

1896 To 1976

School Progress-80 Years

The first schoolhouse known to have been built at Bald Creek was a little off the highway near where Proffitt's Store now stands. This schoolhouse had been built before the Civil War. One of the teachers who taught there was John McEwen who many years later returned as a principal of what was then a high school.

In 1895 a movement was begun to have a larger, better school than had been possible before. Mr. Thomas Ray gave land for the school. Other men cut trees from their land for the lumber. This and all other material was donated, and the labor was donated also. The man who "rived" the shingles to cover the building, Mr. Rassie Proffitt, is still living. His grandson, Ronald Proffitt, is now principal of the elementary school. The high school is now a consolidated school for all the county.

A committee of interested citizens secured two young men, college graduates, as teachers. They were very capable and extremely ambitious. They even proposed to call the new school Mountain City College. The name caused smiles, but the people allowed this, being so anxious to keep the two men, though it

was hardly a high school as yet.

While the new building was being built, classes were held in the old building and in the Methodist Church nearby.

Even before the new building was completed in 1896 (shown in picture), students came from several different places in the county and also from Madison and McDowell Counties and at least one from Del Rio, Tenn. It is not known why Mr. Elliott and Mr. Hart gave up the school but at the end of two years they left and Mr. Oscar Sams was appointed principal. He was very capable and popular as a teacher, and he was assisted by Miss Georgia Hampton, who also taught music. Though there was no graduating class at that time, a commencement was held, lasting about three days, with a prominent person to give an address and a visiting minister to preach in the nearby church on Sunday.

This was a custom in most high schools in the country and small towns, a custom that continued for some years.

At the close of Mr. Sams' tenure the Western North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church assumed the conducting of the school

with the Rev. Berge Abernathy as Principal and the Rev. A.C. Kennedy as assistant. The school continued to have a number of boarding students and grew in numbers. In about three years the church withdrew its support and the community again took over the operation of the school. Mr. John C. McEwen was recalled as a principal and following him, Mr. Edgar Mallonee.

There is no record available of the next few years except the names of the principals, which are as follows, perhaps not in the correct order. ? Grant, John Edwards Bennett, Tanner, Miss Blanch Penny, Ben L. Moyer, Charles R. Hubbard. (Mr. Hubbard remained in office twelve years and the school grew and prospered). During the early twenties there was a large number of boarding students from Madison County, Little Switzerland, Relief and different parts of this county.

Another building was added to house the elementary students.

Following Mr. Hubbard's retirement, the following were principals: Roy Proffitt, Max Proffitt, Clifford Bailey, Rassie Howell, Erskine Bail-

ey. After Bald Creek became an elementary school the following have been principals: Ed Wilson, Jack McIntosh and the present principal, Ronnie Proffitt.

This community school beginning in 1895, for many years to come continued to educate the children of the community for more useful lives and many went on to college and became teachers, doctors, lawyers, and workers in other professions. The first State High School was built in 1912. The principal was John Edwards.

GOOD PSYCHOLOGY



TEENAGERS AND PRE-TEENS SAY CHILD PSYCHOLOGISTS NEED TO FEEL THEY BELONG TO A GROUP. YOU CAN HELP GET THE GROUP (AND YOUR CHILD) TO CONGREGATE AT YOUR HOUSE IF YOU KEEP REFRESHMENTS SUCH AS COOLING PITCHERS OF ICED TEA ON HAND. NICE TO KNOW, TOO, THAT ICED TEA IS THE LEAST EXPENSIVE THIRST-QUENCHER YOU CAN SERVE THEM.



Yancey Folk Night

The Yancey County Night Folk Festival held at Crabtree Meadows September 3 was part of a week of festivities sponsored by the Blue Ridge Parkway. Yancey County Night, held in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce, offered a successful night of entertainment by several Yancey Countians. Featured on the program were: Campers In The Forest (Joel Robertson, Charles Kesler, and Ron Powell-pictured above); Susie, Barbara and Jennie Deyton; Angella Anglin and Eric Deyton; the Micaville Elementary Cloggers; and John and Cathy Thomas. These entertainers offered an exciting evening of music and mountain dancing for the audience, and their efforts in representing Yancey County at this event are greatly appreciated by the Chamber of Commerce.

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Save Time With Info

People who plan to apply for supplemental security income payments can save time by first getting together some information about themselves, according to T.L. Johnson, social security Representative in Asheville, North Carolina.

The supplemental security income program makes monthly payments to people with little or no income and limited resources who are 65 or over or blind or disabled. People can get information about applying for the payments by calling or writing any social security office.

"When applying," Mr. Johnson said, "it's a good idea to have with you as many of the following as possible: a checkbook, if you have one, to show how much you have in the bank, any savings account books, stock and bonds, life insurance policies, automobile registration cards, latest real estate tax statements if you own a home or any land, last year's income tax return, W-2 forms, and evidence of all other income."

It may save time, too, according to Mr. Johnson, if people applying for supplemental security income payments know how much cash they have on hand and know the value of their car, if they own one.

"You should also have your social security card," he said. "Disabled or blind students 18 to 22 should have a school identification card, tuition receipts, or similar evidence of school attendance."

The supplemental security income program is administered by the Social Security Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. The Asheville social security office is at 50 S. French Broad Avenue. The phone number is WX-3500 toll free. A Representative is also in Burnsville Courthouse every 1st and 3rd Monday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



High School Completed In Bald Creek In 1896

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