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On the cover …

Rocky Point School in Webster County

Garland Callaway attended Rocky Point School for eight years (1942 to 1950). The building was last used as a public school in 1962, when it was annexed by the Marshfield School District (Webster County).

Previously, the building had stood on the other side of the road but was moved in 1954 to its current location because of the construction of Hwy. P.

“Prior to the school being moved, the road sort of curled around the front porch of the school,” said Callaway.

The current building is easily over 80 years old according to Callaway. The building was purchased in the mid-1960s for storage but it is not used now.

“The Floyds had hoped to be able to restore the school,” said Callaway. “They were good to their word though to take care of the building. They have added a roof and siding in recent years. It looks better than it ever did.”

Every two years, graduates of Rocky Point get together for a reunion over Labor Day weekend at nearby Ebenezer Church.

“I had 15 to 20 students in my school and I got a good education there. We listened from the first grade to the eighth grade to the lessons going on around us. That means I have 64 years of education,” said Callaway.

Tires and gas were hard to find during WWII, so teenage girls boarded with a nearby family to be closer to the building while school was in session. But, until October 1949 there was no electricity in the school.

“If we had a dark day there wasn’t much we could do,” said Callaway. “But I remember the day electricity was brought to our area. Every kid ran home that day to see if the power was on at their home.”

A nearby pump provided water and there were separate drinking cups inside the school. The county health department furnished the school with Lifeboy soap.

Continued on the back page
Word from the director ...
So Much to Report in the Last Three Months I need Several Pages

So much has happened in the past three months that I get tired just thinking about. You will read the updates in this newsletter about some member schools being added to a movie location database because of an MU Extension media release that was sent out. This national news coverage could help strengthen our efforts. There are so many other things that instead of just writing about it I had better get started sharing. ...

Legislator Asks for Advice, Help; New Publication a Help

Q: I saw the Sept. 30th release about your rural school program in the Ozarks and wanted to ask a couple of questions about the program.

Dr. Billie Davis
ANSWER: The new “Repair or Replace” document that I have written and designed is a 12-page document that gives advice from professionals on how to decide if a school should be repaired or replaced, a checklist of steps to consider prior to renovation, an essay on why it is important to save one-room schools, information from the preservation office and a DVD of speakers from our 2011 Historic Schools Summit. An order form is available online but I’m glad to send one directly to individuals by email or snail mail.

Organizational Success for Group Working to Save New Bethel

We are now officially incorporated as a non-profit. We are scheduling our second fundraising event here in McDonald County and we are ready to sign papers for the purchase of the New Bethel School Building. After the purchase of the school, restoration will be next and then use by the community and a site for possible student tours.

Karen Armeter

EDITOR’S NOTE: Karen attended one of our recent 501c3 education programs and she also came to the Historic School Summit for advice on how to proceed with this project in McDonald County. Once the building is preserved it will be one of only two former one-room schools in the county standing and being used.

Construction Advice and Plans?

Found the article in the Rural Missouri magazine about your efforts very interesting. Do you know of anyone who builds replicas of old school houses or do you have any floor plans for them? We have a few acres outside of Hermann/Swiss and would like to build an old school house there.

Karen Bozif

ANSWER: I don’t know of anyone who builds replicas, per se. If you have a one-room school in your area actually moving and restoring it would be best. But, that may not be possible in your area. Certainly lots of interest nationwide in doing that.

If you are set on building a school there are some plans from the state of Missouri that were used in the 1880s to about 1910. I’ve written the lady in Jefferson City that has those but she is out of the office until Oct. 31. When I hear back from her I will let you know.

The folks in the College of Education at Missouri State University built a school in 2005 and they used state plans from 1905 to do that build. They might still have...
Word from the director … Continued

those plans on file. The contact would be Scott Fielder and please tell him I gave you his name. In terms of fundraising, you are likely to have more success with a restoration which is why I try to encourage.

Are There Statewide School Plan Books Available?

Q: Are there any plan books for old Missouri one-room schools that are available in a version that can be delivered electronically?

Joe Wilder

ANSWER: Yes, there are numerous plan books that contain basic floor plans, specifications and photographs of "plan book" for one-teacher schools. Most state school boards issued at least one such publication, and often school supply companies issued school plan books. Both books that I have in digital formats contain one-teacher schoolhouse plans that I know were built in Missouri, so these would be "authentic" Missouri rural school types.

For more variety, see Google books at (books.google.com). Several examples of school plan books can be found on this site. Use search terms such as "school architecture" or "school plans." I know that the site contains school plan books from Pennsylvania, New Mexico, and from a couple of school supply companies.

Tiffany Patterson
National Register Coordinator

Boston School in Taney County is Literally Serving the Community

Boston Center Community Building in Taney County (which includes the old Boston Center School) serves as a senior center north of town. One volunteer has started an historical archives in the old building which features various photos of the school. One of the original outhouses is also still standing. The cook shack is gone as well as the hand pump. At one time the building had a bell copula but several years ago vandals destroyed the copula to steal the bell and it was not recovered.

Old Schools in Missouri Need an Inspection for Asbestos Before Being Moved

Just a note, moving a school bldg would be subject to the asbestos inspection and notification requirements administered by the Air Pollution Control Program. APCP has a fact sheet online with requirements. For more information, contact:

Paul Jeffery
Regional Office Coordinator
MDNR/DEQ
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102
P (573) 522-9911

New Publication from DNR

To deepen understanding of Missouri’s historic resources, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, State Historic Preservation Office (MO SHPO) has prepared historic context studies on rural churches and schools. “Rural Church Architecture, c. 1819 – c. 1945,” and “One-Teacher Public Schools of Missouri, c. 1774 to c. 1973” explore the development of rural religion and education and the common building types associated with this development. Both documents are designed to assist property owners to nominate rural buildings to the National Register of Historic Places.

For copies of the contexts or more information on the National Register of Historic Places program, contact Tiffany Patterson, MO SHPO Office, at 573-751-7800.

National Radio Show Focused on One-Room Schools in the Ozarks

Laura Starecheski, a radio producer for a National Public Radio show called State of the Re:Union, made contact in October regarding research she was doing for a possible NPR story. “We make hour-long radio documentary episodes about community in different places around the US, and I’m researching a possible episode in the Missouri Ozarks.”

Laura was very interested in the history of one-room schoolhouses in the Ozarks, as well as the current efforts to preserve them and reinstate some as the community hubs they used to be, after reading about the Ozarks Country School Association online.

“I wonder if you might be available for a phone conversation to tell me more about some of the specific efforts... if there's one community engaged in the process right now, with people who also remember teaching or attending the one-room school, that could be a great story for us to explore on our show.”

As of December 2011, Laura was still engaged in research on a possible story. More to follow.

www.stateofthereunion.com

Restoration Advice from Experience

I have the one room schoolhouse in Edmond OK. It was built in 1889 and was used for 10 years before too many children were wanting to go to school and they had to build a new school. However, we have the story of the people in 1889 building the school-
The Ozarks Country School Association is a program of University of Missouri Extension
Area Schools Added to Database for Movie Locations

Use as a movie location could bring financial boom; Effort Spearheaded by MU Extension

It all started with an inquiry to the Country School Association of America. A simple email message written by a senior student finishing up a degree program at Evangel University in Springfield, Mo.

“Dear Sir: I am working on a location library for the Missouri Film Association of Springfield, Mo. This online resource will serve invaluable assistance to filmmakers seeking to film in the Ozarks. As part of the appeal to shoot films in the Ozarks, I would like to include a one-room school house in this project. I was hoping that it would be possible for you to contact me with some country schools in the Springfield area. Once I make contact with them, I would then go on a photo shoot and document the location (both inside and out) and post the pictures on our page along with information concerning the location such as address, history, etc. When filmmakers are interested in shooting at this location, they will contact the location owner directly expressing interest and requesting permission to utilize the premises. If this is something that any of the country schools in the Branson/Springfield area would be interested in, please let me know.

Sincerely,
Heather Kinney”

Heather’s note was forwarded from the national group to David Burton, coordinator of the Ozarks Country School Association. He met with Heather and her instructor to provide details on existing schools as well as a list of what he considered to be the best prospects. Heather was a bit overwhelmed by all the possibilities.

“Thanks for meeting with me. I’ve spent some time looking over your resources, and I’m afraid I haven’t been able to narrow it down very much. I like so many of them and they are all so different! I have a list of 11 schools that I’m initially interested in. For one reason or another they will slowly be eliminated, but there are factors that will effect this decision that I cannot tell solely from the photos.”

The list of prospects provided to Heather included:
1. Locust Prairie School near Fair Grove
2. Star School at College of the Ozarks
3. Rocky Point School near Marshfield
4. Liberty school north of Springfield
5. Rountree School near Battlefield
6. Flat Rock School near Willard
7. Flint Hill School north of Willard
8. St. Elmo School near Republic
9. Schuyler School north of Springfield
10. Sycamore School near Mt. Vernon
11. Wooley Creek School near Cape Fair

The Ozarks Country School Association is a program of University of Missouri Extension
INFORMATIONAL COVERLETTER

The Missouri Film Association of Springfield (MFAS) is in the process of constructing a location library. A location library is a compilation of visual images and pertinent information such as the physical address, owner contact information, etc., that can assist filmmakers in their search for usable locations. A location library serves many purposes, the most prominent of which is to categorize and display locations that are available for filmmakers to use and shorten the time it takes for them to locate and secure these locations. Location libraries are an invaluable resource for filmmakers filming in regions with which they are unfamiliar. They benefit not only the producers and directors, but also the location scouts. Location scouts venture on behalf of the creative team during preproduction in search of the perfect location to be used for the film’s specific needs. When a location scout is exploring an area with which they are unfamiliar, a location library gives them not only a good idea of what kinds of places can be found in the area, but specific examples and options that are available for use.

The MFAS wishes to supply a location library as a resource for filmmakers wishing to film in the Springfield/Ozarks area. This specific online resource will serve invaluable assistance to filmmakers and help to incite the film industry into shooting in the Springfield/Ozarks area, supporting our local economy.

As part of the appeal to shoot films in the Ozarks, we would like to include your location in this project. Your involvement in this project requires little from you. With your permission, we will acquire original photos of the location, documenting both the interior and exterior. These photos will be posted on our web page http://www.missourifilm.org/ along with information concerning the location such as physical address, history, owner contact information, etc. When filmmakers are interested in shooting at this location, they will contact the location owner/manager directly expressing interest and requesting permission to utilize the premises.

MFAS does not serve as a liaison between the interested film party and the location, but merely provides resources for interested filmmakers. Your involvement does not guarantee that a film will be shot on the premises of this location. However, it does guarantee the possibility that film projects may contact you in the future expressing such an interest.

Schools currently included on the database are:

Sycamore Schoolhouse
This one room schoolhouse is now employed as a community center. The original outhouses are still standing. Original desks, benches, chairs and black board are still in the building along with added removable tables and seating to accommodate community meetings.

Locust Prairie Schoolhouse
This one room schoolhouse is now employed as a community center. The original outhouses are still standing and functional. Original desks, chairs and black board are still in the building. The porch was reinforced with concrete columns, but everything from the porch inward is the original structure. The facility is heated by a heating system where a potbelly stove once stood.
Good Ole’ School Days

Nothing captures the character of the good ole’ school days like photos. Photo submissions are welcome (by e-mail or actual prints by mail) for scanning and publication in this newsletter. This month’s photos were submitted by Sharon Nahon of Springfield, Mo.

**Photo #1** is from 1912. It was taken at Hickory Barren School (near Fair Grove, Mo). The group is identified as the Hickory Barren Singing Group (note the song books they are holding). Hickory Barren is gone now but it stood northeast of Farm Road 181 and Hickory Barren Lane, about .3 miles south of Shelby Road. Hickory Barren was first built as a log cabin school in 1837. The school house was built by the contribution of labor and material from settlers. The building had one large room for classes. Most recent version before falling had a bell tower and small windows down the west side. Reorganized as Fair Grove District R-X in 1954. Building fell in 1997.

**Photo #2** is from Fair View School, 1894. There were actually three Fair View schools in Greene County. One near Walnut Grove that was nicknamed “Butterknob,” one near Bois D’Arc (which is now destroyed) and then this one that stood near Dickerson Park Zoo and later near Hillcrest School north of Springfield. The picture inset is of the same Fair View school and was taken in 1908.
School in Ballwin Beautifully Restored, Open to Public

Don Essen, 90, showed off his framed Ballwin School "Award of Honor" certificate dating from 1932, recognizing him for punctual and regular attendance.

Essen was among members of the Ballwin Historical Commission who on a recent morning were looking through old photos while in the Old Ballwin School House meeting room.

A one-room school when it was built in 1900, the building still stands tall, thanks to extensive renovations over the last few years.

"We wanted to save this building for its history, to show the new generation how easy they have it now and what the old schools looked like," said Helen Pisarkiewicz, chairperson of the historical commission.

Ten years ago, the developer of Olde Towne Plaza shopping center moved the building to 308 Jefferson St. from its original site at 110 Elm St.

The center's construction displaced the school and demolished many other buildings in the old historic area of Ballwin that had been south of Manchester Road.

After the move, work started to return the building to its original condition. The building had been converted to a home in 1938 when a new brick school was built. The homeowners subdivided the interior to create new rooms and put in such things as linoleum floor tiles in the new kitchen. A new basement was built and inside stairs leading to the basement were added.

Returning the building to its original configuration meant tearing out walls and removing the improvements made by homeowners George Pappas, who bought the schoolhouse in 1938, and Lucille Jaycox, who bought what was then a home in 1953.

The basement was reinforced and the inside stairs were moved out of the schoolroom and into what's now the meeting room.

In the last few years, windows were reglazed; a new roof, heating, siding and sidewalks were added; and a bell tower, with donated school bell, was replaced after it had been removed.

The bell now in the tower was donated by Raymir Behrens Buer, of Town & Country, in memory of her father, Ray Behrens. The Gebhardt family, who went to the school, donated another bell, which is kept inside.

Restoration work has been slow because of the amount of money, labor and services needed.

The city of Ballwin and commission fundraisers have provided about $80,000. Another $60,000 came 10 years ago from the developer of Olde Towne Plaza.

Much of the commission money came in small amounts from book and bake sales held in March and November at the Pointe Recreation Center and from three summer rubber duck races at the North Pointe Aquatic Center, Pisarkiewicz said. In addition, the city donates its trivia night proceeds to the restoration, she said.

Restoration costs would have been much higher if it had not been for the donated labor and services.

The restoration would be incomplete without the outhouses that once sat outside. The outhouses were frequent targets of pranksters, said Mel "Muddy" Walka, 83, who remembers one Halloween when they were lugged to the top of the steps at the old Peterson's Grocery store on Manchester Road.

"We hope to find a volunteer, maybe an Eagle Scout, to rebuild the outhouses for us as a service project," said commission member Virginia Rogan, of Ballwin.

The group also hopes to have a cistern like the original that was in front of the school.

"And we need to find an old cistern pump too, one that you turn, like the kids would use to get water," commission member and Wildwood resident Ralph Starck said.

The commission has already gotten donations of old school desks, teacher's desks and blackboards. Ballwin maintenance workers have painted floors, put up drywall and made other renovations.

A few finishing touches, like adding another blackboard and displays of Ballwin School artifacts, which they're still seeking, are also being done.

The commission is always looking for donations to help pay for regular heating, cooling and electricity costs.

Next on the agenda is encouraging local schools to bring students to tour the building and see for themselves where the American educational system began.

"Back then, these one-room buildings produced so many community leaders and others who've contributed in a positive way," said Joan Essen, Don Essen's daughter. "It's an example of what we can live up to today, from back when you didn't need frills, bells, and whistles for an excellent education."

To learn more call Ballwin Parks at (636) 227-2743.
For some reason this school escaped attention of the previous researchers, even though it is only three miles east of Houston. It is the Brownhill School, number 42 on the 1924 School Districts list for Texas County, showing a Yukon address, and J. W. Brown as school board president. Some other interesting information is the value, $68,000, $262.00 in aid, $39.60 for free text books, and some levy information I don't understand.

It is built of field stone with the "spider web" raised grout line. Without further research, I'm certain the same WPA CCC crews that built other stone structure schools in Texas County built Brownhill school also. Above the front door, in concrete, is Brownhill School, 1934. Note the "N" is backwards. Of special note is that all of the original playground equipment is still here! The well pump still pumps water! It appears that the structure has the original metal roof.

On the southeast corner is the teachers quarters, a later addition. The builders attempted to match the original work, but lacked the technique for the original spider web grout line. After the school became a residence two corners on each side of the front door were filled in with wood sided bedrooms. They will easily be removed. There is also a later porch addition, also easily removed.

The excitement I have about this school is that it has original structure without alterations that cannot be removed, the original playground equipment, and well pump. There are also two concrete block outhouses that appear to be from the 1950's.

The young couple who live in the school have become one-room school buffs of sorts. They expressed interest in making improvements to the structure as a home. The road originally ran on the west side, which is the entry side, but now is on the east side.

Written by Peter Maki,
Top of the Ozarks RC&D
The Ozarks Country School Association is a program of University of Missouri Extension
The Ozarks Country School Association is a program of University of Missouri Extension

Donna Neighbors of Unionville, Mo. authored this poem and submitted it for publication in our newsletter. She owns Kid-D-Barn Day Care and Preschool in Unionville. She attended a country school herself has many wonderful memories of that experience. “For the past 15 years I have owned a nationally accredited daycare and preschool for 20 children and I often think of my past experience in the old country school and appreciate the values that were taught there.” wrote Neighbors.
Tag Along Sister

I attended Brookline one-room school, tagging along with my sister, Marjorie, when she was in the first and second grades—she is two years older than I am. Our mother was sick a lot, so I just went to school with Marjorie. The county superintendent would come by the school and ask me how old I was and when I told him I was too young to be in school and he would send me home. After he left, the teacher would come and get me.

The older boys were playing football inside the school when the weather was bad and the ball landed at my feet. All the boys piled up on top of me, breaking my right collarbone. They took me to Dr. LeCompte, who lived behind our house in Brookline, and he put a figure-eight bandage on and sent me back to school.

When we moved to Nichols, I entered the third grade with my sister and stayed in the same grade as she did throughout college.

Jackie Warfel
Bois D’Arc, Mo.

After school agenda

After we got home from school the first thing we did was to change clothes. We put them away for the next day. Everyone one of us had our chores to do. At night, we studied our lessons for the next day. Mama sat by the old wood heater and patched our clothes or darned our socks. Dad read his daily paper and shelled corn for the chickens. Sometimes he helped us with our lessons or played games with us.

Thinking of school brings me back to 1914 when I started school. We were excited about our new clothes, our shoes, long stockings, gingham and calico dresses and sateen bloomers. Everything was made by our mother that could be. That was quite a chore for a mother with four daughters.

At school there was mischief among the boys. They liked to make paper wads and flip them to the ceiling or each other when the teacher was not looking. To make a good paper wad you chew a piece of paper until you get it just right, and when it is real juicy. You then put it on the end of your finger and flip with your thumb. If it is a good one it will land on the ceiling and splatter out. Sometimes there were quite a few in sight. I can still see them. They would tear out pages of poems so they would not have to memorize them. When the girls went to the toilet they threw rocks at the toilet. They did not always get by with these things; I can still remember being outside and hearing that old whip stripping their legs.

Blanche (Silvey) Blevins
Springfield, Missouri

Made up for Lost time

I was nine years old on my first day of school. Polio at one year of age made it impossible for me to walk to school as all rural kids had to do then. At this time we rented a farm only one-quarter mile from school. My sister taught me to write my name and count.

My siblings pulled me to school in a sturdy child’s wagon. As we became acquainted with the kids there I was treated just like the rest. My wagon went up the aisle when I transferred to a seat shared by another. I made two grades the first year and two the second year. At age 13, I was in the seventh grade with my peers.

Jewell Cooper
Bolivar, Mo.

Golden School Days

The goldenrod was butter yellow, standing there in shame as those who pick its beautiful blossoms are now off to the opening of another school term. I recall when those lovely wild flowers were laden with dust along the road where the Model Ts went merrily along the dirt roads. I remember trying to walk within the ruts as I trudged toward the one room school.

Fall, with its profusion of Goldenrod is a reminder of those days. Those were the lovely days in my early life: my worries were centered on “how could I get the attention of a certain little boy in blue overalls?” Another worry wrinkle might come when I wondered if Ma put enough fried chicken in my syrup bucket so I would have a leg left for the long walk home. Problems inside the books were nothing compared to those stinging problems in the girls out-house, wasp nests and big black ants!

Ah, time has changed the school scene; roads are now blacktopped, kids ride a bus to class, hot lunch is served in an air conditioned room and the 3 R’s seem to have taken a back seat to higher kinds of learning. It seems life is no longer simple, even halls of learning leave in a daze.

Annabel Whobrey
Rogersville, Mo

Submissions

Want to submit a letter of memories about a one-room school for publication in this newsletter? Just send your text to David Burton via e-mail (burtond@missouri.edu) or mail it to the Greene County Extension center.

Blanche (Silvey) Blevins
Springfield, Missouri
Oral History is a Valuable Family Gift

Putting together an oral history or family history notebook may be one of the best things you can ever do for your children according to David Burton, civic communication specialist, University of Missouri Extension.

The process doesn’t require a fancy novel, a professional quality DVD or strange and amazing stories. Instead, just provide your children with a record of the stories from their childhood.

"These were short stories that would be forgotten otherwise," said Burton. "My wife writes in a journal for our children about what they have done and said. My own mother researched and developed family history notebooks among our relatives that have become one of my family's most-prized possessions."

Burton says there are several ways people can give the valuable gift of history to their families. Perhaps the most fun method is through an oral history.

"With the popularity of video cameras, it is convenient to begin a family oral history. The hardest and easiest parts of this process are the same: getting started. I had hoped to get a collection of my grandfather’s (Orlis Farmer) stories but I didn't get started before he passed away," Burton said.

According to Burton, there are several ways to get started with a family oral history. One of the easiest is to take a tape recorder or video recorder to the next family dinner or reunion.

“How many times have people visited a cemetery and talked with their children or parents about deceased relatives and some of the memories of them that describe some of their characteristics? Next time, take the recorder and record the conversations,” said Burton.

Another excellent opportunity to develop an oral history, according to Burton, is to record conversations while working on a family photo album. If that can’t be done, just start writing on your own history or take really good notes each time you talk to a family member.

"When making an oral history, don't worry about being grammatically correct. Talk or write the way you always do. Your children and grandchildren are interested in what makes you unique," Burton said.

There is a lot of information on the Internet about developing oral histories, including something called the Veterans History Project in conjunction with the Library of Congress. This is a project that provides a framework for the collection of stories from American veterans.

Some of the best resources, including “The One-Minute Guide to Oral History” can be found online at http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/ROHO, the web site for the Regional Oral History Office at the University of California, Berkeley.

“Just remember, an oral history interview is not a dialogue. Ask questions that require more of an answer than just yes or no. The idea is to get the family member you are interviewing to talk freely and to share their life history, in their own words,” said Burton.

Do you recognize this school in Lawrence County, Missouri?
Creating an Oral History Project

Learn how to organize and record a professional oral history project for family members or individuals with a shared experience.

Materials on oral histories and the MU Extension publication, “A History of Me,” will be provided to participants. A boxed lunch will be provided and a field trip to see a professionally done oral history interview is also included.

Registration: Registration is required by calling 417-881-8909; prepayment needed

Fee: $30 per person for Friday program (not for the oral history interviews for qualifying individuals).

When: March 23, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Where: University of Missouri Extension/Springfield Greene County Botanical Center
2400 S. Scenic Ave., Springfield, MO 65807

Description: This class is open to anyone interested in putting together a collection of oral histories. This could include oral histories just within your immediate family or among people with a common experience or background: fellow club members, fellow church members, residents of a nursing home, etc.

Any person with a love of history or anyone who works with older audiences should be interested in this class.

There is a classroom portion to this program, along with handouts and a field trip to observe a professional quality oral history project being done with former one-room school students and teachers in the same building by members of the Missouri State Historical Society.

Facilitator: David Burton, burtond@missouri.edu phone: 417/881-8909

Interviews: Individuals who attended or taught at a one-room school in the Ozarks are invited to participate in the Oral History Project on March 22—23. A limited number of oral histories will be collected and preserved by the Missouri State Historical Society. Interviews must be pre-registered and are being coordinated by staff at the Greene County Extension Center, (417) 881-8909.

Course instructor
David Burton
Civic Communication Specialist
Presenter and author of “A History of Me”

$5 discount for the March 23 workshop to members of the Ozarks Country School Association

Oral Histories of former one-room school students and teachers being conducted on March 22 and March 23 by:

Jeff D. Corrigan
Oral Historian
State Historical Society of Missouri
University of Missouri-Columbia
1020 Lowry Street
Columbia, MO 65201
573-882-0417
From Reading and Writing to Restoration in San Timoteo

The schoolteacher’s desk is waiting for a fresh apple. The wooden desks, the stove, and the blackboards all stand ready, as they were in the 1890s.

One area one-room schoolhouses is reopening.

But instead of reading, writing, and arithmetic, the San Timoteo Canyon Schoolhouse will feature family fun. Starting in April, parks officials plan to offer public programs from noon to 4 p.m. every Saturday at the schoolhouse at 31985 San Timoteo Canyon Rd.

The first school in what later became Riverside County was built in remote San Timoteo Canyon west of Beaumont, in 1856. The wooden, one-room schoolhouse replaced that adobe school in 1894 and has been a landmark ever since. It's not a little red schoolhouse; instead, it has been restored to its original gray.

In the school's heyday about 25-40 children attended grades one through eight. They included the children of the Southern Pacific Railroad work crews. Trains still whistle their way frequently along the nearby train tracks.

In the 1920s the schoolhouse was used for Sunday school and during later decades the building was a center for community dances, plays, ice cream socials, and picnics, according to Riverside County’s published 1993 guide to county landmarks.

But by the 1980s the building was deteriorating, teeming with bat colonies, and often targeted by vandals. The schoolhouse was a mess of disrepair and smashed-in windows and walls when longtime canyon resident Jerry Cody and his wife, Le’, led efforts starting in 1997 to save it.

They won a battle to keep the schoolhouse in the canyon. They alerted the Sheriff’s Department whenever they saw vandals. They helped find ways to restore the schoolhouse inside and out, much with volunteered work. They never let up or gave up.

They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the schoolhouse. When Le’ Cody died in 2008, her husband carried on, helped by some of their six children.

For example, Le’ Cody loved the stories of dances around a school maypole. The restored school has one. Saturday’s open-house celebration will include a maypole dance, park interpreter Jim Bowden said.

Although the building has undergone years of restoration work, finishing touches remain. The other day Bowden fired up the blacksmith forge at the Gilman Historic Ranch and Wagon Museum in Banning. He needed to make some hooks for the schoolhouse.

An 1890s school seemed to call for an 1800s skill. Bowden hammered, working to shape the heated metal into hooks, one by one. Within a few days, the completed hooks were hanging in place in the schoolhouse. The grand opening will feature two “schoolteachers” in period dress and 1800s-style games and toys for children. Families who attended school there are among those invited.

And the flag that will fly on the school flagpole is one that has flown at the White House in Washington, D.C., Jerry Cody said.

Longtime San Timoteo Canyon resident Jerry Cody led the rescue and restoration of the old schoolhouse.
Teacher Strikes at One-Room Schools in the Ozarks?

**Q:** David, I'm wondering if you or anyone you have contact with on country school issues has any knowledge of strikes by one-room school teachers undertaken to raise salaries.

So far I can document two Iowa strikes in Jasper County, Mound Prairie township involving seven teachers and one in Sioux County, Center township involving five teachers. These strikes took place in February and March, 1920. The issue was the need for higher salaries. There was also a strike by a single one-room school teacher in Maine January 1969. The issue reported here was "deplorable conditions." That is about all I know at the moment.

-- Bill Sherman, founder of Iowa Country Schools Association and Country School Assoc. of America

**ANSWER:** Neither I nor the colleague I checked with is familiar with any one room school teacher strikes in Greene County. We are under the opinion that their positions were too precarious to try this at least locally. If you find out anything to the contrary I would be very interested. I do wonder if there could have been anything at the time some of these schools started consolidating if there was a disparity between what the teachers at the individual one or two room schools were making. I don't know that there was. But it might be something to check out in the newspaper indexes.

Joan Hampton-Porter, Curator
The History Museum for Springfield-Greene County

I sincerely doubt that any teacher in a one room school in any place would ever have thought of going on strike. We were there because we loved children and were a part of the community. Teachers striking at all was unheard of in this area where I taught and I was appalled when I first heard of teachers striking. To me, that was letting the children down and we were there for the children.

Lola Belle Underwood
Taught in Webster County, Mo. one-room schools--Eighty-Eight, Greenwood, Jameson and Northview

I'm not aware of anything regarding one-room schoolhouse teacher strikes in our collection. I did several searches in our database, but didn't come up with anything. The only suggestion I could make is if someone was aware of a strike that took place I would think that would be big news in the rural area where it happened that it might be worth checking the newspaper archives at the time to see if and how the story was covered.

Jeff D. Corrigan, Oral Historian
The State Historical Society of Missouri
University of Missouri-Columbia

I haven't read of any teacher strikes in Missouri one-teacher schools in annual reports of the Missouri Superintendent of Public Schools, not to say they didn't happen, I just haven't read or heard of them. In the last several decades (since the c. 1930s), I know that teachers have the right to bargain collectively, but it is against the Missouri constitution for teachers to strike. Missouri teachers have had an advocacy organization since the 1850s, now known as the Missouri State Teachers Association. Mr. Sherman may want to contact that organization to see if they have something in their records about MO teacher strikes.

Tiffany Patterson, National Register Coordinator
State Historic Preservation Office
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Jefferson City, Mo

Danforth School (Greene County)
Mary Dillard Ley said about late 1940s. Miss Helen Gibson was a spinster (old maid) and was giving the children a Sunday School lesson and shortly after the photo was made she unexpectedly got married and left the area. Mary Price Walls (her brother is Archie) wasn't sure about the date, either.

Photo from Mary Dillard Ley
Lessons Learned at the One-Room School
By David L. Burton

I sat with my children in old-time desks with holes where ink wells used to be back in 2004. Together we learned about the history of the school on display at Silver Dollar City and I watched as my kids went through some lessons. During the 30 minutes we spent there I discovered several key lessons that are still relevant today.

Community is important
For one-room schools, the community was extremely important. The school needed their support to operate and school was a center of community activity. Many communities in the Ozarks came together to build schools in harsh conditions and with few financial resources. These school buildings then served as a center of education for children and, since parents and neighbors were so deeply involved, the school also became a center of community life. Parents gathered for regular school performances and activities while also working together to maintain the building and raise money to support it.

Helping others is essential and expected
Children in a one-room school spent their days surrounded by children of all ages. At various points in the day students could find themselves being challenged by a lesson with an older student, and at another, mentoring a younger schoolmate. With just one teacher required to teach lessons to a large group of students of all ages, such cooperation was essential. It also served to engrain learning into the students, because in order to mentor another child, you must know that specific material well.

Hard work is required
Students had to literally work for their education. In addition to having to walk two miles or more to school (which often provided lessons of its own), the students had to help haul in the water, take care of the coal stove, clean the blackboards and perform a range of other chores essential to the operation and upkeep of the school. These responsibilities, I think, helped instill pride in their school and offered chances for responsibility.

Ability, not age, is key
Lessons in a one-room school were not locked into a certain grade level or age. Rather, they could be given according to ability and students were permitted to learn ahead or listen in on lessons on which they needed to catch up. I can’t count the number of times I’ve heard a former student say they learned ahead by listening to other lessons.

Stable and caring families
Another key to the success of one-room schools nationwide was the support that came from families who sent their children. There was financial support as well as respect for the teacher. American families were also more stable and that was key to the education and development of the school children.
Historical Photos Require Special Care for Inclusion in National List of Historic Places Application

Q: I am having problems processing photos of the Cave Spring School for the US Parks Dept. to be put on the National List of Historic Places. They are specific on the type of ink and paper to be used. I can find those but the problem is that this if about six years old and ancient in the photo world. The problem is finding a printer that uses those inks. Do you or some of your contacts deal with the Parks Dept. and if so, what updated paper and inks do they use. I have contacted the Historic Register and have gone in circles.

Helen K. Hunter
Cave Springs School, Joplin, Mo.

ANSWER: I don’t personally have the answers but I have forwarded your message to someone in Jefferson City who I believe will be able to help.

ANSWER: First, what kind of printer do you have? If you'll let me know I may be able to provide some specific suggestions. However, my experience with the National Register is that they are more concerned about the type of photographic paper used than the inks. The most common and readily available paper that is in use (and acceptable by the National Register Program) is Hewlett Packard (HP) Premium Plus Glossy photo paper for ink jet printers. I know that Target carries this paper, but also think that Wal-Mart & Kmart carry the brand and type.

Remember that two sets of prints are requires for submission of any National Register nomination in Missouri. Prints must be either 5 X 7, or 8 X 10 and printed in black and white (grayscale).

Photos should be labeled on the back with pencil (do not use any adhesive labels on the photos) with the name of the property, county and state in which it is located and the photo number (i.e. 1 of 6, 2 of 6, etc).

If pencil won't work on the back, use an archival photo pen. Label in small print near one edge of the print.

The alternative (if you're printing on an ink jet printer anyway) is to label the photo electronically. This means that the photo should be printed with a narrow blank border in which the label can be typed. I usually insert the digital images into a Word file, size them to print just under 5 X 7 inches in size (usually 2 per page), change the image from color to grayscale, type a label on one line under each photo (i.e. Cave Springs School, Jasper County, Missouri), print, then trim the photos to have a narrow white border that includes the label.

In reality, the prints are secondary to the digital images used to make the prints. Digital images must be submitted on a CD along with the prints. The image size and quality is important. Specifically, the requirements are:

- Set digital cameras to save color digital images as RAW or uncompressed TIF files if possible. This allows for the best image resolution. JPEGs converted to TIFs, by a computer conversion process, are acceptable; however, JPEGs must not be altered in any way prior to conversion.
- The size of each image must be 3000 x 2000 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. This generally requires a digital camera resolution of six megapixels or greater.
- Electronic image files must be submitted on CD-R media.

The file name for each color electronic image saved on the CD-R must correspond to the photo log included in the nomination and the information on the labeled photograph. The file name should include the state, county, reference to historic name, and the photo number. For example, image files for the John Smith House in Cole County, Missouri should be labeled “MO_ColeCo_JSmith_001,” “MO_ColeCo_JSmith_002,” and so forth.

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Cave Springs School in 2010 (above).

The Ozarks Country School Association is a program of University of Missouri Extension
Continued from page 2: There was a wood stove for heat in Rocky Point School (the inside of the school is shown above). The teacher often put on a big pot of water so students could wash with warm water prior to lunch. There is some historical material inside the school with old photos and according to Callaway, some groups from Marshfield school have toured the building over recent years. The school is owned by and was fixed up by, Jerry and Doris Floyd (although Jerry is now deceased). Photos by David L. Burton