
Grady County Historical Society – Schools

Calvary School

Includes newspaper clippings and papers describing the history of Calvary Schools.

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GRADY COUNTY VOTERS STATE AMENDMENT POLL

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RE

ELPINO JUNIOR HIGH MAY YET BE SAVED

FUTURE OF RENO AND CALVARY JR. HIGH SCHOOLS STILL DOUBTFUL.

The monthly session of the County Board of Education here last Tuesday was devoted almost entirely to a discussion of the junior high school situation in Grady county. Chairman S. P. Cain presided at the meeting, with all of the other members of the board present, as follows: W. T. B. Block, E. A. Maxwell, R. E. Stringer, Jr. and G. B. Trulock. Homer Drake, state school supervisor for this territory, attended the meeting, along with trustees from the Reno, Elpino and Calvary school districts.

It developed in the discussion that there is a strong probability that the junior high school at Elpino can be maintained in the face of new regulations adopted by the Georgia House of Representatives economy investigating committee, and concurred in by the State Board of Education. Supervisor Drake agreed with the board members and district trustees, Tuesday that the enrollment of junior high school students at Elpino, after investigation, appeared sufficient to justify employment of two teachers there, and that according to the economy regulations its continuance would thereby be justified. However, this is not regarded as final.

Supervisor Drake made it plain at the meeting that he is merely investigating existing conditions and that he is not authorized to do even so much as recommend continuance or discontinuance of any of the schools.

The committee, seeking means to relieve the state school financial distress, has requested surveys by state school supervisors, to determine what economies can be effected "through

the consolidation of the high school grades in junior or two-year high schools where the enrollment for such schools will not justify the employment of at least two teachers." Basing justification on the State Board of Education regulation of average daily attendance of twenty students per teacher, it appeared that the Reno, Elpino and Calvary junior high schools might be eliminated and leave schools at these points on a grammar school basis. Spence, the other junior high school in this county, has an average daily attendance of more than fifty

MAY 13 FINAL LIMIT FOR JUNE 6 VOTERS

ELIGIBILITY FOR VOTING JUNE 6TH AROUSES LITTLE INTEREST.

Despite the fact that Saturday, May 13th, one week from tomorrow, has been fixed as the final limit for the qualification of voters in this county for the state general election on June 6th, Tax Commissioner T. F. Proctor said this week that scores of persons who voted last year remain ineligible through failure to pay their 1938 poll taxes as required under a ruling by the Attorney-General.

Tax payments for 1938 and prior years have picked up sharply during recent weeks, according to the Tax Commissioner, and poll taxes have been paid in almost every instance along with other taxes, he added, but scores of voters will have their names stricken from the lists for the June 6th election unless they pay their poll taxes, at least, by tomorrow week, May 13th.

It appears just now that only proposals for amendments to the state constitution will be submitted for approval or rejection by the voters in this election. Only two of the thirty-three amendment proposals are of state-wide interest, but one of the thirty-one proposals of local effect directly affects Grady county and there are indications that a local fight for and against this proposal may create interest here sufficient to bring out a large vote. In this event, the eligibility regulations, and the limit as above-mentioned, may prove of vital concern to this county's voters, generally.

At the request of Gov. E. D. Rivers, Attorney-General Ellis Arnall has prepared the following ruling on eligibility of voters for the June 6th election which is being issued by Secretary of State John B. Wilson:

"Only those persons who paid their poll taxes for 1937 and previous years by Dec. 6th, 1938, and only those who pay their 1938 taxes in time to have their names placed on the voters' list certified by the Board of Registrars will be eligible to vote in the June 6th constitutional amendment election."

Tax Commissioner Proctor, who

SUPPORT FOR HEALTH OTHER FUNCTIONS P

Pipkin To Preach Here On Next Sunday Night

Julian Pipkin, a Cairo boy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Pipkin, who with Mrs. Pipkin has been attending the Southern Baptist Seminary at Louisville, Ky., will preach at the First Baptist Church here next Sunday evening at 7:30.

Those who heard him in his first sermon following his ordination to the gospel ministry last summer will doubtless hear him again with much interest. Julian has made an excellent record his first year in the Seminary at Louisville, and is already an acceptable preacher.

He will be available for pulpit supply this summer and will teach in the Training School at the First Baptist Church here each evening next week.

ATTENDANCE IS GOOD FOR COOKING SCHOOL

117 GRADY CO. WOMEN ENROLL FOR 3-DAY COURSE IN CAIRO.

One hundred and seventeen Grady county women enrolled Wednesday in the big cooking school that is being sponsored at the Legion Home in Cairo Wednesday, Thursday and Friday by the Grady County Home Demonstration Council. This enrollment, with the extra attendance expected for Thursday and Friday, was gratifying to Miss Dorris Nichols, County Home Demonstration Agent, especially since it is the first cooking school the Council has sponsored.

Miss Katherine Lanier, of Athens, food preparation specialist of the Georgia Extension Service, who is in charge of the school, is making the demonstrations from 1 to 4:30 each afternoon unusually interesting.

The following Cairo merchants are co-operating in the school with donations as indicated: foods, Mixon's, Gandy Bros. and A. & P. Tea Co.; refreshments, Elmer's Soda Shop, W. Y. Bryan, Powell's Pharmacy and Harvey's; grand prize, set of dishes, service for 15, Roddenbery Hardware Co., which is also furnishing the elec-

CO. COMM IN MONT

DELEGATION HEARS OB TAKE

The Board of Commissioners of Grady County met for their regular monthly meeting Tuesday, and adopted a resolution pledging itself and when a constitutional amendment is being considered in this county, to support the voters of the county in the event three such propositions are voted on, at the station of Tuesday.

The resolution pledges the County to the continuance of the bonds to retire to \$100,000 in bonds that the bonds shall not be more than 4 per cent interest shall not be more than thirty years.

The resolution as the policies of the amendment suggested and later the appearance of the meeting Tuesday of some citizens who have been raised at the Commission's suggestion with their amendment to the constitution.

W. B. Roddenberry, man for the department, ranged for at held here last Roddenberry department features of made a plea the public health road work as In the later objections, as The Messenger each objection the Commission

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Edmund Sm. The Schools of Calvary Hope School

1885: Higdon District trustees were P.H. Herring, T. T.

It is not known when or where the first school houses were built in Calvary, which was then known as the 'Old North Carolina Settlement'. However, there were school teachers in the area prior to 1840.

An early school was a log structure near the John Higdon home.

The next known school house was a 2 or 3 room building built in the late 1860s, after The War.

From the Decatur Co. Board of Education minutes, it is learned that a Robert Butler from the 553 Militia District was on this board in 1871.

1876: The N.C. Settlement School was located near J.J. Higdon's house. The New Hope School for blacks was located just east of what we now call Calvary.

1883-1884: 185 pupils were enrolled in the white and black schools of the Higdon District. The county paid \$375.00 toward the operating costs for the school year.

Mr. and Mrs. J.J. White were teachers of Calvary School.

At the black schools, Mary Jackson was at Averett School,

Wisdom Nicholson was at Beckbranch School , and

Edmund Smart was teacher at New Hope School.

1885: Higdon District trustees were P.H. Herring, T. T. Maxwell, J. R. Darsey, and J. J. Higdon.

1886: Decatur Co. will pay \$500.00 for the school year's operating costs. The teachers are the same, except that Albert McElvey has replaced Mary Jackson at the Averett School.

"Bainbridge Democrat" 17 March 1891: "The Calvary High School is in flourishing condition and is the oldest high school in the county."

Decatur Co. Board minutes -1900: A petition from a number of citizens was read, asking that the Co. Board grant them a public school at the Daniels' place in 553 M. D. and was approved.

Jan. 1904: E. L. Maxwell asked for appropriation for a new school building in 553 M.D. The petition was deferred until the last meeting of the board in December. [It may have been to replace the Pine Union School near his Home.]

1926- 1928: Calvary students were studying Physics, Latin, and Journalism.

Grady County began functioning as a county January 1, 1906,

1928: The Calvary Junior class entertained the Seniors at a party formed from parts of Decatur and Thomas counties.

Teachers were Miss Margaret Williams, Miss Elsie Nesbitt, Miss Lois Maxwell, Miss Elizabeth Jackson.

It took a while for Grady County to get its new school system formed.

1911 Deed: T. M. Maxwell sold 2 acres north of Piedmont Church to the Calvary School trustees.

1917 Deed: W. A. Carr sold the Calvary School trustees and the Piedmont Church officers 4 1/2 acres adjacent to the school and church lands.

1922 "Survey of Georgia Schools": Calvary School had 116 students enrolled in its 10 grades. The large building had 4 classrooms and was partially painted; the floors were not oiled and the building was poorly planned. The school had good blackboards, one map, one small globe, a small library, and 2 pianos. The pupils drank water from a spring on the grounds and there was only one surface toilet, in poor condition.

Teachers : H. C. Page, Mrs. Tom Stephens, Mrs. Glenn Griffith, Miss Nora Dalton.

According to "The Cairo Messenger" ...

1926- 1928: Calvary students were studying Physics, Latin, and Journalism.

1928: The Calvary Junior class entertained the Seniors at a party in the city hall; the local orchestra rendering the Music. [?] Teachers were Miss Margaret Williams, Miss Elsie Nesbitt, Miss Lois Maxwell, Miss Elizabeth Jackson.

1933-34: A new school house was built during the year with aid of CWA labor. The library was increased in size 150%. The school is on the State Junior High School accredited list.

The school held its closing exercises on May 4th with a picnic, program, and presentation of certificates.

Teachers : L. H. McGuffey, principal

Chason Harrison, 6th and 7th grades

Virginia Thomas, 4th and 5th grades

Catherine Maxwell, 2nd and 3rd grades

Joyce Maxwell, primer and 1st grades

1936-1937: The high school students that were going to Cairo and Whigham went to the schools in their district on the district bus and then were transported to their high school.

Four free school books were issued to all pupils in grades 1 - 6 (Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, and Spelling). Other books had to be purchased by students.

1939: The continuing of the Reno, Calvary, and Elpino Junior Highs was jeopardized because of economic moves by the state.

1946: The Grady County School Board proposed consolidating

Calvary and Reno Schools.

1952: The County Board called for consolidating Reno and Calvary Schools into an elementary school to be built halfway between the two communities and be named Maxwell School.

Reno voted to merge with Cairo and Calvary voted to keep their school.

Construction of the proposed Maxwell School was placed last on the priority list.

1954: Caney School, a 2 teacher school, near Calvary, burned.

It was one of the last old time school buildings in the county.

1955: Work began on construction of the Beckbranch School.

August 1956: The Georgia State Board of Education ruling

"prevented Calvary pupils from attending Cairo schools and

Reno pupils from attending Calvary, in order to maintain the

attendance pattern established with the consolidation vote".

September 1957: The Calvary Elementary School (1 - 6 grades) opened with 65 students; Beckbranch School (1 - 7 grades) had 255 pupils.

1963: The Board of Education voted to close the Calvary School, the last unconsolidated school in the county, and transfer the students to Cairo.

1969: The Calvary School house was demolished. It has been said by many to be the "saddest time in Calvary's history".

Carolyn Herring Chason