



JERE WHITSON SCHOOL REUNION – 2010
Putnam Co., TN

Jere Whitson will hold a reunion Saturday, Sept. 11, 2010, from 1-4 p.m. at the school cafeteria. June Vickers, who attended the school in the 402, is trying to get in contact with those who previously attended the school to keep them informed of future reunions. For more information about the reunion, call Vickers at (931) 526-5565.

Pictured is the class of 1946: from left, in front, Carl Benton Donaldson, Ralph Loftis, Kathleen Malone, Jewell Choate, Reba Sue Bryant, Clifford Philips and Virgil Null Jr. In the second row are Caprice Haile, Douglas Walker, Lula Belle Boykin, Geneva Qualls, Sue Rhea Stone, Eugene Merritt and Deulah Delany.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: Sunday, 29 August 2010, Page C-7.

<http://www.ajlambert.com>

HISTORY OF JERE WHITSON

<http://www.jerewhitsonwildcats.net/>

In the late 1920's, North Cookeville was in need of a new school because the only school in the area, Freehill School, was in extreme disrepair. Mr. J.P. Jackson, a local resident, approached the school board to ask for a new school. Mr. Jere Whitson was serving as school board chairman at the time and asked for a public meeting of interested citizens of the area. The meeting was a



productive one. It was decided that a new school would be built on what is the present site, property donated to the county by Mr. Jere Whitson. The area residents helped by supplying the money and much of the labor for the project, truly making it a community undertaking. The school was a two room frame structure and was named after Mr. Jere Whitson because of his involvement in the process and the fact that he donated land on which the school was built.

The school was enlarged in 1952, added to in 1975 and renovated in 1989. In March, 2007 Jere Whitson suffered a tragic fire. The front of the building, including the entire 4th grade, Title rooms, computer

lab, music area, guidance and office complex, 1 kindergarten, a second grade and a preschool room were completely destroyed. Other areas sustained heavy smoke and water damage. Although the fire happened on a weekend, school began the next Monday at TTU's Hooper Eblen Center. The school year ended at Stevens Street Church. We used the church's Sunday School spaces and fellowship hall. The Jere Whitson faculty, staff and students are forever grateful to these two institutions who took us in during the crisis. We spent two years at the STAR Center and moved into the newly renovated Jere Whitson in August, 2009. We are glad to be in this new facility and look forward to a great year. Jere Whitson School Adopters