Neighboring school to center

Richard Elementary School
celebrate 95th reunion

A day of fun and excitement is being planned for Saturday, May 1, 1993, when Richard Elementary in the Community of Richard near Church Point, celebrates its 95th Year Reunion.

Everyone is being invited to attend the celebration at the school which begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 5 p.m. The invitation reads, "Enter As An Adult-Wonder Through As A Child".

Richard Elementary was founded in about 1898, when Mr. Theogene Richard donated land for a two story structure. This first school was located approximately one mile north of the school's present site. At that time, several grades were housed in one classroom. The original enrollment consisted of about 25 students. Serving as instructors were two teachers, one of which also served as principal. Riding horseback or walking, these students came from a radius of two miles. About 30 years later, the Light and Tie, Hundley, Hornsby and Briscoe school buildings were moved across the street from the present school and consolidated under the name Richard Elementary. Grades 1-7 were housed with one section or each grade needed to serve the increased enrollment.

In 1938, the school was moved across the street to its present location. At this time, a brick building was constructed on a 13 acre tract of land, at a cost of $73,842.84.

In 1939 there were 336 pupils enrolled and eleven teachers. They were Miss Catherine Goss and Mrs. Earl Gosse, first grade; Miss Ivy Gardiner and Mrs. Ethel Bergeron, second and part of third grade; Mrs. B. D. Barousse, third; Mrs. Iris Francois and Miss Lynell Young, fourth and part fifth; Miss Mayme Milstead, fifth; Mrs. A. M. Lafleur, sixth; Mr. Clennie Young, seventh grade, and Mr. A. M. Lafleur, principal.

Almost 100 percent of the students were transported. There were four bus drivers, two of whom made two trips while the other two transported the high school pupils to Church Point.

Educators who served as principals at Richard Elementary were Lena Daigle Childress, L.E. Scally, Walter Armentor, James Willman Faulk (1928-33), A. M. Lafleur (1933-53), Clennie Young (1953-70); Ronald Young (1970-84); Sandra Doguet (1984-1990). Presently serving as principal is Mrs. Sondra Myers.

The enrollment in September of 1987 was 190 and today, 1993 some 232 students are enrolled in the school.

Students enroll in band, there is a 4-H Club, Beta Club, Computer Laboratory, Workshop Way phonics and Touch Mathematics. Basketball is an important part of the school activities.

Richard Elementary School recognizes each student as a worthy individual with unique qualities. It is the school's philosophy that each student be offered happy, satisfying experiences in the school environment to promote intellectual and mental, physical, emotional and social growth.

During the activities on Saturday, there will be an Arts and Crafts Show in the school gym. The show will feature hand made crafts. The alumni is invited to the school to reminisce in the memorabilia room set up for viewing. There will be pictures, trophies, etc from the past.

There will be games for all ages, basketball shoot, flush tank, mini golf, animal balloons, tattoos, moon walk, etc.

A cookbook "Family Favorites From Richard Elementary" has been compiled and will be sold. Mugs, can huggers and t-shirts with winning student design will be available for purchase.

Barbecue hamburgers, Nachos, chips, homemade sweets, cotton candy, popcorn and soft drinks will be sold throughout the day.

Damon Lejeune and Cajun Spice will provide music from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. From 1 to 4 p.m. Blak Jak (Rock and Roll - Oldies) will perform.

At 3 p.m. an auction will be held for a painting of the old school, which was located across the street from the existing school. The raffle will also take place at 3 p.m. first prize is a picnic table donated by B. J. Guidry Construction, second prize is a magnolia painting donated by Beverly Lafleur, a Eunice Artist; third prize is a pair of roller skates donated by Skateland of Eunice; fourth prize is $50 cash donated by Richard Elementary PTO, fifth prize is a $20 gift certificate donated by La Boutique of Crowley; sixth prize is a ham donated by Winn Dixie of Crowley and a door prize, donated by Bob's Nursery of Church Point, will be given away.