

The History of Woodland School
based on the writing of
Mrs. V.H. Sullivan
and prepared
by Larry Deaton, Assistant Superintendent
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Woodland School was numbered District #54 in about 1910. At that time there were 100 schools in Jackson County. The name Woodland has no special significance except at the time the school was established the areas had many trees.

Woodland was a one-room school, much the shape of our modern railroad boxcars, with three or four windows on the east side of the building and an equal amount on the west side-----and only a door on the south side of the building with an adequate porch of concrete. The building was painted white. The ground, including the building site, was one-half of an acre in a square form. There were outside toilets built of wood, the one on the west side of the yard for girls and the one on the east side for the boys.

Inside the building some of the seats were large enough to seat two pupils. The desks the pupils were to use were attached to the seat of the one in front and often the pupil in front would jar the desk of the pupil behind them making a noise to the delight of the pupils. The school could comfortably seat 38 pupils in the room, but in the school year of 1921-22, there were 41 pupils, so it required some adjusting.

In the north-east corner of the room, there was a glass and wood library case---and 290 books that were valued at \$100. During the years 1921-22, the school Board spent \$35 for books that would be of interest and were approved by the State Course of Study for each of the grades one through eight. These books were used for reference and additional reading. Free textbooks were allowed in 1916. We had a map of the United States on the wall, a globe on the teacher's desk and a picture of George Washington. A blackboard was across the north side of the building and a blackboard between the first and second windows on the east and west sides of the building. The chalk was purchased by the school district.

In Mrs. V.H. Sullivan's own words, "We followed the State Course of Study that was received each year each quarter of the year we received a list of questions from the State Superintendent over the work as outlined in the State Course of Study. The teacher wrote the questions on the blackboard and the pupils from the different grades copied them and wrote the answers as they had studied the previous quarter. This was a test to learn how much the pupil had learned from each subject he has studied. The teacher graded the papers and the grades were recorded on a report card that was sent home by the pupil for their parents to sign and return. Some homework was assigned to each grade, but the work was done usually while the other classes were reciting.

We sang songs as opening exercise after lunch without music, according to the season of the year or any song in our song books. The pupils enjoyed selecting new songs every day.

We had individual drinking cups and a galvanized bucket that sat on a shelf near the door. It had two shelves and hooks beneath for the extra clothing the pupils wore to school and on the playground. Some of the pupils had lunch buckets they brought from their homes, but most of them used sacks and newspapers they could destroy and did not have to take back home. There were shelves on each side of the door on the south wall. The one on the west was for the girls' lunches and clothing and the one on the east side was for the boys' lunches and clothing.

The teacher appointed two monitors each week to distribute the lunches just before noon each day----one for the girls and one for the boys. To tease the monitors, some of the pupils would hesitate to claim their lunches until their sisters or brothers would tell whose lunch it was. The pupils ate their lunches in bad weather at the desks or at their friend's desk. Sometimes the boys enjoyed eating their lunches in the coal shed in the yard.

We had balls and bats the pupils brought from home. The boys usually played on the east side of the building and the girls on the west side. When snow was on the ground they played together-----a game they called FOX and GEESE. By making a large circle in the snow twice and a home base, the idea was not to allow the fox to catch anyone when they ventured from the home base.

The pupils usually walked to school or in inclement weather, some member of the family usually brought them and came after them in the evening.

We had a cast iron stove in the southwest corner of the room, with a protective jacket on all sides, except on the east side where the door was located and the coal for the heat was placed. This was made of sheet metal and was as high as the stove for protection of any pupil who may get too close. The coal was purchased by the School Board and stored in a small building on the north-east corner of the school year. One or two of the boys who were in school played custodian. They swept the floor, dusted and had the responsibility of the stove and heat for the room. They were paid by the Board \$5 or \$2.50 each per month if two were working.

Above the teacher's desk was an opening in the ceiling approximately two-feet square that was covered by a board so anyone could go into the attic for repairs. The ceiling was approximately 8' to 10' high and by stepping on the teacher's desk and assisting each other, the boys would go into the attic.

There was a cistern about 20-25 feet from the southwest corner of the steps which were south of the concrete porch on the south side of the school building. Mr. Ernest James and Mr. H ram Roach dug the cistern and added drain tile from the roof of the schoolhouse to the well, which gave us a supply of water near the building previously it was carried from a spring across the road and east to a spring on Mr. Lentz' farm. We had green window shades on each of our windows so we could adjust to the sun's rays.

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Mr. Leroy French Blackburn was the County Superintendent from 1909-1940. His daughter, Miss Marie Blackburn, works in the Independence Courthouse. The school Board consisted of three members. The school day began at 9 a.m. and ended at 4 p.m. There was an hour for lunch. The curriculum was reading, arithmetic, geography, writing, spelling, grammar and drawing.

Familiar names that either attended the school, served on the Board or taught include the following: Mann, Lentz, Bogart, Woolridge, Powell, Morrow, Clark, Childress, Clements, Bohnert, Stewarts, Crook, Johnson, Ahmann, Baldus, Chatburn, Kuhlman, Corn, Vaughn, Ferguson, Craven and White.

The first recorded teacher salary was \$50 per month; \$400 per year---to teach for