

Not Forgotten

One Room Schoolhouses Still Stand

By Marty Vega

The tiny, one room schoolhouse. As much an antiquity to today as the horse and buggy, the one room schoolhouses which dotted the countryside in an earlier era played an important role in education for rural America.

Robert Gatlin, a retired schoolteacher and Hoke county history buff, has located two of the county's one room schoolhouses, one of the structures still standing on its original site.

Known as the Pine Forest school, the weather-beaten, dilapidated

building still stands on U.S. 401, six-tenths of a mile from the Cumberland county line, and now in use as a storage shed for hay.

The exact origins of the Pine Forest school are not certain, but it is believed to have come from the Cumberland county system in 1911, when Hoke county was formed.

Mrs. Joe Lovett (Alma Parker), a Wayside community resident, began the first grade in Pine Forest in 1916 and attended for the full seven years before going on to Rockfish and then high school in Raeford.

"I've often wished something could be written about Pine Forest,

it meant so much to the children", Mrs. Lovette recalled.

"One thing that stands out in my mind is the spring down behind the school. We'd all go down there with our cups for a drink".

Although there were seven grades of pupils for one teacher, total enrollment in a typical year might be only 15-20 children, just a few for each age group.

"There were ten boys and three girls in my family, and the Crowleys, that was a big family, we just about kept the school going", she laughed. "My first teacher was Miss Lela Blue, who became Mrs. J. R. Hampton. Her wedding was one of the first we remembered".

Clara Womack, Carrie Leach, Margaret Jones - Mrs. Lovette ticked off names of the early Pine Forest teachers. In those days, an unmarried schoolteacher would board with a nearby family, and the Parker house was home to some who passed through Pine Forest.

Visits from the superintendent were few and far between in those days, but when they occurred, it was an important event.

"We had such big blackboards. It was an honor to be called to go to the blackboard, you were special. I remember the board of education

would come sometimes and I would be called to go to the board and work a problem. Oh, I was frightened I wouldn't get it right, but I always did", Mrs. Lovette laughed.

Schoolhouses were situated about three miles apart from one another so one would be within a mile or so walking distance for children, Gatlin explained, and the Glen Echo school on 401 also served Wayside families.

While the Pine Forest school was left abandoned and forgotten, Glen Echo sat idle for a time after the country schoolhouses were closed in the 1920's and then was painstakingly lifted from its home and moved to Raeford, where it now stands behind the Raeford elementary school off West Prospect Ave.

"It was moved in either 1929 or 1930 and given to the Boy Scouts. The lot it is on was deeded by the Upchurch family in 1944", Gatlin said.

Cleva Martin Newton of Wayside taught at Glen Echo for two years, beginning in 1926, for a \$75 a month salary and \$25 supplement.

"That was good, though, my sister taught in Robeson county in 1914, and the pay then was \$20 a month", she said.

"I think the children learned as



PINE FOREST...Abandoned in the 1920's, the building still stands on U.S. 401 near the county line.

much as they do now, they were closer", Mrs. Newton remarked.

Closeness was a big part of education for the youngsters, as seating then meant a big schooldesk built for two. Besides learning, the children had to help with sweeping and cleaning of the schoolhouse. Parents would bring the wood for the stove, but it was up to the teacher to keep a fire stoked.

"I remember planning our Christmas program, all the parents came, and that little place was packed", Mrs. Newton said.

"And the time we made candy, taffy, on top of the stove, that was a sticky mess."

Another Wayside resident who attended Glen Echo in the 1920's remembers several teachers, Kate Shaw, Grisella Harmon, Alice McDuffie, and Blanche Mooring (Mrs. A.A. Ray).

The memory of that old stove also lingers.

"That old iron stove, it was right in the middle of the room, bouncing up and down. It was so hot it would just about burn everyone up!"



SCHOOLTEACHER - Cleva Martin Newton of Wayside recalls her experiences as a teacher for seven grades in the old Glen Echo school in 1926 and 1927 terms.



GLEN ECHO...After serving Wayside families for years in a grove off U.S. 401, the building was moved to Raeford about 1929 and given to the Boy Scouts.

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The five two-hour sessions will cover all phases of estate planning including wills, the techniques of drawing a will and explanation of technical terms such as codicil and probate; legal aspects of North Carolina laws, dual residence and joint ownership of property; North Carolina taxation; and administration of estates and trusts. The final session will deal with personal problems of students as well as a summarization of the course.

The instructor will be Ann Thomas of the Wachovia Bank in Raleigh and the fee for the 10 hours of instruction is three dollars. Persons interested should call the division of continuing education to enroll.

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