

Dean School  
by  
Don Ensey

Dean was a one-room country school, located about seven miles north of Boswell, Oklahoma, on the west side of the road about a half mile north of Clear Boggy. The school building was located on about two acres. I believe the building was about thirty by forty feet, The building faced the road to the east. A large cast iron heater was used to heat the school. As a safety precaution the stove was in an area formed by two-by-fours and filled with sand two or three inches deep.

The water well was located just south of the school building in a gazebo made of one-by-fours and painted white. The well was a bored well and we drew the water with a long galvanized bucket. The well was only about twenty-five feet deep, but it normally furnished enough for the school. There were a couple of years that we had to carry water from a spring, when the well got low.

The boys' outhouse was in the southwest corner of the school ground and the girls' was in the northwest corner.

Here are memories of my years at Dean:

1942-43: Mrs. Jettie Ross was the teacher. This was the last year for the school to have "summer school". This was a six or eight week term, which started around the first of July. This was done so the kids could be out in the fall to help with harvest—mainly cotton picking, which was very educational---it motivated most of us to find another way to make a living. I went the first day of summer school and Mother decided it was too hot for me to walk the mile and a half to and from school. I did not go back until the fall term started. There were twenty three children in the school---grades one thru eight. Mrs. Ross was an excellent teacher and a strict disciplinarian,

43-44: Mr. D. L. Pardue was the teacher. Mr. Pardue rode horseback to school every Monday morning and then rode home Friday afternoon. I believe he rode about nine miles each way. He stayed in the school during the week. He had a small living quarters in one corner, this was separated by tarpaulins---commonly called "wagon sheets". He kept his horse on the school grounds. Mr. Pardue often played marbles with us—and he was good. He was probably about sixty years old. Since I was the only one in the second grade, Mr. Pardue let me do the second grade at my own pace and when I finished it before midterm, he moved me up to the third grade---I had been monitoring the third grade work for some time. I was promoted to the fourth at the end of the year.

44-45 Mrs. Blue Eyes was the teacher. She was a small blonde headed woman and was married to an Indian named Jacob Blue Eyes. He was a highly decorated soldier and one tough Indian. Mrs. Blue Eyes had a conflict with a mother but she ended it in a hurry---

with a few quick left jabs. When she came back into the school and opened her purse to get a hair brush, the first thing that came out was a large automatic pistol!

45-46 Mrs. Velma Moore was the teacher. I have to admit that I have no real memories of Mrs. Moore and no special memories of school for that year.

46-47 Mrs. Jettie Ross returned to teach this year. Mrs. Ross was now our neighbor—we all lived two to three miles from school, so she and I usually walked or rode horses to and from school. Mrs. Ross occasionally drove their pickup on real cold days.

47-48 Mrs. Ross stayed to teach this year. As usual, she did an excellent job.

48-49 Mrs. Lillian Parson was the teacher. She rode her horse to and from school daily. This was about three miles each way. Mrs. Parson always seemed tired and sleepy. There were only eight students in the entire school. I made an effort to teach the younger kids and we seemed to get along pretty well. Mrs. Parson gave only C's on the report cards, no matter what the student earned.

Mr. R.R. Perkins was county school superintendent, most if not all of the time I was at Dean. He would visit the school occasionally.

Dean School was closed at the end of the 48-49 school year.

I am grateful for my time at this “country school”.

If anyone has further information or questions, please contact me.

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