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Fairview

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A Roger Mills training ground--a one-room school

Fairview

By Klina Potter Casady

The Fairview School District was formed in 1902 in what was then Day County Oklahoma. When Oklahoma became a state in 1907, Day County was dissolved. That portion in which the Fairview School was located added to Roger Mills County. In 1918, Fairview District became part of No. 1 Consolidated District and thereby lost its identity as a district.

The Fairview one-room schoolhouse was located on the highest point in Roger Mills County (altitude: 2520), one mile east and two miles north of Durham, the Antelope Hills nearby. It was named Fairview because of the wonderful view it overlooked. On a clear morning, looking westward, one could see the sand dunes of the South Canadian River and the foothills of the Palo Duro. To the northwest, one could see smoke from the town of Higgins, Texas. To the south was a vast area of prairie that sloped toward the Washita River. On the north were great breaks leading to the South Canadian River. To the northeast were the Antelope Hills, like a mighty sentinel, keeping watch over the entire scene.

The first school was taught by a Miss Edna Thomas. The pupils, about twenty in number, sat on long benches against the wall. If one desired a desk, he or she could sit on the floor and use the bench as a desk. A portion of the

back wall was painted black, thus creating a chalkboard. A small table was used as the teacher's desk. Heat was provided by a coal stove in the center of the room. Other teachers included Mrs. John Thomas, Mrs. W. W. Rakes, Mrs. Dee Hayes, and a Miss Moorehead.

Klina Potter was 11 years old when she attended her first term at Fairview. In 1907, she completed the eighth grade there at the age of 16. In 1912, she taught a six-month term of school there and also taught there in 1916, 1917, and 1918 before the district was dissolved. There was a great deal of learning and some excellent teaching in the one-room Fairview School.

By the second year, Fairview was equipped with furniture and was the activity center of the community. There church services, Sunday school, revivals, shows, political meetings, funerals, Christmas programs, and meetings of literary societies were held.

It was at Fairview that the first 4-H Club in Roger Mills County was formed and a 4-H garden produced.

Too much praise can't be given to the old one-room schools, the teachers who taught there, and the many pupils who obtained knowledge there.

(From Glen Crane's ONE HUNDRED ONE SCHOOLS REMEMBERED)

The logo for Westview features the word "WESTVIEW" in a stylized, serif font. The letters are white with a black outline, set against a black rectangular background. The letters are slightly shadowed, giving them a three-dimensional appearance as if they are floating above the background.

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