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

The following is the ninth 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 4

New West Irvine School 1953

After the West Irvine School (District # 70) burned in December of 1950, a different site was chosen for the new West Irvine School which became District # 34. The new school was built in "downtown" West Irvine, on property near the river once occupied by the Mowbray & Robinson Lumber Company. At the time the new West Irvine School was built, it had four classrooms, a kitchen, furnace room, and boys and girls restrooms. The new school opened for classes in September of 1953. Several more classrooms were added over the years.

The tract of land for the new school was purchased by the Estill County Board of Education from Nannie Benton and her husband, Coleman Benton by Deed dated 8th of May, 1951. The land was part of the land conveyed to Nannie Benton by the Mowbray & Robinson Lumber Company by deed dated January 4, 1951, and recorded in deed book 93, page 121-123, Estill County Court Clerk's Office.

West Irvine School to Get New Building
Old Building was destroyed by Fire

C. N. Wolfinbarger Awarded Contract for $46,667.55 by Fiscal Court.The Estill Fiscal Court Tuesday awarded a contract for the construction of a West Irvine consolidated school to replace a building destroyed by fire last fall. The successful bidder was C.N. Wolfinbarger, Irvine contractor, whose bid was the lowest at $46,667.55. The next lowest bidder was the Alco Building Co. of Winchester at $47,991.00.

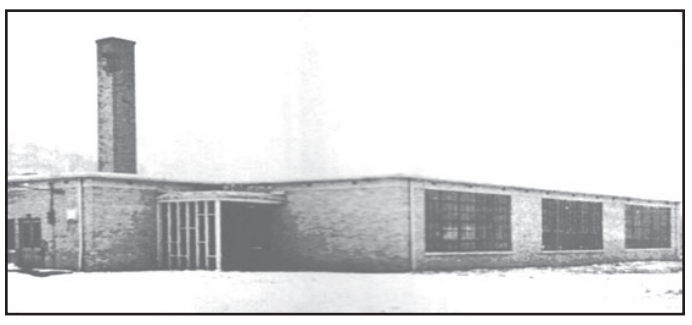
The court employed Brock Johnson, Lexington as architects, and the Charles A. Finsch & Co. to handle the sale of interest bearing bonds as a means of financing the project.

The West Irvine School is part of the Estill County Board of Education school system. Sam Tuttle is chairman of the Board and Douglas F. Miller is county superintendent.

(From The Irvine Times, February 8, 1952)

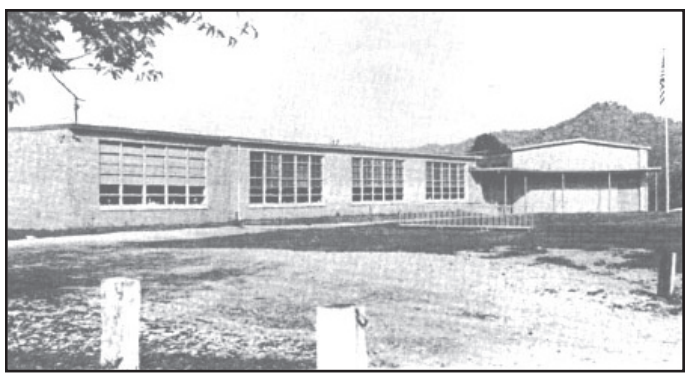
One and two-room county schools that subsequently consolidated into the West Irvine Elementary School included:

■ Amerine ■ Jinks ■ Rice Station ■ Winston ■ Bicknell ■ Lower Bend ■ Rose ■ Wisemantown ■ Cedar Grove ■ Mattie ■ Sand Hill ■ Thomas ■ Crooked Creek ■ Parks ■ Station Camp ■ Pea Ridge ■ Locust Branch ■ Garrett ■ Hoys Fork



The original New West Irvine School opened in September 1953 with four classrooms. Additional classrooms and other facilities were added in 1960 and later.

Over the years the school continued to grow and several additional sections were added to expand the rooms and facilities of the school. In about 2012 the existing school building was replaced with a modern building which will continue to serve the Cedar Grove children for many more years.



The West Irvine after an expansion in the early 1960s which added more classrooms, gymnasium, and other resource facilities. The original portion of the school had served the students for over 50 years.

Recent view of the present and larger and more modern West Irvine School which opened about 2012.

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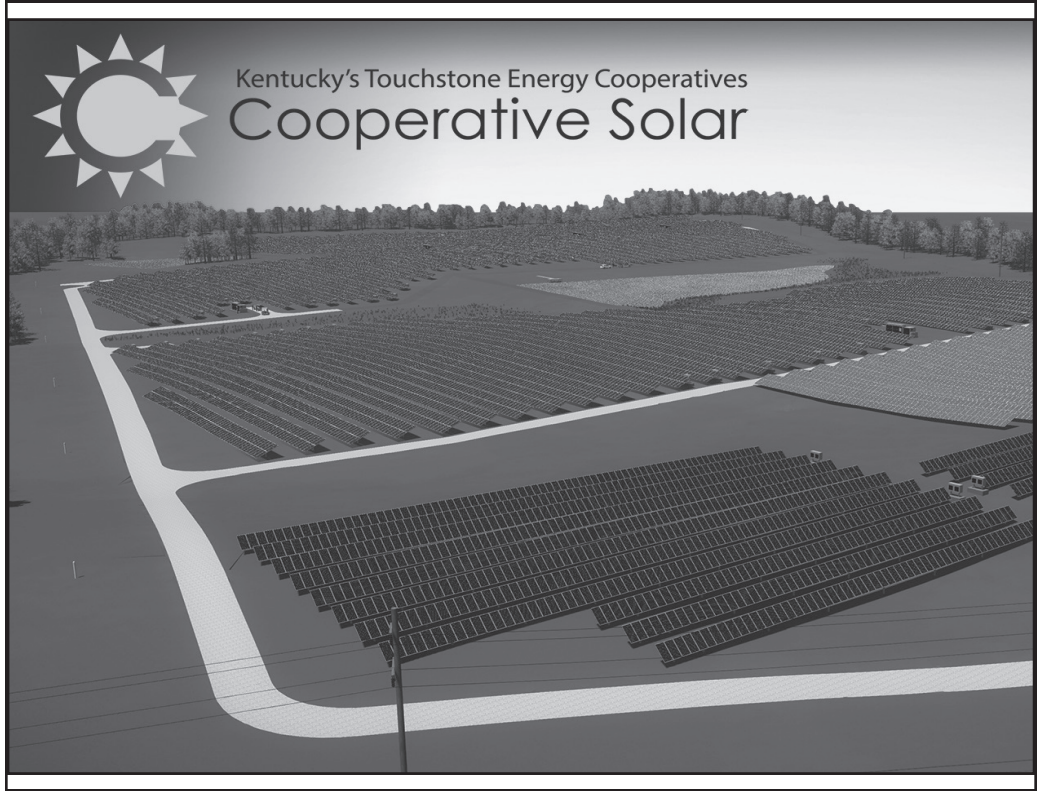

renewable energy

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