

HOLLADAY SCHOOL HAD FIRST LOCAL SCHOOL BUSES

Putnam Co., TN Schools

PUTNAM COUNTY — In their quest to document the history of Putnam County, the Putnam County Archives has been collecting information from local residents about the Holladay School, located near the intersection of Holladay Road, Clarence Carter Road and Mine Lick Creek Road.



(Celebrating the Holladay school sign are, from left, Doyle White, Tom Montgomery, Carol Montgomery McDaniel, Carol Bradford, Nettie Ford and EvaEngine Locke, all former students; Glenn Jones, Putnam County archivist; Betty Start, former student who paid for the sign; and Kim Blaylock, county executive. Ty Kernea | Herald-Citizen).

The school was built in 1915, and was a central figure in

the community.

“According to Betty Stark, who was a student at Holladay School, three schools were consolidated into one,” Glenn Jones, Putnam County archivist, said. “These were Lee Seminary, Lone Oak, and Pleasant Valley.”



(Standing outside the former Holladay School building are, from left, Dr. Sam Barnes and Shelia Barnes, who live in the building; Betty Stark, former student; and Glenn Jones, Putnam County archivist. Ty Kernea | Herald-Citizen).

The three men responsible for creating Holladay School were Harvey McCulley, who was the first principal; Monroe Hatfield, who was the superintendent of Schools; and Judge Oscar K. Holladay. The six-acre tract that became

the Holladay School grounds was donated by a Mr. Smith, in memory of his daughter who died that year.

In consolidating the three schools, many students lived too far away to walk, so Holladay School had the first school buses in Putnam County. These were covered wagons pulled by horses. A large barn was built to house the three wagons, along with the horses and mules that the teachers and students rode to school.

Other activities held at the school included Vacation Bible School each summer and singing classes.

“On a rainy, stormy night, July 18, 1929, around midnight, an electrical storm passed through, and a bolt of lightning struck the bell tower, burning the school to the ground,” Jones said. “Daylight found the entire community gathered around the burning ashes of their four-room school house. With no time to lose, they set about to solve their problem.”



Arrangements were made to use Lee Seminary Church and Judd Graveyard Church as temporary schools. Three years later the new brick Holladay School was ready, and classes resumed at the former location.

(Pictured: Lee Seminary from the book: Pictorial history of Putnam County Tennessee by First American Bank).

Holladay School closed in 1965 and was sold to Clarence Carter, who made it into a private home. Dr. Sam Barnes owns and lives in the former school building today.

The Holladay School sign was donated by Betty Stark. Anyone with more information on a Holladay School or another historical Putnam County school can call the Archives at 931-520-0042.

The Holladay School sign was donated by Betty Stark.



(sketch of Lone Oak School done by Pauline Slagle Willoughby as she remembered the old school that stood on the corner of Lone Oak Street and Willow Avenue).

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*Read more about the history of Putnam Co., TN and surrounding areas at:
<http://www.ajlambert.com>.