

## BUFFALO VALLEY HAS MODERN SCHOOL PLANT

The beginning of the super highway between Nashville and Knoxville at Buffalo Valley may be the biggest interest of many of the residents of that community near the banks of the Caney Fork river in the western section of Putnam County, but to 47 students there the main interest is in the school.

Buffalo Valley has a modern brick school building complete with three class rooms, auditorium, lunch room, and modern rest rooms.

The present building was erected in 1929 in the northern section of the community and has been the site of the cultural life of the \_\_\_\_ since.

In 1949 the flood which covered much of the valley brought water into the school building to a depth of 51 inches but since the completion of Center Hill Dam on the Caney Fork above Buffalo Valley the river has been controlled and has not bothered residents in that area.

Mrs. Clara Nell Denny has served as principal of the school for the past 12 years. Mrs. Doris Shanks also teaches at Buffalo Valley.

Enrollment at the school this year has fluctuated. Current enrollment is 47 students but as many as 65 have been on the rolls this school year.

The town of Buffalo Valley is suppose to have received its name from the legend that long before settlement had been made that a growth of cane covered many square miles and that herds of buffalo would come down from the mountains to graze through the winter which other pasture was dead or scarce.

Capt. James T. Exum is credited with opening the first business in the valley, a general store erected soon after the Civil War.

The first school and church building was said to have been erected before the Civil War and was a log structure about a mile up the valley. Later a small frame building was put up nearby and used for several years.

About 1890 with the coming of the railroad to Buffalo Valley new life was given the community and a two-story frame school building was erected and used until the present building was completed.

The first school in the next to the last building was held in 1892 and among the earlier teachers were S. B. Yeargan and H. D. Franklin. Music and art were also taught before the turn of the century. The music teacher was listed as Sally Perkins and the art instructor was said to be Ella Donelson.

The earlier building was latter used for a residence and was torn down when work stated on the new super highway.

When the railroad was first completed to Buffalo Valley in 1890 there were some small steamboats making regular trips up the Caney Fork and the first railroad bridge was the made with a turning span to allow the passage of boats.

However, according to the Putnam County History, this bridge was swept away by a flood a few years after construction and by that time the boats had stopped operating and the present steel bridge was reinforced.

At one time Buffalo Valley flourished and was the largest hog market in the county. An average of 75 railroad cars of hogs were shipped from the valley every month during the early 1920's.

At about the same time lumber shipments totaled about 15 cars per month and another ten cars of produce, poultry and miscellaneous items were shipped monthly.

The bank of Buffalo Valley has been hard hit by the outmigration of workers to the industrial centers. However, there are many who believe that the new super highway with a cloverleaf at Buffalo Valley will cause it to boom again just like the coming of the railroad in 1890.

Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN: Wednesday, pg. 2, 4 March 1959.

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READING EMPHASIZED – The reading of good books is emphasized at Buffalo Valley and the students post their reading cards after completing each book. Pictures are from left, seated – Mildred Carr, Shirley Duke, Tommie Carr, Billy Boyd and Charles Pullum. Standing – Mrs. Doris Shanks, teacher, Clifford Carr, replacing his reading card, and Mrs. Clara Nell Denny, principal.