**Things I Remember**

By

Pearl Myers

During the Depression years of the 1930's it was my privilege to be a Primary teacher in the school at Dyer for six years.

The people of Dyer were kind, sincere, hard-working, and ambitious for themselves and their children. They were very cooperative in every way.

One outstanding example of concern and cooperation was shown when first and second grades needed help. It was before new books were furnished by the state and parents provided all school materials and supplies for their children. Our need was great that year for Supplementary Readers and there was no funds available for their purchase. We launched a fund-raising project, and parents and town people donated home grown products, such as vegetables and poultry and these in turn sold to local merchants. The necessary amount was raised and used to buy two sets of BEAUTIFUL READERS, which was appreciated so much and were very useful for a long time. Again I say, "Thank You".

So many of my fondest memories of course include cute sayings and actions of "MY CHILDREN". Their honesty and frankness about situations was always refreshing—and at times amazing. They expressed their respect and love for me in many different ways. There may have been doubt in the mind of a little first grade youngster as to my ability as a teacher—when asked by his mother during the first week of school how he liked me, he replied, "Well, she's alright but I guess she doesn't know much 'cause she 's always asking questions." However as time went by, another opinion surfaced that really lifted my spirits. A second grade boy who had a severe stuttering problem and who was older than his classmates often preferred "VISITING" older friends in town during school hours rather than attending classes. When he was asked by a man one day about the teacher, he replied, "She's a d-d-d- good teacher, she can tell every time I take a chaw of tobacco."

Mrs. Grace McAllister, my friend and co-worker, was trying to console a little fellow who was upset due to the fact I had become ill and had to leave school. He explained to her that I had a "Quik (crick) in "bof (both) my necks". How thankful I was to have only one neck as I did have a "Quik" on "bof" sides.

Another incident I recall was about a lovely little girl who repeatedly invited me to skate with her on the side walk in town. After explaining why I could not accept her invitation, she assured me it wouldn't hurt even if I fell far.

While passing the home of a pre-school age child I heard a little throaty voice call to me from a tree, "Miss Pearl, are you going to run that school next year?" I asked why. "Well, I'm gonna start and I want a front seat."

Other special memories I have of Dyer and the wonderful people. I shall briefly mention but they stand "tall" in importance to me. There were school activities including special days and their programs, ball games, hikes, picnics, home talent shows, census taking, Church and Church socials, parties, which many of these were given by Mr. and Mrs. Lark Cowart for the youth of Dyer. Teaching one month without pay due to insufficient funds for salaries, enjoying the unsurpassed hospitality of friends who provided free room and board for Miss Nell Bevel and myself during that time. Dyer was good to me. I treasure highly the times you let me spend with you.

**1924: Celebrities Are Chosen At Dyer High School**

The Annual "Who's Who" contest held with students and Faculty members named. Celebrities of Dyer school have been elected in the annual Who's Who contest held recently under the auspices of the Senior class and Literary Society of that Institution. The selection, which include such items as popularity, wit, flirt, grouch and others were made by ballot or forms arranged by those in charge of the contest. The results of the contest, many of which were close, were as follows:

|  | **First** | **Second** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Most popular girl  Most popular boy  Most studious girl  Most studious boy  Most beautiful girl  Most handsome boy  Most energetic girl  Most energetic boy  Best girl athlete  Best boy athlete  Most loveable girl  Best liked boy  Jolliest girl  Jolliest boy  Best all round boy  Best girl sport  Best boy sport  Biggest girl grouch  Biggest boy grouch  Cutest girl  Cutest boy  Most accommodating girl  Most accommodating boy  Wittiest girl  Wittiest boy  Laziest boy  Most conceited girl  Most conceited boy | Sula Hunter  Jeff Morse  Lorena Moss  Lance Kirk  Elizabeth Simmons  Elmer Belt  Sula Hunter  Lance Kirk  Sula Hunter  Oliver Kirk  Lorena Moss  Lance Kirk  Lorena Moss  Lance Kirk  Lance Kirk  Sula Hunter  Jeff Morse  Delena Cottrell  Vernon Chitwood  Eunice Fine  Oliver Kirk  Sula Hunter  Lance Kirk  Sula Hunter  Miles Selby  Miles Selby  Lorena Moss  Jeff Morse | Lorena Moss  Lance Kirk  Eunice Fines  Oliver Kirk  Sula Hunter  Miles Selby  Lorena Moss  Oliver Kirk  Bonnie Shelley  Jeff Morse  Sula Hunter  Clifton Ayres  Sula Hunter  Roy Jean  Clifton Ayres  Lorena Moss  Lance Kirk  Lorena Moss  Oliver Kirk  Sula Hunter  Vernon Chitwood  Lorena Moss  Roy Jean  Millie James  Lance Kirk  Delmar Harris  Millie James  Elmer Belt |

Following the student election, a selection of "WHO's WHO" among the faculty was made by the members of the classes with the following results:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Most popular teacher  Best all around  Sweetest teacher  Most accommodating  Best sport | G. H. McNutt  G. H. McNutt  Mrs. Della Selby  Mrs. G. H. McNutt  J. B. Perrymore | Mrs. G. H. McNutt  Mrs. G. H. McNutt  Mrs. Guy Gray  J. B. Perrymore  Mrs. Guy Gray |

**Taken From Tom Blake's Column**

**On A Dyer Citizen**

Estelle Wright Szegedin has an interesting style in her two books, "As I Remember Piney" and "Chalk Dust."

Piney was a tiny Community in the hills North of Mulberry. Estelle, in her 1979 volume, penned remembrances of the area and its family.

"Chalk Dust" (1980) reviews experiences as a teacher in early Crawford and Franklin County schools.

Estelle, age 83, lives at Greenwood, Arkansas.

A chapter in the first book deals with Piney superstitions. She recalls that her father would not allow cornbread to be cut with a knife. Bad Luck, it should be broken by hand.

**Other Bad Luck:**

Opening an umbrella in the house.

Spinning a chair on one leg.

Rocking an empty rocking chair.

Walking in one shoe just across the room.

Carrying an ax or hoe through the house because it would cause the death in the family.

Killing a frog would cause the cow to give bloody milk.

A screech owl lightening upon roof of house. It was possible to break the curse if the man of the house turned his pockets wrong side out and the housewife tied knots in her apron strings or tied a knot in corner of a sheet.

Sweeping anything out the door after sundown.

A dead tree falling on a still day foretold death, and the tree fell toward the house where the death would occur.

A buzzing bee, if black, it foretold bad news, if yellow good news.

If the wife burned the bread her husband would come mad.

Other chapters are on weather predictions, signs farmers believe in, the herb doctor, the power doctor, and old time beauty treatments.

Estelle taught third grade in School District 105 in Crawford County in 1913.

A copy of her teacher contract is included in "Chalk Dust." The pact provided that she be on duty eight hours a day with pay of $33.33 a month.

**Another stipulation was:**

"The teacher on her part agree to keep said school open eight hours each school day, keep carefully the register required by law, and preserve from injury to the utmost of her power the District Property."

**Homes**

