

Recollections of South Gale School

Author: Lida Rule

Date: Unknown

Source: Mimeograph from the Historical Society files

This building was erected in 1922. It had a basement under it for a furnace. It stood at the corner of Highways C and 92.

The old building, on the same site, was a larger building heated by a big old pot-bellied stove located right in the middle of the room. Double desks surrounded it. The teacher's desk was up front with a long bench in front of it for class recitations.

Back in the 1800's and early 1900's it was not unusual for the enrollment to be between 70 and 75. Some were young men and women in their twenties, helping with the teaching of the young ones. We can understand this would have been a necessary situation, since there was only one teacher. How all of them could be crammed into the one room is hard to understand!

One former student remembers that it sometimes happened that the well-behaved were sent to cut a switch for the teacher to use on the mischief makers; quite often the ones selected turned out to be rather large.

Pupils by the name of Asher, Turner, Rule, Wills, Duncan, Coons, Walker, Thatcher, Chinn, Venrick, Vance, Farmer, McComas, Ramsey, Tolliver, Hanks, Ecton, Porter, Bullock, Fox and Allmon (and, we imagine, many other) attended South Gale School through the years.

Some of the teachers were: Lula Walker, Nannie Miller, Sally Duncan, Henry Easter, Myra Hon, Mark Walker, Corda Bullock, Mable Hulse, Flora Yates, Sarah Walker, Gussie Moore, Mable Fox, Nan Crow, Alice Rule, Estella Mae Atkins, Lorine Asher and Lida Rule. There may have been others.

Lida Rule was the teacher when the district became part of the Smithville School District in November, 1951. The teacher, with the five pupils - Shirley Kimsey and Jimmy Rule (1st grade); Bonnie Kimsey, Linda and Brenda Cox (7th grade) also became part of the Smithville School.

The building itself, and equipment, were not moved from Platte County to the old Smithville School ground until later years when it was used as an Agriculture classroom.

by Lida Rule

Smithville Historical Society Doc1016