Long-Ago Schools of the Chicot Area

CHICOT'S THREE ROOM SCHOOL AND STUDENTS

and Kent, but long legged boys were hard to keep up with so I had to run most of the way. I can remember on real cold mornings my hands would be swollen from the cold and I could not write until they got "thawed out."

**LUNCH BUCKETS**

Going to school in those days was not easy. The girls and boys didn't have any fancy clothes, some barely had enough to keep them warm, and all of us took our lunch in a lunch bucket. I can still see my little bucket - it was a little blue granite pail with white spots on it, and I thought it the prettiest one, with a bail to carry it by, and it had a top.

In the Fall and Winter we usually had a big, juicy sweet potato, some type meat, some biscuits, and always something sweet or a small bottle of syrup.

Now you may wonder why we had biscuits, there was no such thing as bread as we have it today, unless you were in town and maybe you could get some at the bakery, but we were in the country. I can remember my mama always had a little saucer in the bucket so I could "soo" my syrup and biscuits.

We were happy going to school, we were satisfied with our food and clothes, and if we were poverty stricken none of us knew it as everybody was in the "same boat." Its too bad today so many people look at the material things in life, and think that they are what make you rich.

**CARS CAUSED BIG EXCITEMENT**

Not too long after we were transferred to Chicot that news came about the Titanic sinking with about 1500 persons drowning. All of us in the first grade didn't know about this but later I heard others tell about how excited all the bigger kids got over this. In those days automobiles were few and far between and if one happened to be coming down the old dirt roads they could be heard for miles before it ever came into sight. When one was heard and as it got close to the school house the teachers allowed the students to go out onto the porch and watch it pass as that one may be the only one that came by in a month.

**MORNING EXCERCISES**

In this school we had opening exercises each morning. We sang "America," "Columbia the Gem of the Ocean," "Juanita," and on occasion a hymn. About once a month all three rooms went to the auditorium for a program maybe put on by one room or maybe all pupils out of the three rooms having part. Anyway we were exposed to getting up before a group and reciting.

**MR. POUNDERS THE FIRST PRINCIPAL**

Mr. Pounders was our first principal of the new three room school. Every one like him and thought he was doing a good job. One night he went out with some of the boys probably, and got just a little too much to drink. Mr. Henry Erlich was school board member at the time and decided to fire Mr. Pounders for this drinking spree but the thing that was funny to all was that every one knew how Mr. Erlich liked his drinks.

**MR. CORBETT THE SECOND PRINCIPAL**

After this Mr. Corbett moved into the middle room, became principal and taught the higher grades. He was a firm believer in education and did all he could to inspire the pupils to go on to higher learning if there was any way possible.

**CHICOT PUPILS ENCOURAGED TO GO FURTHER**

It was through the efforts and encouragement of Mr. Corbett that some of the older boys, who had gone as far as this school taught, got off to S.L.I. as U.S.L. was then called. Money was scarce and hard to get but Mr. Corbett insisted that my brother C.T. (Dick) go on down to Lafayette and paint such a picture of how easy it would be to get a job, that Dick and the folks scraped up little money, bought some clothes, and he was off to attend school.

After he paid tuition fees he found he had only a dime in his pocket. Mr. Corbett had told him to go see Mr. Carnes when he needed anything or a job. This he did, and was put to work helping cut ensilage for the dairy cows. After Mr. C.E. Carnes, who was in charge of the dining hall, saw that Dick was a responsible boy, one that was willing to work, gave him other jobs, and later he was disciplinarian over the boys in the dormitory. This is one way a Chicot boy got an education. Then he got into baseball as a pitcher, and played football and their team won the championship in the state in 1917.

(Continued next week.)