

# DIXIE ATTENDANCE CENTER



EST. 1921



## Preface

In 1906, Forrest County was formed from a section of Perry County. The railroad and lumber industry caused the area to grow, resulting in the creation of the new county and more citizens in the area. Most were farmers or worked in the lumber industry at this time.

Before Dixie Consolidated School opened in 1921, students in this area attended the following three schools: Pine Grove School, Rogers School, and Brown's Schoolhouse/Wesley Consolidated (Wes-Brown Schoolhouse). This being a rural area, most residents were not wealthy and did not live lavishly. Often, children only wore shoes in the winter. There were few cars, so horses and walking were the main mode of transportation for most. The schools and churches were the main gathering places for the community.

From these humble beginnings, Dixie School/Dixie Attendance Center has continued to be a hub for the community and has grown into what it is today. It sits outside the Hattiesburg city limits of Forrest County, at 790 Elks Lake Road. Although the community and the campus have changed significantly, I think we can all agree that this school still contains the, "Heart of Dixie," which is our students.

This book will walk you through 100 years of Dixie School. There is far too much to fit in one book, so as I gather information, it will all be recorded and added. Thanks to all who have helped compile these priceless memories. Each one of you are helping to preserve the history of our beloved school and community. I am so grateful.

-Raquel Strong

Dixie: Through the Years

( A Compilation of the  
8th Grade Horizon term  
papers.)

by

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Jason Gunter, Angie Hughes, Angie Leffler,  
Kris Roberts, David Skinner, and  
Brooke White

The 8th Grade Horizon Class takes pleasure and pride in dedicating this video to Mrs. Alice Skinner. She has helped us enormously in finding information, obtaining the costumes and supporting us with her enthusiasm, which was more help than anyone could ask for. As the 8th graders head to high school we would like to say, "Thanks," for all of your help and support through the years. We will miss you greatly.

Dixie - 1987 - a school of 320 students, teaching staff of 25, Black Creek football champions. Halloween Carnival, dances, softball, scouts, basketball, graduating class of eighth graders. This is Dixie. But this was not always Dixie.

Dixie Attendance Center 1921 - Yes, the first phase of Dixie was complete in 1921. The school was built by Glenn Bros. Contractor on 16th section land donated by W. A. Conn, M. A. Frye, J. A. Rye and J. L. Cagle were all instrumental in helping to organize the school after the consolidation of Rogers, Pine Grove and West Bro schools.

The first Dixie School served as a school five days a week; and Sunday it was converted into a church. It was then that people of the surrounding community named the location Dixie after the school. The first superintendent was J. L. Guy and serving on the first board of trustees were: J. A. Hull, O. P. Arnett, K. E. Lee and R. L. McSwain.

Most of the people in the community were farmers but a few were working for the school such as J. C. Tracy, a first grade teacher and J. C. Jones, the first principal. Reading, writing, arithmetic, geometry and history were taught.

School books were scarce so families bought the books and passed them from one child to the next down the line.

May 5, 1987

A teachers home and an outhouse completed the campus.

By the late 1920's English and French were added to the curriculum, and in 1926 graduated nine students from the 11th grade.

However, when Dixie was opened in 1927, a twelfth grade was added. Only two of the preceding class chose to return.

The twenties saw Dixie reacting, much like the rest of the country, to the return of its WWI soldiers, 19th ammendment, Scope Monkey Trial, the Stock Market crash and then \_\_\_\_\_

The thirties emerged amid the chaos of the depression. It was this time that the lunchroom for Dixie was begun only to be halted by the Depression. However, when the W.P.A. became a reality, so did the Dixie lunchroom. When the facility opened, parents came and cooked so the children would have a hot lunch.

The lunches cost a nickel, and children who could not afford this would bring corn, pickles, sweet potatoes, cucumbers, and other fresh vegetables.

The log cabin, now over fifty years old, was built at this time.

The fashions of the day were knickers and flour sack dresses. The big band era was literally in full swing, but even the music of the Dorseys or Glenn Miller could not drowned out the rumblings from across the sea.

The community of Dixie was enjoying a lazy Sunday afternoon when on their radios was heard, "The Japanese have bombed Pearl Harbor."

The impact on Dixie of this statement was felt for the years to come with the activation of Camp Shelby. The school population fluctuated as men disembarked for WWII.

There were eight teachers, but at times one teacher taught two grades. Basketball and softball were still played.

The fresh produce helped keep the lunch price in line while other prices were soaring because of the war effort. However, lunches rose to 10¢. Cars were scarce so children came to school by bus.

Academics were stressed and children who failed to pass their subject were given "licks" for each point below passing while H. H. Barrett was principal.

All the world was stunned when President Harry S. Truman announced the atomic bomb had been dropped on Hiroshima. The war ended, but the nuclear age had just begun.

While the heavens were being shaken by space ships the music world was shaken by Elvis Presley. Dixie joined the mass hysteria of the age and songs such as "You Ain't Nothing but a Hound Dog" and "Whole Lotta Shakin' Going on" gained on top of the hit list for weeks. Fats Dominos' "On Blueberry Hill" and "Hey Good Lookin'" could be heard on all the teen radios. Ducktail hair cuts, white suede loafers and wide shouldered sport coats were worn by the boys while poodle skirts, bobby socks and pony tails could be seen on the girls. The fun of the fifties was the rage. Dixie's principal was Oscar Johnson. His faculty consisted of Mrs. J. C. Tracy, Mrs. Ethel Sumrall, Mrs. Minnie Lea Ryan, Oscar Johnson, Dorothy Moore, and Charles Blackwell.

Jitterbug was the dance; Gospel and Western songs were the hits; and jeans became the dress of the day. Recess was spent playing horse shoes, marbles, spintops, and with yo-yos. Any students caught fighting were given boxing gloves, placed on stage and told to fight it out until one gave in. The pot-belly stoves provided the heat and the boys pumped the well for water.

Dixie continued basically the same until one fall day in 1957, it was announced to the world that Sputnick, a Russian spaceship, had been launched; and with it changed American education.

With the money spent on public education the United States was asking itself, "Why had Russia Beat us in this area?" Math and science were stressed. Gifted education was born and educating each child, regardless of his special needs became a reality. In 1958 we matched Sputnick with Explorer I and the competitive space age was born.

The population of the school was 150. The school had dropped back to the first through eighth grades. The high of the fifties gave away to confusion of the sixties. Dixie remained much the academically. Basketball was the main sport. The courts were located between the present day softball field and the lower grade building. The cafeteria was in the white, block building and the log cabin served as the music room.

The Beatles, Paul Revere and the Raiders, the Byrds, the Temptations, the Supremes and the Four Tops all see-sawed on the top forty. What did not do so well was Dixie. The school, which had been the focal point of the community, was forced to close its doors in 1963. Students and teachers were transferred to Central. The community intensified its efforts to reopen the school. While these plans were being organized, our country found itself immersed in the conflict of Vietnam, the assassination of John F. Kennedy, and an anti-war effort that came close to splitting the country. Dixie community, like the rest of the Country, was under going changes. Finally, in 1969 the Forrest County School system accepted the proposal to re-open Dixie. The people of the community literally worked 24 hours a day working on Dixie. Within two weeks of the accepted bid, Dixie opened its doors to 180 students, grades one through six. The faculty consisted of: Linda Stone (Steele), Mary Saulters, Ethel Sumrall, Sylvia Bykemeyer, J. L. Lee served as principal.

The turmoil continued until the 70's when Dixie, like the rest of the country, became a bit more settled. The school population dropped to below 100 and then began to level off. J. L. Lee was still principal and he contacted Katherine Rouse to be in charge of the cafeteria for just a week. That week stretched into 14 years. During that time Mrs. Rouse saw the school grow from 87 students to 235 and from four grades to eight.

During 1971 the cafeteria had 13 break-ins. During this time Levon Rouse was determined to catch the culprit. So much so that he slept with shotgun in hand on a table in the cafeteria. The culprit escaped but everyone knew that the vigilante of the cafeteria was not to be reckoned with.

In 1978 a new building housing grades one through four, a new principal and secretary's offices added. Dixie was on the move. The student population was drawn from the original Dixie community, Palmers Crossing and to the boundary of South Forrest. Teenagers were listening to the Carpenters, the Dubie Brothers and the Rolling Stones; girls and boys alike wore jeans; but the mid-seventies the children were allowed to wear shorts. Outside of school boys wore tank tops and the girls donned crop tops. The only sport played was softball by the 3rd and 4th graders. Lawrence Westfaul was principal until Walter Cartier came in 1980.

By 1978 special classes were added to the curriculum. Children with varied learning problems along with children identified with giftedness were resourced to special classes. Enter the 80's with the hoopla of high top tennis shoes, jeans, silver, camafrouge, buttons and bows.

In 1982 Educational Reform Act for the state of Mississippi was the major academic movement of the decades. By 1986 public school Kindergarten became a reality; assistant teachers were to be placed in the lower grades, and stated academic requirements for the state superintendent of education, who would now be appointed by the state Board of Education, were proposed; ground work was laid in the early Eighties to place the act into effect.

From 1981 with approximately 80 students Dixie's school population jumped to 250 by 1986. During the school year of 82-83, the school board made the decision to close, Central Attendance Center and transfer the students between Dixie and Earl Travillion and expand both schools to include grades one through eight.

With the expansion of the schools Dixie then became a major competitor in junior high sports. By 1985 the Dixie Yellowjackets had won the Little Black Creek basketball championship; and in 1986 they became football champions as well. In 1985 the Booster Club had built a field house for the athletes.

The addition of the students led to the formation of a Beta Honorary Club, Student Council and an Annual Staff. 4-H was reactivated. Math Club and DREAM became part of Dixie's activities.

In February of 1985 the students were given an unscheduled vacation as the teachers followed the lead of other Mississippi teachers and went out on strike. By March 19, 1985, the strike was settled and classes resumed as usual.

The opening of the 1986-87 school year found Dixie in a new era. The first Kindergarten class was introduced to the school. A new building housing two classrooms and locker space was added with the promise of more expansion to come.

Sounds of horns and drums were heard as a small group of musicians began as future band hopeful and Parlez-vous Francaise became a well know expression as a group of students learned French. X and Y became known as the unknowns as several students labored in pre-algebra class.

At the end of the first nine weeks all students were introduced to the "Gold Card" Club for straight "A" students. Shortly afterward the silver card was awarded to "A" and "B" students.

Teachers, too, were given appreciation cards as the merchants in the community let the teachers and students know that education is important.

Today 66 years after its founding, there are 220 students at Dixie. Plans for a multi-purpose gym, additional classrooms, a renovated library and continued stress of academics are the priorities.

Dixie has not always been the same. It has changed with the necessity of the community that surrounds it. It has met the challenges of the world that surrounds that community.

Dixie: Through the years.

DIXIE ATTENDANCE CENTER

AVERAGE ENROLLMENT

1970-2000

Year	Grades	Enrollment
1969-70	Grades 1-6	180
1970-71	1-4	100
1971-72	1-4	100
1972-73	1-4	101
1973-74	1-4	100
1974-75	1-4	101
1975-76	1-4	90
1976-77	1-4	93
1977-78	1-4	86
1978-79	1-4	87
1979-80	1-4	90
1980-81	1-4	90
1981-82	1-4	80
1982-83	1-8	226
1983-84	1-8	236
1984-85	1-8	234
1985-86	1-8	240
1986-87	K-8	314
1987-88	K-8	322
1988-89	K-8	350
1989-90	K-8	388
1990-91	K-8	430
1991-92	K-8	449
1992-93	K-8	466
1993-94	K-8	451
1994-95	K-8	450
1995-96	K-8	458
1996-97	K-8	461
1997-98	K-8	481
1998-99	K-8	480
1999-2000	K-8	485



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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
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 JENNA MONTGOMERY, SPECIAL SERVICES  
 ALICE RYALS, LUNCHROOM DIRECTOR  
 MARY TAYLOR, READING SUPERVISOR  
 ANN MITCHAM, BUSINESS MANAGER  
 SABLE WILBERDING, ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.  
 GENEVA SWAGERT, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Dixie Buildings

Main Building Built in 1921-22 First classes in the 1922-23 school year.

Log Cabin Lunchroom built around 1930

Block ~~lunchroom~~ Lunchroom built 1947

Brick lunchroom built in 1971

Four classrooms and office space added to Brick lunchroom in 1978

2 classrooms built in 1987

Library and 2 classrooms added to the 1987 2 classrooms in 1988

4 classroom building and Gym built in 1988

Stepped into the computer age in a small way in 1989-90 school year.

Dixie Consolidated School was made up of Pine Grove School, Rogers School, and West Brown School

Dixie closed in 1963 until January of 1970.



## Principals at Dixie

The information on this page from 1970 - 2000, was collected and recorded by Mrs. Alice Skinner.

She notes that Dixie closed in 1963, before the 1963-1964 school year. The secretary during this time was Mildred B. Downs. The principal was A.W. Sanderson.

Dixie remained closed from 1963 - 1969. It opened again in 1970, for the 1970-1971 school year.

### Principals at Dixie 1920 - 1963

PRINCIPALS AT DIXIE ATTENDANCE CENTER 1970 - 2000		
J. L. Lee	1970-1973	3 years
A. W. Sanderson	1973-1975	2 years
Lawrence Westfaul	1975-1978	3 years
Walter P. Cartier	1978-1983	5 years
Linda Steele	1983-1993	10 years
Joe Gordy	1993-1995	2 years
Elizabeth Sims	1995-2000(when I retired)	5 years
TOTAL YEARS		30 years (Alice Skinner was Secretary)

### Principals at Dixie 2000 - to Present

Dale Coleman  
Asst. Principal Greer  
Holly Parker  
Karen Vines  
Asst. Principal Wade  
Asst. Principal O'Neal  
Elizabeth Bailey  
Carrie Hornsby  
Asst. Principal Darnell Payton

### SUPERINTENDENTS OF EDUCATION FOR FORREST COUNTY

July 1908 to January 1920	E. J. Curry
January 1920 to June 1929	J. C. Gay
June 1929 to January 1936	S. E. L. Weatherford
January 1936 to December, 1939	O. R. Lovitt
January 1939 to December, 1943	Tom Rhea Phillips
January 1944 to December, 1947	W. H. Lane
January 1948 to July 1955	D. O. Davis
July 1955 to December 1955	Otto Phillips
January 1956 to December 1959	W. H. Lane
January 1960 to December 1971	Milton Evans
January 1972 to July 1976	Ellis Flynt
July 1976 to August 1976	A. T. Pearce
August 1976 to December 1983	Harian Daughdrill
January 1984 to June, 1999	Walter P. Cartier
July 1999 to Present	Kay H. Clay, Ed.D.

### Superintendents of Education

for  
Forrest County  
1999 to Present  
Debbie Burt  
Elizabeth Sims  
Bryan Freeman

# Memories

Little Rogers

-1-

There was room on the Bus for me and my Brother and sister, but we were not allowed to ride because we "lived too near the school" so we walked to school - regardless of the weather.

The Buses had no glass windows, a cloth or canvas could be rolled up or down from the outside of the Bus - The Bus was a Model T with top speed of 25 miles per hour. Many times the larger boys had to get out and push the bus up the hills.

My dad, Buddy Rogers, was at one time janitor of the school - my brother, Linton, and I did most of the work - we went to the school at 6:30 on cold mornings to build fires in the big wood heaters so the class rooms could be warm when students arrived - Each class room had its own heater - The wood for the heaters was cut, by contrast, during the summer - Somehow the kindling for starting the fire never seemed to be included in the wood supply - Even tried to start a fire with wet wood and no kindling?

Boys in the class rooms kept the fires going throughout the day - A Galena Motor (one cylinder) provided power for lights and water.

Little Rogers

-2-

Linton and I had to hand Carry this meter at every break, lunch, etc - to provide the necessary power for lights and water -

High school was still a part of Dixie and the girls and boys had basket ball teams - The girls had no uniforms - My Uncle, Bill Rogers, bought material and my mother, Lillie Rogers, made uniforms for the team members - My sister, Waj, was the start guard - Others on the team were, Ellie Ryan, Audrey Harrison, Fede, Myrtle (or Lavin) Johnson, Agnes Rouse and Gertrude Carter -

(Picture enclosed) no gym then - Still no gym!! Minnie Lueddies) Ryan was coach -

The boys also had a base ball team. They had no official ball but my dad carved a bat from a piece of 4x4 Oak wood - The finished product weighed approximately 5#. They could not afford ball gloves nor face masks - This sport was discontinued after one team member, J. J. Walton, was struck in the head with the ball and seriously injured - J. J. also had another accident as he slid into first base, he hit his tongue badly and lost a lot of blood -

The younger boys played marbles, spun tops, played with yo-yo's and engaged in the games of tag and fall out

Esther Rogers

3-

### The Leader -

The Social life of the Community revolved around the school and church. In 1930 and 1931 the PTA sponsored a play at the school. Mr. O.C. Steed was Principal. He played the Lead role as Teacher in a school - Cecil Ryan and the late Pelie Brown (father of Mrs. Betty Williams) were the star. Students - Many parents were also characters in the play. It was a big hit and quite a financial success bringing in a total of \$15.00!! Most every family in the Community attended.

There was a Teachers' Home on the school campus. All the teachers had living quarters in this home. The special feature of the Teachers Home was the telephone - - one of the first in the entire Community. Important messages for anyone in the Community were called into the Teachers Home phone. The Principal then would take the message to the family involved.

Mrs. O.C. Steed was my first Grade Teacher (Ethel Ryan) Sumrell 2<sup>nd</sup> + 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
Lucille McLeod 4<sup>th</sup> + 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

I never learned our multiplication tables through the 12's table and could say them both forward and backward, all the while exempt from math tests! I was exempt!!



Mrs. Mary Katherine Williams Wallace recalls this photo of the entire school having a pig in the bottom left corner. Someone cut it out, but we would love to find an original that contains the pig. (One has been cropped in for this book photo).

# Memories from Mary Katherine Williams Wallace



Mrs. Mary Katherine Williams Wallace



Mrs. Hazel Williams Patrick

Mrs. Mary Katherine Wallace is the last person living in the previous page's class photo of Dixie School's students and faculty. She celebrated her 101st birthday this year. She was born in 1922 to Mr. and Mrs. Ollie Williams. The name may sound familiar because there is a road in Dixie that was named after her father. They were the first family to live on the road, and Mrs. Mary Katherine lives there presently. She remembers when she and her sister Hazel had to walk about a mile to the bus stop at the end of the road to get on Mr. Arrington's bus to Dixie. In the winter, she remembers the students getting to school and huddling around the heater to keep warm. The first photo above was taken in the 20s, when she was in first grade.

She describes the main building as having a large and impressive auditorium, with 2-3 classrooms on each side. She remembered there were only 5-6 teachers at a time at the school. Some she remembers during her time as a student are Mr. Steede (principal), Mrs. Steede, Mrs. Fannie May Frye, Mrs. Baxtrum, Mrs. Tracey, Mrs. Ethyl Sumrall, Mr. and Mrs. McCarty, and Mr. Lane. Mr. Lane would go on to be the Superintendent of Education and give her her very first teaching job. The stage in the auditorium (now the library) was the center of the school.

Mrs. Mary Katherine recalls that there was always an event going on. The stage would be fixed up so pretty. They had plays, boxed suppers, penny carnivals, and many more community events. One of her favorite memories at school was she and her friends turning flips around the whole school. There was a wire fence in the front that separated the school grounds from where people would park and the road. There was also a teacher house on campus. When looking at the photo, Mrs. Mary Katherine doesn't recall ever seeing that many people on campus. She says that when lined up in a photo, it seems like so many people to fit in the little school. During her time as a student at Dixie, the Depression was affecting the community and the country. The school was generous with letting the boys out to help their families on the farm. Her brothers were included in the group that would both go to school and work at home during the day. She had three brothers: O.C., Willard, and Rudolph, and one sister, Hazel. Hazel Patrick also taught at Dixie. When she first started attending Dixie, it was a 1st - 12th grade school, however, this photo includes the last graduating class of seniors. After that, Dixie students would continue on to Forrest County Agricultural High School in Brooklyn, MS, as they still do today. It always stood out to her how much older they high school students looked in the photo. The older boys had on suits, and the young women dresses and hats.

After high school, Mrs. Mary Katherine went onto The University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. World War II was taking place, and the country had a severe shortage of teachers. This allowed for her to start teaching at 21 years old, and she finished her education during the summer. When she graduated from Southern in 1953, her sister Hazel graduated with her. Mrs. Hazel Patrick had left school to start her family and returned later. This was such a special memory for the two of them to get to graduate together. Mrs. Mary Katherine Williams became Mrs. Mary Katherine Wallace when she married Mr. John Wallace from Kokomo, MS. He worked for the International Paper Company for over 40 years.

During her teaching career, Mrs. Mary Katherine taught at Little Brooklyn (South Forrest), Dixie, on the Coast, and over 20 years in Alabama. She retired after over 40 years of teaching. When she came back to Dixie to care for her parents, she continued her teaching by working in the SPED department of Hattiesburg Public Schools, putting her total of teaching years at over 46.

When asked about people who inspired her during her time at Dixie, she spoke of Mrs. Steede, her first grade teacher, and Mrs. Ethyl Sumrall, her 5th grade teacher. Mrs. Sumrall was so special because not only did she teach her, but she got to teach with her when she returned to Dixie as a teacher herself. When she was teaching, Mr. Troy White was the principal, and his wife taught at Dixie. Mrs. Mary Katherine Wallace's classroom was the back right one. The classrooms are still there today, but serve different purposes. Although the stage has been partitioned, we can still see it and imagine all of the plays and presentations that took place over the years. Having Mrs. Mary Katherine Williams Wallace share her memories was such a precious part of creating this memory book. It is people like her that have helped to keep these Dixie memories alive.

# Hattiesburg resident celebrates 100th birthday



100th birthday celebrated in Hattiesburg Saturday

By Emily Blackmarr

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HATTIESBURG, Miss. (WDAM) - One Hattiesburg resident is celebrating a century, as she turns 100 years old this week.

Mrs. Mary Katherine Wallace will turn 100 on Monday.

Her loved ones and friends gathered at Dixie Baptist Church to celebrate her big day. Mrs. Wallace enjoyed cake, time with loved ones, and even danced with her good friend.

"I'm just so happy for all these children and people that have come today and shown their love for me and we have just enjoyed it so much," Wallace said. "I'll always remember it...my friends and all my loved ones are here and that's what makes me happy."

Mrs. Wallace added that, "if it was (my) last day, it would be a very happy day."

Happy 100th birthday Mrs. Wallace!



The Dixie School Log Cabin's historical marker can be found in front of the cabin off of Elks Lake Road. Karen Mims and Barbara Lott worked hard to fundraise in order to fund the project. The community is very thankful for this effort. Mr. Tommy Mims unveiled the marker. Karen was a huge help in gathering photos and information for this book. Her dulcimer group currently uses the log cabin for weekly playing. It is wonderful to see the cabin still being used and cared for today.



DIXIE LEGION AWARDS — Howell Russ, representing Allen B. Carter Post 24, American Legion, presented Outstanding Citizenship and Scholarship awards for Dixie School to Gail Rouse, center, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Rouse of Rt. 3; and Tommy Mims, right, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Mims of Rt. 3. (Photo by King's Studio)



## Tommy Mims

Mr. Tommy Mims was always a big part of Dixie School. He attended Dixie as a child. While his children attended Dixie, he and his wife, Karen, volunteered and helped with school events. He later worked at Dixie maintaining the campus. If anyone had a problem, Mr. Tommy was quick to fix it. He loved greeting the students, and they loved to stop and talk to him. He brightened the days of faculty and students during his time at Dixie School. His grandchildren also attended Dixie. The Mims family is a wonderful asset to our community. His memory will always be cherished.



# Memories of Dixie

## Martha Williams

“The Dixie Community is part of our family, especially Ollie Williams Road. Ollie and I got married at Dixie Baptist Church, and he is buried there with his parents and his grandparents. My grandchildren are the fourth generation to go to school at Dixie. Ollie’s aunt's were teachers there, Mrs. Mary Katherine (Williams) Wallace and Mrs. Hazel (Williams) Patrick.”

Martha’s husband, Ollie Williams, attended Dixie in the early 1960’s. Also in thier family, Mr. Ali and Kate Williams sent five kids to Dixie before World War II. Mr. Rudolph Williams attended in the early 1940s. Jack and Katcha attended in the 1980s- 1990s. Martha and Ollie’s grandsons, Aaron and Gabe presently attend Dixie.

From 1989-1995, Martha taught 7th & 8th grade living skills (home economics). She has shared her famous chocolate chip cookie recipe that the students in her class would learn to make. Martha and Ollie began to volunteer at Dixie when their children, Jack and Katcha, attended. Fall Festival, sports, and PTO were among the activities they were involved with.

Martha shares that during her teaching career at Dixie Linda Steele was her principal and describes her as an excellent leader. Mr. Cartier was also important to her because he loved Dixie school, and it showed.

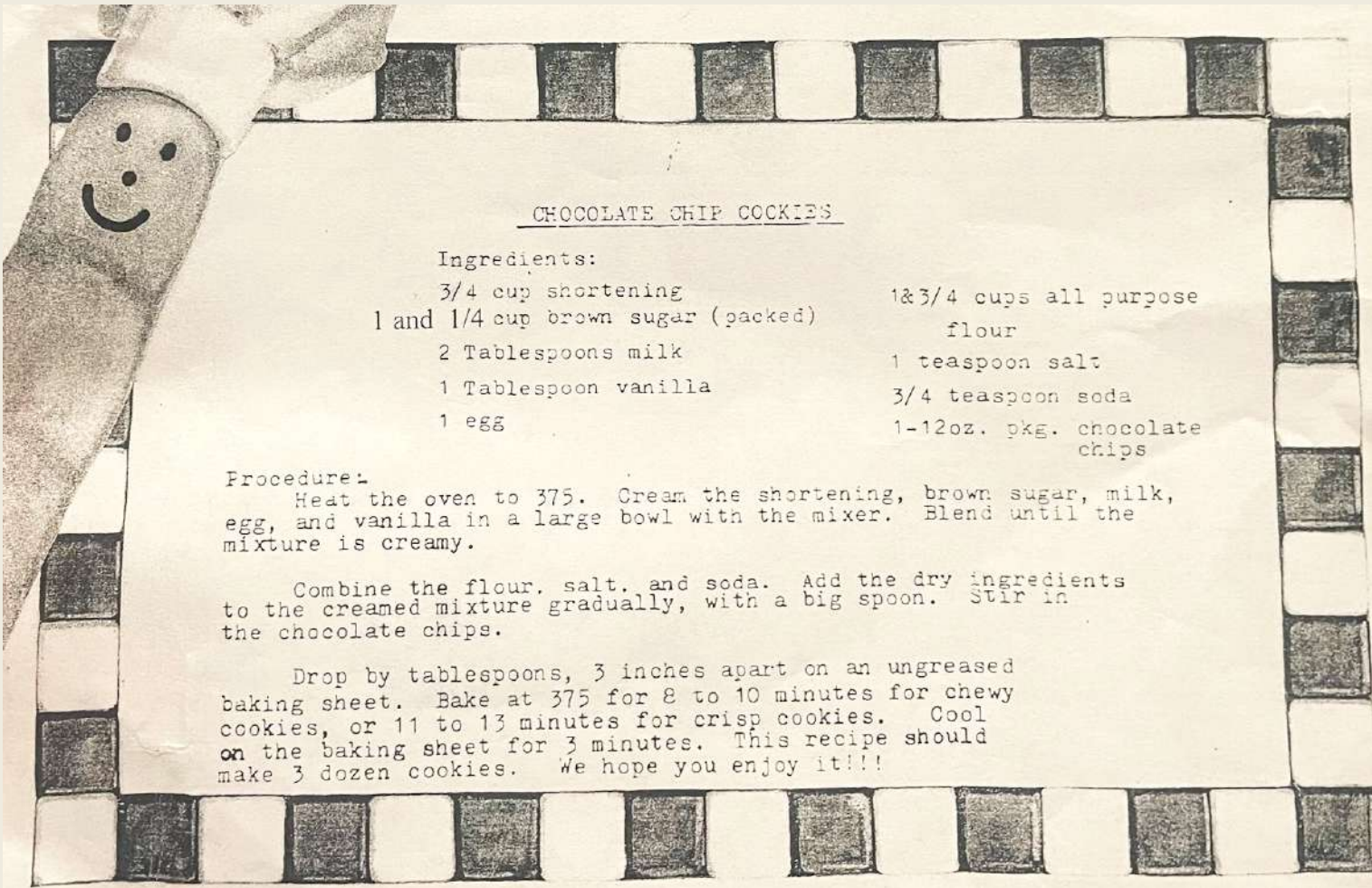
A funny memory of Martha’s is that while she was teaching, there was another teacher named Martha Williams, and she taught second grade. They were often mixed up. She taught Jack, so his teacher and his mother were both named Martha Williams. She got married and became Martha Lawler.

One of Martha’s favorite memories is when her students would cook. The entire building could smell the food. Then the people came to “visit” the classroom and sample the food. She really enjoyed teaching sewing also.

Martha recalls when drug education in schools was being stressed by the government. At Dixie, it was the Just Say No program. She had the pleasure of being in charge of this project. She took a group of students to Jackson for a statewide anti drug program.

When Jack played football in 7th and 8th grade, Martha would cook for the entire team for every home game so the jackets could play without being hungry.

“I would give the advice to the students and staff to be proud to be of your school. It is a special place and a special community.”



CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

Ingredients:

3/4 cup shortening	1 & 3/4 cups all purpose flour
1 and 1/4 cup brown sugar (packed)	1 teaspoon salt
2 Tablespoons milk	3/4 teaspoon soda
1 Tablespoon vanilla	1-12oz. pkg. chocolate chips
1 egg	

Procedure:

Heat the oven to 375. Cream the shortening, brown sugar, milk, egg, and vanilla in a large bowl with the mixer. Blend until the mixture is creamy.

Combine the flour, salt, and soda. Add the dry ingredients to the creamed mixture gradually, with a big spoon. Stir in the chocolate chips.

Drop by tablespoons, 3 inches apart on an ungreased baking sheet. Bake at 375 for 8 to 10 minutes for chewy cookies, or 11 to 13 minutes for crisp cookies. Cool on the baking sheet for 3 minutes. This recipe should make 3 dozen cookies. We hope you enjoy it!!!

# Memories of Dixie

## Wanda Gail Rouse Muracu

Gail's spouse, Pat, and she attended Dixie from 1955 to 1963, which was from first through eighth grade. A memory shared was that in the 8th grade Ferrell Dubose would sneak over to Smith's store at recess and buy Cokes and candy for them. His partner in crime with Joe Hession.

The feature that stuck out for them was the school bell. The second version of the school bell now stands by the cafeteria.

Gail's dad, Levon Rouse, and she had the same first grade teacher, Mrs. Tracey.

## Faye Sumrall Posey

Faye graduated in 1950 from 8th grade at Dixie. She went to Dixie for eight years and didn't miss a day. She attended Forrest County Agricultural High School for four years and never missed a day there either. This is quite an accomplishment.

While Faye attended Dixie, Mr. Barrett was principal. He had two paddles: Pete and Repeat. The first time you got in trouble, you got Pete. The second time, you got Repeat.

They made pine straw houses and head out houses for bathrooms. When they went to the outhouse, they would steal straw from someone else's house

Faye also remembers a teacher, Mrs. Montague. She said that if you missed a spelling word she would make you do churning (touching your toes).

# Memories of Dixie

## Ann Sumrall Fortenberry

Ann, spouse Billy, kindly loaned me the oldest Dixie yearbook that I have been able to scan so far. She attended Dixie from 1950 to 1958, which was 1st through 8th grade for her. The yearbook loaned is from her 2nd grade year.

Ann's father and mother attended Dixie. Her dad walked to school, in late 1920s. Her mother has a senior class ring with the year 1932. Her brother and sister graduated from Dixie also. Ann and Billy's two sons graduated there, as well as three of their four grandchildren. When their youngest son was in the 8th grade he was elected Mr. Dixie. Almost 37 years later his daughter was elected Miss Dixie. Dixie school has been a major influence to their family for almost all of its 100-year history.

Ann loved school. Some of her favorite memories include her teachers and friends. She remembers that they played children's games at recess and built straw houses down under the hill. In 7th and 8th grade they practiced basketball on black top courts, that was pretty tough. They always loved to play McLaurin because they had a gym.

Campus features included one building, a small lunch room, bathrooms, and basketball courts made of blacktop. There was no Air conditioning, just large windows and fans. You had to go outside to get to the bathrooms.

When speaking of influences, Ann loved all the teachers. She remembers Mrs. Tracey, Mrs. Hazel Williams Patrick, Mrs. Mary Katherine Williams Wallace, Miss Ryan, Mrs. Troy White, Mr. Troy White (the principal), and her aunt, Ethel Sumrall, who rode her bus every morning and afternoon. During her time at Dixie, the teachers expected you to do your best and wanted to help you.

During her time at Dixie, a historical event that occurred was the Korean Conflict. She remembers being very young, and they would get under the desk during drills. They were not exposed to world news very much. Ann also recalls a sad memory during her years at Dixie. Mrs. White died from cancer. They were all so upset because they loved Mr. and Mrs. White and their daughter, Mary.

Ann recalled that one day, while playing chase with the boys, she ran into a tree face first. It knocked her out cold, blooded her nose, and made a large bump on her forehead.

Halloween carnivals were held every year. Those raised a lot of money for the school. An the event was enjoyed by the whole community. They celebrated all the holidays with class parties and school programs.

The 7th and 8th grades held plays every year. They had to memorize lines. The plays were performed at night, and the auditorium was packed. The auditorium is now the library and a storage room. The stage is no longer used.

Mrs. Moore came to Dixie and taught piano. Many of the girls went on to play piano at our churches. She also taught chorus, and they had a musical recital each year.

Dixie Baptist and Dixie Methodist Churches were neighbors of the school, and still are. Smith store was close to the school, on the corner of Elks Lake Rd. and Dixie Church Rd. They were allowed to walk there on special occasions. During Ann's childhood, Dixie was a small community but growing. The churches and school were the heart of the community.

Both Ann and Billy volunteered at Dixie School while their children attended, from 1971 to 1984. They were on the PTO, and held all officer positions. She served as the Booster Club President, and ran the concession stand for summer ball games.

Ann gives these words of encouragement, "Teachers remember your influence will be with your students their entire life. Thank you for being a teacher, and loving these children. Each one is special."

## Memories of Dixie

### Connie Eileen Fillingame Morris

Eileen attended Dixie in 1971 to 1975, 1st through 4th grade. She remembers the Vietnam War taking place while she attended.

She was inspired most by Mr. Lee, the principal, while she was there, because of his kindness.

The Old Log Cabin that was the original Dixie School was still on campus. It was used as a classroom, lunchroom, library, and many other things over the years.

A Dixie Community landmark Eileen remembers is Aunt Ag's, which had the best burgers and cream soda in a bottle. There were not a lot of houses in Dixie compared to now.

A favorite memory of Eileen's is the Halloween Carnival. She said they were magnificent. There were all kinds of activities: a haunted house, general store, bingo, cakewalk, and a clown with balloons.

She also remembers "Show and Tell". Kids could bring anything to school and show their classmates. They would tell all about it.

Talent contests were held, and they were always fun to attend. People would never know what was going to happen on that stage.

Recess was a favorite time for her. Playground Dash was played on what would now be considered one of the most dangerous playgrounds in America. Terry Johnson got his leg broke while playing football on that playground.

Eileen went on to volunteer at Dixie in 2002 to help Miss Westbrook. Her grandson attended Dixie in Kindergarten.

Eileen's advice for Dixie is, "Be kind to one another. You never know what home life another individual may be dealing with."

### Diane Fillingame Carlisle

Diane attended Dixie from 1st to 4th grades, from 1960 to 1964. She remembers the John F Kennedy assassination occurring while they were on Thanksgiving break.

While at Dixie, the Old Log Cabin was the music hall. She remembers the front entrance playground. Lewis Grocery and Aunt Ag's (Dixie Inn) were places in the community.

Her inspirations from her time at Dixie were Mrs. Tracey and Mrs. Sumrall.

Playing house in the schoolyard is a favorite memory of hers.

She also has fond memories of the Halloween carnivals.

# Memories of Dixie

## Franklin "Tore" Downs

Tore was born in 1939 and attended Dixie from first through eighth grade. Mr. Barrett and Mr. White were the principals that served when he attended.

He recalls that Mr. Barrett didn't give you licks for fighting. Instead, he gave you boxing gloves and let you fight in a circle. He was very kind to the kids and stood at the gate every morning to greet them all. He also enjoyed joking with them.

Tore thought a lot of Mr. White when he was at Dixie. He was a very kind principal. Mr. Troy and his family lived on the campus until his house burned. He then moved to Oak Grove, and the school burned there. After getting out of education, he went on to work at Hercules in Hattiesburg. Many of the people I interviewed really enjoyed having Mr. Troy at Dixie.

During his time there, Tore played basketball on the Dixie junior high team. His team played 16 games of basketball against other schools, and they won all of them. They liked playing against McLaurin because they had an indoor gym. Their courts were outside. The dirt they once played on was covered with blacktop and surrounded by a barbed wire fence. The fence was put up to keep the cows out. One day during recess, Tore ran into the fence and cut open his leg.

Tore remembers his cousin, Loron Downs, and his friend, George Smith, used to skip school. George's parents owned a store and he always had sweets in his lunch. When they would skip, he would give the sweets to Tore.

Tore loved his time at Dixie, and he got to attend with many of his cousins. He said that he remembers there being so many windows, and he loved looking out of them during class.

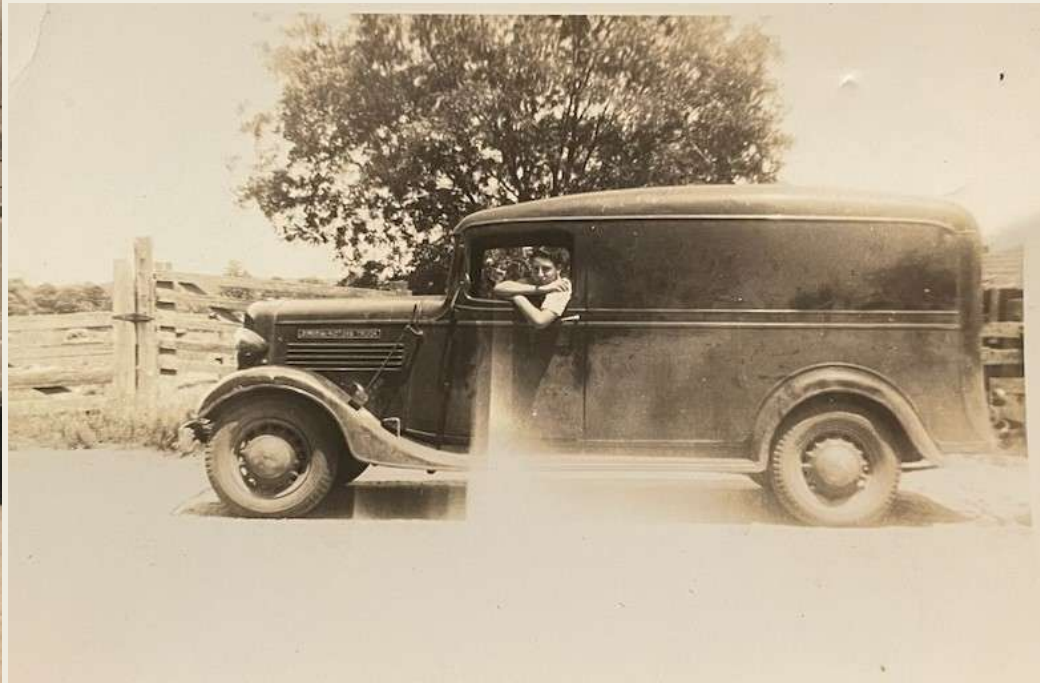
## Danny Downs

Danny was born in 1945 and attended Dixie from first to eighth grade. He remembers his teachers Mrs. Tracey, Mrs. Sumrall, Mrs. Patrick, and Principal White. He remembers Mr. White living on campus. He said that the house was south of the school to the right.

One vivid memory he has while there is that the people who lived on the property next to the school used to haul hay with oxen and with a T-Model truck. They would watch them pull onto Elks Lake Road.

One year before he started school, he recalls going to eat lunch in the log cabin with his cousin Tore. After that, they built a new lunchroom. They had two cooks, Mrs. Brogan and Mrs. Brown. Mrs. Fanny Brown had the recipe for sourdough biscuits which she made from scratch everyday. Everything was made from scratch. He remembers when the cafeteria got a state of the art potato peeler that would spin and peel the potatoes. It saved the cafeteria ladies a lot of time.

At recess or last period, you could go to the lunchroom and buy a carton of regular or chocolate milk. For a small carton, you would pay under six cents. At the end of recess, someone would ring the bell, which was on the side of the building. That meant it was time to come inside.



Doyle Downs driving the GMC school truck.  
The truck was owned by Jack Downs.  
This was before Dixie got a school bus.



AT THE BROWN SCHOOL HOUSE  
(Circa 1905)

First or back row: Left to Right  
Rufus Ford, Jack Downs, Jaek Dubose, Louella Fillingame, Annie Ford,  
Edwina Slade, Della Fillingame, Geneva Brown, Maggie Ford, Miranda  
Ford, Nannie Downs, Pearl Fillingame, Teacher Carrie Koonce

Second Row: Left to Right  
Unknown Half photo, ? Long, Luther Davis, Stella Dubose, Sella Dubose,  
Maude Fitlin ?, Minnie Davis Fillingame.

3<sup>rd</sup> Row: Left to Right  
Grady Leroy Brown, Bud Fillingame, Maybelle Ford, Beulah Brown, May  
Davis, Millard Fillmore Brown, Ollie Davis, Ola Ford,

4 Th Row: Left to Right  
Otis Long, Bob Ford, ---?, Print Ford, Walter Dubose, Albert Fillingame,  
Sam Dubose, Robert Downs, Burzell Davis Bounds, Lottie Brown



Brown School House

Front Row Left to Right

Earl Downs, Ernest Davis, Thomas Hartfield, Jim Rayburn, Bilbo Hatten,  
Burton Roberts, A. V. Hatten

Second Row Left to Right

Preston Fillingame, Otis Fillingame, Earl Rouse, Janie Bell Arnett, D. J.  
Dubose, Elena Hatten, Bertha Downs, Ethel rouse, Gertrude Arnett, Ella  
Hartfield.

Third Row Left to Right

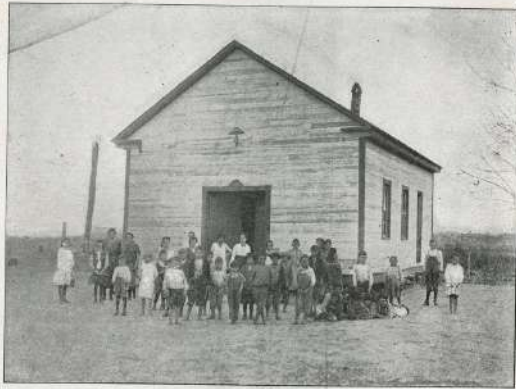
Etta Hartfield, Alton Dubose, Herman Dubose, Jessie Garner, Reno  
Fillingame, Lawrence Rouse, Lester Fillingame, Boyd Wright.

Fourth Row Left to Right

Ila Fillingame, Eula Mae Arnett, Sally Fillingame, Lawrence Hatten, Eva  
Rouse, Myrtis Wright, Buck Roberts, Miss Irene Carter- Teacher, Minnie  
Fillingame, Lottie Brown, Ruth Fillingame, Nora Fillingame.

Louis Brown cap peeking out from behind.





**Wesley Consolidated**  
(Hattiesburg, Route 3)

**Teachers:**  
Miss Irene Carter, Miss Ida Rouse.

**Trustees:**  
Bill Hatton, Jim Downs, James Fillingame.

**Location:**  
Four miles southwest of Rogers, and four miles south of Pine Grove.

**Grounds:**  
Two acres; shade trees; two toilets.

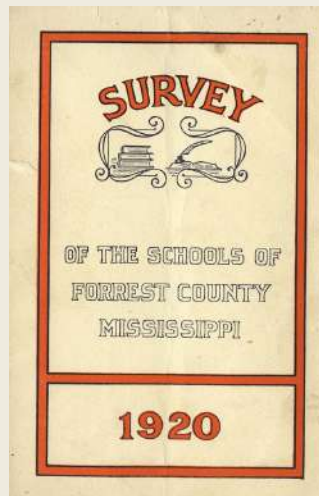
**Buildings:**  
Value of property \$1000.00; painted outside; moderately well lighted and well kept.

**Equipment:**  
Thirty double desks; about 30 feet of blackboard; box stove; window shades; water supplied from well; individual drinking cups; cooler; pictures.

**Administration:**  
Two teachers; 80 pupils in the district; 46 enrolled; 39 average; 8 grades; 2 high school pupils; none away at high school or college; 12 Corn Club members; 8 Canning Club members; 6 Poultry Club members; 6 Pig Club members; report cards. Second class, making 86 points.

**Cost Per Month:**

Teachers—	
From County Fund.....	\$135.00
From District Fund.....	20.00
From County Fund....	55.00
Transportation—	
From District Fund..	5.00



**Pine Grove**  
(Hattiesburg, Route 3)

**Teachers:**  
Mrs. W. B. Donovan.

**Trustees:**  
R. C. Mims, J. P. Clark, W. B. Donovan.

**Location:**  
Four miles south of Bonhomie, and four miles north of Rogers.

**Grounds:**  
One acre; very good play ground and well kept; insufficient shade trees; two toilets.

**Buildings:**  
Value of property \$1000.00; painted outside but not inside; well kept.

**Equipment:**  
Did not determine kind of desks, or blackboards; box stove; no window shades; no book case; no library books; maps; water supply from well.

**Administration:**  
One teacher; pupils in district 61; enrollment 45; average 34; 3 grades; no high school pupils; none away at high school; none away at college; one Corn Club member; one Canning Club member; eight Poultry Club members, and four Pig Club members. Third class, making 78 points.

**Cost Per Month:**  
Teacher—From County, \$65.00.



**Rogers Consolidated**  
(Hattiesburg Route 3)

**Teachers:**  
Mrs. D. E. Gullett, Miss Annis Fryc.

**Trustees:**  
G. I. Ryan, F. E. Tucker, D. E. Gullett.

**Location:**  
Four miles west of McLaurin and four miles north of Hopeville.

**Grounds:**  
One acre; very good playground; insufficient shade trees; two surface toilets.

**Buildings:**  
This property is worth possibly \$500.00; painted outside; house is not large enough; very well lighted.

**Equipment:**  
Home-made desks; teacher's desk none; poor blackboard; box stove; no window shades; no library; water from well; cooler.

**Administration:**  
Two teachers; 90 pupils in the district; 70 enrolled; 45 average; 7 away at high school; 3 away at college; splendid clubs; flowers; report cards; community meetings. Third class, making 76 points.

**Cost Per Month:**  
Teachers—From County Fund, \$135.00.

## By-gone Days

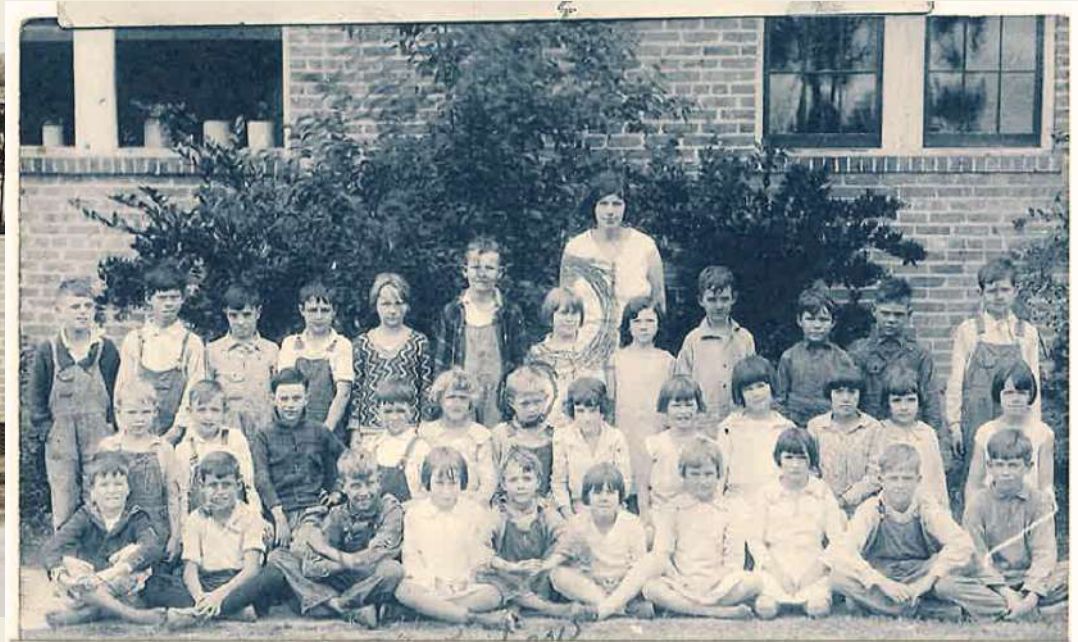


The men were certainly outnumbered by the women in this photo of the 1929 and last graduating class of the Dixie Consolidated School. One of the reasons could have been that the men had to stay at home to work on the farm. Members of the class are (seated, left to right) Ruby Stringer Mims, Mrs. Eliza Baxtrum,

teacher, and Virgie Stringer Grantham. (Standing, left to right) Voldie Sumrall, Vera Sumrall Buchanan, Virgie Morse Roberts, Eunice McSwain, O. C. Steede, teacher and superintendent, Eva Clark Donovan, Fannie Mae Frye and Vernon Cagle. (Photo courtesy Ruby Mims)



Louise Chambliss (m.)	Shirley Tucker
Lentard Legg	Eaye Sumrall
Mr. Barrett	Christain Mease
Whilma Shows (m.)	Betty McFarland
Honor B. Lott (m.)	Lerah Regista
Franklyn Miller	Lucille Herring
Lavonne Debus (m.)	L.V. Churchwell (m)
Earlene Downs	Marcene Hogan
Joyce Jenkins (m)	Clyde Smith
Wilda Raw Hull	Howard McHarris
Bobby Green	Edwin Walker
	Basy Sumrall



### DIXIE SCHOOL - ETHEL SUMRALL, TEACHER

Left to Right from Bottom

First Row: 1. \_\_\_\_\_, Jack Burnes, Ross Ray Burn, Ruby Lewis, Harley Rouse, Coney Rouse, Evon Rayburn, Pauline Ramsey, Roy Dye, Paul Herrington.

Second Row: Davis Turner Fortenberry, Jack Clark, \_\_\_\_\_, H. Rouse, Mary Catherine Williams, Elton Rogers, Edwina O'Flynn, \_\_\_\_\_, Lonnie Lee Dubose, Ethel Mims, \_\_\_\_\_.

Third Row: \_\_\_\_\_, Willie Frank McKensie, Cecil Harvison, Billy Conn, Dessie Lee Burlson, Ertha Buchanan, Eunice Rouse, Anna Lois Norman, Jessie Clark, Toxie Downs, Webber Downs, Buck Ryan

Top (Center): Ethel Sumrall, Teacher





14th St. Chicago  
10. 1931



6th St.  
Chicago  
1930-31

Dixie School was the hub of the community.  
School and community events of all sorts were held on campus.

**W. W. L. ARTISTS**  
**—IN PERSON—**

Louis Bono, Dixie Buckaroo

—WITH—

Jackie Burge, Cowgirl Star  
Harmonica Al

“Tex” Hammond-And Others

ADDED ATTRACTION!  
BIG AMATEUR CONTEST

Friday, May 3, 1946--8: P.M.

**DIXIE SCHOOL**  
**AUDITORIUM**

7 MILES FROM HATTIESBURG

• Low Popular Prices •

DON'T MISS THIS SWELL SHOW

**MAY 3, 1946**  
**HATTIESBURG AMERICAN**

THE  
**Sunny South**  
**QUARTET**  
Of Mobile, Ala.

**CONCERT ARTISTS**  
Entertainment for All

•

BRING YOUR FAMILY  
INVITE YOUR FRIENDS

•

**Dixie School**  
Friday, April 5th  
8 P. M.

SONG — FUN — MUSIC

**APRIL 2, 1946 -**  
**HATTIESBURG AMERICAN**

**DIXIE 4-H BOYS**  
**WIN TOP HONORS**  
**IN FORESTRY CONTEST**

Teams of 4-H club boys from Dixie school walked away with top honors in the 4-H forestry contest held today near Dixie school.

A Dixie school team composed of George Smith and K. D. Green took first place and a \$50 cash prize. Second place and \$40 cash went to Wallace Delia and Kenneth McFarland, Dixie school.

Two Brooklyn teams tied for third place and split the \$25 cash prize. They were Jimmy Fitzgerald and Charley Devron; Ross Carter and Harry Mapp.

Fourth and fifth place went to two Lamar county teams. Ten teams were entered in the contest from Forrest and Lamar counties.

Also present were M. O. Stark, forestry management director, State Forest service; G. W. Holifield, area ranger; Wade Kennedy, assistant county agent, Forrest county; and J. K. Leuter, assistant county agent, Lamar county.

The cash prizes were made possible by a number of Forrest and Lamar county firms.

Competition was in selective cutting and forestry management practices.

**MARCH 27, 1948**



## NEW DIXIE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL NAMED

A. W. Sanderson has been approved as principal of Dixie School by the Forrest County Board of Education. He succeeds O. S. Johnson who resigned to become principal of Runnelstown School.

Mrs. Sanderson also was approved as a member of the faculty of Dixie School.

County Supt of Education W. H. Lane could not be reached today and no information about the Sandersons was available in his office.

AUGUST 14, 1959  
H A

## DIXIE SCHOOL STUDENTS TO PRESENT OPERETTA

Dixie school students of the first, second and third grades will present an operetta at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7 at the school.

The operetta, "The Arrival of Santa," is being directed by Mrs. R. E. Moore, public school music teacher, assisted by Mrs. J. C. Tracy, first grade teacher and Mrs. A. H. Sumrall, second and third grade teacher.

Troy White, principal of the school, invites the public to attend the performance.

DECEMBER 4, 1951  
HATTIESBURG AMERICAN

## DIXIE SCHOOL PTA TO PRESENT PLAY

The play, "The District School" will be presented under the sponsorship of Dixie school PTA at an early date. Mrs. V. D. Sumrall announced that books on the play are available. All members who can are asked to participate in the play.

The date and other details of the presentation will be announced later.

Plans for the play were made at the PTA meeting Thursday. Lucian Buchanan led the members in Christmas songs to open the December meeting.

After the meeting, members were served pie and coffee in the school lunch room.

DECEMBER 7, 1951  
HATTIESBURG AMERICAN



**DIXIE SCHOOL RECITAL PERFORMERS**—Pictured above are 42 piano and chorus students at Dixie school who presented a recital in the school auditorium Friday night. Mrs. R. E. Moore directed the program. Those appearing were: Diane Elder, Sybil Sumrall, Edsel Cliburn, Mary Anne Atkins, Dorothy Elder, Rachael Rawls, Willena Walker, Brent Barron, Mickey Hudson, Linda Dean, Norma Jean Haigler, Bobbie Nell Huggins, W. B. Davis, Hilda Hull, Lillian Rawls, Archie Mixon, Ann Patrick, Martha Lee Dunn, Glenda Miller, Frances Smith, Bill Reid, Patsy Cliburn, Shirley Tucker, Billie Ruth Patrick, Margaret Patrick, Jeanette Hogan, Joan Moore, Mary Smith, Delaney Green, Billy Hudson, Jimmy Crum, Joe Moore, Huey Lott, Rufus Ford, A. M. Roberts, Harold Tucker, Billy Spears, Byron Patrick, Harold Hogan, Mary Lee Ford, Rosa Lee Perrett and Eva Louise Dean. (Photo by Hyland).

MARCH 26, 1951

## Goes All Out For March Of Dimes & Dixie School

Willy C. Cochran, 65, of RFD 6 in the Dixie Community, read the other day in The American where Dixie School donated \$21 to the 1959 March of Dimes. To Willy this seemed like a very small sum. Willy is proud of his community, he's proud of the Dixie

School, and he wanted the school to make a better showing.

Willy couldn't afford to donate any of his meager monthly income to the March of Dimes, but Willy knew he could do something.

So Wednesday Willy started collecting scrap wire, metal, iron, and all other pieces of, what he considered, sellable scrap. Then Friday Willy brought all this scrap to Hattiesburg, where he sold it for \$6.75. Then Willy took this money he had worked so hard for, and carried it to O. S. Johnson, principal of Dixie School.

Mr. Johnson said: "Willy came in and told me that he was ashamed of the small sum the school had donated, and that he wanted me to take this money and put it with the \$21." Mr. Johnson, knowing Willy's circumstances, asked Willy where he got the money, and Willy told him.

Mr. Johnson then drove to Hattiesburg and repeated the story to Paul H. Holmes, county chairman of the 1959 March of Dimes. So, now the total Dixie School has collected is changed from \$21 to \$27.75. . . thanks to Willy Cochran.

### Sarphie Jewelry Co.

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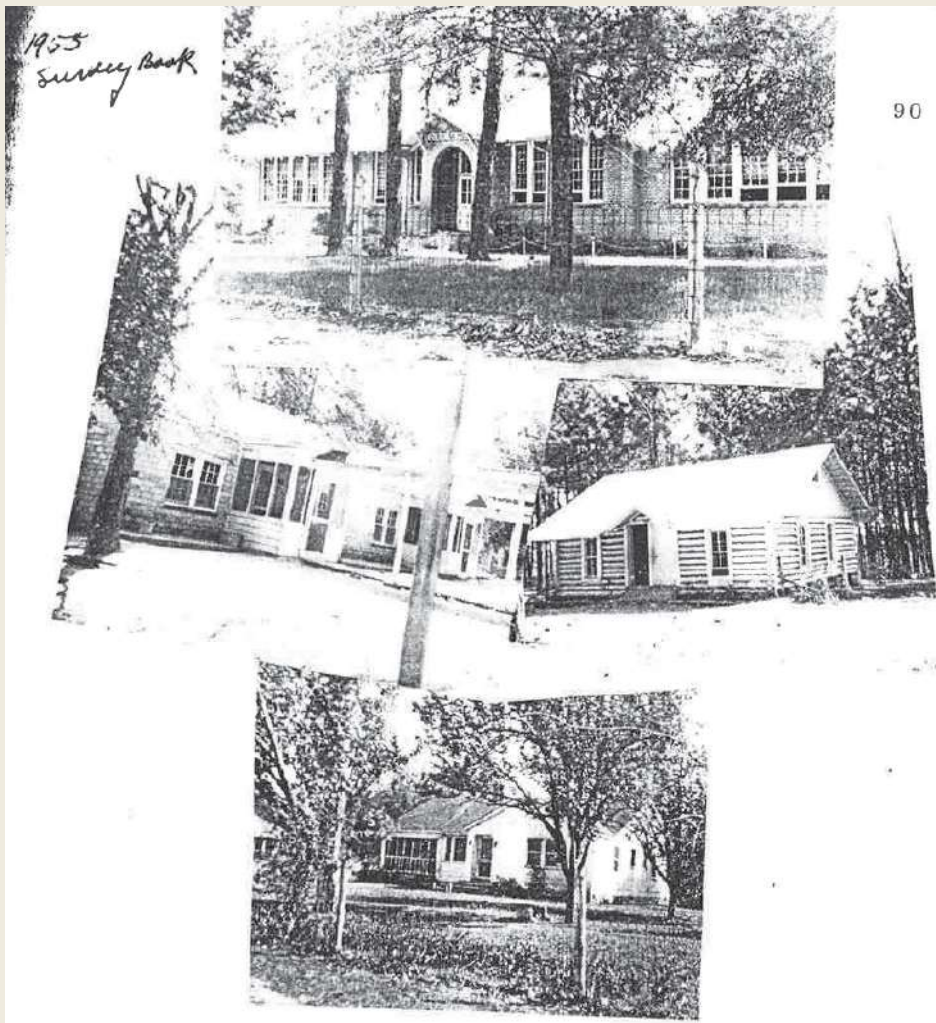
509 Main

Dial 4-7881

# BABY'S SHOES BRONZED



## 1955 SURVEY BOOK



### Dixie Consolidated School

Top, center, Dixie School; left to right center, cafeteria, music building; bottom, superintendent's home.

### Dixie

Dixie is a one story brick building situated on a site of 40 acres. This building was constructed in 1921. It has six classrooms, heated by gas space heaters. The water supply is obtained from a deep well. There are six teachers employed, teaching grades 1 through 8. The present enrollment, 1954-55, is 170. The average daily attendance for 1953-54 was 167. This school operates for eight months. In addition to the school building itself, there is a principal's home, a cafeteria, and a music building. All of these are of frame construction. The school building needs redecorating. This building is rated as fair.



**FLAG PRESENTATION**— Leaf River Camp No. 28, Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society, recently presented an American flag to Dixie School. The presentation was made by district manager N. C. Henderson and the acceptance was by A. W. Sanderson, principal, and eighth grade boys

who will care for the flag. Shown, left to right, front row, are Henderson, Billy Box, Larry Johns, Donald Gandy, Russell Fillin-game, Tommy Minns and Sanderson. On the back row are Ferrell Dubose, Larry James, Joe Hession, Thomas Akins and John-ny Lewis.



**DIXIE CHEERLEADERS**—These girls from Dixie School have cheered the Dixie Tigers to wins in three of four games this year. The final game of the season will be played today against Rawls Springs at Rawls Springs. Cheerleaders are: Left, front to back—Mary Hession, Judy Gould and Connie Johnson; center, front to back—Roxie Walker and Sharon Dolan; and right front to back—Bren-da Downs, Paulette Patrick and Betty Jean Brown.



**DIXIE LEGION AWARDS** — Howell Russ, representing Allen B. Carter Post 24, American Legion, presented Outstanding Citizenship and Scholarship awards for Dixie School to Gail Rouse, center, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Rouse of Rt. 3; and Tommy Mims, right, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Mims of Rt. 3. (Photo by King's Studio)



**RECEIVE LEGION AWARDS**—American Legion awards are presented to Dixie School eighth graders Sarah Sue Spiers and Charles Leonard Burleson by P. W. Underwood, representing Hattiesburg's Allen B. Carter Post of the Legion. Sarah Sue is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. E. Spiers of RFD 6, Hattiesburg, and Charles is the son of Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Burleson, RFD 3, Hattiesburg. Legion awards are given in recognition of outstanding leadership, scholastic ability and citizenship to students completing the eighth grade.



**SURPRISE HONOR TO PTA PRESIDENT**—Mrs. Preston Burleson, Dixie School PTA president, receives Life Membership in Mississippi PTA Congress from school faculty in recognition of outstanding leadership at a recent meeting of the Hattiesburg-Forrest County PTA Council. Dixie Principal Troy White observes Mrs. George Hurst, Council president, as she pins corsage on Mrs. Burleson as part of the presentation ceremony. (Photo by Bob Waller)

JUNE 13, 1956

APRIL 3, 1956

## DIXIE SCHOOL STUDENTS TO PRESENT OPERETTA

Dixie school students of the first, second and third grades will present an operetta at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7 at the school.

The operetta, "The Arrival of Santa," is being directed by Mrs. R. E. Moore, public school music teacher, assisted by Mrs. J. C. Tracy, first grade teacher and Mrs. A. H. Sumrall, second and third grade teacher.

Troy White, principal of the school, invites the public to attend the performance.

DECEMBER 4, 1951

## Dixie School opening plans announced

Registration at Dixie Attendance Center will open at 8:30 a.m. Friday, and all-day schedules will begin Monday, Aug. 27, with the lunch room in operation.

Beginners must have birth and health certificates and must be six years of age on or before Jan. 1.

Faculty members are A. W. Sanderson, principal; Charles E. Blackwell, Mrs. Laretta Segars, Mrs. Sanderson, Mrs. A. H. Sumrall, Mrs. J. C. Tracy and Mrs. Webber Downs, secretary.

The piano instructor will be Mrs. Dorothy Moore and the lunch room will be supervised by Mrs. D. E. Harrington and Mrs. Louis Brown. Mr. Rogers is the janitor.

The local board of trustees is composed of C. W. Frye, John H. McBay, Louis James, W. B. Davis and G. J. Rayhorn.

AUGUST 23, 1961  
HATTIESBURG  
AMERICAN

## Dixie citizens to talk about use of school

A mass meeting of the citizens of Dixie Community will be held at 7:30 p. m. Thursday at Dixie School.

Purpose of the meeting, according to Lawrence D. Arrington, attorney for the group, is to discuss the forming of a community organization to acquire the Dixie Attendance Center from the Forrest County board of education for the purpose of using the facilities for a community center.

"Unless we act now and take advantage of this opportunity, the school board will have no alternative other than to sell the buildings," Arrington said. "Dixie needs a community center and this is our chance to get one."

All citizens of the community are urged to be present.

JUNE 9, 1965

## Dixie School offered for vo-tech training center

The Forrest County board of education today agreed to take a proposed county schools construction program and bond issue before the board of supervisors at a May 6 meeting and offered the use of Dixie School for a vocational technical training center.

O. L. Dean, Beat 3 member, cast the one dissenting voice on the bond issue resolution, requesting that he be recorded in the minutes as saying "I would be in abdication of a moral responsibility to the children, patrons and taxpayers of this county if I voted for the resolution."

The resolution requests a \$2,700,000 bond issue.

In endorsing an Educational-

Occupational Training Center which would be under administration of Pearl River Junior College, the board noted the apparent advantages offered in providing funding sources.

The proposed center, which is being supported by the Hattiesburg Area Chamber of Commerce, would be a \$400,000 facility with half that amount secured through the Economic Development administration, \$100,000 from the State Dept. of Education and \$100,000 from a bond issue on the part of the college. The county's share would consist of a one mill levy to go toward retirement of the bonds and operating expenses.

The board amended its bud-

(Continued on Page 2)

APRIL 25, 1968

## Dixie group—

(Continued from Page 1)

Attendance Center to the county board of supervisors.

The board accepted a bid of \$484 from Amco Steel Fence for a chain link fence to complete closing in the school bus garage property with the provision that it be installed immediately.

Henry Yarbrough presented a motion to hire Earl Ulmer as driver for the school bus on the Pinehills Rt., No. 43, and was seconded by R. C. Graham. The motion carried with yes votes by Graham Yarbrough and Buford A. Lee, chairman. O. L. Dean voted against the motion.

Graham moved that Mrs. Ila Harrington be rehired as lunch room supervisor at Central Attendance Center and Yarbrough seconded the motion, which passed three to one with Dean casting the dissenting vote. Board member M. J. Johnson did not vote on either motion.

In other action the board accepted the resignation of Harold E. Hudson, math instructor at Earl Travillion High School, and approved transfer of several students to other school districts.

# Dixie group to lease former school building

By VIRGINIA WOODWARD

The Forrest County board of education today unanimously approved a resolution authorizing execution of a lease contract between Dixie Community Center, Inc., and the Forrest County board of supervisors for a lease on the Dixie Attendance Center, vacated two years ago when South Forrest Attendance Centers were consolidated.

Ira Hudson, president of Dixie, Inc., and Lawrence Arrington, secretary, will sign the lease for the non-profit organization to use the former school for the "civic," social and cultural welfare of the residents of the area."

The resolution provides an option for renewal or purchase on expiration of the school board's

lease on the 16th section land in March 1975.

Included in the terms of the lease contract is a clause prohibiting dancing and intoxicating liquors on the premises; mandatory insurance coverage; and maintenance and up-keep. The school board also retains the right to cancel the lease if facilities are needed for school purposes.

Consideration is \$1 per year payable on or before Aug. 1.

Arrington, who was present at this morning's meeting, said the association has scheduled a meeting for Friday evening to set up committees for immediate utilization of the property.

The board authorized a similar lease contract for the Helena  
(Continued on Page 2)

AUGUST 11, 1965

# 10—Special Notices

COUNTRY Store, Old Dixie School on Elks Lake Road, all items — home-made and home baked. December 18th, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Page 6 HATTIESBURG AMERICAN Wednesday, Nov. 13, 1965



FROM THE HEART — Fourth graders at Central Attendance Center have made a poster board to welcome parents during American Education Week. Putting on the final letters are, from left: Bernice Estine, Michael Pat-

rick, Polly Ann Walters and Micky Hooks. Their teacher, Miss Robin Woodward, is at right. (Staff photo by Robert Miller)

## Central approved for accreditation

(This is another in a series of American Education Week stories on public schools of Forrest County.)

By ROBIN WOODWARD

Central Attendance Center, expanded this year in almost children from the former McLaurin and Dixie School, was the first elementary facility in the county and the second in the state to be approved by a selected state committee for accreditation by the Southern Assn.

The approval will go before the Southern Assn. in Memphis in December. Faculty members this year are continuing the self studies and in service training in language arts by writing a course of reading study.

With a new wing added Central has 509 students and 17 teachers. Special emphasis has been placed on its library facilities, and an extensive science program is one of its features.

The school cooperates with the

University of Southern Mississippi and William Carey College whereby student teachers complete their laboratory work under the faculty at Central School.

pal, and a special music instruction program is carried out under the direction of Mrs. Margaret Porter, specialist.

This week students are taking a look at the progress made in public education by bringing and making articles symbolizing the schools of yesterday. Log cabins,

rough wagons, horn books and quill pens have been discovered by youngsters to point out the difference in equipment and methods of pioneer schools and the model plant of 1965.

Central, with other county schools, is cooperating in a dental hygiene and research program, and enjoys a comprehensive recreation and physical education schedule.

New lunchroom facilities offer a bright and pleasing atmosphere for well planned menus. With the coordinated efforts of parents, teachers and the youngsters, a Halloween carnival resulted in a sizable fund to be used for the purchase of items that do not come under the school board budget.

During the week parents and patrons of the school are urged to visit, learn more about their children's progress, and learn to know the staff.

## Children's books are on display at library

Children's Book Week is being celebrated throughout Mississippi Nov. 10-16. Using the theme, "Mississippi's Children Need More Books," libraries in every section of the state are conducting activities to point up the lack of adequate reading

1917 under the leadership of Franklin K. Mathews, librarian for the Boy Scouts of America. Since that time thousands of schools and public libraries have come to accept Book Week as a part of their customary activities.

complicated, technical society in which we live today, it is more vital than ever before that our young children become avid readers. Advancements in every field — commerce, education, science, industry — are being made rapidly. Books

## Injunction sought

# Dixie School up for sale but there is opposition

The Forrest County school board today opened and took under advisement bids for sale of materials in the old Dixie School in spite of a plea for an injunction to restrain the board from having the school torn down.

Attorney Lawrence Arrington filed the request for the injunction Tuesday afternoon. He is attorney for Dixie Community Center, Inc. which in August of '65 entered into a lease for use of the building as a meeting and recreational facility. The lease was to expire March 6, 1975.

The school has been used as a polling place in elections the past 40 years.

The supervisors received bids which include demolishing, sal-

vaging and cleaning debris from the property. The buyer gets the materials but not the site. It's sixteenth section land.

The petition for writ of injunction was signed by Ira Hudson, president of Dixie Center, and Rudolph A. Williams, secretary.

The school board on Aug. 12 decided to sell the building materials on the basis that the property had been neglected and was in bad repair, both buildings and grounds.

Three board members who had inspected the property said it had not been used for the purposes set forth in the lease agreement and they had seen evidence of chickens being kept on the property.

(Continued on Page 2)

# Use of Dixie School building to be returned to community

By VIRGINIA WOODWARD

The Forrest County board of education and representatives of Dixie Community Center Inc. today reached an agreement that will return to the community use of the buildings on the Dixie School site.

The corporation, a non profit organization of residents of the community, through its attorney Lawrence D. Arrington today presented a petition asking reinstatement of a lease negotiated in 1965 for use of the school, cafeteria and teachers' home for a Community Center.

The 10 - year lease was cancelled Aug. 12 when the board maintained that the buildings had not been maintained by the corporation, had not been used for the purposes stated in the lease, that the \$1 - a - year rental had not been paid for

two years, and that the board has had no proof that the property is insured since 1965.

Arrington recently filed a plea for injunction against sale of the buildings on the site, the three structures which had been advertised for sale by the school board.

Bids to demolish the buildings and clean the property were opened Aug. 28, but taken under advisement pending outcome of the injunction plea.

Rudolph Williams, secretary-treasurer of Dixie Community Center, Inc., said 301 residents of the community attended a corporation meeting and unananimously signed the petition. He and Arrington agreed to emphasize better care of the property and presented proof that \$10,000 in insurance had been in effect since 1965.

(Continued on Page 2)

SEPTEMBER 11, 1968

SEPTEMBER 28, 1968

MAIN BUILDING - BUILDING -C  
Built 1921



Picture made 1970

DECEMBER 22, 1969

## Renovation work under way at Travillion and Dixie

Work is underway over the Christmas holidays preparing Forrest County school buildings for pupil reassignments when school reconvenes the first week in January.

Supt. of Education Milton Evans said today the major changes necessitated by new desegregation orders are converting Earl Travillion from a 12-grade school to a junior high and reopening Dixie Elementary School, which has been closed for several years.

### House—

(Continued from Page 1)  
be killed but should be modified to permit prompt court review of the legal controversy.

While this might be an out for Nixon to avoid an outright veto, he nevertheless still held out a possibility of one.

"To be quite candid," he said in his statement, "I share the attorney general's serious doubts as to the constitutionality of this amendment and may have to withhold my signature from any legislation containing it."

The same bill contains a provision to permit the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and other agencies whose appropriation bills have not been passed, to continue spending through Jan. 31.

Furniture and equipment for high school grades are being moved from Earl Travillion to other schools around the county to which Negro students from Earl Travillion will be assigned. In turn, junior high furniture and equipment will be transferred to Earl Travillion.

Formerly an all-Negro school for grades one through 12, Earl Travillion will become integrated on the basis of approximately 80 per cent white and 20 per cent Negro under the latest desegregation orders by the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals. The school will house grades five, six and seven with a potential student body of 350.

Evans said community volunteers will be responsible for most of the work to be done at Dixie Elementary School. He said the building is in fair shape and only minor repairs will be necessary.

Two carpenters are being hired by the Board of Education to assist in the work at Dixie and Earl Travillion.

Evans pointed out that the approximately 200 students who will be assigned to Dixie Elementary School must bring their own lunches to school until new equipment can be moved into the cafeteria. Kitchen equipment was moved out when the school was closed.

JANUARY 23, 1970

## Dixie School PTO formed

A large group of interested parents met Monday night to organize a PTO at Dixie School. The school, which reopened this month, had been closed about eight years.

Rev. Marcus Smith, pastor of Dixie Baptist Church, led the devotion.

Officers installed by Mrs. Hazel Patrick are Gary Sumrall, president; Ted Stuart, vice pre-

sident; Mrs. Marlene Rayburn, secretary; Lonnie Rouse, treasurer, and Mrs. Jean Sumrall, reporter.

Miss Linda Stone was named fund-raising chairman.

### HATTIESBURG AMERICAN

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20 Hattiesburg American Wednesday, May 23, 1973



PTO INSTALLATION—Dixie School PTO officers who will serve for the next school year were installed May 14. Taking their new positions are, from left, Carroll Skinner, president; Mrs. Ann Fortenberry, vice president; Lonnie Rouse,

treasurer; Mrs. Eloise Fillingane, secretary; Mrs. Frances Rayburn, reporter and Mrs. Mary Catherine Lamas, by-laws chairman.

# CHRISTMAS IN DIXIE

## DIXIE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AT 2 MONDAY

The annual Christmas program at Dixie School will be presented at 2 p.m. Monday. Mrs. Raymond Mannoni, music director, is in charge of the program.

The PTA will meet at 1 p.m. Monday. All room representatives are asked to be present to make plans for the Christmas parties on Dec. 18.

DECEMBER 9, 1959



## Dixie School children present play, The Christmas Story

Grades one through four of the Dixie Elementary School presented The Christmas Story Monday night in the school auditorium. The program was under the direction of O.D. Hudson.

Jeff Patrick was narrator for the program. Musical selections included The Journey, The City of David, Lalae La Lae, To Bethlehem, The Kings and The Bells.

Teachers are Mrs. Sanderson, Mrs. Seefeld, Mrs. Pollard and Mrs. Pearce.

DECEMBER 12, 1974





MAIN BUILDING - BUILDING -C  
Built 1921



Picture made 1970



### *Retiring teachers honored*

Two Forrest County teachers were recipients of appreciation awards at the annual Forrest County Assn. of Educators banquet held at the University of Southern Mississippi Commons. Presenting awards to Mrs. Olive Roberts, left, and Mrs. Florence Hester is Lawrence Westfaul, principal of Dixie Elementary School. Miss Roberts was honored for 25 years of service and Mrs. Hester for 42 years. Both are retiring from Dixie School. (Photo by Judd Andrews)

MAY 25, 1978



**TEACHER RETIRING** — Chuck Tucker, first grader at Dixie Elementary School, and Mrs. Hazel Patrick (right) are seated with Mrs. Aldens Hogan Tracy, who taught both during a 30-year career of teaching in the Forrest County school system. Mrs. Patrick had Mrs. Tracy for a teacher in 1927-28. Mrs. Tracy, a teacher at the Dixie school, is retiring at the end of this school year. Students from as far back as

1927 were on hand to honor Mrs. Tracy during a "This is Your Life" program Thursday night at the school. Educated at Woman's College (William Carey) and the University of Southern Mississippi, Mrs. Tracy said in looking back over her career that she enjoyed teaching all grades but the first grade was her favorite. A reception in her honor followed a Dixie PTA meeting Thursday night.

## TREES

to

**Ethel Sumrall**

Trees have roots, a trunk, branches, leaves, and blooms. Looking closely, trees have covering, such as the bark. There are many different names which have been given to different kind of trees. Each kind of tree grew and made a beautiful tree forest. Some forest have been destroyed, maybe by man, fire, and strong winds.

I have visioned a tree. This was a specific kind of tree, with a very deep root, which was rooted within the Dixie Community soil. As the tree grew, the branches grew out and they had specific names, such as love, peace, kindness, humility, integrity, humble, patience, dignity, reliability, compassion, good will, honor, beauty, ideal, and prestige.

Well, this tree grew out into a huge, tall, healthy tree, causing many friends for and near to admire this specific kind of tree.

Seeds fell from this same tree and hid themselves in and among the grass. The seeds worked into the soil and came up. Now, more related trees or tree relatives, grew and spread over this Dixie soil, until a great specific kind of forest developed. Such a forest that could never be destroyed, but always remembered for what each branch stood for, which grew from this great tree trunk. Guess what, Mrs. Ethel Sumrall, this specific kind of tree was you.

Love,

Ethel Marie Pollard,  
A co-worker

This letter was written by Mrs. Ethel Marie Pollard,  
to Mrs. Ethel Sumrall upon her retirement as a teacher at  
Dixie Elementary School, Forrest County School System,  
Mississippi, in May, 1971.





## Dixie School schedule and personnel listed

J. L. Lee, principal of Dixie School, announces the schedule and personnel for the 1971-72 term.

The faculty will report for work Monday, Aug. 30, at 8 a.m. and all pupils will report for registration on Friday, Sept. 3, at 8 a.m. First grade pupils who did not attend Dixie School's pre - school roundup will have to bring a birth certificate to be able to register. Buses will make their regular route, and children will be at school about two hours the first day.

The first full day of classes will be Tuesday, Sept. 7, with lunches served in the cafeteria.

School personnel are: Mrs. Evelyn K. Nicholas, 1st grade teacher; Miss Mary Entrekin, 2nd grade teacher; Mrs. Ethel M. Pollard, 3rd grade teacher; J. L. Lee, 4th grade teacher and principal; Mrs. Alice Skinner, secretary; C. L. Fortenberry, custodian; Mrs. Katherine Rouse and Mrs. Welsie Rouse, cafeteria workers, Mrs. Mary K. Lomas, Mrs. Stella Shows and Mrs. Louise Spencer, bus drivers.



**NEW FLAG FOR DIXIE SCHOOL** — Students and teachers of Dixie School pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States as it is raised for first time on new pole presented to school by the Woodmen of the world. In center of picture is J. L.

Lee, school principal, and at right is James Breland, who made presentation of the flag and pole on behalf of Leaf River Camp No. 28 of the WOW. (Staff photo by Ron Dyal)

AUGUST 27, 1971

MAY 20, 1972

# Construction work at Dixie Attendance Center finished

Construction was completed earlier this month on a classroom complex at Forrest County school, and will be completed in March on a gymnasium at another county school.

The completed project is at Dixie Attendance Center-- four classrooms, a principal's office a teacher workshop and other needed facilities. The complex opened after a dedication ceremony attended by all five members of the county school board, the five members of the local school board and representatives of the Dixie PTO. The complex cost \$126,000.

Within two weeks, a gymnasium at South Forrest Attendance Center is expected to open, at a cost of 262,000.

Also underway is construction of additions to North Forrest Attendance

Center, and renovations for Rawls Spring Attendance Center are on the drawing board, with the opening of bids and awarding of a contract expected by May. Both projects should be ready for the opening of the 1979-80 school year.

The North Forrest project will cost \$815,000 for the construction. The Rawls Spring work is estimated at \$140,000.

The construction projects are "an effort by the board to continue upgrading all the schools in the district and an effort to replace old buildings that were built in the 1920s," according to board member Bobby Spiers.

The projects have been financed by funds from 16th Section leases and from the state Education Finance Commission.

FEBRUARY 23, 1979

Page 6A Hattiesburg American Thursday, April 24, 1980



Four new classrooms, a principal's office and a teacher workshop were among the facilities completed at Dixie Attendance Center in February, 1979. Cost of the project was approximately \$126,000. The addition adjoins the old Dixie building, which was constructed in 1921.

*Forrest County School District*

## Construction, renovation program nearly complete



1972



The original bell at Dixie School was sent to storage when the school was closed in 1963. In 1970, when the school was re-opened, another bell was sent to Dixie. The original bell had been stolen. This bell was used until 1978, when the new office was built.

Picture made 1971



A classroom in the main building. This was always the first grade classroom.

Picture made 1971



1973



1979



1979



1979



Back of MAIN BUILDING  
Picture made 1983



Back of MAIN BUILDING  
North East Corner  
Picture made January, 2001



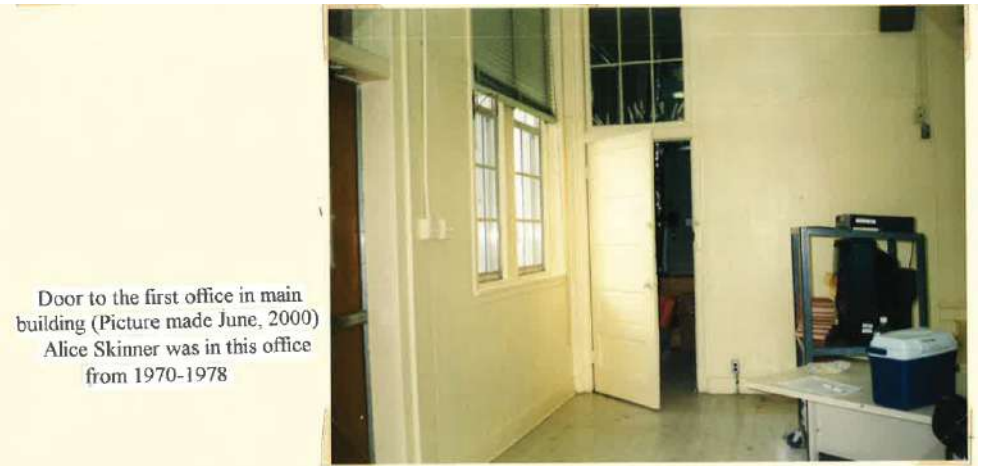
Back of MAIN BUILDING  
Picture made 1983



Southwest  
MAIN BUILDING  
Picture made



Northwest Corner  
MAIN BUILDING  
Picture made 1983



Door to the first office in main  
building (Picture made June, 2000)  
Alice Skinner was in this office  
from 1970-1978



The baby grand piano had been at Dixie School for many years when the school closed in 1963. The piano could have been donated by a Mrs. Moore that taught piano at the school many years ago. During the time the school was closed, the piano was being used at Central Forrest School. In 1970, when the school was re-opened the piano was brought back to Dixie School. This piano was used until the auditorium was divided into classrooms. It was then put in the Forrest County School's storage.

Picture made 1983



Picture made 1983



**BLOCK BUILDING**  
Built in 1947  
Second cafeteria & later classroom  
Picture made 1983



Corner of Main Building (Building C)  
Picture made June, 2000



These two wicker baskets were used for decorating for many years at every activity that the piano was used. These activities included recitals, musical programs, plays, fashion shows and promotional exercises.

Picture made June, 2000



# Dixie log cabin school may be only one in the state

By **KEN PILARSKI**

AMERICAN Staff Writer

The number of log cabin schools still in existence may be few, and the number in daily use may be even fewer, but there is one that still is used daily — and it's right here in Forrest County at Dixie Attendance Center.

"As far as I know, the log cabin at Dixie is the only one in Mississippi that is still in daily constant use during the school year," said Forrest County School Superintendent Walter Cartier.

Dixie Attendance Center is the only Forrest County school located on 16th-section land, and Cartier said the log cabin was built in the early 1930s by the citizens of the Dixie community, using trees cut from the 16th-section land.

The log cabin was built during the Depression, when those schools with a lunchroom and a facility for preparing food could get help from the government for feeding school children, Cartier said.

"Dixie school did not have a lunchroom facility, and the log cabin was first built as a kitchen and dining room for the children by the parents of the Dixie Community," he said.

Cartier said a dining room and kitchen were built 15 or 20 years later, and the log cabin was turned into a music room for the school.

"Many a child has received their piano lessons and their voice lessons in that log cabin."

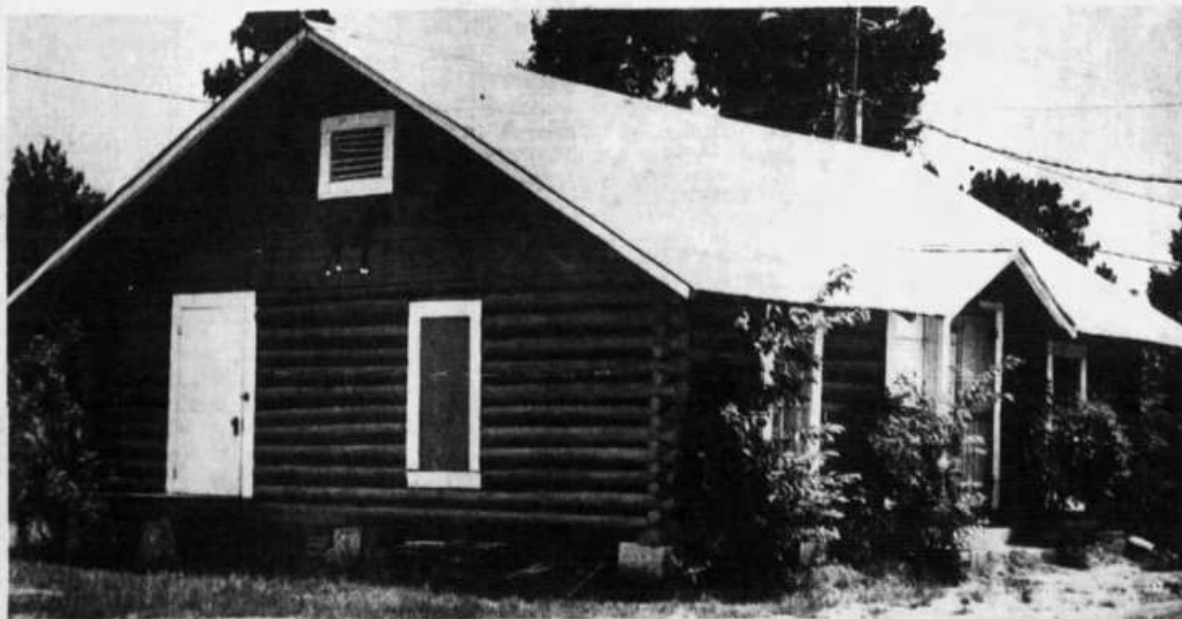
After that, Cartier said, the log cabin saw a number of other minor uses, and until about three years ago it was being used a maintenance and storage room. Currently, it is used for the gifted program at Dixie Attendance Center.

"So after nearly 50 years it is still serving us very well," Cartier said.

Before the gifted program could move into the cabin, it had to be refurbished, Cartier said.

"One of the best ways to get the

• PLEASE turn to Page 10A



AMERICAN photo by Steve Coleman

DIXIE ATTENDANCE CENTER's log cabin schoolroom, built in the early 1930's with community funds by Dixie citizens, is still being

used today as a classroom. The log cabin is thought to be the only one still used as a classroom in the state.

JULY 22, 1984 HATTIESBURG AMERICAN

## HISTORY OF LOG CABIN

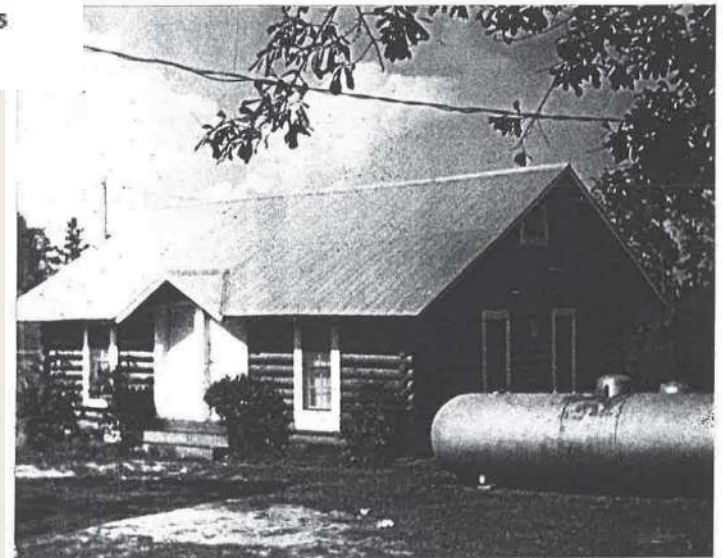
In the late 1920's and early 1930's parents of children at Dixie saw the need for a lunchroom for their children, so they could enjoy a good hot meal while they were attending school.

It was in the early 1930's that the people of Dixie Community made plans to begin building the lunchroom, the log cabin. The people worked hard on the cabin putting in all the money they could, but the money ran out and the work stopped. During this time the United States Government set up the work, the WPA, and with the help of these people work began again in the log cabin and continued until it was finished.

Mrs. Bessie Fillingame was the first lunchroom worker. Lunches were sold for a nickel a day and there were some people who could not afford to pay for their lunch, because Americans were having a very hard time in the late 1920's and the early 1930's. In order for the children to eat in the lunchroom the parents would send corn, pickles, sweet potatoes, cucumbers or anything grown on their farm to pay for their lunch. One time Mr. Lyman Ryan carried a bushel of sweet potatoes to the lunchroom for the ladies to cook for the children.

The log cabin later on in the 1940's was used to Public School Music, taught by Mrs. Joe Moore. Since that time the log cabin has been used for various classes such as Mrs. Kay Emerson's Gifted class, as a study hall and other classes. Lately it has been used as a storage room until we needed very, very much another classroom. We have already let the contract for 8 classrooms at about \$742,000; central air for 1920 Bldg. \$30,000; Teacher Workroom \$21,000; Walk in cooler-Freezer \$27,000. We will find it necessary to use the log cabin until this work is finished.

Written by Janet Sumrall



Dixie Log Cabin - 1983  
Picture provided by: Alice Skinner



### *Happy couple*

Harold Pollard and his wife, Ethel Marie, are a happy couple after Mrs. Pollard received a plaque and a gold watch in appreciation of outstanding service as a teacher at Dixie School. Mrs. Pollard, who retired at the close of the school year, was honored by the Dixie PTO at a reception following its final meeting and the gifts were presented to her by Walt Cartier, school principal. The PTO also honored Lavon Rouse for 11 years service as treasurer; Jimmy Sumrall, local trustee, and installed new officers: Jerry Williams, president; Tommy Mims, vice-president; Mrs. Mitchell Smith, treasurer; Mrs. Johnny Britt, reporter; Mrs. Ricky Thompson, secretary; and Mrs. Eddie Hooks, by-laws chairman.

JUNE 1, 1981

## **ELKS PRESENT FLAGS TO SCOUT TROOPS**

At a recent PTA meeting at Dixie Elementary School in Forrest County, American flags were presented to Girl Scout Troop 33 and Cub Scout Pack 21 on behalf of Hattiesburg Lodge No. 599 B.P.O. Elks by then Exalted Ruler Bobby Wiggins and Past Exalted Ruler Harold Hale, Americanism chairman. The Elks were invited to the PTA meeting by Dixie school principal Walter Cartier.

MAY 18, 1981

# Bond money will upgrade Dixie

*Editors Note: This is the second in a series of articles dealing with the Forrest County Board of Education's \$4.5 million bond issue. Six Forrest County schools are scheduled to receive upgrading and remodeling under the bond issue. Today's article is on the needs of Dixie Attendance Center.*

By **KEN PILARSKI**

AMERICAN Staff Writer

Dixie Attendance Center is scheduled to receive \$1.3 million for upgrading and general improvement of facilities under the Forrest County Board of Education's \$4.5 million bond issue that goes before the voters July 19.

According to Principal Walter Cartier, Dixie Attendance Center has a number of needs, particularly additional classroom space.

"We're faced with a serious overcrowding problem here at Dixie School," Cartier said. "We had 36 students per room in two grades last year and 32 students in two other grades, and our survey indicates that grades 5, 6, and 7 will have over 40 students each, and that other grades will also become overcrowded.

"These are too many children in the fifth, sixth, and seventh grades for the classrooms we now have. The numbers are growing out here, which is why we need additional classrooms."

Cartier said that Dixie currently has four classrooms built in 1978 which meet school standards and are energy efficient, but because of the need for space use six classrooms in a building con-

structed in 1921.

"These six classrooms have 12-foot high ceilings and 6-to-7 foot high windows with rotten frames," Cartier said. "It costs five-to-six times as much to heat and cool these six classrooms as it does the four new classrooms, teachers' workroom, principal's office, and secretary's office."

Cartier said that energy efficient classrooms would reduce the utility bills at Dixie by more than \$3,000 per year.

If the bond issue were approved, Cartier said the six classrooms would be eliminated and the 1921 building converted to an auditorium.

If construction is completed at Dixie, Cartier said the school would have 20 classrooms.

Cartier said there will be one classroom for each of the eight grades at Dixie, a double section for at least four of those grades, and then one classroom each for EMR (educable mentally retarded), the learning disabled, the gifted program, the speech teacher, band, music, kindergarten, and remedial reading.

"While we will be getting classrooms for those, there still will not be room for industrial arts, home economics, computer program or other needed programs," Cartier said. "So really 20 classrooms will not be enough for Dixie School, but it will be a good place to start."

Cartier said the bond issue pro-

• PLEASE turn to Page 10

## BOND MONEY

• FROM Page 1

posal for Dixie Attendance Center calls for the two rear wings of the old building to be eliminated, and the remainder of the old building to be renovated into an auditorium with fixed seats.

He said it also calls for the construction of a new building to include 16 classrooms, a library, teachers' workroom and bathroom facilities, with covered walks to the auditorium, cafeteria, and shop buildings.

In addition, the cafeteria building would be expanded to provide an enlarged lunch room and additional storage space. A new gymnasium-physical education building would be constructed, and a new sewage lagoon also would be built. The old concrete block library in the rear would be converted into an industrial arts shop.

"We're looking at somewhere in the neighborhood of 15-to-18 months from the time we sell the bonds to completion of work at all the schools," Forrest County School Board Chairman Tom Seider said.



DIXIE ATTENDANCE CENTER is scheduled to receive \$1.3 million for upgrading and general improvement of its facilities under the Forrest

County Board of Education's planned \$4.5 million bond issue that goes before the voters on July 19.

JULY 11, 1983



AMERICAN photo by Steve Coleman  
**FORREST COUNTY** Supervisor David Allen signs a Dixie School annual for Mechelle Williamson, daughter of Betty and Jerry Williamson of Dixie, as fifth grader Jason Morris, son of Randy and Jeanne Morris of Dixie, watches. This year's annuals were dedicated to Allen during a Friday ceremony.

APRIL 23, 1988



AMERICAN photo by Steve Coleman

**FORREST COUNTY** Schools Superintendent Walter Cartier adds sugar to his mini-volcano at the Dixie School's luau Friday. Cartier was demonstrating how an eruption occurs. During the luau students brought special guests and feasted on Hawaiian cuisine.

Committee recommended that lawmakers override Allain's veto, which came after the 1986 session ended, but efforts fell three votes

served drinks became involved in accidents. Allain said the bill was inconsistent with other laws which made it illegal to serve drinks to an

session.  
 Rep. Fred Dobbins of Leakesville warned that overriding would stamp the approval of the House "on



JANUARY 10, 1987

AMERICAN photo by Robert Miller

**MATTHEW WILLIAMS**, left, and Brian Gwin, second graders at Dixie Elementary School, look at the Gold Cards they received for getting good grades in school. Bobby Chain of Hattiesburg, standing, was one of the businessmen who helped with the project. Students who get the cards are eligible for reduced prices at some area businesses. See related story page 1A.



**3rd GRADE  
SPELLING BEE  
1981-82**



Playground equipment being installed with the help of South Central Bell Telephone Co. Sept. 1981



1980



1986-87 Campus - before pine trees were cut

# FARM NEWS



THE DIXIE 5th and 6th grade 4-H Club was top fund raising club during the recent Forrest County 4-H fund-raising drive. At left, Walter Cartier, principal of Dixie Elementary School, accepts a trophy from Toni Clark, president of the Dixie 4-H Club. Angelia Garner, left in top photo, and Ajuanda Garner, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester Garner, and members of the North Pines Community 4-H Club, were the top two sales persons during the drive. Other top winners were Alan Silvey and Stephanie Pace, third place, Jennie Blackledge, fourth place, and Mark Moore, fifth place.

1984



1984



P.T.O. Academic Awards Night  
Dixie Attendance Center  
Monday, May 13, 1985, 7:00 p.m.

Opening Ceremony presented by the first Grade

Business Meeting

Presentation to Mrs. Katherine Rouse

Introduction of Special Guest, the Honorable Robert Taylor

Installation of the 1985-86 P.T.O. Officers

Address to Honor Students by the Honorable Robert Taylor

Recognition of Honor Students



FLAG presentation to CuB's by  
ELKS!  
1981



MR. WALTER CARTIER  
Principal

DIXIE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
Dixie Community, Mississippi  
1980-81

MRS. POLLARD  
Grade 3





DIXIE ATTENDANCE CENTER  
1982-83



LAWRENCE WESTFAUL  
Principal

DIXIE SCHOOL  
Hattiesburg, Mississippi  
1979-80

MISS PAM MIMS  
Grade 2



DIXIE SCHOOL  
Dixie Community

MRS. FINLEY  
First Grade



Coach Stephens tries his hand at selling raffle tickets.



Miss Williams directs traffic at the fishing pond.



The bingo table is a busy place.



Mrs. Tucker plays her fourteenth game.



*Dec. 1989*

## **Dixie High Celebrates 50th Reunion**

Graduates of the 1939 class of Dixie High School returned recently to celebrate their fiftieth class reunion. Pictured here are (top right from left) Jarvis Burns, Minnie Lea Ryan, Mary Lou Steed Burns and Joyce Cartier, wife of Walter Cartier, Forrest County Superintendent. Top left picture includes Leon Cagle and Eran Ryan. In the photo at left are (from left) Eunice McSwain, J. W. Rivers and Eva Clark.



## Celebration of break from school includes a lesson in history

By NITA MCCANN  
AMERICAN Staff Writer

Some children think that, on the last day before a holiday break, they will get to celebrate all day without having to study.

But four years ago, the teachers and administrators of Dixie Attendance Center devised a celebration where children in the lower elementary grades learn without even knowing it. This year, the school's kindergarten through third grade students held their annual Thanksgiving celebration on the morning of Nov. 26.

"I wanted the kids to have a chance to celebrate the holiday but to learn something at the same time and to get the parents and teachers involved as well," said principal Elizabeth Sims, who started the event as a kindergarten teacher.

First, the students sang and performed a Thanksgiving play for their parents, teachers and fellow students.

Then, the children got a chance to visit eight different booths to learn more about how pioneers and Native Americans actually lived, including booths set up by each of the classes.

During the morning, each class visited an old-fashioned garden planted by kindergarteners and viewed Native American necklaces and musical instruments made by second-grade students.

"Each year, each of the grades puts together a learning center. This year, the first grade made butter like they did in the old days with an actual butter churn," said Cara Buffington, who teaches first grade at Dixie Attendance Center. "Then, each child got to sample some cornbread with the butter they had made. Doing things like this shows the children how hard people had to work back then."

They also got the opportunity to see local artisans in action. For example, Hattiesburg resident Kay Morse, who is part Cherokee, showed them Indian keepsakes her grandmother made and told students stories about the legends behind them.

Pottery artist Mark Baylis demonstrated his craft and a local farrier showed how to shoe a horse. While a local storyteller read a Native American story aloud, a woman illustrated the tale with draw-



David Bundy/Hattiesburg American

**LISTEN UP:** Tyler Berryhill, 5, left, jokes with kindergarten classmate Kenneth Felts, 5, about their traditional makeup and costumes Tuesday in the school's gym.

ings as the children watched.

Long after they had finished touring the booths, the students in Buffington's first-grade class were still discussing their favorite parts of the show.

"I liked it when they read the story about the boy and his pony," said Nina Anderson.

"The thing I liked the most was when the third grade sang for us," said Fredrick Oglesby.

"And I just liked eating all the food they had," said Sam Jarman.

Rebecca Smith, mother of first-grader Brandon Foshee, said she is glad her son has access to activities that make classroom learning stick.

"It's fun but educational too. Actually experiencing some of the activities helps them remember what they've learned," Smith said.

NOVEMBER 27 1996

Thanksgiving 1981

## MAGIC FISH



AMERICAN photo by Steve Coleman

FORREST COUNTY Superintendent of Education Walt Cartier welcomes "The Magic Fish" to Earl Travillion School on Thursday to celebrate the national Reading is Fundamental program. RIF national program specialist Nora Priest was on hand for Cartier's reading of "The Magic Fish," a children's book written by Freya Littledale. Dixie Elementary School student Tim DuBoise portrayed the fish, which grants wishes to children. The RIF program in Forrest County Schools has distributed more about 50,000 books to 16,000 students over 14 years.

NOVEMBER 9, 1990

## FIRE AWAY!



AMERICAN photo by Steve Coleman

YAMENIA WILSON, 10, of Dixie Elementary School, watches in awe as Anthony Magee of the Hattiesburg Fire Department sprays water from a fire hose while demonstrating fire-fighting techniques Tuesday at No. 1 Fire Station on Main Street in Hattiesburg. Yamenia's class was on a field trip.

FEBRUARY 12, 1992

## TESTING THE TASTE BUDS



Dixie School 7th-graders Page Wilberding, left, and Sharla Kirkpatrick taste test foods used during Operation Desert Storm as part of a class project supervised by their teacher Martha Williams, background.

FEBRUARY 28, 1992

## ON THE GROW

Dixie Volunteer Fire Department has issued a call for new members as it prepares for restructuring its organization.

Dixie VFD provides fire protection for about 55 square miles of Forrest County from Hattiesburg to Churchwell Road and from the Lamar County line East almost to U.S. 49. Also included in its service area is U.S. 98 to the Perry County line.

A new building is nearing completion near the Dixie School. Dixie has two fire engines, a water tanker and protective clothing for several firefighters.

JULY 5 1997





# ART



TARA MATHIS, 7, sits on Santa's lap as Forrest County School Superintendent Walt Cartier shows off her winning poster at the Burger King on U.S. 49 North, Hattiesburg. The drawing done by Mathis, a second grader at Dixie School, was chosen the best overall poster in the Christmas poster contest for elementary students sponsored by Burger King and Pepsi.

AMERICAN photo by Steve Coleman

DECEMBER 19, 1987



DIXIE ATTENDANCE CENTER art teacher Kym Garraway arranges a drawing while fellow teacher Maggie Cox looks on during the school's first-ever art show at the Cloverleaf Mall April 29-May 6. All the work was done by 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. This is Dixie's first year to offer art classes.

AMERICAN photo by Robert Miller

MAY 14, 1988

and T-shirts at the request of her customers. She also creates invita-

## Rags change to riches with paint, fancy footwork

By LYNNE WILBANKS

Kym Garraway was using her foot to stamp out a print on a T-shirt when the phone rang.

"I had just dipped my foot into paint to make the footprints... My foot got stuck to the start and I dragged it behind me in a rush to answer the phone," the Hattiesburg artist said.

The artwork survived the interruption, however. "What could have been a fiasco ended up with fantastic results," she said.

Garraway, 35, who teaches elementary art classes at Dixie Attendance Center, has developed a brand of clothing art dubbed Kions by Kym. She charges from \$5 to \$30 for her designs, depending on the detail work involved. Clients provide the clothing and give her an idea of what they would like. Brightly colored cloths, richly textured fall leaves and whimsical, animated "critters" are popular designs.

Family, friends and "walks through the woods" provide inspiration for Garraway's creations, but some of her designs result from using ordinary

household items.

"When I paint, I grab anything around the house," she said. "I've used paint rollers, forks, plants and, on occasion, hand and footprints."

Her early love of art and inspiration from her artist grandmother prompted her to study art in college.

Studying art has brought many surprises, Garraway said. During her freshman year at the University of Southern Mississippi, she was required to complete a course in figurative drawing. The hitch: drawing from a live, nude male model.

"Being the modest Christian that I am, and having never seen a naked body other than my own, I had reservations about completing the course," she said. "But my professor urged me to give it a try. About halfway through the first lesson, the teacher nodded to the model, who promptly dropped his drawers. My mouth and eyes flew open but my hand started drawing. Once I got past that, I was OK."

Garraway does detailed calligraphy work, specialty items such as napkins and commissioned paintings, in addi-

tion to her clothes designs.

She keeps busy filling orders after school and answering her constantly ringing phone by night.

"It seems that all I have time to do is work, paint and sleep," she said, with a laugh.

But her true love is teaching art to children.

"These kids are so special to me because they come from knowing nothing about art to selling artwork at the Cloverleaf Mall art shows," she said. "They may only make \$15, but to a child, it's like \$1,000."

Garraway started a small school art project last year, with limited supplies and facilities. From simple beginnings, her project has blossomed into a notable art program, with a large art facility.

Garraway has collected a wide range of artwork, much of which will hang at the new home she and husband, Jay, hope to build. Each piece has a sentimental family-related story. Rare shells she received as a gift from her grandmother, Lois Beard, have been incorporated into many of her designs.



PAINTING by Kym Garraway

Garraway said her most memorable experience while studying art was visiting the Sistine Chapel in Italy. The intricate paintings by Michelangelo have inspired her to fulfill another goal: to replicate a series of paintings of prophets by Michelangelo.

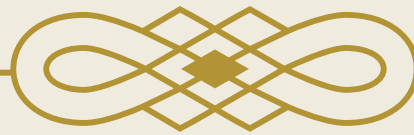
But for now her major project is a bit more elementary. Garraway and her "children" are busy gearing up for an art show at the Cloverleaf Mall, scheduled for May.

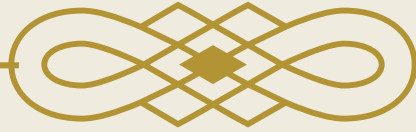


HATTIESBURG ARTIST Kym Garraway pairs designs on sweatshirts and T-shirts at the request of her customers. She also creates invitations, specialty napkins and wall paintings. Garraway is a teacher at Dixie Attendance Center.

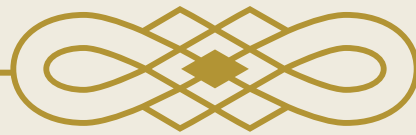
AMERICAN photo by Robert Miller

JANUARY 10, 1989





1992





Mr. Walter Cartier speaking at Log Cabin Revitalization - Nov. 1999



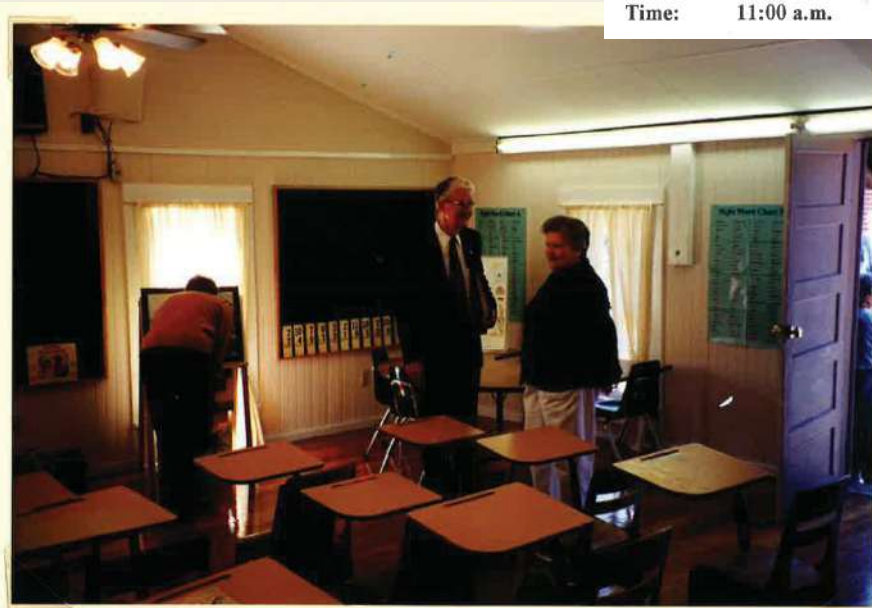
Log Cabin Revitalization 1999

#### REVITALIZATION CEREMONY

Place: Dixie Attendance Center Log Cabin

Date: Thursday, February 25, 1999

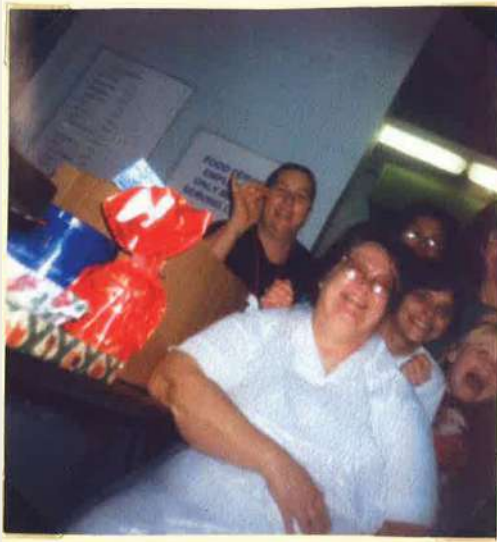
Time: 11:00 a.m.



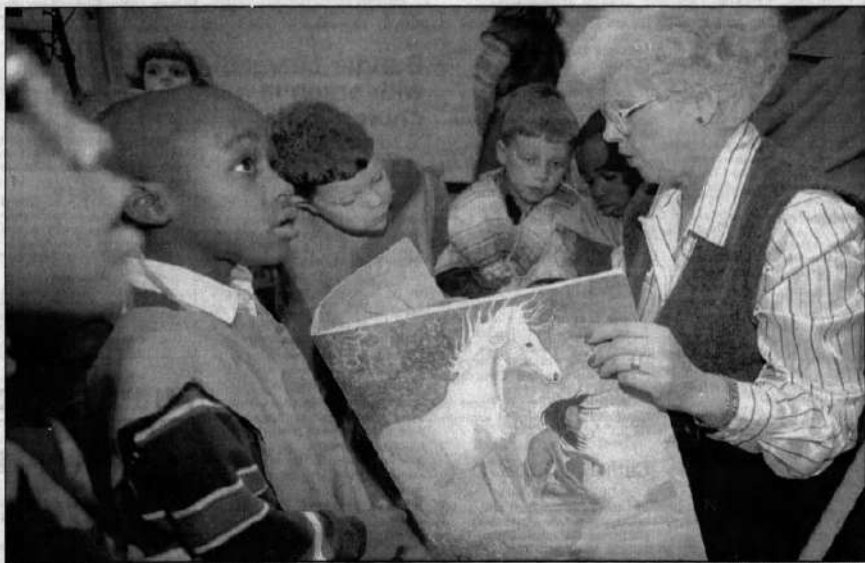
Mr. Walter Cartier and Mrs. Katherine Lomas - Nov. 1999  
First lunchroom worker in the Log Cabin was Mrs. Bessie Fillingame  
(mother of Mrs. Lomas)



Inside of Log Cabin - Nov. 1999



## Dixie students learn meaning of holiday



**THANKSGIVING STORY:** Jo Ellen Lott, right, reads a story about Native Americans to elementary students at Dixie Attendance Center Tuesday as part of the school's fourth annual Thanksgiving celebration. The event involved students from kindergarten through third grade.



1989

relating to the holiday.

On Tuesday, Forrest County's Dixie Elementary School students took part in a "Christmas Around the World Day." They moved from room to room demonstrating how various ethnic groups celebrate the holiday.

"We haven't given teachers or principals any specific instructions on how to conduct the celebrations but they are well aware on how to respect different beliefs," said Kay Clay, superintendent of Forrest County Schools.

Benjamin Wampler, Lillie B...



## TESTING THE TASTE BUDS



AMERICAN photo by Robert Miller

Dixie School 7th-graders Page Wilberding, left, and Sharla Kirkpatrick taste test foods used during Operation Desert Storm as part of a class project supervised by their teacher Martha Williams, background.

FEBRUARY 28, 1992



AMERICAN photo by Robert Miller

Dixie school teacher Donna Defatta, center, shows Forrest County Superintendent Walt Cartier and student Yolanda Williams how to use a new computer.

SEPTEMBER 26, 1992





1997



Alice Skinner & Stephanie Wilberding  
November 1997 (Stephanie first came to work in office)



1997



Elizabeth Sims, Principal  
June, 2000







MAIN BUILDING  
Southwest Corner  
Picture made June, 2000



MAIN BUILDING -C- JUNE, 2000





TRAILER for Hearing Impaired



Picture made June 2000



FIELD HOUSE built by David Allen  
District One  
Picture made June, 2000





It will be relocated on Dixie Barn Road - up the road from the school.



Dixie Attendance Center  
Log Cabin being moved from campus.

July 2002

Dixie Attendance Center  
Log Cabin being moved from campus.



Location where Log Cabin was on Dixie Campus.

Sunday, July 14, 2002

# Dixie school's log cabin moving

Building will be meeting room

By Amber Jo Bethel  
American Staff Writer

Part of Dixie Attendance Center is moving across the street.

The school's log cabin, which has served as a cafeteria and a classroom at the school since 1930, will become a community meeting room in its new location

across Elks Lake Road, said Forrest County Superintendent Kay Clay.

As Dixie Attendance Center expands, the cabin - which does not have central heat or air - must be moved, Clay said.

"It will be a sort of a school district museum," Clay said.

The cabin will sit on 16th Section land.

The district's director of services, Reggie Favre, said the move began last week,

and currently the cabin is sitting on a truck that is parked by the side of the road.

"We've already moved it within 60-70 feet of where it's actually going to be set down on the ground," Favre said.

The total move of the cabin will be about 300-400 yards, and this week the foundation will be installed, Favre said.

"We should have it finished probably by the end

of the summer," Favre said. More time will be needed for work on the cabin's foundation and utilities.

As the crew started work, a passer-by stopped and offered to plant flowers on the new cabin site, Clay said.

"People are attached to it," she said. "I think this will be a good thing."

Amber Jo Bethel can be reached by telephone at (601) 584-3025 or by e-mail at [AJBethel@hattiesburg.gannett.com](mailto:AJBethel@hattiesburg.gannett.com)



CHAD APPLEBAUM Hattiesburg AMERICAN  
The log cabin at Dixie Attendance Center.



DIXIE ATTENDANCE CENTER  
TEARING DOWN OF OLD WHITE BLOCK BUILDING  
SEPTEMBER, 2002



Dixie Attendance Center  
Office Building w/added classrooms  
where old cafeteria was located  
South side of building  
Changes made 2002-2003



Dixie Attendance Center  
NE Corner of Main Building-on Rt.  
Facing East  
Cafeteria, Band & Music Building-Back Rt  
Office Building w/added classrooms where old cafeteria was located-Left  
Changes & additions - 2002-2003



Dixie Attendance Center  
Cafeteria, Band & Music Building  
Behind Main Building & Library/Tech Prep Building  
South Side  
Built 2002-2003



Dixie Attendance Center  
Office Building  
View from office down hall by  
existing and new classrooms  
Changes made 2002-2003



Dixie Attendance Center  
Back of Main Building  
Changes made - 2002-2003



Dixie Attendance Center  
White walls - location of old bathrooms  
that had been added to the Main Building in the past  
Picture was made facing the South  
Changes made - 2002-2003



June, 2000



Dixie Attendance Center  
White walls - location of old bathrooms  
that had been added to the Main Building in the past  
Picture was made facing the North  
Changes made - 2002-2003



## Special Events

### NWF CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

NWF Championship Wrestling is coming to Hattiesburg Saturday at the Dixie School Gym. The main event will be a championship match between Calvin Rose and Steve Starr. Also appearing will be Jason Soules with Coach Paul Funk, The Fugitive, The Masked Medic, David Hart, Viper, Enforcer Archie Foster and many more. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the first match begins at 7:30 p.m. Ringside seats cost \$8, adult general admission is \$6, and children 6-12 cost \$5. Children 5 and younger are free.

NOVEMBER 9, 2000

## Dixie schools host learning fun day

Dixie Attendance Center will host a Learning Extravaganza from 8:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Friday in front of the school on Elks Lake Road.

Fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade classes have prepared learning stations which will last 15 minutes each. Some stations will have hands-on activities and some will have speakers sharing career opportunities.

Among the features of the event will be a fire truck, a county agent, a real estate appraiser and a NASA representative.

APRIL 5, 2001

## Forrest County Dixie Attendance Center

- Elizabeth Sims, principal
- 530 students, K-eighth grades
- 40 teachers
- Eight new teachers
- What's new: \$5,000 grant from Warren Paving

AUGUST 14, 2001

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY



Emily McIntyre, left, and Jessica Stewart and other Dixie Attendance Center first-graders cheer for those honored at the school for "Make A Difference Day."

## Youths learn meaning of 'Making a Difference'

By Amber Jo Bethel  
American Staff Writer

Whonda Brown knows it's not hard for kids to make a difference in someone's life.

Brown, a sixth-grade student at Dixie Attendance Center, joined with the other 555 students at the school to celebrate Make a Difference Day with a pep rally Friday.

"It's not hard to help elders cross the street, or carry their groceries for them," Brown said. "At home, you can make a difference by helping your mom clean up or take care of your brothers and sisters."

At W. H. Jones Elementary School, the USM Office of Community Service and Learning participated in Make a Difference day by holding a health and safety fair. Students were given a variety of health screenings, including height and weight, hearing and vision.

Dixie principal Elizabeth Sims said making a difference was the school's theme for Red Ribbon Week.

"The children are pledging to make smart choices, stay drug-free and make a difference," Sims said. "We've invited people from our community

### Upcoming events

Main Street United Methodist, True Light Baptist and Central Christian Disciple of Christ churches will host a Make a Difference Day celebration with worship, fellowship and a prayer vigil 6-8 p.m. today at True Light Baptist, Main Street, Hattiesburg.



who have helped us reach our dreams here at Dixie Attendance Center."

Dixie recognized Sylvia Sanders who represented Camp Shelby; Wayne Taylor who represented the Forrest County Sheriff's Department; substitute teacher, parent and volunteer firefighter Rita King; Forrest County Supervisor David Allen; American Red Cross volunteer Jennifer Delmas; and Lawrence Warren, president of Warren Paving, who donated \$5,000 to the school's parent teacher organization.

Not only did the students honor the community representatives with songs and cheers, classes put together



USM student nurse Teresa Perkins checks 7-year-old Corissa Jackson's blood pressure during a health fair at W.H. Jones Elementary Friday.

thank you cards and signs for each of them.

Then, the students showed a little bit can make a difference, and presented the Red Cross with \$505 for the Liberty Fund, set up to help victims of the Sept. 11 terrorism attacks.

"I'm really proud of them, because they raised all that just by bringing their pennies in," said assistant principal Jon Greer. "It's nice to see they know they can make a difference

in lives so far away."

Allen said he was honored just to take part in the pep rally.

"I've been a supervisor for 26 years, and my relationship with the school gets better every year," he said, smiling at his granddaughter Ashlyn Allen, a first-grade student. "She amazes me every day with what she's done at school. I learn something new from her every day."

## School principal praises coverage

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Amber Jo Bethel for the coverage she gave us at Dixie Attendance Center during our "Make A Difference/Drug Awareness Week." We appreciate the difference you are making in this community, in Hattiesburg and the entire Pine Belt area. With all the events that have taken place over the last two months, it is nice to see different groups, agencies, schools and people getting involved to try to make a difference. We are glad we could be just a small part of that effort.

The *Hattiesburg American* has done an excellent job of getting those stories out to inform the public of all the acts of kindness that have transpired since the tragic day of Sept. 11. May you continue "making a difference."

**Jon Greer,**  
assistant principal,  
Dixie Attendance Center,  
Hattiesburg

OCTOBER 27, 2001

NOVEMBER 15, 2001



# Dixie

FROM PAGE 1A

Today, Dixie is sandwiched between the ever-growing Hattiesburg to the north and the vast Camp Shelby to the south.

Many of Dixie's residents commute to Hattiesburg for work.

But some of Dixie's older residents can remember when the community was very separate from Hattiesburg.

Dorothy Harvison has been a Dixie resident since 1931.

Her parents were also Dixie residents.

"When I was growing up, this was a very rural area. There were a lot of farmers around and people just made it the best they could. In those

days, transportation wasn't nearly as good as it is now. Hattiesburg wasn't far away, but it seemed like it because it was much harder to get there. It was a lot different than it is now," Harvison said.

Harvison, who only lives about a mile from the Hattiesburg city limits, said Hattiesburg's growth has caught up with Dixie.

"I have seen a lot of changes over the years, especially during the war. When Camp Shelby came, it changed everything. During the war, there were a lot of people coming through Dixie. I can remember troops marching down the street by our house when I was younger,"

Harvison said.

During the war, many Dixie residents converted rooms in their houses for rent by military personnel and their families.

Service men and women from across the world descended upon Dixie for the war years.

And for many community residents, the new cultural exposure was very exciting.

"I really liked all the soldiers' wives. Some of them were a little different and they talked a little different but I didn't mind," said Hazel Patrick, 86.

Patrick was a teacher in Dixie's schools for 34 years.

In that time, Patrick watched the community continuously grow.

But today, Patrick said, the community is almost unrecognizable from its past.

"My land used to be 10 miles from Hattiesburg. That really seemed like a long way. But now, I am nearly inside the city limits. I watched all the children in this community grow up. Dixie has always been one of those places where everybody knows everybody. But now I can go into church and I may not know one-third of the people," Patrick said. "Things are really growing, but no matter how big it gets, I still love living in Dixie."

MARCH 7, 2001

## COMMUNITIES OF THE TIMES

### Dixie offers residents country respite

By ASHLEY EDWARDS  
Writer for THE TIMES

Just south of Hattiesburg lies a small but proud community called Dixie.

Unlike many of South Mississippi's other small towns and communities, little is written about Dixie's long history.

Perhaps the lack of written history can be attributed to Dixie's rural heritage and small population.

Or, maybe Dixie's events have always been overshadowed by Hattiesburg's progress.

But despite the reasons, one fact remains - Dixie has been one of South Mississippi's most stable communities for a long time.

Early records show that settlers lived in the area that is now Dixie long before the City of Hattiesburg was incorporated.

However, Dixie never enjoyed the growth of its neighbors.

Dixie's beginnings were not as an organized community.

Early on, the Dixie area consisted of a few small homesteads and widely scattered farms.

But over the years, Dixie residents built homes, which were more centrally located and schools were built to accommodate the growing population.

And today, school is still a big part of life in Dixie.

The Dixie Attendance Center is one of Forrest County's best schools.

Boasting an enrollment of 570 students in grades K-8, the Dixie Attendance Center has produced some of the area's smartest pupils.

Dixie is also a community rooted in spirituality.

One of the first churches in Dixie was built by the Baptists.

Dixie Baptist Church, established in 1922, was one of the community's main gathering

places for much of the 20th century.

The church's pastor, Bobby Holder, is a relative newcomer to Dixie.

But he said he hopes to make the community his permanent home.

"I've been here for six years and I have loved every minute of it. A lot of people don't really think of Dixie as its own community, but I think Dixie is very independent from Hattiesburg. Especially because of the Dixie Attendance Center. The school has sort of become a rallying place for the community. The children all go there together. The school also offers community sports. It really makes Dixie have a small town atmosphere," Holder said. "Of course, I will go wherever the Lord calls me, but if it was my choice, I would be buried here in the Dixie Cemetery."

SEE DIXIE, PAGE 2A



PHOTO BY DAVID MASSING

Shannon Gibson reviews learning drills with her third grade class at Dixie Elementary. The students recite chants that help them associate with what they are studying.

## FOWL PLAY



PHOTOS BY BARRY BEARD HULLSBURG AMERICAN

Dixie Attendance Center eighth-grader Jonny English does the chicken dance with assistant principal Jon Greer Friday at the school gymnasium. Principal Elizabeth Sims also dressed up as a rabbit as the two paid off on a bet they made with students about the number of books they could read through the Accelerated Reader program.

APRIL 13, 2002

# Dixie school leaders strut, hop for kids

## Administrators don costumes to reward students for reading

By Amber Jo Bethel  
American Staff Writer

Jon Greer, the assistant principal of Dixie Attendance Center, is a chicken.

Or at least he was one during a school assembly Friday, when Greer and principal Elizabeth Sims donned animal outfits to reward students for reading.

The administrators had made a deal with the students that if the kids accumulated 20,000 Accelerated Reader points by Easter, they would entertain the student body. The kids kept their end of the bargain, so Greer and Sims were more than happy to keep theirs.

Accelerated Reader is a program where students read books, take tests on what they've read and are given points for correct answers.

"Mr. Greer is a chicken stepper from way back," joked Sims, out of breath from bunny hopping with



Sims Greer

the second-graders. "But this is a new thing for me."

Research has shown that the more kids read, the better they test, Greer said.

"We're very proud of our students," he said. "Anything we can to help them along we're happy to do."

Not only have Greer and Sims donned animal suits, but they've subjected themselves to singing for students and becoming "human hot dogs" complete with ketchup and mustard to give students reading incentives, said Dixie librarian Linda Edmonson. She said this year the students more than doubled their point total from last year.



Dixie Attendance Center students react as assistant principal Jon Greer does a dance while dressed as a chicken Friday at the school gymnasium.



Whiddon McCarty

"This makes it more fun to read," said fourth-grader Dylan Whiddon.

First-grader Tomaz McCarty said seeing Greer

doing the chicken dance goes along with the chicken book he's reading.

"He made it funny," he said.

Edmonson said she'll continue taking creative suggestions to motivate students.

"If there's something the students want to see, they'll work hard to get it," she said.

Amber Jo Bethel can be reached by telephone at (601) 584-3025 or by e-mail at [amber@ftpamerican.net](mailto:amber@ftpamerican.net)



JOE LOVETT Hattiesburg AMERICAN

Dixie Attendance Center principal **Elizabeth Sims** greets students dressed as a bunny rabbit. Assistant principal **Jon Greer** also dressed up as a chicken as the two paid off on a bet they made with students about the number of books they could read through the Accelerated Reader Program.

APRIL 21, 2002

## Dixie school's log cabin moving

Building will be meeting room

By Amber Jo Bethel  
American Staff Writer

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CHAD APPLEBAUM Hattiesburg AMERICAN

The log cabin at Dixie Attendance Center.

JULY 14, 2002

# Students reminded they too were part of attack on U.S.

By Amber Jo Bethel  
American Staff Writer

Philip Londeree brought students to their feet and tears to their eyes Wednesday when he took his Petal High School classmates to task about their apathy over patriotism.

"New York wasn't attacked, all of us were," Londeree read from his essay, citing the nation's ideals, prosperity, ingenuity, pride, strength and confidence which were assaulted Sept. 11, 2001.

"The future will be penned in our hand, steady or not, formed by our will. It will be the product of our fevered brow and our blistered hands. And the time to take up that responsibility is swiftly approaching."

Londeree, a senior, said he hopes to fight student apathy.

"Some things we do because they're civic duties. In many cases what is right is subjugated not only to what is easy but what is accepted by our peers," Londeree said.

"It's cool to be rebellious, but that's been taken too far. It's one thing not to tuck your shirt in, but some



Meagan Thrower, left, and Jessica Stewart, second graders at Dixie Attendance Center, hold words from the Pledge of Allegiance at the school's memorial ceremony Wednesday.

"It's cool to be rebellious, but that's been taken too far. It's one thing not to tuck your shirt in, but some things are sacred."

Schools throughout the region remembered the anniversary of the terrorist attacks in emotional memorial services Wednesday. Boy Scouts and JROTC cadets spent their days in uniform.

Petal High School guidance counselors Dawn Tisdale and Melissa Morgan relived their trips to Ground Zero, where the two aided attack victims' families.

"I was just an ordinary person who was asked to help... a shoulder to lean on, a hand to hold, a comfort in a time of need," Tisdale said. "Yes, I was showing my patriotism, but to those people it was more than that."

Students at Oak Grove High School also heard testimony from a crisis counselor. Scott Arcement, who served in New York City after the attacks, provided a video presentation. The event was sponsored by the Red Cross club.

"We are Americans and proud to live in a country where we can come together like this and remember those we have lost," Oak Grove High Principal School Wayne Folkes said.

Students at Forrest County Agricultural High School participated in a memorial walk led by the marching band.

"It was just silence until we regrouped," said English teacher Cheryl Miller. Miller is also the faculty sponsor for the school's Amnesty International club, which organized the event.

The Rev. Bobby Holder also

Meagan Thrower, left, and Jessica Stewart, second graders at Dixie Attendance Center, hold words from the Pledge of Allegiance at the school's memorial ceremony Wednesday.

spoke to the students about the nation's strength and how it lies in people.

Children at Oak Grove Lower Elementary School held a parade and formed a giant "USA."

"It was a fun time, not just a sad time," said Principal Dahlia Landers said. "The students were cheering U-S-A, U-S-A."

While the ceremony was certainly not as somber as observances older students held, Landers wanted the children to reflect on how blessed they are to have service agencies in their community.

"They live in a society where children do know things at a very early age, but really can any of us comprehend what really happened," Landers asked. "How can a child comprehend that there is that much hate in our world when we spend all our time trying to show them the good?"

Dixie Attendance Center principal Elizabeth Sims said the school invited the sheriff, community volunteer firefighters and medical personnel to show students examples of everyday heroes.

"They can be heroes just by doing random acts of kindness," Sims said. Forrest County Superintendent Kay Clay said she thinks Sept. 11 did for today's youth what World War II did for older generations.

"Hopefully this will be long remembered as uniting us back together as one," she said. "We have common roots in America - it's ours and we're free."

## At a glance

Here's a roundup of school observances.

- Oak Grove Lower Elementary School, Dixie Attendance Center, Rawlis Springs Attendance Center, Earl Travillion Attendance Center, South Forrest Elementary, North Forrest Elementary, N.R. Burger Middle School, Petal Middle School, Petal Elementary, W.L. Smith Elementary School, Lamar Christian School, Baxterville Elementary, Seminary Elementary, Richton Elementary, New Augusta Elementary, Runnelstown Elementary and Lillie Burney Elementary School all recognized community heroes such as law enforcement officers, Red Cross volunteers and workers, firefighters and medical personnel.

- Students at Oak Grove Upper Elementary made flags, which they placed around the school.

- Petal High School and Oak Grove High School had in-depth assemblies, including choir performances and messages from post-attack counselors who had worked with victims and their families in New York. The Petal student body recited a prayer.

- Amnesty International at Forrest County Agricultural High School sponsored a memorial service. The art club made 600 flags, students sang and a memorial/prayer walk was held.

- Students at North Forrest High

School changed classes in total silence. First Priority sponsored a ceremony by the flag pole, the chorus performed and students watched a slide show.

- West Marion High School retired its old flag, and held a flag-burning ceremony. A new flag was installed. The band played and community heroes were honored.

- JROTC and show choir performed at Hattiesburg High School.

- The Hattiesburg Public School District Central Office, including maintenance and transportation, personnel lit a candle and held a moment of silence.

- Thames Elementary School held a moment of silence and a prayer walk.

- Beaumont Elementary School held an evening service and candle-light vigil. A plastic foam "brick" wall was made with all the names of the terrorist attack victims.

- The Lumberton schools played patriotic music over the intercom.

- Sumrall Elementary School students read poetry and creative writing passages, sang and listened to guest speakers in a school assembly.

- Sumrall Middle and High schools held moments of silence and read one student's poem over the intercom.

- The Purvis High School band and choir performed in a school assembly.





### HOLD CARNIVAL

**HATTIESBURG, Sept. 21—A penny carnival has been arranged by Dixie school, the funds from which will go for the purchase of needed equipment at this school. A number of side shows and booth attractions will be features of the penny carnival. The most popular girl of the Dixie community will also be an added attraction. The winner will represent the community at the South Forrest Fair at Brooklyn at a later date.**

SEPTEMBER 23, 1934 - CLARION LEDGER

### Halloween Carnival Thursday At Dixie School

The annual Halloween carnival, sponsored by Dixie School PTA, will be held Thursday night at the school. The lunch room opens at 6 p.m. On sale will be snack plates, hamburgers, hot dogs, sandwiches, cake, pie, coffee and cold drinks.

Recreation starting at 7 p.m. will include the fish pond, pick-pocket lady, lemon tree, country store, fortune teller, wiches brew and horror house.

Mrs. Joe Frye is Halloween carnival chairman. The public, especially school patrons, are urged to attend.

OCTOBER 22, 1958  
HATTIESBURG AMERICAN

### Dixie School schedules its annual fall festival

Dixie School will hold its annual Fall Festival from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21.

The festival's king and queen will be crowned at 11:30, followed by lunch by Pizza Hut. All profits from the pizza sales will go to the school.

There will also be a country store and sweet shoppe with arts and crafts, a cake walk, bingo, pony rides, fish pond, army tank, face painting, space walk, shooting gallery and a car smash.

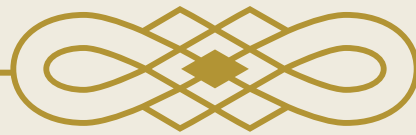
To get to the school, turn right off Highway 49 South across from the Beverly Drive Inn and go approximately 4 miles.

NOVEMBER 18, 1987

FALL CARNIVAL/FESTIVAL











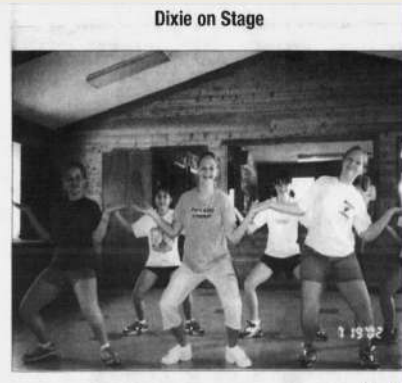
SNOWING IN DIXIE - 2014







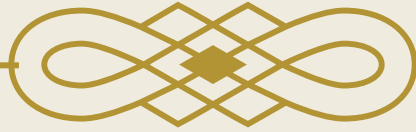
J Moore, Brandon Foshee and Cody Morse, members of the Dixie on Stage Men rehearse their moves during show choir camp.

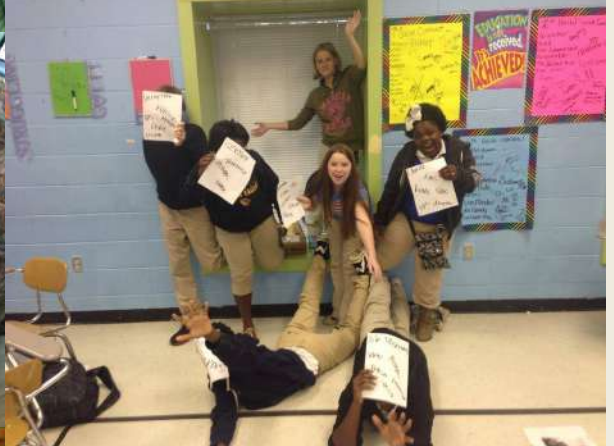
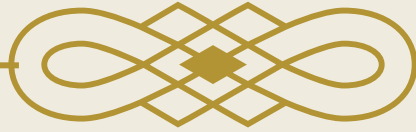


Sarah Alexander, Jacque Piche, Becca Davis, Amber McIntyre and Marie Jensen, members of Dixie On Stage, Dixie Attendance Center's 37-member show, rehearse for this year's competition season.









face. (2014)



# DIXIE ATTENDANCE CENTER



EST. 1921