

## OAKDALE HIGH SCHOOL

In 1922, a two year high school was opened at Oakdale. The two front rooms were used for the grades, a large new room was built on just west of the old primary room and the high school classes were taught in those rooms.

Miss Thelma Eubanks was the first teacher.

Mr. Fredricks was the second teacher. The next year an additional teacher was employed, a Mr. Ashbrook. The following year Kenneth Luney took his place.

Other teachers were Mr. C.A. Reeded, Mr. Boczkiewicz, Mr. Fred Chapman, Mr. Frank Glenn, Mr. Clarence Stevenson, Mr. Oliver McIlrath, Mr. Archie Woodrome, Miss Irene Piper and Miss Eleanor Thompson.

Miss Thompson taught typing the year she was there. Three of her pupils spent their time in the Service typing Discharge Papers for service men: Elmer McLean, Noel Brammeler and Larry McClay.

When the second teacher was employed, the school was changed to a three year school. Upon graduation from the Oakdale High School, most of the students went on to Nashville High School to graduate.

The school was discontinued in 1944. All small high schools were closed out about that time.

## TEMPLE SCHOOL #72

I do not know when the Temple School was built, however the Oakdale School District was # 70 and built in 1875, Temple School District was # 72. Pleasant Hill had a new school built in about 1885 according to Mr. Ramsey's recollections.

From the teacher's annual reports on file in Mr. Frieman's Office, I gathered this information: giving the teacher for the years that records were on file and the families having pupils in the first grade class:

1940-'41	Oliver McIlrath	Dintelman, Huff, McCray
1941-'43	Betty Fox	Mazander, Shubert, Ahlers
1943-'45	Gladys Sommers	
1945-'48	Ida Bell Voss	

## PLEASANT HILL SCHOOL # 73

Mr. Ramsey has given the names of all teachers up until 1914 and also he gave the full names of all pupils but I only included the family names for brevity.

1939-'40	Anna Mae Todd	Darresh, Frye, McClay
1940-'41	Charles Hunt	Luczaj, Morris, Torrens
1941-'44	Evelyn Kroener	Davis, Reuter
1944-'45	Margaret Auld	
1945-'46	Darleen Wisely	
1946-'48	Margaret Auld	

## FROM AN OLD SCHOOL STORY

Written by

MRS. LAVINA ANDERSON STERRETT

Copied and published by Mrs. Frank Torrens  
IN NARRATIVES OF SPARTA & RANDOLPH CO. GENEALOGY

## HIBBARD SCHOOL-- 1872

"Old Hibbard School as I recall it, was situated in the country west of Oakdale, Illinois and south of the town of Elkton in Washington County. The first building was a rude log affair furnished with slab benches as seats, was cold and gloomy. The fiery red-haired Scotchman, John McGuire, was the last teacher in this building, and was the first teacher in the new white frame school house.

The hedge fence by the roadside provided material for switches and John McGuire kept himself well provided with dethorned rods standing up in the corner handy. I remember one boy called him "Red-headed-devil". But this school was, I guess, enough to try any man's temper.

Each pupil had his own text books or looked on with his neighbor. The books were McGUFFY'S READERS, RAY'S ARITHMETIC, MITCHELL'S GEOGRAPHY and WEBSTER'S BLUE BACKED SPELLER.

My memory of the school has some thrills as I recall the fat black and yellow lizards that scampered up the wall and disappeared into a crevice. One day at recess the boys came from the woods and asked us girls to come out and see what they had found. So, we full of curiosity hurried to the door. Janie Patton, smarter than the rest of us, got there first. On the doorstep she planted her bare foot on a big blacksnake. How she screamed and did the boys laugh?

At this school house there was a long privy built at the back of the school yard. There was a door at its each end, one for the boys and one for the girls. Oh, we were fast becoming civilized.

On going to and from school, through brush and timber, occasionally we would see a gallon jug of whiskey hid behind a tree stump. We girls had pretty playhouses along our way to and from school, the boys helping to carry rocks and sticks to make them.

What a bevy of children answered the hand-bell call in the fall of 1873. The families of Patton, Hibbard, Crow, Kane, Stark and many others had moved into the neighborhood and most all had large families. The Patton family moved soon to Randolph County, Illinois. Their children were Mattie, Janie, David and Annie.

The story of the Hibbard family was that the Hibbards were struggling farmers in Vermont, with a large family. Then their son Josiah Porter Hibbard was two years old, he was sent to live with his maternal frand-parents, the Hazens, who lived near Battleboro, Vermont. When he became a man he went to Michigan and found employment in a wholesale house. He joined the army when the U.S. was at war with the Mexicans before Texas became part of the U.S. He was a quartermaster and often carried \$1,000.00 in his belt to keep it from being stolen.

Josiah Porter Hibbard married Miss McAfee, who died at the birth of their first child. He married as his second wife Alvina Ford who was born in New Hampshire, one of nine children. Her

father, James Ford, brought his family west in a covered wagon, to Olean, N.Y. where they tarried for a time. From there they traveled to Illinois, sailing on a raft down the Ohio and up the Mississippi River to Chester, Illinois and from there to Eden, near Sparta. Here Mrs. James Ford died in 1844 and James Ford died in 1847 at Eden also (buried in Caledonia Cemetery) Sparta.

Josiah Porter Hibbard and wife Alvina located in Washington County west of Oakdale and it was near their home that this second school house was located that was called the "Hibbard School".

When Josiah met Alvina she was teaching in a log school in Washington County, on a knoll across the road from "Biscuit Jim" J.H. McClurkin's house. Alvina was taking care of May Cleveland, her sister Susan and Henry Cleveland's orphan child, whose parents had died of Cholera. Henry Cleveland was a teacher also and during the scourge of cholera bravely took care of some of those afflicted. He visited his motherless babe a few days before his fatal attack. When neighbors found him dead, he was wrapped in a blanket on his bed and placed in a coffin, which was not thereafter opened.

An incident in Alvina's teaching life is recorded as troubles of a pioneer teacher, when one evening after school a white bull got into the school-house and tore up her Bible and cut up other unsavory capers.

Josiah Porter Hibbard and Alvina Ford were married November 20, 1850. Their first and second babies died in infancy. The other six all lived to maturity. They were Addie, Sadie, Henry, Orvis, and Minnie Roena. These all saw the light first in the brick house in the apple orchard a mile south of Elkton and some three miles west of Oakdale. Josiah bought another farm adjoining this in 1866 and the family moved to it. On this farm of 774 acres "Squire Hibbard", as we knew him lived for thirty some years. He was Justice of the Peace and often married couples. He also gave work to many men as he raised corn, fruit and vegetables. He had a molasses mill and sold good fresh sorghum molasses for 25¢ a gallon.

His large two-story white house with green blinds had a friendly look to passers-by and the school children often stopped for a drink or a lick of syrup from the sugar mill. His children started to school in the log house, previously mentioned, with the long benches where half a dozen children sat in one seat. In 1873 "Papa Hibbard" as we children sometimes called him, gave an acre of land on the road, for a new school-house. It was built of wood and had an entrance way to hang up our coats and lunch buckets. This entrance way provided a temptation to a hungry boy or girl to slip a sandwich out of another's bucket.

The red deer were in the woods across from the school house and we have seen them jump the high rail fence into the pasture. The desks in the school house had many notches in them and the new teachers tried to keep the new ones, given later, smooth but many initials would mysteriously appear on them.

Alvina Ford's brothers, James, Roscoe and Andrew Jackson, together with Andrew Ramsey, Henry Moore and others went in covered wagons drawn by oxen to California in 1849. For fuel on the way they often used dried "Buffalo Chips."

Josiah Hibbard moved to Longview, Texas in 1887 but contracted swamp fever and died Dec. 31, 1887. Alvina died in Kansas in 1913.

Sadie married William Donnelly who was killed in an auto accident at Ft. Smith, Arkansas. Henry married Elizabeth McCloy and Orvis married her cousin, Mary Bell McCloy and all went to California. Minnie Roena married Earl Hyatt and had three sons who lived in or near Topeka, Kansas. Minnie died in 1936.

In 1873 Mrs. Hibbard's sister, Mrs. Crow, with her husband and children moved into the old Morrison house, east of the school house. Their children were Etta, Charles, Lillie and Ida.

From the Beattie home came Robert, John, Mary, and Willie Lincoln. The latter became proprietor of the large Auditorium Hotel in Denver, Colorado.

Will Kane thought himself too old to go to school but his six sisters were there promptly. Mary later married James Boyle; Mattie married Sam Patton, Maggie married John Kirkpatrick, Isabella Adeline (Bell) married Tom McClurkin. Nettie married Anthony Carr, Lizzie married James Graham. Nannie died in young womanhood.

The Shubert family had classical names: as Caesar, Bruno, Dozena, Amos, Ganius and Hugo. The Dorsal family had rather Biblical names Abraham, Samuel, Daniel and Janet. It was told that the Dorsals were related to royalty in France, but in Illinois they were merely among the struggling foreigners who failed to make a strong foothold and the father of the family finally hung himself in his own well. Think of what the wife and mother must have endured.

The Stark family were purely German: Louise, Henry, Fritz and Wilhelm. We girls learned many words and songs from Louise. Henry married Annie Carr who was for years a farmer near Nashville, Ill.

The Kaufman family were Joseph, Lucinda, Dannie and Anna. One evening Dannie was carrying a gallon bucket of molasses from the Hibbard mill. On the way home was a pond of ice at the Moore farm. Naturally we must needs slide across the ice rather than keep the path. Awkwardly (Lavina Sterrett) slid against Dannie, who fell with the bucket of molasses. The lid rolled off. We all scooped molasses with our hands or whatever we could find, ate some, and then we saw the pail was far from full. Later after plenty of scolding and shifting, we promised to bring a quarter of a dollar next day to get another gallon of molasses. Quarters were scarce in those days, too.

The McAfee's were Maggie, Emma, John, Robert and Frank. The Auld's were Will, John and Oliver. Oliver died before he was 18 years old. Will married Lou Kennedy and John married Bell Hood and both families lived on farms west of Oakdale.

Mary Mitchell, a scholar I remember, wore long black curls which the boys pulled to torment her. My brother Hamilton Anderson and I trudged the mile and a half over field and through mud interested in everything that went on.

The teacher in 1874 at Hibbard, was a dark haired fleshy Robert C. McLean. I do not remember that he whipped anybody; but he would bring his heavy home made quirt down on the desk with such power that we small fry shuddered. He taught us to sing the song naming the capitals. It was a relaxation for us to join his deep resonant voice singing, "State of Maine, Augusta on the Kennebec River. Vermont, Montpelier on the Winooski River", and so on through all the states.

Being ten years old the fall of 1875, I was a happy girl, to go to school and see a new type of tutor-- a real lady, Miss Mary Myers, of Nashville. How we girls studied her from the toe of her

tiny shoe to the top of her wavy hair. Her nieces and nephew Laura, Etta and Jasper Rountree, came with her and raised the social status of the school.

Willie McLean and my sister Anna Anderson were of school age now, and trudged along as fast as their legs would go. I remember Etta Rountree fell on the ice and hurt her head dreadfully. Jasper Rountree married Ada McClurkin, a daughter of J.H. McClurkin.

Each Friday afternoon a young man with a dandy team, came and took Miss Myers away. We found out that his name was Sawyer and his home was in Nashville. We were anxious lest he might capture our beautiful teacher, and sure enough, something happened that she did not come back as teacher next year. Instead our teacher was Mattie Beggs.

New families were drifting into the district and we find new scholars, Mary, Annie, Barbara, Katie and Josie Prebel. Mrs. Prebel was sick and the girls had a hard time doing the work and getting to school. The Kaufman family moved away, and the Sam Brown family came. Their boys were Charlie, Frank, Dave and Sam. There was talk then of women in Ohio going into saloons and getting them to quit selling liquor. Sam Brown said, "If my wife goes out and does that I'll quit her." She was a lonely woman and some thought she would be better off without him. The Brown family moved away later.

The Griffith children did not come to school very long. They were Charles, Diana, Phoebe and Ewing. James and Robert Bruce came too.

The William Rountree family was an interesting one. They were Ann, Alice, Charlie, James, Kate and Maude.

David Duguid taught one or two years; he was quite well educated.

In 1879 Mattie Holliday was the teacher. She had a rolling soprano voice and taught us many songs and an alphabet of Scripture verses, as well as Arithmetic and other things.

The Petrashek family had now moved in and Mrs. Petrashek's sister Anna and Barbara Hobada were keen lassies. Orville and Greenville Moore came a term or two and were followed by their brother, Asbury Moore, who came as our next teacher, and proved an efficient one. He had received training from Carbondale State Normal.

Ann Rountree had attended Sunday School in Elkton and liked to sing hymns. I often think of her when I hear the hymn,

"I think when I read that sweet story of old,  
When Jesus was here among men,  
When He called little children as lambs to His fold,  
I should like to have been with him then,"

In 1934 I visited the Hibbard School with Mrs. A.A. Wylie and Miss Eleanor Auld. There were improvements; a well with pump, a wash basin and towels, a row of windows to let in ample light. As time makes changes, so schools will change even more.

## HIBBARD SCHOOL # 74

The Hibbard School is located in Oakdale Township 3-4  
 Deed Recorded Book 76-p.24 July 1, 1878  
 Book 90-p.334 Oct. 10, 1893

Mrs. Lavina Anderson has given the names and a good deal of the history of each family which attended the Hibbard School in days long gone by.

1939-'44 Maude Lee Costes, Mazander, Udarholt  
 Stern

Hibbard School was annexed to the Elkton School on April 5, 1948 by petition to township trustees.

## HOEPKER SCHOOL # 87

The Hoepker School was located in Oakdale 3-4  
 Deed Recorded Book 102-p.178 Aug. 20, 1902 Sec. 2  
 Deed Recorded Book 114-p.369 Dec. 26, 1908 Sec. 35  
 Plum Hill Township

The Hoepker School was opened in September 1902 with Messrs. Christ Moeller, Louis Klingenberg and Louis Zacheis as the Directors of District # 7. On Oct. 25, 1902 they met and decided to build a coal house size 8 X 10 feet and 10 feet high with a plank roof. There was also a decision to dig a cistern 6 feet wide and 10 feet deep.

The tax levy of \$200.00 on taxable property was to be levied for this purpose.

The following were teachers from 1902 -1940:

1902-'05	Pearl McConnell	1921-'22	Helen Griesse
1905-'07	Nettie Rountree	1922-'23	Olive Boyle
1907-'08	Nellie Smith	1923-'25	Ina M. Rohde
1908-'10	Nettie Rountree	1925-'26	Elma McClurkin
1910-'12	Ella Duguid	1926-'28	Mary Parlier
1912-'14	Stella Kroener	1928-'31	Jessamine Dintelman
1914-'17	Bertha Moeller	1931-'35	Stanley Oexman
1917-'18	Beth Carson	1935-'37	Thalia Patton
1918-'19	Claudine Coulter	1937-'38	Helen Piper
1919-'21	Edna Adams	1938-'40	Alma Dodds

1940-'41	Martha Stieg	1952-'53	Joyce Wisely
1941-'42	Stella Havens	Family names of first grade pupils-	
1942-'43	Paul Duncan	Voss, Klingenberg, Geppert, Kroener	
1943-'44	Elma Davis	Dintelman, Blumhorst, Fuqua, Zacheis	
1944-'46	Marcella McClay	Reidelberger, Morganthal, Hagebush	
1946-'48	W.L. Lowe	Oexman, Eigenrauch, Hoelscher, Bovay	
1948-'49	Herbert Dintelman	Moeller, Wendell, Pruechsner,	
1949-'50	Rebecca Tucker	Maschoff, Wilke, Ohlmeier, Maier,	
1950-'51	Madeline Brehm		
1951-'52	Juanita McClay		

## OAKDALE CONSOLIDATED GRADE SCHOOL DISTRICT # I

During the early 1940's there was a general movement in Illinois to consolidate the rural schools into central units. Legislation favorable to this was enacted. The purpose being to provide an enriched program of education in modern facilities, giving all children the benefit of hot lunches.

After study and discussion among themselves, the Pleasant Hill, Kerr and Oakdale School Districts voted to consolidate. The election was held on April 24, 1948. On May 8, 1948, the following were elected to serve on the first five member Board of Education in the Oakdale Community School District: Ray Wisely, Pres.; William Brammeier, Clerk; Ward Auld, Lawrence Eigenrauch, and Lawrence Hood, Members.

On May 22, 1948, the Directors of the Luney, Temple and Oakdale Schools met and voted to hold an election on June 5, 1948 to consolidate these districts. The election carried.

When school opened in September 1948, the children from the Pleasant Hill, Kerr, Temple, Luney Schools and those in the Oakdale School District living beyond a distance fixed by law, were transported to the old Oakdale School House by Mr. Ed Hudspeth on his new school bus.

The teachers in the newly consolidated school were: 1948-'49 Mrs. Eileen Taft, Mrs. Rena Mangis, Mr. Thomas Dahncke. Mr. Dahncke was appointed to serve as principal and has supervised the activities of the school since the consolidation.

### EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Shirley McClay	Joyce Filter	Leah McCray	Dolores Frieman
Cecil Alfeldt	Robert Word	Lyndon Zacheis	Marcia Cunningham
Jack Carrick	Norman Roesner	Kathleen Frieman	Carol Sue Markham

1949-'50 Teachers: Mrs. Taft, Mrs. Mangis Mr. Dahncke

### EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Marcia Rohde	Irene Woodside	Gary Torrens	Grace Brammeier
Kenneth Hood	Gerald Zacheis	Gladys Fox	Calvin Ethington
Verdell Alfeldt			

1950-'51 Teachers: Mrs. Taft, Mrs. Kohring, Mr. Dahncke

### EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Alice Zacheis	Eileen Porter	Dennis Fields	Kathlyn Frieman
Harold Alfelt	Leo Sterns	Billy Ahlers	Leslie Brammeier
Richard Ethington			

1951-'52 Teacher: Mrs. Taft Mrs. Kohring Mr. Dahncke

### EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Kay Coulter	Patty Pitman	Orville Davis	Phyllis Fr'
Leslie Rohlfing	Gale Zacheis	Lloyd Zacheis	Maurice D

1952-'53 Teachers: Mrs. Elizabeth Fox, Miss Elizabeth Rohde

Mr. Dahncke

EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Ruth Martin	Lois Zacheis	Faye Mazander	Wallace Williams
Mary Ibendahl	Joan Word	David Shubert	David Hogshead
Alice Williams	Nora Dell	Eigenrauch	

1953-'54 Teachers: Mrs. Fox, Miss Rohde, Mr. Dahncke

EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Thomas D. Dahncke Leona Carle Harlen Ferguson Janet Sue Word  
Waldo Klingenberg

On Oct. 5, 1953 part of the Black Jack School was annexed to the Elkton School District. The Hoepker District was annexed to the Consolidated School District by petition to the Co. Bd. of School Trustees. The district was renamed The Consolidated Grade School District # 1 and the school board was increased to seven members.

1954-'55 Teachers: Mrs. Fox, Miss Rohde, Mr. Dahncke

EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Sarah P ruitt	Nadene Wisely	Betty Ibendahl	Carol Sue Ahlers
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1955-'56 Teachers: Mrs. Fox, Miss Rohde, Mr. Dahncke

EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Myrene Carson	Laverna Sterns	Leroy Rohfing	Terry Heggemeier
Jerry Wilson			

1956-'57 Teachers: Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Honghland, Mr. Dahncke

EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Helen Kurwicki	Sharon Coulter	Alice Dahncke	Doris Jean Brammeier
Dennis Frieman	Earl Zacheis	Madonna Shreeman	

1957-'58 Teachers: Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Mangis, Mr. Dahncke

EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Donna Ahlers	Betty Hood	Billy Hudspeth	Danny Heggemeier
Dottie Kelly	Dennis Lawlers	Kenny Hogshead	Cathie Torrens
Donnie Jo Wisely			

1958-'59 Teachers: Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Mangis, Mr. Dahncke

EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Edith Carson	Marlene Taft	Barbara Zacheis	Jerry Ahlers
Jerry Shubert	Jackie Shreeman		

1959-'60 Teachers: Mrs. Fox, Mr. Ralph McTalls, Mr. Dahncke

#### EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Joy Torrens	Judy Sterns	Betty Chandler	Donna McConnell
Robert Self	Sammy Pruitt	Marvin Coulter	Betty Ruth Brammeier

On Jan. 4, 1960 the Elkton School petitioned the County Board of School Trustees to be annexed to the consolidated district.

1960-'61 Teachers: Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Nelda Emert, Mr. Dahncke

#### EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Rosalee Auld	Elliot Collier	Archie Fuqua	Earle Jean Auld
Whitsell Ahlers	Carolyn Rohde	Launa Zacheis	Thomas J. Dahncke
Sharon Helbig	J.D. Helbig	Larry Musielek	Randolph Shubert

Preceding the opening of school for the 1961-'62 school year, the school board purchased a tract of land just east of the village of about 10-12 acres in size. After carefully planning, they contracted the building of a modern school building. The building contains an office and four classrooms separated from an all-purpose room and kitchen by a wide corridor. There is a large entrance at the west end of the building which serves as a cloak hall for visiting audiences at community gatherings, while on bad days it provides an excellent area for playing ping-pong. The all-purpose room has bleachers along one side, on the south end is a stage with showers and dressing rooms on either side. Roll-a-way folding tables provide a cafeteria area at noon, then when the tables are rolled away, the basket ball court is occupied. Toilet facilities and custodian storage is also provided. The building is gas heated and lighted by electricity, supplemented by an excellent group of sky lights in each room and also the corridor. These sky lights not only conserve electricity but more importantly, they give an excellent diffused light in all parts of the building.

1961-'62 Teachers: Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Emert, Mr. Dahncke

#### EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Carolyn Kreher	Ruth Auld	Sandra Wilson	Robert Gordon Davis
Terry Fox	Kenneth Taft	Connie Patton	

1962-'63 Teachers: Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Betty Brammeier, Mr. Dahncke

#### EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Linda Auld	Harold Cook	Sandra Helbig	Kathy Sue Heggemeier
Sandra Vosges	Linda McConnell	Jeannie Groenwald	

1963-'64 Teachers: Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Nelda Emert, Mr. Dahncke

1963-'64 Teachers: Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Elma Mercer, Mr. Dahncke

#### EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Judy Dahncke	Judy Fuqua	Andrea Shubert	Mary Beth Sterrett
Marilyn Beek	Roger Allen	Charles Kreher	Bill Rohlfing
Eulyne Powers	Robert Wood	Jonathon Carrick	

1964-'65 Teachers: Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Mercer, Mr. Dahncke

#### EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Patty Taft	Debra Taft	Florence Wood	Sharon Eigenrauch
Karla Queen	Loretta Davis	Wayne Auld	Marcia Kennedy
Phil Carson	Larry Helbig	Dale McConnell	Johnny Grenwald
Dennis Huff	Eugene Kreher	Joseph Degenhardt	

1965-'66 Teachers: Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Mercer, Mr. Dahncke

#### EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Ronald Auld	Darrell Taft	Paul Wisely	Pamela Musielak
Ray E. Kohring	John H. Carle	Lorraine Kennedy	James P. Ronan

1966-'67 Teachers: Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Mercer, Mr. Oesch, Mr. Dahncke

#### EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Becky Carson	Jack Fox	Ricky Patton	Barbara Degenhardt
Bobby Ronan			

1967-'68 Teachers: Mrs. Fox, Mr. Williams, Mr. Dahncke

#### EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Pamela Auld	Lana Carrick	Kathleen Carle	Randy Brammeier
Pamela Kennedy	Sara Kohring	Sherry Kroener	Charles Degenhardt
Marlene Vosges	Effie Sue Fuqua,	Robin Richardson	
Margaret Montaine			Samuel Sterrett

1968-'69 Teachers: Mrs. Betty Renkin, Mrs. Fox, Mr. Williams, Mr. Dahncke

#### EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Jamie Kennedy	Polly Taft	Kathleen Ronan	Cinda Brammeier
Evet Bell	William Cook	Allan Dahncke	Russell Broadwater
Michael McClay			

Mr. Todd Fox was custodian in 1948-'49. Since 1949, Mr. Charles Brammeier assisted by members of his family has been custodian all the rest of the time since consolidation. They have been very efficient in keeping both yard and building in nice condition.

The following ladies have managed the cafeteria: Mrs. Waltena Wisely, Mrs. Irene Alfeldt, Mrs. Arnold Wilson and Mrs. Dorothy Brammeier, Mrs. Evelyn Kreher, and Mrs. Rena Rohlfing.

## PROGRESS IN CURRICULUM IMPROVEMENT

Since consolidation, a very definite program has been carried out to gradually improve the curriculum and provide modern visual aid equipment. This includes a film strip and slide projector, a good film strip library, an over head projector, a 'Ditto' liquid process duplicator, typewriter, maps, and reference books. Library books and magazines are added each term.

The last two years, we have certain 'special' education classes, remedial reading and arithmetic classes, and the services of a school nurse. Most of these have been on a cooperative basis with the Nashville Grade School and the Kaskaskia Special Education District, which is made up of Washington, Marion, and Clinton Counties. During the summer of 1966 the 'Head Start' program was conducted at Nashville. Then during 1967 and 1968 the children of the Oakdale District were eligible to attend both the 'Head Start' and 'Summer School' classes.

Numerous efforts to secure music instructors have been tried. Mrs. L.C. Haeger began during the early years of consolidation. She gave both class and private lessons one day a week. Then LeMasters of Carbondale sent band instrument instructors for about a year. This wasn't too successful because of too many different instructors. During the 1967-'68 term three pupils from Oakdale took part in the band program offered by the Nashville School. They all had first place ratings in the music contest at New Baden in the Spring. This evidently led to more interest for during the 1968-'69 term, none more joined the first three. This enabled us to have Mr. Carl Webster of the Nashville Grade School to come to the Oakdale School one day per week for an hour or more instruction, usually on Wednesday afternoon from 3:45 to 4:45. Much progress was made for in the contest just completed at Mascoutah on Saturday March 8th, eleven of the twelve competed and received seven first place ratings and four second place ratings. Two are now eligible to go to the 'State Contest', namely: Kathy Ronan and Mike McClay.

The pupils of the seventh and eighth grades have taken part in the Poster and Essay Contests sponsored by the W.C.T.U. Oakdale has had four winners in the State Contest, namely: Edith Carson, first place poster; Linda Auld, first place essay; Phil Carson, second place essay; and Mike McClay, first place essay. Many pupils were winners in County Fair Exhibits, Conservation Books, Arithmetic, Spelling, Dictionary, and 'Better Breakfast' poster contests. Oakdale has always had its share of graduates who have gone on to distinguish themselves in 'higher education' in High School and College. It would be a surprise to many to be able to list all those who have gone on to college for his or her Bachelor's Master's and even Doctor's Degree. It is doubtful whether there is as small a community anywhere that supplies as many teachers as Oakdale has, and we hope will continue to in the future.

## SPORTS

'Sports' have not been neglected, and Oakdale has had its share of winners in tournaments as the numerous trophies, including at least two first place trophies in Basket Ball will indicate. The two main sports are soft ball and basket ball, although volley ball occupies most of the month of March.

The school is the social center for many community meetings. The 'Pep Club' and 'Basket Ball Boys' with lots of help from their mothers have sponsored suppers for different organizations to provide a new score-board clock and new stage curtains.

Although we have been in our new building for seven and one-half years, many still refer to it as our 'new school'. It should be a source of pride for every citizen of our community.

We appreciate Mr. Dahncke giving this excellent summary of their accomplishments.

We are quite certain there is much more history that could and should be preserved. This much we were able to gather.

We would be glad to add anything that you would like to contribute as a Supplement in the copy that will be placed in the Washington County Historical Museum. C.C.