Dyer. There were huge oak trees all around the school house and between school and Church. The Church was high off the ground in the back and hogs denned up under it and when you went to church you would get a load of flees.

Miss Dora Belle Haydon taught school in the new room that was added to the one-room building and she was my teacher. Herbert Cravens bought the building in 1902 when the four-room school was built a little farther south of the old building. Bonnie Anderson remembers when the abridged Dictionary was bought and one could look up words and pass a few "notes" while at the dictionary stand.

**Teachers**

Veste Mae Furlow born November 1889, living at Chester, spent her life in public service and keeping the home for her father and brothers. She taught school for 13 years and was then the Chester Post Master for over 35 years during which time she also managed a General Store. She had teacher's training at University of Arkansas. Parents were John Furlow, born 1853 in Montgomery, Alabama, died 1935 at Chester. Her mother was Delia Rhodes born 1857 in Kansas married December 30, 1874, at Mountainburg. They had 11 children.

Alice McClendon was my second teacher in the Methodist Church because of the crowded conditions at the School. We attended at the Church until the two story school was built and the Lodges could move into the upper story and that gave another room at the school.

**Leiva Jean Faust:**

"Mrs. McNutt was always putting on a school play. One was a Tom Thumb Wedding when I was about 9 years old. I was scared to death to stand up and read. What did Mrs. McNutt do but give me a part to play that I was hard of hearing. By the time we had gone through the play I had lost my "shakes". Mrs. Delia Selby gave a play about a Rose, and Mildred Ferguson gave one where I lead the singing.

Tommie Moss, a student at Dyer High School, was the winner in a 100 yard dash at Oak Grove Community school in a County Contest Day on May 1, 19xx. The Relay race was won that year by George Weese, Tommie Moss, Dudley Selby, and Earl Cottrell.

If I remember correctly, the PTA was organized at Dyer when Mr. Clark was teaching here. I know that Mother made the introduction to the parents that had met at the school as to what a PTA was all about and helped plan the year's programs.

**LUCILLE FLOYD:**

I am sure that I was in the group who played hooky. Several girls left the school grounds at. noon on April Fool's Day and went down to the railroad tracks and stayed until school was out. It was my first and only time to play hooky. Chester Rhodes was our teacher, and the next day he lined us up in front of the room and gave us a swat on our "Backsides" and then I got a "real one" when I reached home by my mother.

**GOLDIA FLOYD** making a talk verbatim on "How To Make Biscuits" and stated that she could make biscuits in her sleep. Mr. McNutt said, "Goldia, I don't think I would want to eat them."

I am sure a lot of you, especially those of you who attended school while Mr. Dark was here, remember marching in after recess to the beat of the drum and woe to him who stepped out of line.

Roe and Nancy Cottrell were good spellers, and they entered in the County School Contest and was just spelling words right and left when they were given the word, "Woolly or Wooly" and they missed it and lost the contest.

Alma Lorena Moss gave a reading at a contest on Anne of Green Gables, but I forgot in one place and lost the contest.

The bus driver from Dyer to Alma School from 1933 to 1975 was. Ernest Cottrell, and part of this time he was also over a STUDY HALL

**1918**: When the brick school was built Marset Bennett was the President, Thomas Moss was Treasurer, Dr. Ayres was Secretary, and T. H. Hurd and Sam Morse.

**1922**: The members of the School Board were: Henry Burrough, Secretary; John Smith was president; others were: T. H. Hurd; T. J. James, Thomas William Moss, and Fred Patton.

**Punishments At School**

Standing in a corner.

Standing beside the blackboard and sometimes on tiptoes with your nose in a ring that was drawn on the blackboard by the teacher. Standing on one foot in a corner of the room.

Writing words that you had missed in spelling 100 times on the board or on a tablet.

Staying in at recess.

Staying after school.

In the four-room school house there was a large entry hall downstairs and also a hall on upper floor half that size. In the hallway down stairs there was a shelf on the North end where the water bucket and a wash pan where you could get a drink and wash your hands after returning from recess.

And of course the dipper that everyone drank from; of course, this was before we knew we weren't supposed to drink after one another.

The coat closet was at the south end of the entry hallway and everyone hung their coats in there until school was out at 4:00 P.M.

The Lodge Hall was in the North room upstairs and the smaller room behind it was where the lodges had their regalia, and we often wondered about "Old Jerry" and why didn't the "Goat" starve to death.

Mother taught a summer session of school there one year and brother Tom and Earl Morse were the big boys attending school so mother allowed them to sit out in the entry way to study until she caught them chewing tobacco.

**MR MURPHY:**

"Through the authority invested in me as Principle of Alma School I recommend this group of students for graduation from the Alma High School. The following students have completed the course of study prescribed by the State Board of Education and the Faculty of our High School. They are of good moral character and worthy of the diplomas and certificates as recommended: The student from Dyer were: Kenneth Cottrell; Imogene Rhodes; Yvonne Nelson; June Kennedy; and Mildred Belt."

Twelve Crawford County student will be among the 116 to complete their training and receive certificates at the 19th Annual Graduation of Arkansas Valley Vo-Tech School at 8 P.M. Thursday, June 27, 1985. Among those twelve students was one from Dyer, DWIGHT DAVIS, in auto body repair and painting.

Often the pioneer schools were taught by the minister who was considered an authority on almost any subject and he taught this in a one-room building. The desks were split logs and placed on wooden pegs. A door in front of the building and a fireplace for heating in the end of room. The window was a hole about 3 inches square. Pupils carried their lunch in a tin pail which consisted usually of biscuit with a sausage or ham, a baked sweet potato, fried fruit pies, and maybe an apple. In this sort of a set-up the children of yore learned the three "Rs".

**August 30, 1983**: The 1933 class of Alma High School held their class reunion. The plan for .reunion is that all the classes of the 1930s attend, and one class from the 1930s are honored that year. There were only 5 class members who had died from 1933-1983. Members from Dyer were: Charlie Moss, Wilma Johnson, Wanda Ruth Rhodes, Nona Cottrell, Lester Moon, Ernest Cottrell, and, as the students visited, it was like the sands of time running through the hour glass in the days of their lives as they relived events of school days.

Someone has said that a class reunion is a time when classmates get together to find out who is falling apart.