

History of Maryetta, Wauhillau, and Rabbit Trap/Mulberry Schools

Maryetta began before statehood as a one-room Indian Day School in the Fairfield Community, about 1 1/2 miles north of Stilwell, Oklahoma. After statehood, Mr. Mike Key donated one acre of ground for a new school building, and, in honor of the donation, Mrs. L.A. Allen suggested the school be named Maryetta in honor of Mr. Keys' daughter.

Wauhillau began at Old Wauhillau near Caney. It later moved to New Wauhillau near where Jim Jones lives. The building burned and a new rock building was built on land given by Dave Webb. Wauhillau consolidated with Maryetta in 1968.

Rabbit Trap began in a one-room building just west of Walkingstick's Garage on Highway 51. In 1939, the building was torn down and the present two-room stone building was built about two miles north by the WPA project. Rabbit Trap consolidated with Wauhillau in the early 1960s.

Maryetta

BEGINNINGS

Originally, Maryetta was located where the Mary Francis Nickens house now stands. At that time the school was known as the Fairfield Indian Day School. The last teacher at the Fairfield Indian Day School was Nancy E. Freeman. The first teacher at Fairfield after statehood was Dora E. Hayes.

After statehood in 1907, the old community had made progress and needed a larger school building. Mr. Mike Keys donated one acre of ground (at the present site) for a new school building, and under the leadership of the first Director of the School Board, George W. White, the construction began. In honor of Mr. Keys' donation, Mrs. L.A. Allen suggested that the school be named after his daughter, Maryetta. Miss Anna Johnson was the first teacher at Maryetta School at its current location. Arthur Essary taught at Maryetta several terms and when he resigned, Mrs. H.W. Burch completed the term, but Mr. Essary taught again that term.

The two-room buildings were destroyed twice, first by a tornado and then by fire. After each disaster the community rebuilt the school. Mr. J. Clyde White, son of George White, taught at Maryetta in 1923 and 1924. During this time, Mr. White purchased three additional acres to be added to the original one acre. He later returned in 1937-1939. During this period, Mr. White oversaw the erection of a two-room stone building. This WPA structure stood for the next 30 years.

Mr. John Shannon was a member of the School Board for 16 years. Mr. Shannon and Mrs. Lucy Makoske (then County Superintendent) succeeded in buying a piano from Mrs. Ola Briggs to put music in the Maryetta School.

EARLY MEMORIES (by Tommy Dale and Dorothy Worsham)

In 1952-53, Maryetta was just a four-room school. Bud Eads was the 7th and 8th grade teacher as well as the principal. Tommy Dale Worsham replaced Tobe O'Neal as 5th and 6th grade teacher when Tobe went to work at the Bank of Commerce. The 3rd and 4th grade teacher was Gladys Ray, and the 1st and 2nd grade teacher was Louise Eads.

The restrooms were cobblestone buildings on the north and east of the school. The drinking fountains in the front hall were fixed in a long porcelain sink with 3 or 4 places to drink and wash hands. Bud Eads had built a concrete block lunch room on the north end of the school several years earlier. The big stove, refrigerator, and double sink were about all the cooks had in the kitchen. The children ate on long wooden tables with built-on benches on each side of the table. In 1952-53 the cooks were Kate Hogner and Emma Cornsilk. Later cooks were Alyene Hogner, Golda Eagleton, Euphemia Stevens, and Mildred Morris. Dennis Johnson was an early custodian, and when the school bought a bus, Dennis became the bus driver and his wife, Juanita, did the custodial work.

During the 1953-54 school year, Tommy Dale Worsham became principal and 7th and 8th grade teacher. Other teachers were: Jim Haraway, 5th and 6th grades; Gladys Ray, 3rd and 4th grades; and Dorothy Worsham came from Peavine to be 1st and 2nd grade teacher.

In 1957 some remodeling and new construction took place. During this time the School Board was directed by Mrs. Lorene Locust, with Cornell Collins, Clerk, and John Stand, member. Public Law 815 gave schools access to Federal funds for building, and the people in the community were called upon to vote a bond for \$14,500. The community responded without a single vote against the bond issue, and construction work began. The old kitchen was converted into a shop and an extra classroom, the auditorium in the stone building was remodeled to two regular classrooms with new steel double hung windows, and a new

cafeteria was built which provided a modern kitchen, lunchroom facilities, boys and girls' restrooms, and space for group activities. Maryetta teaching staff was T.D. Worsham, Principal, Dorothy Worsham, Delia Haraway, and Gladys Ray. Jim Haraway, who went to work as an OSU Extension Agent, was replaced as 5th and 6th grade teacher by Gillis Deweese, who also took over the coaching job from Mr. Worsham. The first special education class in Adair County was at Maryetta School. At that time, only large schools had special classes. The State Department of Special Education came from Oklahoma City to test students. Funding was based on the number of applications received at the State Department. Due to a lack of enough State funds to support the class, the Indian Department contributed the remaining amount, and the class was started with Delia Haraway as the first teacher. Gladys Ray was replaced by Roy Cantrell to teach 3rd and 4th grades. Mr. Cantrell was also the shop teacher and worked with 4-H projects. Several years later, Gillis Deweese went to Stilwell Jr. High, and Harold Moten replaced him as 5th and 6th grade teacher.