

With the exception of the faculty and staff, I am probably one of the few people that attended Pleasant View for a little over 15 years. I had the privilege of being both a student (1954-1961) and a teacher (1980-1988) at PVES.

I have many memories of PVES, some (maybe a lot!) of which I'd like to share. My first memory is riding the (high) school bus (usually driven by a high school student) to Franklin's store in Agricola where we switched to the elementary bus. Rev. Crump was the bus driver. Later Mr. Vincent Mays, Sr. (the best bus driver in the world) took over that route. Mrs. Wathena Watts was the first grade teacher. We sometimes picked her up in Pedlar Mills for the ride to school. We would get to school before 9:00 and sometimes we could buy a honey bun from the bread truck delivering the day's supply. We also had time to jump rope or play ball. I still have one of my "Dick and Jane" reading books. A real antique!

Mrs. Annie Moore was my second grade teacher. I remember learning to writing in cursive that year. I also remember the beautiful chalk pictures she would draw on the side chalkboard.

Mrs. Ruth Myers was my third grade teacher. By then, we really got down to work-learning the multiplication tables and having homework. We had some in earlier grades, but just not as much.

Along came the fourth grade and Mrs. Vernie Brockman. This was the real beginning of a lot of work. Virginia history was probably my favorite subject. We had to keep notebooks for just about every subject as we had to copy notes from the chalkboard and would have tests each 6-weeks. We also had an exam midyear and a final exam for each

subject. I guess you could say we had our own Standards of Learning back then!

By fifth grade we moved to the other end of the building and Mrs. Myra Dodd. We thought we were getting to be "big shots". I believe 4-H started either in 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grade. We would meet once a month in the classroom and had a yearly project.

Mrs. Mary Bailey was my 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. As with each previous grade we still kept notebooks and wrote our notes in them. We still had 6-weeks tests and exams. I do remember world history class. My, how the names of countries have changed since then!

By seventh grade we thought we were "top dog". Mrs. Anne Hill was not only our teacher, but the principal. She would teach until 4<sup>th</sup> grade had recess and Mrs. Brockman would come to our class to teach Health while Mrs. Hill did her office duties.

There are so many observations; I would be remiss not to mention some that come to mind.

Music: Mrs. Tinsley came to school to teach piano to those who paid extra. However, we had a rhythm band in the lower grades and a glee club in the upper grades. We met once a week. The highlight of the music program was a spring operetta performed for a PTA show.

Fall Festival: This was held each November. We would elect a "king and queen" for each grade several weeks beforehand. We would bring in pennies and the class with the most money would be crowned "king and queen" of the festival. There would be such activities as fishing, a cake walk, a doll show, and my all time favorite bingo.

Recess: There was no physical education back then. We simply got out and play. We had a merry-go-round, jungle gym, slide, and see-saws. We would also jump rope or play tag or shoot marbles. (I still have my marbles!) By about 4<sup>th</sup> grade the boys played baseball and the girls played soft ball. If it rained, we played in our classroom. Usually a teacher had ring toss or some other game.

Cafeteria: Mrs. Emily McDaniel and Mrs. Alice Carpenter, later Mrs. Virginia Ware were our cooks. Lunch, I seem to remember was fairly good. We would have fish sticks on Friday. About the only exception to a good lunch was the non-tasting white rice. Everyone always loaded it down with sugar! The only choice back then was whether you wanted white or chocolate milk. I believe lunch was 25 cents.

Library: Since we did not have a library each teacher had books in the back of their room. I probably read every Nancy Drew and Hardy Boys mystery they had. We also had some historical fiction books. By fourth grade, we had to write a book report each 6-weeks and give an oral report twice a year.

Assemblies: Each month a class would be responsible for a program. Usually this would be a play or songs we had learned with Mrs. Tinsley. (A side note here. I recently heard "Beautiful Dreamer" and remembered we did a program on Stephen Foster songs).

Building maintenance: Our building was kept in order by Mr. Doll Rucker, later by Mr. Taylor Rucker, his son. I do remember when coal was delivered, we would have to close the windows in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade room to keep the coal dust from coming inside.

School dress: This was the time when girls still had to wear dresses to school. I can remember wearing leggings with our dress tucked inside in the bitter cold, but having to take them off when we got to school.

Field trips: No such thing for us then. We did have a class picnic in the spring. Usually we would go to old Pleasant View High School grounds or to Mrs. Bailey's farm. It was always fun to have a day off from classes.

When I left PVES in June of 1961 to go to ACHS (there was no middle school), little did I envision returning as a teacher almost 20 years later and teaching 4-grade in my old 4-grade classroom for 8 years. By now there was a new section that contained K-2 classrooms and a library. The office had been remodeled to contain a "real" office, a place for a secretary (Mrs. Hill didn't have one), and a conference room. The playground now had a basketball area and a new parking lot took up the space where we played softball.

We had a librarian and equipment like an overhead projector and yes, even an early computer with floppy disc. Definitely no internet! We had a gifted program and a Title 1 Reading specialist. We still had 4-H and assembly programs.

Some things remained the same though. Students still had to memorize those pesky multiplication facts, played ball at recess, had music programs, and a fall festival.

Our children, Jeremy and Diana attended PVES before going to Monelison. I taught them when they were in

fourth grade. Even though I don't remember him, my husband, Ed, attended PVES for several years also. Yes, he was one of those 5 "Allen" boys.

It is sad to see the school close as I'm sure it holds many memories for a lot of people. I do hope the building can be utilized and will be an asset to the community.

Thank you for this opportunity to share some of my memories about PVES.