

**THE HISTORY OF HUMPHREYS COUNTY HIGH
SCHOOLS**

JOYCE ENOCHS BULLINGTON

THE HISTORY OF HUMPHREYS COUNTY HIGH SCHOOLS

An Abstract
Presented to
the Graduate Council of
Austin Peay State University

In Partial Fulfillment
of the requirements for the Degree
Master of Arts
in Education

by
Joyce Enochs Bullington

August, 1973

ABSTRACT

The story of secondary education in Humphreys County for the past fifty years has been one of continual change. This change has been in the form of consolidation, improvement of school plants and curricula.

Indeed the progress of public education in Humphreys County has been all but phenomenal. Public education in the county started near White Oak Creek in the northeastern part of the county with a school building constructed of hickory poles.

The county at one time had as many as five high schools. They were Waverly, Bakerville, McEwen, Porch Reed and Tribble. Waverly and McEwen are now the only high schools that are left in the county.

Graduates from various secondary schools of Humphreys County have made many outstanding contributions to society in many places throughout the world. The people of the county are particularly pleased with the success of these graduates.

Past action of the Humphreys County Board of Education in consolidating the five secondary schools of the county into two has tended to improve the plants, educational resources and curricula of secondary education in Humphreys County. The Board continues to make every effort to insure the safety of the students, to upgrade the curriculum and promote secondary education in the county at the highest level possible.

THE HISTORY OF HUMPHREYS COUNTY HIGH SCHOOLS

A Thesis

Presented to
the Graduate Council of
Austin Peay State University

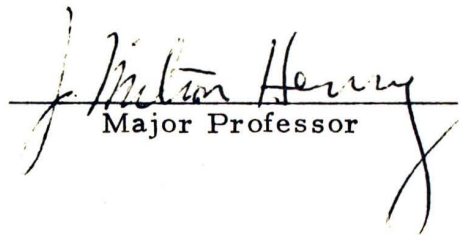
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August, 1973

To the Graduate Council:

I am submitting herewith a Thesis written by Joyce Enochs Bullington entitled "The History of Humphreys County High Schools." I recommend that it be accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Education, with a major in History.


Major Professor

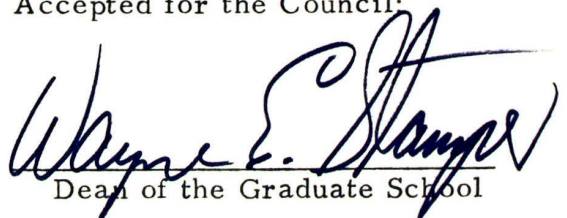
We have read this thesis and
recommend its acceptance:


Minor Professor

for Dr. Burns


Third Committee Member *for Kierman*

Accepted for the Council:


Dean of the Graduate School

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author wishes to express appreciation to the members of the graduate committee, Dr. J. Milton Henry, Dr. L. Paul Hyatt, and Dr. Fred Bunger. The assistance of Dr. J. Milton Henry in designing the research was greatly appreciated.

The author would like to thank her husband, Ernest, daughters, Patricia and Rebecca, and her parents, Wilbert and Annie Enochs, for their aid and understanding.

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INTRODUCTION

The schools in Humphreys County over the last fifty years have gone through a tremendous change. The smaller ones have been consolidated with the larger ones as the attendance dropped.

The county at one time had five high schools. They were Waverly, McEwen, Porch Reed, Tribble and Bakerville. Waverly and McEwen are now the only high schools that are left in the county.

Many students have graduated from the schools and made outstanding contributions to society in many places throughout the world. The people of the county are exceptionally proud of the success of the graduates.

The Humphreys County Board of Education also makes every effort, at the present time, to insure the safety of the students, to upgrade the curriculum and promote education in the county at the highest level.

CHAPTER I

MC EWEN SCHOOL

The people of McEwen School began to show an interest in education soon after it was settled by the Irish. The little town is located in the northeastern part of Humphreys County about nine miles east of Waverly and fifty-seven miles west of Nashville on the Louisville and Nashville Railroad.

Spencer T. Hunt was so interested in education that he dedicated his estate as a perpetual fund for the education of the children of Dickson and Humphreys Counties.

The memorial shaft is located on the east side of the McEwen Oil Company near Highway 70 where it can be seen today. The inscription reads:

Spencer T. Hunt
Died February, 1844

He who does most for the education of the masses serves his country best as the preservation of our liberty depends upon the virtue and intelligence of its people.¹

¹ Jill Knight Garrett, A History of Humphreys County, (Columbia, Tennessee, 1963) p. 26.

Continuing growth and ever changing economic conditions had a pronounced effect on the McEwen School System. McEwen had subscription schools, the academy, city schools, supported only by city taxes and a tuition paid by each pupil, and the McEwen Preparatory School.

There were many private schools of importance in the county. In the Eighth District, one of them was located at McEwen.²

Professor T. M. Flannary established the first educational institution and called it the McEwen Preparatory School in 1896.³ He and his faculty were interested in expanding the curriculum for the school.

It was one of the most thorough and complete schools of the south. If the whole county had been carefully considered, no better site could have been found. The magnificent building and girls' boarding hall just fit the top of a point of a gradual rise which sloped in every direction making it one of the prettiest locations to be found.

The McEwen Preparatory School was a two story brick building that had arched windows and doorways. It was attractively landscaped near the front of the building.

²Goodspeed, Goodspeed History of Montgomery, Robertson, Humphreys, Stewart, Dickson, Cheatham, Houston Counties of Tennessee, (Columbia, Tennessee: Woodland and Stinson Printing Co.) p. 892.

³The Waverly Sentinel, September 1, 1902.

The entire building was heated by coal stoves. The classrooms were heated with small stoves. When the building was cold, the students would often sit in a circle around the stove to try to keep warm.

On top of the building was a huge bell that was always rung at 8:00 in the morning. It was also a very joyous sound about 4:00 each day when school was dismissed in the afternoon.⁴

The building was square shaped with a pointed roof. The vestibule entrance was built of three brick columns. There were four classrooms on the first floor. In one of these was a stairway leading on the second floor. There was also a huge auditorium on the first floor that was used for assembly programs.

The old cistern supplied water for the students because there was no water system in the town at that time. It was near the building and contained a good supply for everyone.

The school had old drop cords that hung from the ceiling to provide lights for the different rooms. The electricity was provided by the city of McEwen for a limited amount of time each day.⁵

The grammar school was taught on the first floor, and the high school students were instructed on the second floor. The seating

⁴Statement by Carlene Luther, personal interview, July 5, 1972.

⁵Statement by Landon Taylor, personal interview, June 19, 1972.

arrangement was quite different because the girls sat on one side of the room and the boys sat on the opposite side.

The average salary that was paid to teachers was \$35 per month and the superintendent was paid \$500 per year.⁶ Most teachers were very proud of their profession even though the salary was very low.

There was no transportation provided. Everyone walked to school or rode a horse. It only served those who lived in the immediate vicinity. Some students boarded with their relatives in town and attended school. A few of them lived in a girl's boarding house that was located on the campus.

The 1902 Special Edition of the Waverly Sentinel carried advertisements of the McEwen Preparatory School, along with pictures of its principal, T. M. Flannary, the music teacher, Mrs. Dunbar and a cut of the girl's boarding hall. The advertisement follows verbatim:

The people of McEwen and that section of the state should bestir themselves and awaken to the fact that Professor Flannary is now establishing in their midst one of the most thorough and complete schools for their boys and girls in all the South. Professor Flannary, the principal of this school is a thorough Christian gentleman, a man of wide experience in school work and his reputation as an educator is almost without equal. Too much cannot be said in his behalf and those who have children to train and educate could

⁶Goodspeed, Goodspeed History of Montgomery, Robertson, Humphreys, Stewart, Dickson, Cheatham, Houston Counties of Tennessee, (Columbia, Tennessee: Woodland and Stinson Printing Company) p. 91.

not put them in better hands. The people should give them their hearty co-operation and patronage and by so doing he will be enabled to build up for them a school second to none.

The school is not devoted merely to the training of teachers or candidates for universities and colleges, but we shall endeavor to prepare for the real duties of life and our prime object is to establish a permanent preparatory school for boys and girls to fit them for the real duties of life as well as for colleges and universities.

This is thorough and in all cases a well trend to the awakening of natural thought though it is not how much Greek, Latin and mathematics one has gone over that counts, but how much manhood and womanhood is realized and how much the field of mental and moral vision has been enlarged as has been said, 'Man Is Not Born, But Made by Education.'⁷

Despite the lofty and laudable intent of Professor Flannary, this school was of short duration and many citizens of McEwen who are of sufficient age to do so do not remember its existence.

Some of the subjects included in the curriculum were French, solid geometry, plane geometry, Latin, trigonometry, American history, ancient history and English.

School was continued in the same building after Professor Flannary left the city. It was referred to then as the McEwen City School. Some folks even called it the old college.

Before 1908, Mr. Alfred Hatcher was principal. Mr. Robert L. Sutton, the father of Mrs. A. B. Bryant of McEwen, Tennessee,

⁷ The Waverly Sentinel, September 1, 1902.

served from 1908 until 1913. During the summer months he taught college courses for those who were preparing to teach in a state institution.

Other principals who worked in the school were: J. T. Brawly, E. C. Stroud, John Faussett, Archibald Hollingsworth and J. E. Bates.

Some of the outstanding teachers at this time were Mrs. J. T. Brawly, Mrs. Ada Morris, Mrs. Allie Perry, Mrs. Hallie Perry, C. Paul Jones, Will Ellis, Miss Mamie Swift, Robert D. Hollowell, Mrs. Lula Bruce Corbitt, Miss Susie Meadows, Ashley Chappel, Mrs. Napoleon Shanks, Mrs. Corrine Sugg, Mrs. Gladys Williams, Mr. Tom Flannery, Leonard Smith, Willie Coleman, Lynn Smith, Mrs. Ruth McGraw Courtener, Mrs. Carrie Pace, Mrs. Ida Young Estes, J. M. Phy, Mrs. Alma Hudson, C. C. Cowell, Mrs. W. L. Foenick, Mabel Stevensons, H. Marmor, Sam Morris, Mrs. John Fausett, Annie Louise Ridings, Mrs. Terry Headrich, Mrs. J. E. Bates and Ed Smith who later became president of Ruskin College.

The playground was very small consisting of approximately one and one half acres. Therefore the athletic program of the school was very limited.

The members of the graduating class of 1923 were Elizabeth Balthrop, Carlene Wright, Gladys Ridings and Mary Jo Turner.⁸

⁸ Statement by Carlene Luther, personal interview, July 1, 1973.

The valedictorian was Elizabeth Balthrop who also taught a Latin class during her senior year.⁹

The enrollment dropped drastically to about 35 and the old McEwen brick school building proved inadequate. Robert Sutton was the last teacher at the McEwen City School.

The county board built a school in 1927 in the northern part of the town at almost the same spot where the McEwen School is now located. The people were very proud of it.

The new brick school was a one story building that had twelve classrooms and a large auditorium to accommodate the students in grades one through twelve. The outside of the building was beautifully landscaped with shrubs that bloomed each spring.

The huge auditorium was in the center of the front of the building. It was used for an assembly hall, and had large wooden desks that were screwed to the floor. It was also used for a study hall during the day.

One of the greatest problems that the new school had was the furnace. It was never dependable. In the winter time it would often break down and the students would wear their heavy coats all day in the classroom which made them very uncomfortable. It usually was not repaired quickly because of a scarcity of money in the county funds.

⁹ Statement by Elizabeth Balthrop, personal interview, July 16, 1972.

The furnace was also very old and it was hard to get repairs for it.

The high school classes met in the rooms on each side of the auditorium. There were small and had a limited amount of materials and audio visual equipment.

The library was located on the south side of the building. It was small and had very few books for the students to use.

School supplies for the high school were sold in Miss Mamie Swift's first grade room. The proceeds were used to buy things for the school. It was always a joy for students to go into her room because she kept it attractively decorated. At Christmas time there was always a tree in her room as tall as the ceiling that glistened with tinsel and icicles and sparkled all over.

The curriculum was very limited. Some of the courses that were offered were American history, English, economics, agriculture, biology, algebra I, math, geometry and algebra II. Many of the students wanted to take other courses but there was not any equipment or instructor for them.

The home economics department was established in 1928 by Mrs. A. D. Spivy. Mrs. Christine Baraga, who is the present head of the department, took her place. The program included three years of home economics with much emphasis on cooking and sewing. This department was located in the basement under the first and second

grade room.¹⁰

The agriculture department was added and the first instructor was James Cummings. It was located in the basement under the seventh and eighth grade room. This was a very small program. Probably the high light of the year was the exchange classes. The boys would take home economics and the girls would take agriculture for about two weeks.

At the end of the two weeks they would usually have a chili supper in the agriculture building. The social was always enjoyed by everyone.

The basketball and football clubs were organized under the supervision of their first coach, Mr. Jimmy Hicks. Admission to the games for students during the day in the early 1940's was five cents.

The school did not have a band or any kind of music program. The students who wanted to take piano lessons walked down town and took lessons from Mrs. Mabel Morris. She often assisted with the graduation exercises since she was perhaps the only music teacher in McEwen at that time.

The principals were Mr. E. C. Stroud, Mr. Porter Daniel and Mr. N. N. Norton. They were outstanding leaders.

Some of the teachers who taught in the building were Mr. Ray Carter, Mrs. Claire Patterson, Mrs. Christine Baraga, Mrs. Gladys

¹⁰ Statement by Mrs. Christine Baraga, personal interview, June 4, 1972.

Williams, Mrs. Corrine Sugg, Miss Mamie Swift, Mrs. Evie Mae Ross, Miss Lois Weems, Mr. Eddie Mitchell, Mrs. Kathryn Richardson, Miss Thelma Pittard, Miss Alice Faubian, Mr. Cliff Gibbons, Miss Era Tipps, Mr. Fay Dudley, Mrs. A. D. Spivey, Miss Mattie Pearl Ridings, Mr. Foster Pinkeston, Mr. Fred Baraga, Mrs. Laura Simpson, Mr. Henry Gentry, Miss Doris B. Sloneckey, Mr. and Mrs. B. E. Ray, Garrett Cowen, Miss Susie Patterson, and Mrs. Clara Diehl.

During World War II the student body was greatly affected. Some of them volunteered for service and many of them were drafted.

Inside the school building a huge satin flag was placed on the wall in the auditorium. It measured about five feet tall and three feet wide. A white star was placed on a blue shaped V in front of a red background for each boy that went into service.

The students of McEwen School who paid the supreme price for democracy during World War II were Robert Joel Ridings, Leroy Pinkeston, Odie Ballard, Howard Priest, L. H. Winstead, Jr., Thomas Mullinicks and Virgil Wallace.

Patriotism was very evident in the schools. Almost every student had a relative or a friend who had gone into service. For this reason, they wanted to do something to help win the war. The classes decided to do something to help the boys who had gone to war. They collected scrapiron, tin cans and newspapers all over the town. The

groups competed against each other to see which one could collect the most. A small prize was always given to the winner.

The students also bought stamps that could be redeemed for a United States Savings Bond when they had filled their book. Many felt they were being patriotic to buy them even though they never got enough stamps to buy a bond.

Many of the students were transported by bus to McEwen School. During the war years, transportation was a problem because many of the buses broke down. Some of them could not be repaired for two or three weeks at a time. This inconvenience caused the students to walk or ride their bicycles to school.

The Parent Teachers Association helped sponsor a big money raising project for the school each year. The Harvest Festival was a special day because the students got out of class all day to attend and take part in the festivities. On that day they could attend plays, ball games, ride the fire truck, visit the spook house and take part in other things during the day. They could spend their spare time eating and visiting.

The Harvest Festival Queen was also crowned. This was the high light of the program for the day. Usually the Parent Teachers Association would clear a large profit on this money making activity. The proceeds were partly used to buy equipment for the school.

Before the cafeteria was equipped the P. T. A. served soup

and sandwiches. Later they spent \$4,000 equipping the new kitchen. Mr. Ned Ridings donated all of the carpenter work for the lunch room.

In 1945 the first senior class picture was made of the graduating class. It was hung on the wall and every one was very proud of it.

The people of McEwen were deeply grieved when the school burned in 1946. The cause of the fire was not known but it was attributed to poor wiring.

Until the school could be rebuilt, elementary classes were conducted in church buildings and other public buildings. The high school classes were taught in the gym. Mr. Grady Duncan was the principal when the building burned. Other teachers who joined the faculty were the following: Ann Dugger started teaching in McEwen during 1948.¹¹ Ila Mary Greenwell joined the faculty in 1949.¹² Billy Joe Ross became a member of it in 1951.¹³

George K. Tate used some of the brick from the burned building in the construction of the present home of Mrs. Edward Denslow on West Main Street in Waverly. The use of this type of brick is fashionable and makes a beautiful dwelling.¹⁴

¹¹Tennessee School Register, 1948.

¹²Tennessee School Register, 1949.

¹³Tennessee School Register, 1951.

¹⁴News Democrat published in Waverly, Tennessee, July 14, 1965.

A new building was completed in 1948 under the guidance of a committee consisting of Mac C. Simpson, County Judge; W. R. Warden and Durward Ross. Hart and McBride designed the building which was erected by the Boone Contracting Company.

The new structure is a two story building made of brick. The rooms on the first floor are used for the elementary grades. The second floor is used for the high school. There is also a huge auditorium, library, office, clinic, counseling room, band room, private music room, annual room and teachers' lounge. The floors are all concrete and most of them have been covered with tile.

The outside of the building is beautifully landscaped with a small white fence in front of the shrubs. A huge flag pole stands on the east side of the building where the United States flag and the State flag gently wave in the breeze each day.

There is a large agriculture building on the campus. All the shop and agriculture classes are taught there. It is made of gray concrete blocks. On the inside of the building is one large classroom. The rest of the space is used for shop classes.

A new gym was built on the grounds to boost the athletic program. It was built of brick to match the school building. It has a concession stand that is located in the front of it. The bleachers on each side can usually seat a fairly large crowd during the athletic season.

This present modern spacious gymnasium was erected in 1956

by the Slayden Lumber Company of Waverly according to plans and specifications prepared by architects Donald Cowan and J. Carl Russell when Henry Gentry was Superintendent of Humphreys County and W. Lunn McKeel was County Judge.

The first principal of the new building was Foster Pinkeston. He was followed by H. W. Stewart.

Mr. Byram D. Phy became the principal in 1953.¹⁵ He is a native of Humphreys County who received his B. S. Degree at Austin Peay State College and his M. A. and Ed.S. Degree from Peabody College. He has done much to improve the standards of the school. In 1953 with the help of the Exchange Club, he lighted the football field. In 1955 the vo-ag class room and shop were built. Two classrooms were added to relieve the crowded condition in 1955. Later the east and south outside campus was sodded in grass. In 1954 shrubbery was planted around the building to beautify the grounds. The gymnasium and band room were built in 1956. He had the bus loading zone paved in 1958. The entire school was refurnished with new school desks in 1960. Later that same year, all the floors were tiled. In 1964 a new cafeteria and four classrooms were built. During that same year the library was enlarged. Also in 1964 a forty acre farm adjoining the campus was bought for the agriculture classes to

¹⁵Tennessee School Register, 1953.

use. In 1965 a new football field with lights was added to the campus.

Mr. Phy worked very closely with the community to get these improvements from time to time. His efforts and achievements will always be remembered by everyone.

Later Mr. Phy went to the State Department of Education to work. At the present time he is Superintendent of Humphreys County Schools.¹⁶

In 1963 the members of the McEwen School Faculty were: Byram Phy, principal, Evie Mae Ross, Gene Trotter, Claire Patterson, Elizabeth Biggs, Christine Baraga, Glenn Shiver, Benny Collins, Jere Hooper, Martha Van Huss, Joyce Bullington, William Ethridge, Jane Brooks, Lottie Long, Ruth Tate, Clara Diehl, Tommy Abernathy, Corrine Sugg, Susie Patterson, Shirley Dugger, Alma Long and William Honea.¹⁷

The principal of McEwen School at the present time (1973) is David Wagster. He has held this position since 1968. Mr. Wagster has added several new subjects to the curriculum since he has been the principal.

Last year for the first time the classes were operated on a new schedule. They were two hours long each day. Many of the students liked the plan because they finished the course in one semester.

¹⁶Statement by Byram Phy, personal interview, July 17, 1973.

¹⁷Jill Knight Garrett, A History of Humphreys County, (Columbia, Tennessee, 1963) p. 154.

The school has many clubs and activities for the students to enjoy. Some of the students belong to more than one club.

The library club was started about 1959. Students may belong to it who want to help work in the library. The members have various duties such as filing cards, putting books on the shelf, carding the books, checking out books for the lower grades and other things.

They usually go on an educational trip during the year. This club is sponsored by Mrs. Katherine Hickerson.

The McEwen Future Teachers was established November 26, 1958 by Mrs. Joyce Bullington. The purpose of the club is to inspire and work with students who want to become teachers.

During the year each member works with a certain teacher. At the end of the term they always attend the convention that is held at different colleges each year in Middle Tennessee.

Johnny Larkins and Cathy Larkins are members of the McEwen High School Faculty. They did outstanding work in the McEwen Chapter of the Future Teachers of America when they were in high school.

At the present time Patricia Bullington and Jacob Schreiber are attending Austin Peay State University to become teachers. They were also very active members of the club during their high school years.

The McEwen Chapter of Future Farmers is the largest club in McEwen School. It is presently sponsored by Mr. Glenn Shivers, who has been the chapter advisor since 1961.

The McEwen Chapter has won a number of various awards in the last few years. This is attributed to the enthusiastic leader and the energy that he puts forth each year.

F. F. A. SWEETHEART

<u>Name</u>	<u>Year</u>
Frances Deck ¹⁸	1959
Jo Kraus ¹⁹	1962
Paulette Hicks ²⁰	1964
Kathy Elkins ²¹	1965
Carolyn Sheehy ²²	1966
Vickie Doyle ²³	1967
Rita Hicks ²⁴	1968
Pamela Mangrum ²⁵	1969
Ruth Crowell ²⁶	1970
Cheryl Craig ²⁷	1971
Patricia Bullington ²⁸	1972
Sharon Schreiber ²⁹	1973

¹⁸School Annual, The Warrior, 1959.

¹⁹School Annual, The Warrior, 1962.

²⁰School Annual, The Warrior, 1964.

²¹School Annual, The Warrior, 1965.

²²School Annual, Warrior, 1966.

²³School Annual, Warrior, 1967.

²⁴School Annual, Warrior, 1968.

²⁵School Annual, Warrior, 1969.

²⁶School Annual, Warrior, 1970.

²⁷School Annual, The Warrior, 1971.

²⁸School Annual, The Warrior, 1972.

²⁹School Annual, The Warrior, 1973.

The Beta Club is sponsored by Mrs. Evie Mae Ross. Students must have a high average in order to be eligible to join the club.

The Beta Club sponsors a money raising project each year. Usually they have a Queen of Hearts Contest. Each class elects a queen and the one that raises the most money is given the honor of being crowned in front of the student body.

SENIOR QUEEN OF HEARTS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Year</u>
Ann Brantly ³⁰	1964
Kay Redman ³¹	1966
Rita Hicks ³²	1967
Peggy Hurt ³³	1968
Cathy Moran ³⁴	1969
Pamela Holland ³⁵	1970
Lulu Moran ³⁶	1971
Debra Shanks ³⁷	1972
Rebecca Bullington ³⁸	1973

³⁰School Annual, The Warrior, 1964.

³¹School Annual, Warrior, 1966.

³²School Annual, Warrior, 1967.

³³School Annual, Warrior, 1968.

³⁴School Annual, Warrior, 1969.

³⁵School Annual, Warrior, 1970.

³⁶School Annual, The Warrior, 1971.

³⁷School Annual, The Warrior, 1972.

³⁸School Annual, The Warrior, 1973.

During the year the students and their sponsor edit the school annual. It includes pictures of most of the main events that happen during the year.

The McEwen Future Business Leaders is sponsored by Miss Martha Jo VanHuss. In order for a student to belong to this club they must have a major or minor in the subject.

Once a year they usually attend a convention in Middle Tennessee. Sometimes they enter typing contests.

The Home Economics Club is sponsored by Mrs. Christine Baraga. This is for those who are majoring in the subject and are interested in home making.

The Math Club is sponsored by Benny Collins. He usually takes his students to a math contest at Austin Peay State University each year.

Another fascinating phase of the program is the McEwen High School Band. It is directed by Mr. James D. Felts. This year, 1972-73, about forty students participated in the program.

A new phase that was added to the program for the first time was the color guard. The girls walk in front of the band dressed in black and white suits and carry red and white flags. They were captain, Patricia Bullington; co-captain, Amy Hatcher; Rebecca Bullington, Glenda Hooper, Sharon Schreiber, Vicki Ethridge, Debbie Tyler, Phyllis Hendrix and Clista Shivers.

The band has won many outstanding honors. They are backed by the Band Boosters Club and various people in the community.

Some people proudly boast as they see them marching down the street, "that is the biggest little band in the U. S. A."

The band plays for all the home football games. It seems to add an air of festivity to the occasion. Everyone is excited to see the boys make a touchdown as they listen to the band and watch confetti float through the air.

Football and basketball are very attractive sports in the school. This group is coached by Bill Hendrix, Kenneth Ross and L. C. Nolan. The athletic teams have won many honors through the years. It is supported well by the community.

The highlight of the year is the Homecoming Game. At this time a queen and her court is chosen to reign over the homecoming festivities. The occasion is also high lighted by floats that are built by each class. These are always shown at half time.

HOMECOMING

<u>Queen</u>	<u>Crown Bearer</u>	<u>Year</u>
Martha Bone ³⁹	Rita Walsh	1958
Ilene Hooper ⁴⁰	Rita Walsh	1959
Regina Tarpy ⁴¹	Patricia Bullington	1961
Wanda Hooper ⁴²	Joye Holland	1962
Carolyn Patterson ⁴³	Mary Jane Chappell	1964
Judy Wallace ⁴⁴	Phyllis Hendrix	1965
Glenda Baker ⁴⁵	Rebecca Bullington	1966
Kathy Elkins ⁴⁶	Lisa Hooper	1967
Sherry Larkin ⁴⁷	Melissa Hooper	1968
Rita Rachford ⁴⁸	Terese Worke	1969
Barbara Tarpy ⁴⁹	Debra Bradley	1970
Kay James ⁵⁰	Kennda Ross	1971
Wanda Crowell ⁵¹	Matthew Hendrix	1972
Debra Sanders ⁵²	Karen Wilson and Brent Shivers	1973

³⁹School Annual, The Warrior, 1958.

⁴⁰School Annual, The Warrior, 1959.

⁴¹School Annual, Warrior, 1961.

⁴²School Annual, The Warrior, 1962.

⁴³School Annual, The Warrior, 1964.

⁴⁴School Annual, The Warrior, 1965.

⁴⁵School Annual, Warrior, 1966.

⁴⁶School Annual, Warrior, 1967.

⁴⁷School Annual, Warrior, 1968.

⁴⁸School Annual, Warrior, 1969.

⁴⁹School Annual, Warrior, 1970.

⁵⁰School Annual, The Warrior, 1971.

⁵¹School Annual, The Warrior, 1972.

⁵²School Annual, The Warrior, 1973.

The cheerleaders always add great enthusiasm to all of the games. They are elected by the student body.

On the day of Homecoming a parade is formed that goes through the main part of town. It is headed by the band that stops in the center of the town and plays for everyone. The streets are lined with parents who proudly listen and enjoy every moment of it.

The school cafeteria serves about eight hundred lunches each day. It has a double serving line and can take care of the student body in a short period of time.

The cafeteria workers for 1973 were Mrs. Elizabeth Ross, supervisor; Mrs. Lula Pace, Mrs. Louise Fuqua, Mrs. Bertie Long, Mrs. Robbie Dotson, Mrs. Minnie Philips, Mrs. Aline Chamers and Mrs. Linda Shivers.

The school secretary is Mrs. Barbara Hendriz. She began working as a teacher's aid in 1967. Then she started working as a secretary for Mr. Byram Phy in 1968. She continued in this position when Mr. Wagster became principal, after Mr. Phy went to work at the State Department.

Miss Linnie Chronister started teaching private piano lessons in 1949. Through the years she has worked with over 2,500 students. She was always happy to assist teachers and students with assembly programs. Her great work will be long remembered at McEwen School.

She was honored by McEwen Parent Teachers Association at the organization's installation of officers meeting held May 11, 1973.

Known to her many friends throughout Humphreys County as "Miss Linnie" she was presented with an engraved trophy as a token of appreciation for her faithful music service to McEwen. It was presented by the P. T. A. president, Mrs. Doyle Dillingham.⁵³ Miss Chronister retired at the end of the 1972-73 school year and is missed by everyone.

The school counselors have been Mrs. Evie Mae Ross and Bill Hendrix. During the latter part of the year Mr. Hendrix resigned to go into the insurance business and was replaced by L. J. Hatcher.

The bus drivers for the year were Donald Berryman, Joe Edwards, George Wheeler, Ed Shanks, Grady Hargrove, Hubert Gray, Billy Larkin, Lloyd Hooper and Mitchell Forrester.

The only panel truck available in the Liberty Community was driven by Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert Enochs. It was used for many years to deliver students to the McEwen School.⁵⁴ They have now both retired and the route is being serviced by a large school bus.

One of the finest librarians that the school ever had retired in 1972. Mrs. Elizabeth Biggs always took time to help the students and

⁵³ News Democrat published in Waverly, Tennessee, May 11, 1972.

⁵⁴ Statement by Mrs. Annie Enochs, personal interview, August, 1972

faculty when they needed help. She often brought books from her own library for students when they were not available in the school library. She was a great help to everyone.

Mr. W. L. Ethridge, an eight grade teacher, has also served as a magistrate for a number of years. During all of this time he has worked very hard for the McEwen School.

The following are the 1973 honor students at McEwen High School:

Jessee Michael Edwards, valedictorian, is a member of the Science, Math and Beta Clubs. While in school, he played on the basketball team. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jess Edwards.

Walter Edwin Hoff, salutatorian, is a member of the Science, Math, and Beta Clubs. During his Senior year he was elected Most Bashful. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Hoff.

Arthur Eugene Summers is a member of the Science, Math, and Beta Clubs and the basketball team. During his Senior year, he was secretary-treasurer of the Math Club. He was elected Most Studious by the class. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Summers.

Patricia Ann Bullington is a member of Future Business Leaders, Future Teachers, Science Club, Student Council, Beta Club and 4-H Club.⁵⁵ During her Senior year, she was president of the band,

⁵⁵ Magic Valley Times published in New Johnsonville, Tennessee, May 30, 1973.

captain of the color guard, vice-president of the F. B. L. A., president of the F. T. A. She was elected Most Cooperative. She was also a school reporter for the Magic Valley Times. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Ray Bullington.

Jacob Fredrick schreiber is a member of the Science Club, Student Council, Beta Club, F. F. A. and F. T. A. During his Senior year, he was president of the senior class as well as the Future Farmers of America. He was also elected Most Likely to Succeed. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Leon Schreiber.

Teresa Elaine Morton is a member of the 4-H Club, Future Homemakers of America, Annual Staff, Future Teachers of America, F. B. L. A., and Library Club. During her Senior year, she was reporter of the Future Business Leaders and Future Teachers. She is the niece of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Stanfield of McEwen.

James Byram Phy holds membership in the Student Council, Science Club, Math Club and F. F. A. He played on the football and basketball team for four years. During his Senior year he was president of the Student Council, elected Most Athletic and Warrior Brave. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Byram Phy.

Robye Jean Long is a member of the Science Club and Future Homemakers of America. She was elected Class Favorite during her Freshman and Junior years. She has served as parliamentarian and president of the Future Business Leaders of America, editor of

the High Times staff, secretary of the senior class and served on the annual staff. She was elected Personality Plus during her Senior year. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James W. Long of McEwen.

Ronnie Lee Wanamaker belonged to F. F. A., Science Club, Beta Club, Future Teachers of America and was a member of the basketball team. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Wanamaker.

Johnny Richard Davis was vice-president of the senior class and was elected Class Favorite. He is a member of the F. F. A., Beta Club, Math Club, Science Club and the basketball team. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Henry Davis.

Dale Edward Tarpy is a member of the Science Club, Math Club, Beta Club, F. F. A., and the football team. During his Senior year, he was vice-president of the Math Club, Class Sergeant of Arms and Captain of the football team. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Tarpy.

The aides for the school year 1972-73 were Mrs. Joyce Kimmons, Mrs. Mary Jo Forster and Mrs. Sarah Joyce Wagster.

ENROLLMENT
GRADES 1 - 12⁵⁶

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Students</u>
1961 - 1962	641
1962 - 1963	631
1963 - 1964	636
1964 - 1965	654
1965 - 1966	659
1966 - 1967	648
1967 - 1968	650
1968 - 1969	671
1969 - 1970	712
1970 - 1971	758
1971 - 1972	730

⁵⁶ Division of Finance and Administrative Service, Area of Research, Cordell Hull Building, Nashville, Tennessee.

The Humphreys County Board members at the present time (1973) are Bobby Capps, William J. Harvey, Byram D. Phy, Arthur Ray Kimmons, George Ross, Ben Knight, Walter Reed Long and Jaycee Rawlings.

At the beginning of the 1972-73 school year the faculty members were David Wagster, Mrs. Evie Mae Ross, Mr. Benny Collins, Mr. Glenn Shivers, Mrs. Joyce Bullington, Mr. Richard Rawlings, Mrs. Claire Patterson, Mr. Johnny Thomas Larkin, Mrs. Christine Baraga, Miss Martha VanHuss, Mr. Kenneth Ross, Mr. William Hendrix, Mr. James Felts, Mrs. Kathleen Hickerson, Mrs. Mildred Knight, Mr. William Ethridge, Mrs. Kathy Larkin, Mr. L. C. Nolan, Mr. Gary Curtis, Mrs. Velma Dowdy, Mrs. Francis Curtis, Miss Edith James, Mrs. Ethel Hatcher, Miss Joyce Green, Mrs. Shirley Dugger, Mrs. Mae Phy, Miss Jane Stowell, Mrs. Anna Davis, Mrs. Lorene Wright, Mrs. Norma Ross, Mrs. Alma Long, Mrs. Sandra Sue Mott, Miss Janice Northcut and William Honea.

The 1973 Seniors were Aaron Barnett, Patricia Bullington, William Buttrey, Iva Jean Chappell, Philip Coleman, Richard Davis, Vickie Diviney, Danny Dotson, Michael Edwards, Beverly Ellis, Connie England, Wilburn Forrester, Kathy Fuqua, Brent Gill, Wanda Hall, Pamela Harger, Patricia Harger, Walter Hoff, Anthony Holland, Darrell Honea, Glenda Hooper, Patricia Hooper, Wanda Hooper, Dennis Jackson, Van Johnson, Judee Johnson, Linda Jones, Rita Kennerly,

Jean Long, Carroll Lucas, Paul McMillian, Judy Monsue, Connie Moran, Juanita Morgan, Teresa Morton, James Oliphant, Rita Patrick, William Pence, James Phy, Paula Pittman, Kevin Qualls, Susan Ross, Robert Sanders, Jacob Schreiber, Gary Street, Eugene Summers, Dale Tarpy, Debra Tarpy, Rhonda Tummins, Ronnie Wanamaker, Robert Williams, John Winstead, Jane Wright, Asa Curtis, James Citro and Dennis Johnson.

McEwen is a great little Irish town that is very proud of its school.

ENROLLMENT FOR MC EWEN HIGH SCHOOL⁵⁷

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Faculty</u>	<u>Number of Students</u>			
		<u>Ninth Grade</u>	<u>Tenth Grade</u>	<u>Eleventh Grade</u>	<u>Twelfth Grade</u>
1948	7	46	25	23	15
1955	21	76	47	29	44
1956	22	67	60	36	34
1958	23	73	45	52	51
1959	22	57	72	43	54
1961	27	80	56	48	58
1962	25	62	82	46	41
1964	25	72	69	52	59
1965	25	67	55	51	43
1966	25	64	54	39	48
1967	25	53	49	46	38
1968	28	44	49	48	56
1969	26	61	37	39	38
1970	30	70	61	41	37
1971	35	53	68	57	41
1972	34	49	39	66	55
1973	33	69	46	41	54

⁵⁷Information obtained from the school annual of the year designated.

CHAPTER II

WAVERLY SCHOOL

The Township of Waverly, Tennessee was laid out in 1836. In 1837 it was incorporated and in 1838 was selected to be the county seat of Humphreys County. In those early days there were only a few log cabins in the vicinity. According to the best information, as the town grew, a log school house was erected with a dirt floor to meet the educational needs of the town.

The first school established in Waverly of any record was the Waverly Academy which opened in 1847 and during its time enjoyed a fair reputation as an institution of learning. The Waverly Academy was located in the Twelfth District.¹ The school was conducted on a subscription plan and continued until 1870 when the building was demolished.

The office of Superintendent of Schools for Humphreys County was not created until 1873 when the county court appointed the first school superintendent, T. M. Hogan. He served from 1873 until he

¹Goodspeed, Goodspeed History of Montgomery, Robertson, Humphreys, Stewart, Dickson, Cheatham, Houston Counties of Tennessee, (Columbia, Tennessee: Woodland and Stinson Printing Co.) p. 892.

resigned in 1878.²

Some time in the late 1870's or early 1880's, the City of Waverly erected a brick building on the western edge of town. This was called Mac Adoo Seninary. In 1880 in Waverly, there was one public or free school, a frame building which was located on Church Street and one subscription school or a school of higher learning.

The Mac Adoo Seninary was located on the land where now stands the Jim Sloan Ford Motor Sales.³ It was in this period a public county school. The college consisted of a central building and two dormitories. One of the dormitories is still standing and is just west of the Sykes Furniture building. This was the girls' dormitory. The boys' dormitory that was across the street has been torn down. Some of the students boarded or lived with relatives in town.

The school was administered by the Waverly City Board of Education and tuition was paid quarterly by those who attended.

During the 1880's and for many years following, it was almost a custom that these subscription schools be headed up by a team of two men and in some cases a team of brothers. The reason for this was that they would split up subjects taught between them as well as the other duties connected with the school.

²Jill Knight Garrett, A History of Humphreys County, (Columbia, Tennessee, 1963) p. 152.

³Ibid., p. 153.

One of these teams who taught at the Waverly High School in the late 1880's was the team of Hudson and Hoskins. By late 1890's the Ross Brothers, W. H. and J. W., taught there. Dr. Clovis and Ashley Chappell, brothers, were appointed co-principals of the school in 1904. They served from 1904 to 1906.⁴

The school was remodeled in 1907 and 1908 while John Bowman was mayor of Waverly. An extension was build on either side and the single center was replaced by two stairways, one on either side of the vestibule.

When the Chappell Brothers decided to take up the ministry, two other gentlemen who devoted a great portion of their lives to the education of the youth of the country, arrived on the scene. These two gentlemen were M. R. and J. A. Gray.

In 1907 the building was remodeled and enlarged. For this new school the City Board secured as principal Mr. M. R. Gray of Franklin. The following year, Mr. Gray brought his brother, J. A. Gray, to Waverly and together they organized a four year high school and an eighth grade elementary school. Mr. M. R. Gray served as high school principal while J. A. Gray became the grammar school principal. He started teaching at Mayfield, Kentucky. Then he moved to Savannah, Tennessee to teach one year.

⁴News Democrat, published in Waverly, Tennessee, October 6, 1965.

J. A. Gray graduated from Mooney's at Franklin in 1902.

The school burned and Mooney moved to Murfreesboro. The school was rebuilt and named Battle Ground Academy.

The high school which they organized had a very challenging course of studies. It included four years of English, four years of Latin, two or three years of Greek, German or French, Ray's Higher Arithmetic, Algebra, Plane and Solid Geometry, Trigonometry and History. Mythology was taught in the ninth grade in high school.

In teaching Homer's Iliad, J. A. Gray used a Greek Testament to develop parallels existing between Homeric Greek and the Greek used during the time Jesus Christ trod the plains of Jordan, Homeric Greek, being the older of the two.

In addition to the classroom subject they taught, the Gray brothers had a tremendous impact on the lives of many Humphreys County citizens. They incorporated athletics with school work. Having attended Battle Ground Academy it was only natural that J. A. and M. R. Gray, recent graduates of Battle Ground Academy, would desire to introduce competitive athletic contests to Humphreys County Schools. They brought the first football to Waverly. M. R. Gray, assisted by A. W. Lucas, Jr., a graduate of the University of Virginia, coached the team. J. A. escorted the team to Huntingdon, Tennessee for the

first football game ever played in Huntingdon, when J. H. Bayer was principal there in 1910.

Some of the players of the 1910 football team were Leslie and Bernard Daniel, H. C. Hooper, John Whitfield, John Lumsden, Melvin Gibbons, Clay and John Ivy Fowlkes, Harris Cowan and Horace Box.

These men also brought the first basketball to Waverly. Basketball was played on outdoor courts until the new high school was built in 1923 and they had a gymnasium in the auditorium.

The gymnasium also provided facilities for the high jump and pole vaulting, as well as broad jumping, shot putting, javelin throwing and volley ball. Volley ball was a favorite with the girl students.

Some of the teachers who served faithfully in the old city building were Augusta Porch, Dolly Porch, Kit Stockard, Maggie Tubb, Mrs. J. A. Gray, W. C. Patterson, Grover Williams, Catherine Landis, Macie Lee Meadow, Bertha Overbey, Mrs. Porter Daniel, Ray Carter, Tom Black, Bobby Ann White, Mattie Pearl Ridings, Louise Powers, Mrs. Willie McCrary, Will Ellis, Emmett Daniel, C. W. Richards and Neva McCrary.

In the early 1920's the state legislature passed a law requiring all counties to build and maintain one central high school in each county. The Humphreys County Board of Education in 1923 opened a new brick school plant one mile east of Waverly on a tract of land

which had been formerly used as a race track and fairgrounds.

This new school, named by the board of education as the Waverly Central High School, included a gymnasium in the auditorium and laboratories for the teaching of science and home economics. There was also a large athletic field at the same location for football, baseball and other sports.

This new building was constructed by a well known Humphreys County Contractor, Ben McNabb, of the McNabb Lumber Company, the predecessor of the Slayden Lumber Company.

Some of the teachers at Waverly Central High School since 1923 were M. R. Gray, Ma Andrews, Nell Katherine Slayden, Mrs. R. C. Austin and W. C. Patterson. Mrs. Katherine Stockard was a regular teacher in Waverly Elementary School but was paid to teach in Waverly Central High School in the month of February, 1930.

Other early teachers were Claire Richardson, H. H. Burrum, Charles Behrens May Willis, Madge Slayden, John Franklin R. W. McClary, B. B. Mooney, May Love Stegall, Mrs. Leona Burrum, Callie Jones, Albert Sabin Ruby Morris, Leland Dunkerson and Mrs. J. W. Cummins.

Later a separate gymnasium was added to the south side of the structure. It was used not only for the physical education program of the school but also for the District Tournaments.⁵

⁵Statement by J. A. Gray, personal interview, July 3, 1973.

On Saturday afternoon, December 9, 1939 tragedy struck the Waverly Central High School.⁶ Catherine Choate rushed into the home of the school principal to tell him that the school was on fire. When he saw the smoke he became so upset that Catherine had to phone the fire department and inform them of the fire. Mr. Burrum soon recovered and regained his composure sufficiently to race to the school building and remove all important records.

When the fire department arrived on the scene, they found the nearest fire hydrant was too far from the building for the hose to be used.⁷ They helplessly watched the building burn to the ground.

Gray Cavender, Jr. wanted to help save something. He kicked down a door, entered the burning building and removed twelve or fourteen typewriters through a window into the hands of others who wanted to help. The typewriters were the only items in the entire building, including the building which were covered by fire insurance. The county was in such fiscal condition that those in authority thought it not feasible to pay premiums on fire insurance on school buildings.

The County Board of Education immediately found places for classes to continue the rest of the year. They decided to use the American Legion Hall, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, the

⁶The Democrat Sentinel, published in Waverly, Tennessee, December 14, 1939.

⁷The Nashville Tennessean, December 10, 1939.

basement of the Methodist Church and the upstairs space over the T. C. Miller store which is now the law offices of Freeman and Lynch, over the P & M Drug Store.

Teachers and students both met the situation calmly. They were determined to continue with the educational program in Humphreys County. Teachers escorted groups through back streets and alleys to different buildings. They left no room for criticism and certainly none was due.

A new brick building built by W. P. A. opened in 1941 at almost the exact location of the building that had burned. There is a bronze plaque on the front entrance of the present high school building that has this simple inscription: U. S. A. 1941 W. P. A.

During the hectic days H. H. Burrum, Lillie Mai Garrett, R. W. McClary, Bettie Lee Daniel and others labored very successfully to carry on under the trying circumstances.

Other teachers who served at Waverly Central High School include Jane Starbuck, Mrs. Henry A. Richeson, Mary Holloway, David Wagster, Mrs. Nathan Lowe, Mrs. Helen Bone Loy B. Summar, Ann W. Boman, J. E. Wolfe Fern Nicely, Louisa Warfield Mrs. Roberta McKeel, Mrs. Allita Polyarik, Lessie Creecy Walker, Mary Lee Henry, J. A. Gray, Victor Brow, Sloan Jobe, Mae Madden, Mrs. W. D. Warren. Ray Carter, George Howell Mayme Miller, Ann Haygood Han, Mrs. Miriam Gray, Carl T. Moore, Edward Oliver, Mrs. Rebecca

Tripplett, F. F. Moore Leon Smothers, J. R. Simpson, Delmas
Robertson, Mrs. M. R. Patterson, B. A. Mills Charles McMillen,
G. E. Greenwell and Homer Bell.

The principals who served at this school were M. R. Gray, Luther Bodkin, R. C. Austin, H. H. Burrum, Loy B. Summar and Henry J. Stamps. Loy B. Summar received his B. S. Degree from Middle Tennessee State College in Murfreesborough and his Masters Degree at Peabody. He came to Humphreys County in 1942. The first year he taught science and math at Waverly Central. He was also basketball coach.

In 1943 he became principal of Waverly Central School and he continued in that role of leadership for twenty-one years. While he was principal the enrollment grew from 180 to around 750. The faculty grew from eight to thirty members because the community's population was increasing due to the fact that some factories were being built in the community.

Mr. Summar added a well rounded curriculum that also included higher mathematics and science. Vocational courses were added that gave the students an opportunity to learn to build houses. He also led the school through an evaluation of the Southern Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges. Waverly was admitted as a member in 1950 and was one of the few schools to obtain that honor. It was also in the early 1950's that the school was given an "A" rating by the

State Department of Education.

The Waverly Central School held that rating as long as Summar was principal. The school lost its rating after Summar left the school to become principal at Halls Creek.

In 1966 Summar ran for Superintendent of Humphreys County and was elected. Immediately he went to work to get Waverly Central's membership restored in the Southern Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges. It was readmitted in 1967.

During his term in office, the teachers were raised \$50 the first year, \$100 the second year and from \$100 to \$150 the third year. He was the first County Superintendent to set up index salary schedules for the teachers. The teachers received the highest local raise of any county in the state. This put the teachers' salaries in Humphreys County in the top five percent of the state.

The buildings were in poor repair and the schools were short of classrooms when he became superintendent. He added classrooms to every school in the county and painted and renovated all old buildings. When his term expired, he left every school in the county in good repair.

While in office the new football stadium in Waverly was built. The McEwen stadium was brought up to date and major repairs were

made on the gym in Waverly. Also a new gymnasium was built in New Johnsonville.

The State Department believed that he had the best summer school in the state. It employed seventy-four people. It provided jobs for twenty college girls. The school benefited over 700 students. It was provided by a federal program without any cost to the county.

One of his outstanding accomplishments was establishing the retirement system for non-teacher personnel. They were put on the state retirement system. Some who have retired are drawing \$145 per month above their social security payments today.

Mr. Summar was also interested in the kindergarten program. He set up a kindergarten in New Johnsonville, McEwen and two were established in Waverly. He added three teachers and two aids to the Special Education Class, to take care of the increased enrollment. There was only one special education teacher when he started at the beginning of his term as Superintendent of the County.⁸

In 1963 the members of the faculty were Loy Summar, principal; Ray Bell, Coach Raymond Garner, Head Coach; Lillie Mae Garrett, Betty Lee Faucette, Mary Fortner, William Drummond, Henry Stamps,

⁸ Statement by Loy B. Summar, personal interview, June 2, 1973.

W. G. Rudisill, Almond Knight, Harold Knight, Carl Simpson, Haynes Bumpus, Dorothy Ladd, Jimmy McClure, Francis Steule, Mildred Gifford, Joseph McIlwain, Leon Sanders, assistant principal; Ann Hall and Andrew Stitt.⁹

As the schools in the county began consolidating and overflowing the grammar schools, more room was needed for the grade school pupils. It was then decided in 1962 that a new high school be built and the old high school be converted to a junior high school.

⁹Jill Knight Garrett, A History of Humphreys County, (Columbia, Tennessee, 1963) p. 153.

WAVERLY CENTRAL ENROLLMENT¹⁰

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Students</u>
1961 - 1962	468
1962 - 1963	623
1963 - 1964	681
1964 - 1965	592
1965 - 1966	556
1966 - 1967	596
1967 - 1968	639
1968 - 1969	709
1969 - 1970	758
1970 - 1971	795
1971 - 1972	812

¹⁰Division of Finance and Administrative Service, Area of Research, Cordell Hull Building, Nashville, Tennessee.

This plan did not meet the approval of all citizens of Humphreys County. There were many heated discussions which delayed the construction of the building. But it was finally under construction by 1966. When the new spacious building was finally completed, it had many modern educational facilities that both the students and faculty could enjoy.

The principal of Waverly Central in 1973 was Mr. Kenneth Wallace and the assistant principal and girls' basketball coach was Gene Trotter.

Other members of the faculty at the beginning of the 1972-73 school year are the following: Mrs. Enid Barber, guidance, Mrs. Nancy Birdwell, Mrs. Wanda Buckner, Mrs. Kay Bumpus, Mr. Jimmie Chapman, Mr. Tommy Corbitt, Mrs. Virginia Corbitt, Mrs. Bertha Curtis, Mr. Ronnie Dacus, Mr. Jerry Dinwiddie, Mrs. Lela Donahoo, Mr. William Drummond, Miss Mary Fortner, Mr. William Grannis, Mr. Raymond Garner, Mrs. Ann Hall, Mr. Ray Hampton, Mrs. Joyce Harvey, Mr. Lawrence Hatcher, guidance, Mr. Andrew Hendrix, Mr. Almond Knight, Mr. Harold Knight, Mrs. Dorothy Ladd, Mrs. Joe Ann Lampley, Mrs. Donita Laughlin, Miss Martha Lowry, Mrs. Paula Martin, Mr. Guy Rudisill, Mr. Wilson Sharpe, Mrs. Carol Smith, Mr. Edwin Sparks, Mr. Andrew Stitt, Miss Pat Stowe, Mrs. Laverne Turner, Mr. James Utley and Mrs. Charolette Warren.¹¹

¹¹ Humphreys Education Association Yearbook, 1972-73.

The school secretaries were Mrs. Peggy Grimes, Mrs. Fran Todd and Mrs. Shirley Dreaden.

The school nurses were Mrs. Helen Conrad and Mrs. Kathy Crawford.

The cafeteria employees were Mrs. June Rice, manager, Mrs. Mabel Carter, Mrs. Jeanneane Cullum, Mrs. Anne Thomas, Mrs. Dellie Pirtle, Mrs. Nettie Mosley and Mrs. Caroline Zimmerman.¹²

Waverly High School has won many honors in various activities and always proudly participated in many things. They are especially proud of their athletic program in football and basketball. Several students participate in these activities.

The Beta Club with thirty-seven members is sponsored by Mr. L. J. Hatcher, Miss Pat Stowe and Andy Hendrix. The president was Rex Brazzle and the vice president, Ricky Smith.

Mr. Harold Knight is the faculty advisor for the Mu Alpha Theta consisting of thirty-four members. Gayle Hutchison was president and Judy Bowen, vice president.

Mr. Almond Knight is sponsor of the annual staff. Several students prepare a very fine school annual under his supervision. It thoroughly covers the school activities each year.

The Future Farmers of America is a large and very active club

¹² School Annual, Tiger, 1973.

that is sponsored by Mr. James Utley. Steve May was the president and Danny Bowen, vice president.

The Future Teachers of America is sponsored by Mrs. Donita Laughlin and has a very large membership. The club president was July Bowen and the vice president, Jeana Peeler.

The Senior Homemakers of America is also a very active club with a large membership and is sponsored by Mary E. Fortner. The president was Marchia Madden, the vice president was Joni Dodd.

The Junior Chapter of the Future Homemakers of America has over fifty members and is sponsored by Mrs. Joyce Harvey. The president was Sheron Hulan and Lynn Dickerson, vice president.

The Vocational Industrial Club of America has a membership of thirty-nine and is sponsored by Mr. Jimmy Chapan. The club advisor was Kenneth Bell.

Vica-co-op has thirty-six members and is sponsored by Mr. Raymond Garner. The president was Ronnie Hemby and the vice president was John Schwerdtfeger.

TOEC is also a very large and active club. It is sponsored by Mrs. Joe Ann Lampley. The president was Bobbie Spratt and the vice president, Renee Hooper.

Mrs. Shirley Dreaden and Miss Martha Lowry sponsored the Library Club. Renee Hooper served as president and Pam Dove served as vice president of the organization.

The Art Club is a large group that is sponsored by Mrs. Laverne Turner. The president is John Jones. Other officers included Angie Ridings, Sandy Long and Karen Rasher.

Mrs. Charlotte Warren sponsors the Junior Red Cross. The president was Vickie Tankersley and vice president, Susan Lambdin. Other officers included Terri Dunsmore and Christy Pettit.

The Order of the Sword is a very large, active club that is sponsored by Kathy Crawford. The president was Judy Bowen.¹³

There are about 153 members of the 1973 graduating class of Waverly.

Dorris Anthony Davis was given an award for outstanding school attendance. He never missed a day from the time he entered school until he graduated.

W. H. Knight was one of the Superintendents in Humphreys County who had two sons to follow in his footsteps in the teaching profession. Harold and Almond are very dedicated teachers at Waverly Central.

The curriculum for the 50th year offered some fifty-one subjects in which the school tries to have something to offer all students so that they may prepare themselves for a better life.¹⁴

¹³ School Annual, Tiger, 1973.

¹⁴ Magic Valley Times, published in New Johnsonville, Tennessee, June 20, 1973.

ENROLLMENT FOR WAVERLY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL¹⁵

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Faculty</u>	<u>Number of Students</u>			
		<u>Ninth Grade</u>	<u>Tenth Grade</u>	<u>Eleventh Grade</u>	<u>Twelfth Grade</u>
1963	25	86	138	127	34
1965	25	167	157	125	128
1966	25	167	158	130	95
1967	24	191	134	144	127
1968	24	176	170	130	141
1969	30	208	166	153	126
1972	36	220	208	185	190
1973	36	260	197	193	177

¹⁵Information obtained from the school annual, Tiger, for the year designated.

CHAPTER III

THE CONSOLIDATED HIGH SCHOOLS

By 1936 there were fifty grammar schools and four high schools for white children in the county and four schools for Negro children.¹

Bakerville, Tribble and Porch-Reed were the three high schools that were consolidated with Waverly Central.

The Bakerville Academy was located in the Twelfth District.² The Bakerville Academy once had a high school rating and Algebra was one of the favorite subjects taught. Of course levels of instruction at the time differed from present practices. The building was usually crowded and at times two teachers were employed and two stoves were required to keep the pupils warm, each teacher holding class in one end of the building near the stove.

The Bakerville School was chartered in 1880 as the Bakerville Academy. The building was a large long, frame structure with four long windows on the east and three on the west and one door in the end.

¹Jill Knight Garrett, A History of Humphreys County, (Columbia, Tennessee, 1963) p. 153.

²Goodspeed, Goodspeed History of Montgomery, Robertson, Humphreys, Stewart, Dickson, Cheatham, Houston Counties of Tennessee, (Columbia, Tennessee: Woodland and Stinson Printing Co.) p. 892.

On the inside there were two small blackboards on either side and one long board which extended across the end of the building. There were two rows of desks on either side and a shorter row in the center of the building, leaving room for the cast iron stove and the teacher's table. The desks were designed for two pupils but at times were forced to accommodate three. The inkwell was located in the center of the desk. Most of the pupils were too poor to buy ink, therefore, they made it from oak balls and elder berries.

Some students played tricks on each other. Many times some poor unsuspecting girl had the ends of her platted hair dipped in the ink by a low down scalawag of a boy seated directly behind her. Another trick that the boys played on the girls was to stick a pin through the tough skin of their big toe. Then they would stick the pin in the girl in front of them through the crack made in the desk where the seat and back met. This usually brought a cry of pain and then laughter, which upset the entire school and called for disciplinary action by the teacher.

The teacher's table had writing material for his use, plus a hickory limb to be used to maintain discipline.

Gray Cavender taught in the building. He was an excellent teacher and was known as a stern disciplinarian and one who devoted all his talents to the public.

One outstanding student who attended this school was Clyde Capps.³ He later became a very fine medical doctor and gave many hours of service to the people of Humphreys County.

Gray taught all eight grades. The smaller children were taught their ABC's. The students wrote on slates and the cheap ones were bound in a wood frame. The slate pencils were small and gray in appearance but served their purpose.

The students studied Ray's New Practical Arithmetic by Joseph Ray. The Blue Back Speller was authored by Noah Webster. Other studies were Grammar, Physiology, U. S. History, Tennessee History and Geography.

The school had a large cast iron bell that was mounted on a post near the door where the teacher could have easy access to it after recess and lunch.

The term at Bakerville was only five months. When the weather was too rough to play outside they had contests on the inside of the building. They had several spelling matches that were very educational.

Most of the children brought their lunches in coffee buckets or molasses buckets. They usually brought sorghum molasses and butter, some biscuits and usually some pork. Many included a pomegranate in their lunch.

³ Statement by Mrs. H. C. Capps, personal interview, June 1, 1973.

The water was brought to the school house from a nearby well. As the bucket was passed up and down the aisle, each student took a drink from the dipper. In later years the students used paper cups and then metal collapsible drinking cups.

Some of the teachers for the Bakerville Academy were Lellie Byrn, Bertha Larkin, Annie Meriman, Nannie Scott, Will Rogers, Richard Hailey, Anna Smith, Dolly Porch and Gray Cavender.⁴

In 1914 this building became so dilapidated that it could no longer be used. This necessitated moving the school into an abandoned store building located just across the road from where the old post office now stands.

On April 4, 1916, William and Izora Wyatt sold five acres of land at a total cost of \$1,275 to the Humphreys County Board of Education for a new school at Bakerville.

S. B. Parker was awarded the contract for the new school. Joe Mullinicks helped erect the new building which was designed to meet the present and future needs of children for generations to come.

The building consisted of a frame construction, metal roof, weather board siding and yellow pine flooring that was treated with linseed oil to curb dust. It set firmly on a red brick foundation and was painted a gleaming white.

A well was dug on the grounds, but it was insufficient for the

⁴Statement by Mrs. Gray Cavender, personal interview, May 2, 1973.

needs of the school, so water was carried from a well in the community.

J. G. Cates and Edna Grimmitt were the first teachers in this school. Other teachers were C. P. Burchard, Mrs. Ora Bone, Lela Martin, J. M. Brandon, Mrs. R. L. Stricklin, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Wilcoxon, Rubye McKeel, Mrs. Myrtle Bone and Miss Lois Weems.

C. P. Burchard was a member of the faculty in 1923.⁵ Lela Martin also taught there in 1924.⁶ Edna Murphy and Gladys Crockett were also part of the Bakerville faculty in 1929.⁷

After Mrs. Myrtle Bone left Bakerville, the Humphreys County Board of Education elected her to be the attendance teachers of the county for many years. She retired in 1971.⁸

In 1926 the Bakerville school was elevated to high school status, beginning with only the ninth grade that year. T. W. Winge from Trezevant, Tennessee taught the eighth and ninth grades. The first year only twenty students came to high school. There were ten boys and ten girls but in later years they came in increasing numbers. Some of the students walked, some rode in a buggy, some drove T model Fords.

⁵Tennessee School Register, 1923.

⁶Tennessee School Register, 1924.

⁷Tennessee School Register, 1929.

⁸Statement by Myrtle Bone Baker, personal interview, May 1, 1973.

In 1929 Charles Barton Laws from Clarksburg, Tennessee became the new principal. He considered athletics of extreme importance. He almost wore out his A model Ford dragging the campus to make it fit for baseball, basketball, tennis and even football. He built the first tennis courts and football field and corrected the basketball courts and baseball field. He started Bakerville High on the road as an athletic group to be reckoned with for several years.

Bakerville High School played only one football game, and that was against Tribble, its friendly rival in all athletic contests and as a result of a challenge by Tribble. The Bakerville boys went over there to play and the Tribble players and fans were amused and could scarcely believe their eyes when the Bakerville boys took the field dressed out in overalls and plow shoes. Harris Hooper was the only Bakerville boy who had ever played a game of school football before and also the only one who had any protective equipment for the game and all that he had was a helmet. The Bakerville boys were lean and hard as flint. The Bakerville boys won their only football game with a score of 18 to 6.

Baseball was another story. Robert Brake was a good pitcher. Bakerville did not cull anyone and Robert continued to win games for Bakerville consistently with brilliant pitching. They played baseball in plow shoes and overalls. Their bats were "rejects" purchased from

the Louisville Slugger Factory in Dickson for twenty-five cents each. The boys could not buy gloves and mitts, but fortunately the Nehi Bottling Company awarded baseball gloves and mitts for a given number of their bottle caps.

Ray L. Smith came to Bakerville as an elementary teacher and a high school basketball coach.⁹ He had good winning teams. The teams played on an outdoor court which was several feet longer than the indoor courts.

Emma Jean Thomas taught math and coached the girl basketball teams. The schools could not buy uniforms so they were made by Helen Wyatt Cavendar and Sadie Bone. There was not enough money to buy basketballs, so an arrangement was made between the school and a candy company to get the balls. They played Dickson, White Bluff, Erin, Dover, Linden, Centerville, McEwen, Waverly and Tribble. Bakerville also played Charlotte and Yellow Creek. In 1937, the school got a new gymnasium sponsored by the Federal Government and contributions made by the teachers of the county.

C. B. Laws made some outstanding accomplishments at Baker-ville. It was his desire to prepare the grounds for athletic contests. He had his first opportunity to accomplish something in practical education. Several stumps had to be removed. Laws, with the aid of the boys, blasted the stumps out of the ground.

⁹Statement by Mrs. Ray L. Smith, personal interview, July 1, 1973.

The well had never been satisfactory, so he used dynamite to make it deep enough. They finally dug the well 120 feet deep and it is still in use today.

They installed a deep well force pump that was manually operated. At the discharge end there was a long section of pipe with a perforation about every twelve inches. This device allowed as many as fifteen students to drink at one time.

Ray L. Smith devised a very crude method for keeping the students' chocolate milk warm on cold days. He had a piece of oak sawed circular, about three inches thick, that contained several auger holes. This was placed inside a fifty pound lard stand that contained about three inches of water. It was then placed on the stove. The students placed pint fruit jars of chocolate milk in the stand to keep it warm.

The idea was so successful that it was the beginning of the hot lunch program. Jesse Marress was the first worker paid for her work as manager of the soup kitchen as it was then called. She was assisted by N. Y. A. girls. These were students receiving assistance from the Roosevelt Administration New Deal Program.

On a national basis in 1933 Federal assistance to school lunch operations began. This support stimulated the program; more children participated and the nutritional quality of lunches improved.

The Bakerville school did not have a central heating system. Stoves were used in each room. In 1934, Ray Bone had an agreement

with the superintendent to furnish 100 ricks of wood. He was paid \$1 for each rick that was specified as to length and size suitable for burning in stoves.

Lloyd Marress and Gray Cavender, Jr. were the school janitors. Their duties included sweeping the floors, building seven fires each morning during winter months, carry out ashes, emptying waste baskets and taking care of the Coleman gasoline lanterns. They received \$10 each per month for their janitorial services.

During the same year, a night school was started for W. P. A. workers. It met in the Bakerville School and was instructed by Mrs. Allen Bone. Of the twenty who first started to Bakerville, only nine graduated. They were Elizabeth Anderson, Ellis Hand, Arbie Ladd, John Murphree, Porch Murphree, Thelma Reynolds, Alma Stricklin, Lula Wiles and Eugenia Woods. Four of the girls in the first graduating class became teachers. There were Elizabeth Anderson, Thelma Reynolds, Lula Wiles and Eugenia Woods.

The depression years worked hardships on the teachers. The financial condition of the county was not sound. Teachers were paid their meager salaries by school warrants which in reality were mere scraps of paper stating the amount of salary the teacher was paid. They were not worth face value immediately. If a teacher was able to retain the warrant, sixty to ninety days later it would be paid at face value. Only few could afford this and consequently discounted

them to banks. Others discounted them to private individuals.

The Humphreys County Board of Education met and decided to give Brown Rochelle \$25 extra each month if it decided to transport the pupils from Bakerville to Waverly.¹⁰

Some of the teachers who taught at Bakerville were T. B. Wingo, F. C. Hall, Rubye McKeel, C. B. Laws, Dorothy Parnell, Louise Pack, Reggie Ray, Emna Jean Thomas, Mary Jane Whitfield, J. E. Summitt, Camille Bowles, Mary Alice McMackin, Oakley Massey, Elizabeth Trout, Helen Daniel, Whitson R. McClain, Elsie Franklin, Marie Franklin, Marie Farmer, Ruth Solomon, Margaret Bryant, Currie Moore, I. E. Hendrix, Frank C. Yeargan, J. E. Brandon, Ray W. Bone and W. D. Warrne.

In 1945 Bakerville High School was closed because the attendance was low and it was consolidated with Waverly Central. This stunned the community and caused great grief among the parents. They were very sorry to give up their school.

Porch-Reed was a colored school that was located on top of a big hill on Highway 13 near Waverly. Few students attended.

Waverly Colored School dates back many many years and part of their records have been misplaced, lost or destroyed by fire. In 1917 M. C. Jones and Mrs. F. A. Jones were teachers.

¹⁰Minutes of the Humphreys County Board of Education, May 30, 1945, p. 145.

These two teachers were followed by Hannah Lee Summers, Johnnie B. Turner, J. H. Mayberry, Wynetta E. Loving, William Childress, Fannie J. Childress, Louella Brown, W. W. Lynes, Mrs. Mattye Barr Porch and Mrs. Myrtle B. Reed.

On May 1, 1945, during a meeting of the Humphreys County Board of Education, the Waverly Colored School was officially remaned, "Porch-Reed School," probably in honor of Mrs. Mattye Barr Porch and Mrs. Myrtle B. Reed.¹¹ Teachers who saw service in this school since it has been known by this new name include Vera S. Blackmon, Hallie Hooper, Emogene Springer, Edgar Taylor, Grace Goodrich, Della Wilhoite, Owen W. Warford, Jennie R. Warford, Alvin Fields, M. B. Coleman, Gladys Bond, James Poe, Katie Brantley, Albert Pirtle, Marvin Corlew, Mrs. Grace Goodrich, Mrs. Dorris Boyd, Mrs. Sylvia J. Green and Mrs. Nova Bryant.

The bus drivers for Porch-Reed were Rev. Douglas Taylor, John Hooper and P. J. Coleman.¹² Many walked to school.

A cafeteria in the building was efficiently operated by Mary Lee Box. Most all of the students ate a hot lunch each day.

For many years there were no high school facilities for the graduates of the Waverly Colored or Porch-Reed School and Negro

¹¹ Minutes of the Humphreys County Board of Education, May 30, 1973, p. 171.

¹² Statement by Rev. Douglas Taylor, personal interview, July 18, 1973.

children of Humphreys County were transported by bus to Dickson to attend high school there. Humphreys County had an arrangement with Dickson County whereby a per pupil payment was made on a monthly basis to pay for the education of these young people.

This system was unsatisfactory to Negro parents and a suit was brought by Mrs. Johnnie Boyce and J. R. Carrethers in which they sought to desegregate Humphreys County Schools. The first Negro student entered the previously all white schools in Waverly in January, 1962. Then Porch-Reed School closed.

The teachers that were elected by the Humphreys County Board of Education for Porch-Reed for the school year 1945 were Grace Goodrich, Vera Blackman, Myrtle Reed and Mattie B. Porch.¹³

PORCH-REED ENROLLMENT¹⁴

<u>Year</u>	<u>Grades</u>	<u>Number of Students</u>
1961 - 1962	1 - 12	168
1962 - 1963	1 - 8	85
1963 - 1964	1 - 8	86
1965 - 1966	1 - 8	59

¹³Minutes from Humphreys County Board of Education, May 30, 1973, p. 169.

¹⁴Tennessee Division of Finance and Administrative Services, Area of Research, Cordell Hull Building, Nashville, Tennessee.

In 1936, Tribble was one of four high schools located in Humphreys County.¹⁵ In 1909, the Hustburg School and Oak Grove School in Big Bottom were consolidated by the county board of education which built a new four room frame school building at the present site of Tribble School.

The land was donated by James F. Fowlkes, Sr., Mr. Perry More and Jim Mitchell. In 1922 C. M. Elmore taught at Tribble.¹⁶ In 1923 Clara Harris and Catherine Sanders also taught there.¹⁷

In 1922 another room was added to the building. This building was destroyed by fire in February, 1923. In 1923 a new concrete school building was erected.

In 1930 a water system was installed in the building by Marion C. Mims and Lee Bruden. Electric lights were installed at the same time by Rex Plant. The gymnasium was built by the community in 1932. This gymnasium was a well built structure. It even had a small balcony to increase seating capacity. The patrons of this school supported their basketball teams and filled the gym to capacity for every game. They also journeyed in large numbers to support the home team when they visited other schools. They considered their most important game of the year the game with Bakerville.

¹⁵Gill Knight Garrett, A History of Humphreys County, (Columbia, Tennessee, 1973) p. 153.

¹⁶Tennessee Teachers Register, 1922.

¹⁷Tennessee Teachers Register, 1923.

The first high school graduates in 1929 were Lonnie Mae Byrd, Eva Byrd, Opal Harell, Beulah Crockett, Leslie Moore, Katy McCrary, Katherine White and Elizabeth Corlew.

The first term of Tribble school opened November, 1909 and closed April, 1910. The teachers were W. L. Rochelle, Miss Effie Bunnell, Charlie Burchar, Miss Susie Bunnell, Miss Nettie McCauley, Grover Williams, Mary Owens, Bertha Henry, Casey Fuqua, Effie Mitchell, Bessie McCauley, Lillian Riley and Bessie Dobson.

In 1956, Tribble School was closed .¹⁸ The high school students were transported to Waverly and the grammar school students were sent to Lake View.

¹⁸Tennessee Division of Finance Administrative Services, Area of Research, Cordell Hull Building, Nashville, Tennessee

CHAPTER IV

CONTRIBUTIONS OF SOME HUMPHREYS COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Several students have graduated from Humphreys County High Schools and have made many contributions to society. Included in this chapter is a partial list of the graduates.

William J. Peeler graduated from McEwen in 1945. He lives at 32 Cedar Hill Drive in Waverly and represents the twenty-third Senatorial District. Included in this district are Benton, Decator, Dickson, Hickman, Humphreys, Perry, Wayne and Williamson Counties. He is also a member of the Humphreys County and Tennessee Bar Associations. He was president of the Young Democrats in 1950-1953.¹

Thelma Ruth Bullington graduated from Waverly Central. She received her B. S. Degree from Austin Peay State University in 1970. At the present time (1973) she is teaching at J. P. Ryan Elementary School in Croon, Maryland.²

¹ Tennessee Blue Book, 1971-72, p. 23.

² Statement by Thelma Ruth Bullington, personal interview, August 2, 1972.

Ila Mary Greenwell, a McEwen graduate, received her M. A. Degree from Austin Peay State University in 1972. She is now teaching high school math in Hendersonville, Tennessee.³

Kenneth Ross graduated from McEwen High School in 1960. He received his B. S. Degree from Austin Peay State University. He is now coaching and teaching health at McEwen High School.⁴

Jessie Ray McNeil, a graduate of Waverly, is the principal of Lake View School. At the present time he is working on his M. A. Degree at Austin Peay State University.

Martin H. Allison, a Waverly graduate, attended Austin Peay State University. He is affiliated with Consolidated Aluminum Corporation.

Jimmy McClure, a Waverly graduate, also attended Austin Peay State University. He taught at Waverly High School for a short time.

Ann Summers Baggett, a graduate of Waverly, attended Austin Peay State University. She is now working with the Montgomery County Welfare Department in Clarksville.

Robert Joe Knight, a Waverly graduate, attended Austin Peay

³ Statement by Ila Mary Greenwell, personal interview, August 15, 1972.

⁴ School Annual, The Warrior, 1973.

State University. He is Supervisor for the Williams Fertilizer Company in St. Louis, Illinois.

Shirley Kilgore, a Waverly graduate, is now teaching at the Waverly Junior High School. She also graduated from Austin Peay State University.

Lee Twilla teaches at Waverly Elementary School. She is a Waverly graduate who attended Austin Peay State University.

Jane Summers Leach, a Waverly graduate, attended Austin Peay State University. She plans to teach at Waverly Elementary School.

Sherry Mitchum Morgan, a Waverly graduate, attended Austin Peay State University. She teaches at Waverly Elementary School.

Mabel L. Knight, a graduate of Waverly, received her B. S. and M. A. Degrees from Austin Peay State University. She is now teaching at Waverly Elementary School.⁵

Norma Ross graduated from McEwen in 1958. She received her B. S. Degree from the University of Tennessee. At the present time she is teaching the first grade in McEwen School.⁶

Mary Lee Curl, a Waverly graduate, attended Austin Peay State University. She taught in Montgomery County for a while.

Vicky Spann, a Waverly graduate, attended David Lipscomb

⁵Statement by Mabel Knight, personal interview, July 2, 1973

⁶Humphreys Education Association Yearbook, 1972-73.

College. She now teaches at the Waverly Elementary School.

Carol Goodwin, a Waverly graduate, attended Bethel College. She is teaching in the Waverly Elementary School.

Dr. Grant Patterson, a graduate of Waverly, received his Doctors Degree from the University of Tennessee. He is presently serving in the armed forces.

Almond Knight, a Waverly graduate, received his B. S. at Austin Peay State University and his M. A. Degree at George Peabody College for Teachers. He is teaching history at Waverly Central.⁷

Harold Knight, a Waverly graduate, is teaching at Waverly Central.⁸ He received his B. A. Degree from Austin Peay State University and his M. A. Degree from George Peabody College. He is teaching math at Waverly Central High School. He has 26 hours above his M. A. Degree.

Delmas Robertson, a Waverly graduate, received his B. S. from Austin Peay State University and his M. A. and M. Ed. Degree at Peabody. He has been a classroom teacher, principal and supervisor. This year the Humphreys County Board of Education elected him supervisor.

⁷Humphreys Education Association Yearbook, 1972-73.

⁸School Annual, Tiger, 1973.

Shelia Dacus, a Waverly graduate, attended the Martin Branch of the University of Tennessee. She teaches at Waverly Elementary School.

Joyce Bullington graduated from McEwen School in 1945. She received her B. S. and is a candidate for the M. A. from Austin Peay State University. She is teaching social studies at McEwen High School.⁹

Andy Stitt, a Waverly graduate, received his B. S. from Austin Peay State University and his M. A. from George Peabody College for Teachers. He is teaching history at Waverly Central.¹⁰

Gary Curtis, a McEwen graduate, has a B. S. Degree from the University of Tennessee. He teaches the seventh grade. He and his wife, Frances, are both members of the McEwen faculty.¹¹

Johnny Larkin, a McEwen graduate, received his B. S. Degree from Austin Peay State University. He is teaching science at McEwen High School.

T. J. Coleman graduated from McEwen School in 1967. He attended Austin Peay State University and taught social studies at Waverly Central High School in 1971.

Bill Hendrix, a McEwen graduate, taught and coached at McEwen

⁹Humphreys Education Association Yearbook, 1972-73.

¹⁰Humphreys Education Association Yearbook, 1972-73.

¹¹School Annual, The Warrior, 1973.

School for several years. He received his B. S. from Austin Peay State University and M. A. from George Peabody College. At the present time he is an insurance salesman.

William Ethridge, a McEwen graduate, received his B. S. Degree from Austin Peay State University. He is teaching the eighth grade at McEwen School. He is also a member of the Humphreys County Quarterly Court.¹²

Ernest S. Ethridge attended college in El Paso, Texas. He was employed by the National Geographic Magazine for one year. He is now head of the weather bureau in Shreveport, Louisiana.

Kathy Larkin, a McEwen graduate, received her B. S. Degree from Austin Peay State University. She teaches the eighth grade at McEwen.¹³

Judy Johnson graduated from McEwen in 1965. She later attended Austin Peay State University and received her B. S. Degree. She taught in McEwen School for a short time.

Diane Vaughn, a Waverly graduate, attended Austin Peay State University. She plans to enter the teaching profession soon.

Gene Trotter, a Waverly graduate, is the assistant principal at Waverly Central. He received his B. S. and M. A. from Austin Peay

¹²Statement by William Ethridge, personal interview, May 28, 1973.

¹³School Annual, The Warrior, 1973

Thelma Lee Trotter, a Waverly graduate, received her B. S. Degree from Austin Peay State University. She taught thirty-four years in Humphreys County before she retired.¹⁵

Tommy Goodwin, a Waverly graduate, attended Austin Peay State University and received his B. S. Degree. He is now working for Arthur Anderson Tax Accounting firm.

Dorris Hamilton, a Waverly graduate, attended Bethel College. He is teaching at the Waverly Junior High School.¹⁶

Van Kemp, a Waverly graduate, received his B. S. Degree from the University of Tennessee. He is employed by the Citizens Bank.

Betty Jean Goodwin, a Waverly graduate, received her B. S. Degree from Bethel College. She did secretarial work for Du Pont for a short time.

Linda Goodwin, a Waverly graduate, received her B. S. Degree from Bethel College. She is teaching at Hollywood School in Shelby County.

Bobby Ann Robertson, a Waverly graduate, received her B. A. and M. A. Degree from Peabody. She is the librarian for the Junior

¹⁴School Annual, Tiger, 1973.

¹⁵Statement by Thelma Lee Trotter, personal interview, July 5, 1973.

¹⁶Humphreys Education Association Yearbook, 1972-73.

High School in Waverly, Tennessee.

Carol Putman, a Waverly student, received her degree from Belmont College. She majored in business and lives in Toledo, Ohio.

Sam Reynolds, a Waverly graduate, received his degree at the University of Martin. He is teaching at Waverly Junior High School.

Barbara Rushton, a Waverly graduate, received her degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin. She taught at the Waverly Elementary School for a short time.

Frank Rushton, a Waverly student, works at First Federal in Waverly. He received his degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Byram Phy, a McEwen graduate, received his B. S. Degree from Austin Peay State University and his M. A. and Ed.S. from George Peabody College. He is the Superintendent of Humphreys County Schools.¹⁷

Mrs. Ray L. Smith, a Waverly graduate, attended Middle Tennessee State College, Union University, George Peabody College and West Tennessee State College. She taught in the Humphreys County Schools for several years before she started working for an insurance company.

John Lee Williams, a McEwen graduate, is a prominent attorney.

His office is located at 102 South Court Square in Waverly. His law partners are Scot Porch and Bill Peeler.

Mr. W. H. Knight, a Waverly graduate, was first elected Superintendent of Humphreys County in 1917. He remained in this leadership role most of the time until 1946. He married a former school teacher, Ollie Weatherspoon, who taught in this county. Their two sons, Harold and Almond, are now teaching at Waverly Central High School.

Reva Choate, a Waverly graduate, attended Austin Peay State University. She is now working for South Central Bell Telephone Company.

CHAPTER V

THE TRAGIC SCHOOL BUS ACCIDENT

The Little Blue Creek Community, also known to many as Liberty, is located five miles west of McEwen School. In this very thinly settled area the students were transported to school each day on a school bus.

Jim Wallace was elected by the Humphreys County Board of Education, September 14, 1933, to drive the school bus at a salary of \$44 per month.¹ The route was to end just below Wilbert Enochs on Little Blue Creek where the Wallace children would catch the bus. The Matlock children below them were to catch the bus on the old highway on the ridge.

The students rode in an old car that was converted into a school bus. The homemade bus was a crude affair that was attached to the car frame. The roof had long nails that stuck down through the top of it. The back was fastened only with a screen door hook.

On different occasions Charlie Enochs and many other members of the community went before the Humphreys County Board of Education and strongly objected to the bus being used. However, nothing was

¹ Minutes from the Humphreys County Board of Education, September 14, 1933, p. 32.

done and the tension grew as the students were transported to school each day because the seats were full and students were standing in the aisle.

On the morning of December 6, 1933, tragedy struck the little community. Dorcha Marie Choate, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Choate, known as Dorothy, was killed instantly when she fell out the back door of the school bus.

Mary Ellen Johnson was on the bus that morning. The following is an eye witness account of the accident as she remembers it when she was sixteen years old.

On the morning of December 6, 1933, the bus stopped at Mary Ellen Johnson's house as usual. Dorcha Marie Choate saved a seat for Mary Ellen. She always did this because Mary Ellen was so tall that the roofing nails hit her in top of the head if she stood. Mary Ellen sat down with her books in her lap. Dorothy did not sit down beside her, as she usually did, but stood in the aisle beside her.

The bus driver was slowing down on the snowy road to pick up Mildred and Howard Henry. As the bus was going around the curve before approaching the Henrys' house, Dorothy fell forward. Then as the bus swayed in the curve, the bus door came open that was latched with a screen door hook, and Dorothy fell out the back door.

Her brother, Leonard, said, "Oh my God, my sister fell out." He jumped out the back of the bus and said, "Oh my God, my sister is

dead." Mary Ellen, her best friend, jumped out also touched her and realized she was already dead.

By that time the bus driver had stopped in front of Fannie Henry's house. He frantically picked up Dorothy and hurriedly carried her into Fannie Henry's house and placed her on the bed in the midst of a lot of ironed clothes.

The twenty-six students on the bus panicked. Some were crying, screaming and trembling as they stood and gazed at the huge puddle of blood that was still on the snow covered, hard surfaced road. They were all in a state of much confusion.

In about thirty minutes the parents, Chester and Mary Choate, arrived. In the deep silence, no words were spoken, only the heart broken sobs of the parents and friends were heard all over the room. Everyone stood in grief and shock and waited for the Luff Bowen Ambulance to pick up the body to prepare it for burial. Mary Ellen walked about three miles to McEwen School to tell the faculty and friends about the worst tragedy that she had ever witnessed.²

After Dorothy was prepared for burial, she was taken back to her home, in Moon Hollow in the Liberty Community. The funeral was preached in the home of her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Perry Choate. It was about a half a mile below her house on the same farm.

Close relatives who attended the funeral were her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chester Choate, her sister, Kathleen Choate, her brothers,

²Statement by Mary Ellen Hoff, personal interview, July 2, 1973.

Leonard and Millard Choate, her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Perry Choate, and many aunts, uncles and other relatives.

After the funeral the casket was carried about one-half mile from the house to the Choate Cemetery that is located on a steep hill. The heartbroken family followed close behind the casket. Many neighbors in the rural community were dressed in overalls and print dresses, as they walked behind the family, to pay their last respects to a little girl that brought a ray of sunshine into their life.

After the burial was completed, the grave was covered with lovely flowers. Some people took a flower home to press in a book as a last remembrance of Dorothy. Today the tombstone reads:

Dorcha Marie Choate
Aug 9 1923
Dec 6 1933
At Rest

To the right of her grave stands a huge, lovely cedar tree, that shades her grave any time of the day.

The accident shook the entire community and tension could be felt everywhere. Shreds of fear could be detected in everyone's conversation concerning the safety and security of their loved ones as they would be transported to school.

The neighbors and friends took their picks and shovels to Choate Cemetery, that is located in the Liberty Community, to dig her grave. There was no insurance to cover the accident. So the family had to

pay all the burial expenses.

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The family and the community could not become reconciled to the fact that this horrible accident had claimed the life of a lovely young girl.

Many things happened as a result of the tragedy. First the bus service was completely stopped to the Liberty Community in 1933. It was not restored until 1948. This caused students who wished to continue their high school education to walk four miles a day to an adjoining community to catch a bus. Joyce Enochs was the only one to complete her high school education after bus service was discontinued. She walked a total of 2,560 miles in order to graduate from high school.

The second thing that happened was a demand for a school to be built. Liberty School was built in the community for grades 1 through 8. It was built on the land that belonged to Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert Enochs.

The parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chester Choate, brought a lawsuit against the Humphreys County Board of Education in the December term of the Circuit Court of Humphreys County in 1934.

The members of the community were called to testify about the hazardous condition of the bus. Some who appeared and testified were John Marion Wallace, Bill Wallace, Wilbert Enochs, Mary Ellen Johnson and many others.³

³Statement by Wilbert Enochs, personal interview, May 1, 1973.

Mack Simpson was the attorney for the county. The attorneys for the Plaintiff were Howard E. Brown, J. W. Stephen and W. F. Turner.

The men who sat on the jury were Horace Carter, Bill Patterson, J. F. Merideth, R. F. Davis, G. G. Jarrell, James Rosn, John Lehman, Tom Box, Edd Sherrod, F. D. Garber, Paul Carter, and Walter Anderson.⁴

The defendants were T. C. Miller, Doss Thompson, John James, J. P. Houseman, W. H. Crockett and Walter Long.⁵ These were members of the Humphreys County Board of Education.

After they heard the trial, the jury could not agree. It was a mistrial. This was recorded by L. D. Bohanan, clerk, on April 18, 1935. The case was tried three times in Circuit Court in Humphreys County. On each trial the jury was unable to agree.⁶

It was then decided that the case would be moved to Houston County because the Plaintiff felt he could not have a fair and impartial trial in Humphreys County.⁷

⁴Humphreys County Circuit Court Minutes, April 18, 1935, Book 18, p. 330.

⁵Humphreys County Circuit Court Minutes, April 23, 1935, Book 18, p. 259.

⁶Humphreys County Circuit Court Minutes, April 23, 1935, Book 18, p. 259.

⁷Humphreys County Circuit Court Minutes, April 23, 1935, Book 18, p. 259.

An affidavit was signed by D. A. Hatcher, T. A. Jordon, J. W. Metcalf, Wess Johnson, W. D. Jordon, G. W. Burkett and J. W. Dunn. It stated that they believed there was prejudice against the plaintiff. Therefore, he could not have fair and impartial trial before the jury of Humphreys County.

After it was moved to Houston County, it still ended in a hung jury. After staying in court for a number of years, the case was thrown out of court. The Choates were never compensated for their loss.

This is probably the only person killed while en route to school on a school bus in Humphreys County.

CONCLUSION

The people of Humphreys County have always taken great pride in their schools. Many have given their time and services for the advancement of education in their local community.

As the pendulum of time moves forward, the people of the county will continue to want the schools to have higher educational standards.

The schools in Humphreys County have progressed a long way since the first hickory pole house was erected for educational purposes. They certainly have better facilities for everyone at the present time.

As the people look back over their progress in education throughout the years, they stand proudly and say, "It has been a great honor and privilege to help provide the students of Humphreys County with a better education." They also plan to promote a better educational program for the students in the future.

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