

ESTILL COUNTY'S CEDAR GROVE - A Kentucky Community and Its People

The following is the eighth in a series of articles about the community of Cedar Grove and the west-central part of Estill County that have been compiled by Jerry G. Rose and are from information included in his book, "ESTILL COUNTY'S CEDAR GROVE - A Kentucky Community and Its People"

by JERRY G. ROSE

Cedar Grove Schools -- Part 3

My Years at Old West Irvine School By Sonja Crowe Estes

In the fall of 1947, I was to begin a new adventure; I was to go to school. Before I would be allowed to enter the first grade, I would need to visit the county health doctor, Dr. Richard Snowden, to get a vaccination. Little did I know what a vaccination was? Dr. Snowden's office at that time was located in the Estill County Court House and on this appointed day, Dr. Snowden examined me and then the nurse filled a needle with vaccine, and as my mother tightly held me in her lap, the nurse pricked my arm with the needle several times in a small circle. It hurt! I cried! It made my arm really hurt and in a few days, it began to fester up into a sore with a scab on top. After a while the scab came off and left a scar showing the needle pricks. I now had proof that I had received my vaccination, and I was ready to go to school.

School for me was the old West Irvine School located atop a hill at approximately the dividing line between West Irvine and Cedar Grove. My mother, Ellen Frances Akers, and her brothers, James and David, had been students here in the late 1920s and 1930s.

My parents lived about two miles away from the school on the Stacy Lane Road, and for the first few days, Mama walked me to school and was there to meet me after school. This was very hard for her to do as I had a one year old sister that Mama had to carry back and forth, so after two or three days, she asked a neighbor girl to meet me in the mornings and see that I got to school. The neighbor soon became tired of this and I was on my own. There were other children farther out the road from us, and some mornings they would come along and we would walk together. The road didn't seem quite so far, nor as lonely when I had someone to walk with me.

Stacy Lane in 1947 was a dirt road with a steep hill everyone called the rocky hill because of all the sandstone outcroppings. There were pastures on both sides of the road with cattle in them. In one of the pastures was an ornery old bull that would trot alongside the rickety barbed wire fence bellowing whenever he spotted any of us children. We were all afraid of him, but I know now that he could have come through that fence at any time if he had really wanted to.

After crossing Stacy Lane bottom, I crossed the wooden bridge over Clear Creek, continuing up the hill on the other side to the old railroad bed, where I would detour from the road and follow the well-worn path up the steep embankment through the bushes to the back of the school. My room was on the east end of the building and that is where I entered through the side door into a small vestibule. If I had brought my dinner, I went into the cloak room and placed it on a shelf, or if it was cold weather and rainy or snowy, I would have boots to take off and my teacher, Miss Zulu Wagers, would come to help me get them off. In the afternoon, she helped me get them back on again.

I usually took my dinner to school, but on occasions I would eat the school lunch. There was a kitchen but no cafeteria. In my memory, each row would walk to the kitchen, pick up a tray and return to their desk to eat. After eating we would return the tray to the kitchen. If I had taken my dinner and the

weather was bad, I ate at my desk, if it was pretty, we could go outside to eat. I usually took biscuit and jam, or biscuit and brown sugar, which I loved.

During recesses in nice weather, several of the girls would play hospital and nurses under the shade along the fence. Thorn bushes grew along the fence also, and the thorns from these bushes were the nurses hypodermic needles. I often got shots from these needles, but I was never allowed to be a nurse and give shots. There were also sturdy swings and seesaws to play on if we should grow tired of playing hospital.

My good friend, Christine McIntosh Walling, likes to recall the time when Miss Wagers asked me if I had any sisters or brothers and I replied, "Yes, I have a sister." To this Miss Wagers asked what her name was, and I replied, "Christine McIntosh."

My first and second grade years at the old West Irvine School are rather vague and I have a lot of shadowy memories about things that happened. Thinking back, I know I was extremely shy and introverted during those years and I don't remember a lot about my classwork; it's a wonder I learned anything, but I passed from first to second, so I must have absorbed something in spite of myself.

In the fall of my second year, we moved to Lexington, Kentucky where we remained for six years, before moving back to Estill County. In our absence, the old West Irvine School had burned and a new school had been built in "downtown" West Irvine. I finished my seventh and eighth grades at the new school, graduating from the eighth grade in the spring of 1955.



West Irvine School Group, circa 1940s; Identified from left to right. Back row -- Cleo Miller, Bonnie Bailey, Ruth Miller, Bonnie Miller, Vivian Thacker, Barbara Horn, Pauline Wolfinbarger, Carolyn Sue Wolfinbarger, Wanda Elliott. Front row -- Donald Horn, Bobby Fox, Terry Jefferson (T.J.) Wolfinbarger, Kenneth Moore, Ronald Palmer. Standing -- in the extreme rear is the teacher Mrs. Hart.



West Irvine School Band in the late 1930s or early 1940s.

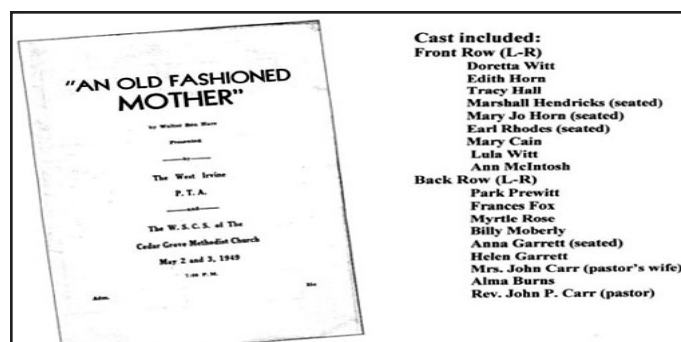


West Irvine School Group. Identified from left to right. Front row -- Robert E. Baker, Randolph Dozier, John Warner, Wade Johnson, Marvin (Pig) Parsons, Ben Hunt, Alvin Ball. Second row -- Roy J. _____, Jim Stepp, Ivan Carter, Robert Henderson, Genevieve McIntosh, Pauline Flynn, Raymond Winkler. Third row -- Laura Eunice Tipton, Nora E. Howard, Margaret Lee Stevens, Charles Elliott. Fourth or Back row -- Dorothy Lee Snowden, Eva Mansfield, Sherman Gordon.

An Old Fashioned Mother

Perhaps one of the crowning moments in the history of the old West Irvine School was the production of the play entitled "An Old Fashioned Mother". It was presented on the evenings of May 2 and 3, 1949 in the school auditorium to packed audiences both nights. The cast of eighteen local residents was largely composed of Cedar Grove Methodist Church members. Brother John Carr, the pastor at the time, and his wife were instrumental in the arrangements and production.

Sufficient money was earned to buy draperies for the stage with enough left over to buy a water fountain. Unfortunately two days before Christmas the following year (December 23, 1950) the school building burned beyond repair. The origin of the fire was never confirmed. The students were temporarily housed in the West Irvine Baptist Church and the Central Office building in Irvine until a larger replacement school building was constructed in West Irvine. Several smaller schools, mostly one and two-room schools, in the outlying area toward Madison County were closed and the students were bused to the larger and modern new West Irvine School, joining the Cedar Grove and West Irvine students.



The Cast for the West Irvine School Play in 1949 "An Old Fashioned Mother".

Monday, September 11, 2017

Fred D. Noland, 89



Continued from Noland obituary on Page 6.

Fred Noland worked part time while in high school and during summers for Farm & Home Supply and Orville Meade which was just across the street from where he lived. After graduation from high school, he trained and then worked for L&N railroad as an operation agent and worked depots and operator offices from Ravena to Neon, Kentucky on on the Eastern KY Division. In 1950, when an automatic block system eliminated operators for train running orders, his "Uncle Sam" gave him a job by being drafted in the first draft since the end of World War II, for the Korean Conflict. He served in the Army for over two years and was an active reserve another 4 years before receiving his honorable discharge with the rank of Sgt.

After military service, he went to work for Union Carbide Nuclear, a subcontractor for the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, and went through their training school and then helped start up a new plant at Paducah. After the Paducah plant was fully operational, he left Union Carbide and took a position with Goodyear Atomic Corp., another contractor for USAEC at a new plant being built north of Portsmouth, Ohio. He taught plant operations for nine months while the plant was under construction, and when the

first unit was turned over to Goodyear, he took a crew and actually threw the switch to start the first unit of one of the world's largest chemical plants. He carried a top secret ID signed by the FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover the entire time he worked for USAEC. After 20 years of production and the Cold War cooling, the AEC began reducing the work force and he was laid off. Fred then took a position with Cabot Corp. at a new plant in Ashtabula, Ohio as a production supervisor. They produced titanium tetrachloride and titanium dioxide. The tetrachloride was produced for sale to outside primarily for producing the metal. The dioxide is the whitest of pigments used in the manufacture of paper, paints, and rubber cosmetics. He worked for Cabot and several other companies who operated the plant; then, after 30 years, he retired.

From a very early age, he loved the outdoors and developed a passion for hunting and fishing which lasted a lifetime. He became very good at both and held a commercial fishing license while in high school. He took up golf when nearly 50 years of age and in a short time was repairing and making his own clubs. This soon turned into doing the same for his golfing friends. This turned into a business-hobby he operated from the basement of his home, called "Sweet Spot Golf." He collected wooden

shaft clubs and old classics and had several hundred when he closed shop. He also sold clubs through the mail to almost all states and several foreign countries.

Fred was an avid Kentucky Wildcats fan and followed them over 75 years. Before TV, he would drive his car to the point of best reception to get Cawood Ledford and the Cats. His Ohio license plate was "KY-CAT1" which he had for over 25 years. He was a Kentucky Colonel for many years.

He was also a member of the Masonic Fraternity for over 60 years. He was a member of Orient Lodge #321 F&AM at Waverly, Ohio, where he served as Master during their centennial year in 1960. He also held dual membership with Rising Sun Lodge #22 F&AM at Ashtabula, Ohio. He also had belonged to York Rite, Scottish Rite, Shrine and Grotto. He, along with his wife Carole, were members of the Order of Eastern Star for over 50 years.



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