

San Leon School - 1921

by Viola Campbell Carr

In the fall of 1921, Mae, Hershel (Pat) and myself started school in this nice two-story brick school. It had been built in 1914 and weathered the 1915 hurricane. The water was supplied from an underground cistern, outdoor latrines, kerosene lamps hanging from the ceiling. The two rooms we used were divided by a folding door. Also, a platform at one end for use in programs and for chapel once a week. We repeated the Pledge of Allegiance, sang America and other songs. On the playground there were 2 slides, 3 swings, and a trapeze, but hopscotch was a favorite game.

Since I had gone three years to LaPorte School with all classes in separate rooms, four classes in one room was a new experience. In those days our two teachers, were our friends, mentors and were esteemed by the community. Needless to say we learned reading, writing, addition, subtraction, multiplication and the parts of speech as well as history and geography, we had spelling bees for fun.

Christmas was a community affair at the school. The folding doors, were opened a tree decorated, the teachers had prepared us for a program with the arrival of Santa. Every child had a present and a bag of goodies.

The close of school was celebrated with a community picnic honoring our teachers. On finishing the 7th grade we received a certificate sending us to the 8th grade in Dickinson schools.

In May 1929 there were 8 of us graduating. The exercises were held in the Old Hollywood Theater as the 3rd floor of our school was declared unsafe. The class was Horace Anderson (Dickinson), Ben Bland (Dickinson),

continued on page 11



Viola Campbell
Viola Campbell, Dickinson
High School Graduate of 1929

continued from page 6

inson), Viola Campbell (San Leon), Mina Ellis (San Leon), Hoskins Foster (Dickinson), Frank Lothrop (Dickinson), Eleanor Hewitt (Kemah) and Billy Mann (Dickinson).

I married W. L. (Lester) Carr on November 10th. We had 7 children, Lester (Pete) joined the army and got his GED later, Donald Ray, Viola Patsy, Ruby Mae, Byron Hershel, J. (only) D. (only), and Jerry Lee all graduated from Dickinson High School. I also have two grandchildren who graduated from Dickinson in 1985 and 1987, Terri Alice and Justin Carr. As of now I still have grandchildren in Dickinson High School.