

A Step Back in Time

By Bobbie Sue Shelton-Lonas

CLASS OF 1961 REUNION

When the Eagleville School opened for the 1949-50 school year, a group of approximately 30 youngsters embarked on a new adventure. Many feelings; anxiety, apprehension and excitement, probably was felt that first day of school as they were greeted by Mrs. Wilson Dowdy, the first grade teacher. This was the beginning of a twelve-year venture for most of the class. While moving forward through their elementary years their teachers were; Mrs. Dowdy, Miss Jane Stephenson (Simpson), Mrs. Virginia Jackson, Miss Sally Ezell, Mrs. Cornelia Elmore, Mr. D. L. Manier, Mrs. H. S. Morris and Mrs. John Dyer. While in the third, fourth and fifth grades, all these students were not in the same classroom. These three classes were split and the students were put in the classroom with either the class above or the class below them. The same teacher taught both grades. Also some of the students were taught by the same teacher during their fourth and fifth grades. Although new faces appeared and familiar faces disappeared throughout the twelve years, some of the students were lucky enough to have been in the same classroom and classes all twelve years of their school days. One familiar face, Principal Mr. Urban Elmore, was with them from the first day of school in 1949, when they entered the first grade until they returned from their "Senior Trip" to Washington D. C. This most anticipated senior trip was usually the week after graduation. Chaperones for this Class of 1961 Washington trip were: Mr. and Mrs. U. R. Elmore, Mrs. Jane Simpson and Mr. Joe Shelton.

On May twenty-sixth, 1961, 21 students received their diplomas from Eagleville High School; Donny Chick, Martha Kay Crosslin, Mary Emma Floyd, Wilma Johnson, George Kelley, Marvin King, Moranda Leverette, Mildred Maupin, Doyle McDaniel, Shirley Pope, James Read, Linda Redmon, Robert Redmond, Virginia Redmond, Lonnie Rowland, Meredith Smotherman, Jim Speakman, Cathey Taylor, Helen Taylor, Aubrey Vincion, Mac Vincion. This class has also had the misfortune of losing eight of their classmates: Robert Redmon (1972), Doyle McDaniel (1989), Donnie Chick (1995), Roy "Mac" Vincion (1996), James Read (1999), Marvin King (2008), Wilma Johnson (Jones) (2011) and Meredith Smotherman (Cunningham) (2011).

On November 12th, 2011, the Eagleville High School Class of 1961 held their 50th year reunion at the Eagleville Community Center. An open invitation was extended to other graduating classes as well as former classmates, family and friends. A lot of visiting, and discussing of old school days was enjoyed by the approximately fifty-two school friends and guest present. A very delicious meal was served by Jean and Jimmy Lamb. School memorabilia, pictures and a "Memorial Board" for the Class of 1961 deceased classmates was displayed as well as beautiful decorations of gold, white and maroon.

Former classmates and graduates of classes 1958, 1959, 1960, 1962, 1963 and 1964 joined the "Class of 1961 in this celebration. (See Pictures) Thank you, Committee Members - Martha Kay Brisby, Linda Guthrie and Mary Emma Blair for wonderful evening enjoyed by all present.



Eagleville School - First Grade - Graduating Class of 1961



Class of 1959
Billy Joe Snell



Class of 1958 - L to R: Jimmy Wilkinson, Ellie (Scott) Wilkinson, Jane Shelton (Puckett), Tom Hatcher



Class of 1962 - L to R: Charles Johnson, Horace E. Woods, Darrell Whaley, Embree Blackwell, Carolyn Hay (Dobbins), Bonnie Elmore (Oakberg), Leslie Kelley, Mary Annette Floyd (Rogers), Nancy Smotherman (Bills)



Class of 1963 - L To R: Buddy Pate, Esther Crosslin (Victory), Harold Vincion, Kay Pope (Staggs), Eddie Haley



Class of 1964
Sandra Haley (Vincion)



Class of 1960 - L to R: Clarence Johnson, Jim Watson, Edwina Anderson (Watson), Lynda Skurlock (Sledge), Jeannie Batts (Hendrix), Virginia McMahon (White), Kent Brisby, Bobbie Sue Redmon (Lonas), Sam Scales



Class of 1961 - L to R: Jim Speakman, Lonnie Rowland, George Kelley, Shirley Pope (Garvin), Mary Emma Floyd (Blair), Martha Kay Crosslin (Brisby), Linda Redmon (Guthrie)