

# WHITE OAK SCHOOL SYSTEM

Seventy years in the community of White Oak have seen many changes, among which is the beautiful, impressive White Oak Common School system, which has grown in that length of time from a 20x30 foot little red schoolhouse to a more than three million dollar plant.

Each year more improvements are required due to the growth of the enrollment and the modern way of education. Today there are 67 members on the staff at White Oak School, including 3 administrators, 37 teachers, 1 librarian, 1 nurse, 1 dietitian, 3 secretaries, 6 cafeteria employees, and 15 bus drivers and maintenance personnel. The school is attended by approximately 600 scholastics.

Also in the same school district is the Shiloh Negro Elementary School which is staffed by a principal and four teachers and has an enrollment of 60 scholastics.

R. C. Fagg serves as superintendent of the White Oak School District; and principals are C. C. Simmons, high school; E. B. Carrington, elementary; and D. M. Brown, Negro elementary. Members of the Board of Trustees are Floyd Bernard, president; C. T. McGinnis, secretary, and D. M. Miller.

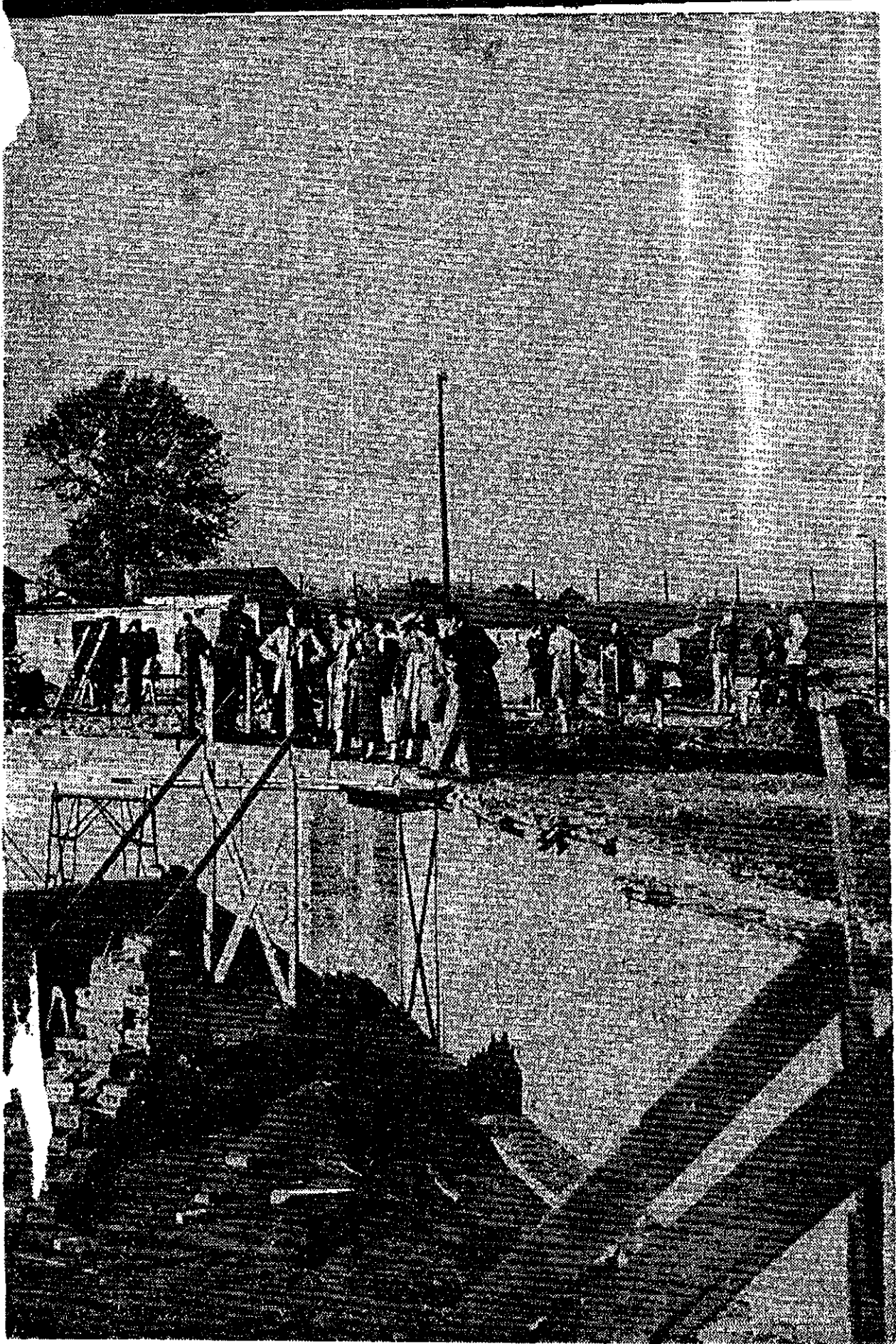
White Oak was a farming community until its first influx of new settlers moved in to work at three large

sawmills located on the then thickly-wooded terrain. Grace Creek School, a log cabin, was the first to pre-date White Oak School, followed by the Hawkins Creek School. In 1885, the latter building burned after which Plez Harris and Caleb Bumpus donated land for a new school. Work on the school, which was constructed near a spring between two sapling white oak trees, was donated by citizens of the community. Upon completion, John Bumpus suggested the name of White Oak because of the location of the trees.

Will M. Dunagan was the school's first teacher of from 20 to 30 students. As the enrollment grew, another teacher was hired and a room added to the original building, and in 1912 a larger and better building was constructed. Among those serving as trustees during this period were B. J. Adrian, W. J. Todd, T. W. Tuttle, Will Bumpus, and R. M. Johnson. This building was in use when the oil boom came to Gregg County and the population increased to such an extent that a larger and more adequate building became necessary. This was a fine brick building with 10 rooms and a large auditorium which was occupied in 1933. But it was not long until the fast-growing community needed even more room. So in 1934 an eight-room high school building containing a gymnasium was completed.

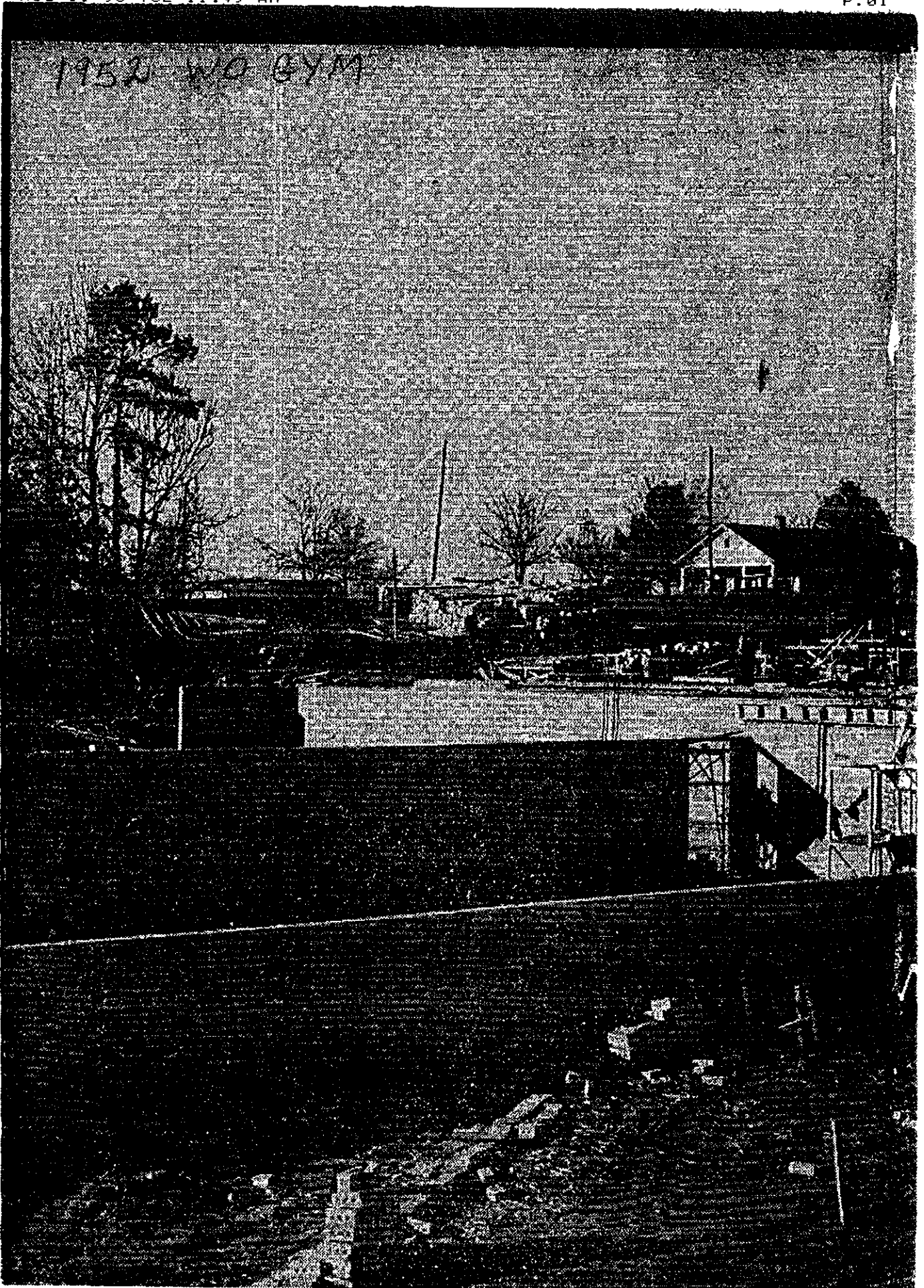
## WHITE OAK SCHOOL PLANT





1952 W.O. GYM

White Oak High School Gym 1952 (present MS gym)  
& Home Ec. Bldg.



I want this  
back

(1940) (1) - K11

THIS ISSUE IS  
DEDICATED TO THE  
ADMINISTRATION

# THE GAUGER

25th ANNIVERSARY  
WHITE OAK  
SCHOOL EDITION

PUBLICATION OF WHITE OAK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

VOL II

Monday March 26, 1940

No. 11

## J.M. Tuttle First W.O. Student, Relates History

### M. C. Satterwhite Reviews Past Events of W. O. History

#### Former Trustee Is Active in School and Church Affairs

By Herrie Hodges

One of W. O. community's prominent citizens, M. C. Satterwhite, has resided here for twenty-three years. He recalls that the W. O. we know now is not really the W. O. he knew. The area was so thickly wooded that passing was almost impossible and the "road" it could be called one, was impassable in inclement weather. Mr. Satterwhite was a trustee on the board seven and one half years, resigning of his own accord. Mr. W. M. Blackstone and Mr. Noble succeeded him on the board of the new building. So far there has been no loss of

property due to fire. He persuaded the county superintendent, Sam Houston, to donate the original building to the church. A committee was appointed to raise the old building and build a church. After the discovery of oil, a new building was erected in the present location on the new church property. He had been treasurer of the church nineteen years and a deacon for 25 years.

The first oil well was three miles northeast of W. O. The next well was discovered on the Blackstone place. These wells are still flowing.

White Oak was winner of the practice track meet held here last Wednesday with 48 points. Satterwhite won second with 18 and Pitts won last having 15.—Sports Editor



J. M. TUTTLE

### Oldest Ex-Student Devotes Time And Interest to School

By Herrie Hodges

Mr. Tuttle Tuttle, founder of the W. O. community as we know it, is the oldest and most prominent citizen here. He has carved his name indelibly in the history of White Oak. It is a fact that he enrolled in the W. O. school the very first year in which it was established, 1887, and received all of his education here.

"At first there never was a high school, but three months later," he started his own school and dealt being in the summer. Twenty students enrolled. Great fall but that was caused a large group, the building 20 ft. by 40 ft. This was the first school.

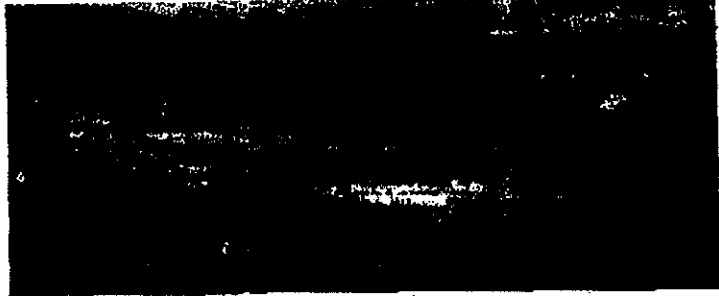
"Now if the school we want to the woods and get some knots for a heater in the center of the old school building. Mr. Will Dungan, Mr. White's father, at the first school in 1887.

"Did you ever play pool? he asked during a winter story. "It was lots of fun and also played base ball. I also looked forward to getting a car. This was about the only entertainment offered for the school at that time.

"As long as I remember there was only one teacher, attended until I was about 10 years of age.

"The first teacher, about 1887, J. Henry Smith was and the school began to grow. Our courses were the reading, arithmetic, writing, geography, and grammar. I think that these courses are taught today, though now we are proud of the new building which was added to our school and it was still in use when the oil boom came.

"I was trustee and of course I finished my schooling. I always worked for the school, in an election I sought to raise a tax for the school, for the money about 21 cents a year. It is still in use.



The Slush Pit

BY SARAH JEAN MCGEE  
The staff realizes that without the cooperation of the faculty and our school, advertisers to our

paper, members of our staff, and trustees, this paper, which is the largest ever published by a Texas high school, would not have been successful.

It is very commendable that important personages in this, and other communities would stop their work and give us information and help without which it would have been impossible to publish this paper.—Sarah Jean McGee



M. C. SATTERWHITE

**MAY COPY**

To keep from being lost  
1981-82

Will help  
History Study

FIRST TEACHER IN '85

# THE GAUGER

Volume 15 White Oak School, White Oak, Texas, January 26, 1954 Number 8



WILL DUNAGAN

## Panel Tells W. O. Past

One hundred years of public education in Texas and sixty-nine years in White Oak community were celebrated in an assembly program January 26 in the school auditorium.

E. B. Carrington opened the program with the invocation. E. H. Mullins lead the group in the singing of Texas songs; Lela Mae Robinson was the accompanist. Visitors from the community were welcomed to the program by C. C. Simmons. A history of Texas public schools was given by R. C. Fagg after which Jerry Wayne Bernard and Doris Ann Morrison sang "Little Red Schoolhouse". Representatives from each period of development in the White Oak School discussed the school as it was in their day. Assisting Mrs. Shippey, chairman of the panel, were Mrs. Maggie Bozman and Julius Tuttle, 1885; Miss Cora Mackey, 1912; Bill Bingham, 1920; John Sparrier, 1926; Mrs. Jewel Meredith and Mrs. Grace Biscockstone, 1932; Mrs. Clyde Tuttle, 1933; Audrey Adams Maberry, 1937; Mrs. W. W. Shippey, 1939; Mrs. J. E. Doby, Gene Kern, 1944; Leatrice Wood, 1951; and Joe Simmons, 1954.

As a part of the celebration, the P-TA's annual Open House was held from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Supt. R. C. Fagg prefaced the meeting with a brief resume of the development of education in Texas. Refreshments were served the visitors by the P-TA Social Committee.

Plans for the program were directed by Mrs. Clyde Tuttle,



White Oak School  
1885

## From Little Red Schoolhouse in Oak Grove To Modern Three Million Dollar Education Plant

Beginning with a 20 ft by 30 ft building and twenty students, Will Dunagan, White Oak's first teacher, set the pace that was to lead the present three million dollar plant operated by a staff of 14 maintenance personnel and bus drivers, 5 cooks, 2 secretaries, a dietitian, a nurse, 3 administrators, 38 teachers for the education of 606 students.

Before 1885 there was a small school building near the Hawkins Creek where the Adrian place now is. The children of the community attended that until it burned in 1855. Mrs. Maggie Bozman attended that school her first year. Pies Harris and Caleb Bumpus donated the ground for a new school to be built near the spring between two oak trees. In 1907 the heirs signed the deed stipulating that the land be used by the school or church. In event that it is used for any other purpose, the land reverts to the heirs' estate. Work was donated on this building by citizens of the community. When it was finished John Bumpus, grandfather of Chlois Bumpus, suggested the name White Oak because of the oak trees.

In 1885 the first school building was a one-room house 20 ft. by 30 ft., housing 20 students. As time went on the enrollment grew until another teacher had to be hired and a room added to

chairman: Mrs. W. W. Shippey, Mrs. J. W. Hutchings, E. B. Carrington, and C. C. Simmons.

the original building. At this time about thirty pupils made up the student body. Later in 1912 a larger and better building was built. This building was used until the oil boom came to Gregg County.

The next building was a fine brick building with ten rooms and a large auditorium. This building was first occupied in February of 1933. It was not long until the fast-growing community necessitated the building of another large building, so in 1934 an 8-room building containing a large gymnasium and many other conveniences was built. This was occupied in November of 1934. This arrangement proved adequate until 1927 when a second story was added to the grade school, which enlarged and beautified the school immensely.

On November 26, 1950, the White Oak Music Department building which cost approximately \$85,000 was completed. Jess Petty was then head of the music department.

The Music Department contains eight sound-proof practice rooms, an office, a rehearsal room, a group practice room, a storage room, and a studio which is used for recordings. The building has two basements and is equipped with a combination air conditioning and heating system.

A new gymnasium featuring the latest athletic equipment, was completed in October of 1952.

## White Oak's School To Celebrate Texas' Schools' Centennial

By R. C. FAGG

Here at White Oak we are operating with hundreds of other schools over the State in celebrating this Centennial Year of the establishment of the public school system in Texas.

The founding fathers of public education in Texas envisioned the time when Texas would "show the world that we will not only be the Empire State in point of territory, but also in the number and excellence of our institutions of learning." goal, expressed by a group of citizens in a mass meeting at the State Capitol one hundred years ago, is especially challenging today.

The Centennial Year of the establishment of our public school system provides an opportunity for us all, to re dedicate our thoughts and efforts to the task of developing the human resources of our State and particularly in this community.

The key to good schools, we believe, is the making known of all the facts about our school system including the great importance of education to our social and economic well-being. Public understanding is necessary to public support. Public support enables the schools to advance, constantly adjusting to keep in step with the times. This special observance of the Centennial Year gives us an opportunity to invite all parents and patrons in the community to visit our school. We are proud of the interest and support of the parents at White Oak. We hope that we shall receive the continued cooperation of all for the best possible school.

Much larger than the old gymnasium, the new gym is 118 feet long. Eight showers placed between individual dressing rooms replace the old group showers for both boys and girls.

The new gymnasium has an electrically operated partition so that both boys and girls can have gym classes at the same time.

The new gymnasium, seating 675, also has a larger seating capacity than the old one.

(Continued on Page 3)

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AUGUST 11, 1998  
TUESDAY  
12:09 PM

### The White Oak Independent

October 2, 1997



**THE WAY IT WAS**—White Oak High School as it appeared in 1947. As the district grew the high school became the middle school campus and was eventually named the Judy C. Meredith Building.

## WO Homecoming Parade to host large number of floats

Saturday at 10 a.m. White Oak will be filled with lots of floats, bands and lots of excitement for the 1997 Homecoming Parade scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Participants are reminded to arrive at 9:30 on Lakespur at Reynolds Street. The theme for this year's parade is "Bring Home the Spirit." Place winners will be recognized in the following categories: Entry to Carry Out Parade and Most Original/Creative Design. Grand Marshals Theo "Colton" and Earl Henrick will lead parade followed by White Oak or Tim Vaughn. County Commissioner David will be offering his message of Phil Fleming will be driving the float. Members of the class of 1997 will be riding (as a float) the White Oak High School float. Head Coach Kevin will be leading the float.

contestant Leslie Fife and the 1997 Homecoming Queen and her court will be riding in the parade. Also added to the list is the Cub Scout and Boy Scout Troops #207, Lil' Nicks Cheerleaders, 5th & 6th Oak Middle School Cheerleaders and members of the Flag Football Team and Off-Season Basketball Team have also signed up. KESS talk Radio will have their mobile unit in town. Also entered are White Oak Stables, Gregg County 4-H Club, The Gregg County Mounted Sheriff Patrol, White Oak Police Department, and Gregg County will be represented with a car of dignitaries. The United Lumbar National Council Band, a native American Band who will be dressed in Indian attire. Forward and Kelly Trump will drive their steered wagon and make room in the parade. The White Oak Police Department will be leading the float.

**WACKY MAN**  
From Tehuacana  
T.T. BARNES

### "Stand In the Gap" to be shown at Memorial Baptist

"Stand in the Gap" will be presented live from Washington, D.C. via satellite on Saturday, Oct. 4 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Memorial Baptist Church on a wide screen TV. "Stand in the Gap" is a gathering of over 1 million people who will congregate around the state capitol and White House to worship and bring different denominations together in prayer. Memorial Baptist Church is located on Morley Street off of Highway 80 in Clauwater. For information call 845-7306.

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Continued from page 7  
hike to Waco to play the Mart Panthers in Bayler Stadium. Battered and bruised from the slugfest with Sundown, the odds did not favor the Roughnecks. Mart breezed through the southern bracket with topseeded wins to run its record to 14-0. White Oak had to call on all its resources, including its great tradition, just to stay in the game. Hammered away with its single for more than three quarters, Mart was hammered away with its single wing at the Roughnecks, who refused to fold.

Taking the second half kickoff, the Panthers stormed 73 yards to grab a 7-0 bulge. Moments later, Mart launched a drive that was halted by a fumble at the fourth quarter. Way picked off a pass in the end zone and Barry fell out to the one yard line on the return. While Oak mugged out in its 2-to-or-the-four and two situation. That's when Mart made a fatal mistake. The Panthers lined up with a punter in front and two linebackers in the back. The punter's linebacker Kevin Davis bunched in front of the line of scrimmage.

**WAYNE L. SNODDY**  
ENGINEERING CONSULTANT  
903-759-9321

**AAA DESIGN**  
116 ADAMS RD.  
LONGVIEW, TX 75704  
FAX 903-759-1511

*Good Luck,  
Brooke!  
Love,  
Mom & Dad*

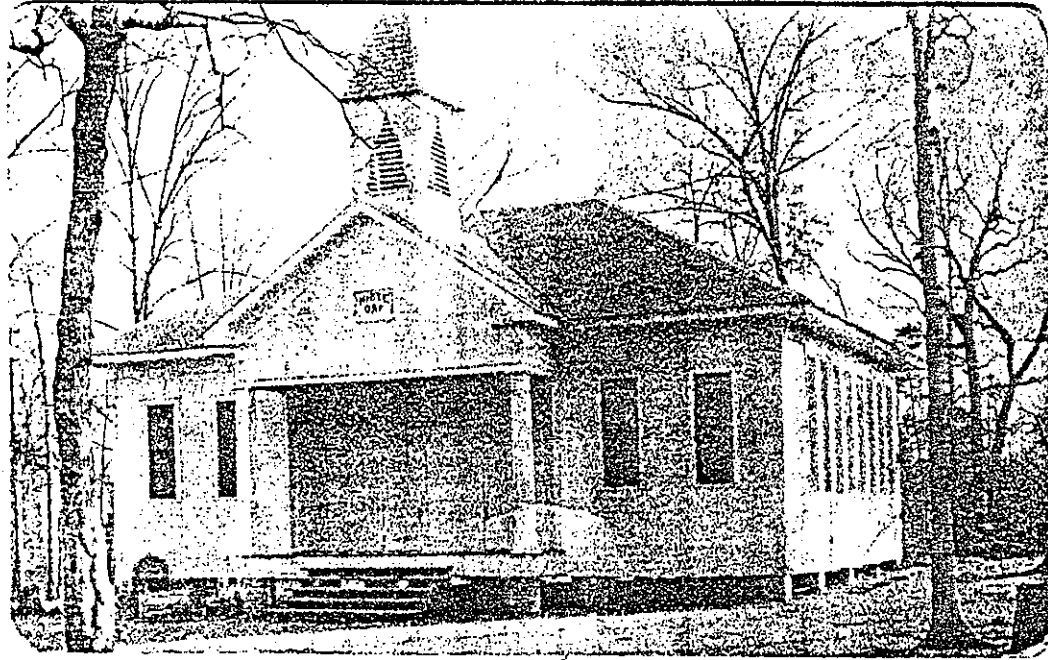
**WELCOME HOME,  
WHITE OAK  
ALUMNII!**

Hope you enjoy the game  
and all the Homecoming Festivities ...

**CITY OF  
WHITE OAK**

**WELCOME  
EX-STUDENTS**  
We're Glad You Could  
"Wheel On In" for  
**HOMECOMING  
1997**

**The Tire Barn**



White Oak early School and Church

Vol. V p. 569  
April 6, 1967

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she had willingly signed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed, and that she did not wish to retract it.

Given under my hand and seal of office, this 23 day of February A.D. 1903  
W.D. Thompson J.P. and Ex officio Notary Public  
Gregg County Texas.

The state of Texas, ) I do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original deed and certificate of acknowledgment as filed for record in my office on the 7th day of May 1907 at 11 O'clock A.M. and recorded this 10th day of May 1907 at 1 O'clock P.M.

*W.D. Thompson*  
County Clerk of Gregg County, Texas.  
00000-

The state of Texas, ) Know all men by these Presents: That of the County of Gregg state of Texas for and in consideration of the sum of One Dollar, to me paid by The Board of Trustees of Common School District No. 8 of the County of Gregg state of Texas and their successors in office Cash, have Granted, Sold and Conveyed, and by these presents do Grant, Sell and Convey, unto the said Board of Trustees of Common School Dist. No. 8 of the County of Gregg state of Texas, all that certain tract or parcel of land described as follows to wit: Being a part of the W.H. Castiberry Head Right Survey situated about eight miles West from the City of Longview, Texas and bounded as follows: Beginning 35 yards due West of the center of White Oak School building, thence North 75 yds. to a corner, thence East 140 yds to corner, thence South 70 yds to corner, thence West 140 ft. South West corner which is 35 yds South of place of beginning containing two acres of land more or less. Be it expressly agreed that the property herein conveyed shall be used exclusively for the purpose of public education, with the exception that any white domination of the Christian faith may have free use of the property as a place of worship at such times as not to interfere with any session of School. To have and to hold the above described premises, together with all and singular the rights and appurtenances thereto in anywise belonging unto the said Board of Trustees of School Dist No. 8, County and state aforesaid and their successors in office forever, and I do hereby bind myself & my heirs, executors and administrators to Warrant and Forever Defend, all and singular the said premises unto the said Board of Trustees of School Dist No. 8 and their successors in office forever against every person whomsoever lawfully claiming or to claim the same or any part thereof.

S.C. Harris  
T.B. Harris  
S.F. Shelton  
G.R. Harris  
Amanda Harper  
J.J. Harris  
K.A. Bumpus  
Mollie Fisher

The state of Texas, ) Before me W.V. Fisher J.P. & Ex officio Notary in and for County Texas, on this day personally appeared S.C. Harris, T.B. Harris, S.F. Shelton, G.R. Harris, Amanda Harper, J.J. Harris, K.A. Bumpus & Mollie Fisher known to me to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that the executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

Given under my hand and seal of office this day of 6 Apr. A.D. 1907  
W.V. Fisher, J.P. and Ex officio Notary Public  
in and for Gregg Co. Texas.

The state of Texas, ) I do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original deed and certificate of acknowledgment as filed for record in my office on the 7th day of May 1907 at 11 O'clock A.M. and recorded this 10th day of May 1907 at 2 o'clock P.M.

*W.D. Thompson*  
County Clerk of Gregg County, Texas.  
00000-

The state of Texas, ) Know all men by these Presents: That I, Katie Moore Boham and husband Frank Boham of the County of Gregg state of Texas for and in consideration of the sum of Five (\$5.00) Dollars, to me in hand paid by G.B. Turner, cash, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, and the further consideration of the cancellation and surrender of five certain Vendors Lien notes, hereinafter described, the sum of \$250.00, and which said notes are fully described in deed from said Turner to said Katie Boham, to which said deed reference is hereby made for a full and complete description of said notes, and the remaining part of the 59-6/10 acres is to remain & be the property of the said Katie Boham, have Granted, Sold and Conveyed and by these presents do Grant, Sell and Convey unto the said G.B. Turner of the County of Gregg state of Texas all that certain tract or parcel of land situated in Gregg County, Texas, being a part of the John Fiddle H.R. Survey, Beginning on the S. line of the W.B. Taylor tract; thence S. 230 varas to a stake on the E.B. line of Ben White's tract; thence E. 732 varas to a stake; thence N. 230 varas to a stake in the S. line of the Campbell tract; thence W. with said line and the S. line of Taylor's tract to the beginning, containing in all 29 8/10 acres of land, more or less, and being the same tract or parcel of land conveyed to me, the said Katie Boham, by the said G.B. Turner. The said Katie Boham retaining 29 8/10 acres as her part. No have and to hold the above described premises, together with all and singular the rights and appurtenances thereto in anywise belonging unto the said G.B. Turner, his heirs and assigns forever. And I do hereby bind myself, my heirs, executors and administrators to Warrant and Forever Defend all and singular the said premises unto the said G.B. Turner,

*W.D. Thompson*  
County Clerk of Gregg County, Texas.  
00000-

*W.D. Thompson*  
County Clerk of Gregg County, Texas.  
00000-

1131 p. 192

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WITNESS MY HAND, on this the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July, A. D. 1932.

REAGAN R. HUFFMAN

THE STATE OF TEXAS |  
COUNTY OF GREGG |

BEFORE ME, a Notary Public in and for Gregg County, Texas, on this day personally appeared REAGAN R. HUFFMAN, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE, this the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July, A. D. 1932.

(LS)  
Notary Public, Gregg County, Texas.

FILED FOR RECORD July 23, 1932 at 9:45 o'clock A. M.  
RECORDED Sept. 6, 1932 at 9:20 o'clock A. M. (MRR)

*Rudolph Spauls*  
COUNTY CLERK GREGG COUNTY TEXAS

---000---  
\$11800

QUIT CLAIM DEED:

THE STATE OF TEXAS | KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:  
COUNTY OF GREGG |

THAT W. E. Orms and wife, Essie of the County of Gregg and State of Texas, for and in consideration of the sum of One Dollar to us in hand paid by Trustees of White Oak School District No. 8 of the County of Gregg and State of Texas, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, do by these presents BARGAIN SELL RELEASE AND FOREVER QUIT CLAIM unto the said Trustees of White Oak School District No. 8 and to their successors in office, heirs and assigns, all of our right, title and interest in and to that certain tract or parcel of land lying in the County of Gregg, State of Texas, described as follows, to-wit:

All that certain tract or parcel of land, situated in Gregg County, Texas, being a part of the Th. H. Castleberry Survey, and described as follows:

BEGINNING 35 yards due W. of the center of White Oak School Building;

THENCE - N. 35 yards to corner; THENCE - E. 140 yards to corner;

THENCE - S. 70 yards to corner; THENCE W. 140 yards to S. W. corner, which is 35 yards S.

of the place of beginning;

THENCE - N. 35 yards to the place of beginning, containing 2 acres, more or less.

NO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said premises, together with all and singular the rights, privileges and appurtenances thereto in any manner belonging unto the said Trustees of White Oak School District No. 8 and to their successors in office, heirs and assigns, forever, so that neither we the said W. E. Orms and wife, Essie nor our heirs, nor any person or persons claiming under us shall, at any time hereafter, have, claim, or demand any right or title to the aforesaid premises or appurtenances, or any part thereof.

WITNESS OUR HANDS, at Longview, Texas, this day of July A. D. 1932.

L. E. ORMS  
ESSIE ORMS

THE STATE OF TEXAS |  
COUNTY OF GREGG |

BEFORE ME, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, on this day personally appeared L. E. Orms known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE, this the 22nd day of July, A. D. 1932.

(LS)  
Notary Public in and for Gregg County, Texas.  
R. R. BONDURANT

THE STATE OF TEXAS |  
COUNTY OF GREGG |

BEFORE ME, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, on this day personally appeared Essie Orms, wife of L. E. Orms, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and having been examined by me privately and ad



V 207 p. 189

8217.

Warranty Deed.

The State of Texas )  
County Of Gregg ) KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That We, H C Satterwhite and wife Ada Satterwhite of the County of Gregg, State of Texas, for and in consideration of the sum of One hundred Ninety & No/100 (\$190.00) Dollars to us in hand paid by Trustees of White Oak School District No 8 of Gregg County, viz., W H Blackstone, J B Doby and J W Tuttle, as follows:

Receipt of which is hereby acknowledged

have, subject to the limitation hereinafter stated granted, sold and conveyed, and by these presents do Grant, Sell and Convey unto the said Trustees of White Oak District and their successor in office, same being Common School District No 8 of Gregg County Texas, of the County of Gregg, State of Texas,

All that certain tract or parcel of land in the William Castleberry H R Survey, Gregg County, Texas and being that part of the H C Satterwhite 82 acre tract, and being that part of the said Satterwhite tract lying East of the New Highway and adjacent to the present 2 acre school tract more completely described as follows:

v Beginning at a stake set for a corner in the West line of the said 2 acre tract about one hundred and five feet West of the front entrance to the present Church Building located on said tract. Said stake is also 61 feet North about five deg West from the Northwest corner of the present school building and 105 feet South of the Northwest corner of the 2 acre tract;

Thence North 105 feet to the Northwest corner of the present 2 acre tract;

Thence North 14 deg West 753 feet with the West Boundary line of the L E Orms 16 acre tract, to the Northwest corner of this tract which is also the Northeast corner of the H C Satterwhite, and in the South Boundary line of the T W Tuttle tract;

Thence South 82 deg 30 minutes West 73 feet to a stake in the fence line which is the North Boundary line of the said H C Satterwhite 82 acre tract and the South boundary line of the T W Tuttle tract. Said stake is in the East line of the New Highway for the Northwest corner of this tract;

Thence South 8 deg East 282 feet with the East line of said Highway;

Thence South 2 deg 10 minutes E 876 feet to a stake in the old Highway from which a post oak bears Northwest 18 feet, said stake is set in the North line of the New Highway 19 feet North from the Southwest corner of this tract. This corner also in a South line of the said H C Satterwhite 82 acre tract;

Thence North 41 deg East with the said Satterwhite line to the place of beginning and containing 3.8 acres of land.

This conveyance being for the use of said school District and is intended to convey surface rights only and no mineral rights.

To have and to hold the above described premises, together with all and singular the rights and appurtenances thereto in anywise belonging unto the said Trustees of White Oak Common School District No 8 and their successors in office, heirs and assigns forever; and we do hereby bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators, to warrant and forever defend all and singular the said premises unto the said Trustees of White Oak Common School District No 8 viz., W H Blackstone, J B Doby and J W Tuttle and their successors in office, their heirs and assigns, against every person whomsoever lawfully claiming or to claim the same, or any part thereof.

Witness our hands at Longview, Texas this 11th day of October, A D 1932.

50¢ revenue stamp

H C Satterwhite

The State Of Texas )

Ada L Satterwhite

County Of Gregg )

Before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for Gregg County, Texas, on this day personally appeared H C Satterwhite and Ada Satterwhite, his wife, both known to me to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that they each executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed, and the said Ada Satterwhite wife of the said H C Satterwhite having been examined by me privately and apart from her husband, and having the same fully explained to her, she, the said Ada Satterwhite acknowledged such instrument to be her act and deed, and she declared that she had willingly signed the same for

The purposes and consideration therein expressed, and that she did not wish to re-tract it.

Given under my hand and seal of office, this 11th day of Oct A D 1932.

(L.S.)

Julia Bassett

Notary Public, Gregg Co. Tex.

Filed for record September 8, 1936 at 4:33 o'clock P M,

Recorded September 18, 1936 at 4:15 o'clock P M.

*W. H. Spauls*  
Clerk County Court, Gregg County, Texas (B. T.)

-----  
S214.  
-----  
Mineral Deed.

The State Of Texas )  
County Of Gregg ) KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That James T Smith, of Tyler, Smith County, Texas, hereinafter called Grantor for and in consideration of the sum of Ten and no/100 (\$10.00) Dollars, each in hand paid by Grantor by L. W. Jamn, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, have granted, bargained, sold and conveyed, and by these presents do Grant, bargain, sell and convey, unto the said L. W. Jamn, hereinafter called Grantee, an undivided one/thirty second (1/32nd) interest in and to all of the oil, gas and other minerals in and under the following described tract of land, situated in Gregg County, Texas, to-wit:

Being a part of the Km Robinson Survey, about 5 miles West of the Town of Longview, Texas; and

Beginning at Thad Snoddy's S E C a stone two post oaks are the witness tree;

Thence E 550 yrs to a stone a sweet gum hrs N 57 1/2 W 10 yrs., a hickory

S 26 E 4 yrs;

Thence N 855 yrs to a stake in road;

Thence S 68 W with sd road 575 yrs to Snoddy's E B L a post oak for corner;

Thence S 640 yrs to the piece of beginning, containing 73 1/2 acres, more or less.

It being the intention herein to cover all land owned in the above mentioned tract or survey or adjoining surveys whether by deed, inheritance or limitation whether correctly described or not.

Together with the right of ingress and egress at all times for the purpose of taking said minerals.

It is distinctly understood and herein stipulated that said land is under an oil and gas lease providing for a royalty of one-eighth of the oil and certain royalties or rentals for gas and other minerals and that Grantee herein shall receive one/thirty-second (1/32nd) of the royalties and rentals provided for in said lease; and that he shall also receive one/ thirty-second (1/32nd) part of the annual rentals paid to keep said lease in force until drilling is begun.

It is further agreed that Grantee shall have one/thirty-second (1/32nd) interest in any bonus money received by the Grantor in any future lease or leases given on said land, and that it shall be necessary for the Grantee to join in any such lease or leases so made; that Grantee shall receive under such lease or leases one/thirty-second (1/32nd) part of all of the oil, gas and other minerals taken and saved under any such lease or leases, and he shall receive the same out of the royalty provided for in such lease or leases, but Grantee shall have one/thirty-second (1/32nd) part of the annual rentals paid to keep such lease or leases in force until drilling is begun.

To have and to hold the same unto the said Grantee, his heirs and assigns, forever.

This instrument is executed without recourse and without warranty, in law or in equity.

The interest conveyed and intended to be conveyed hereby is that certain interest conveyed to Grantor by the State National Bank, Corsicana, Texas, on the 6th day of January, 1934, by an instrument recorded in Volume 198, page 325-6, Deed Records Gregg County, Texas.

In Witness Whereof, the Grantor has hereunto signed his name, on this the 27th day of June, A D 1936.

\$1.50 revenue stamp  
affixed and cancelled.

James T Smith

V 185 p. 472

and each acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE, this 6th day of August, A. D. 1934.

Mrs. Cleo Wheelless  
Notary Public in and for Gregg  
County, Texas.

(L.S.)  
THE STATE OF TEXAS )  
COUNTY OF GREGG )

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Rembert Stevens and Minnie Stevens, his wife, each known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that they executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed, and that said Minnie Stevens, wife of the said Rembert Stevens, having been examined by me privately and apart from her husband, and having the same fully explained to her, she, the said Minnie Stevens, acknowledged such instrument to be her act and deed and declared that she had signed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed, and that she did not wish to retract it.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE, this 6th day of August, A. D. 1934.

Mrs. Cleo Wheelless  
Notary Public in and for Gregg County,  
Texas.

(L.S.)  
THE STATE OF TEXAS )  
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON )

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Robert Jones, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE, this 11th day of August, A. D. 1934.

W. B. Mattison  
Notary Public in and for Jefferson  
County, Texas.

(L.S.)  
FILED FOR RECORD JULY 11, 1935 at 2:40 PM  
RECORDED JULY 23, 1935 at 2:30 PM (PB)

*W. B. Mattison*  
COUNTY CLERK, GREGG COUNTY, TEXAS.

0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0

-1589-

WARSAWITY DEED

THE STATE OF TEXAS )  
COUNTY OF GREGG ) KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That I, E. Orms and Essie Orms of the County of Gregg State of Texas for and in consideration of the sum of TWO HUNDRED & FIFTY DOLLARS (\$250.00) DOLLARS to us in hand paid by Trustees of White Oak District No. 5, Namely, J. M. Tuttle, Joe Bander and J. C. Bumpus.

have granted, sold and conveyed, and by these presents do grant, sell and convey, unto the said Trustees of White Oak District No. 5, namely, J. M. Tuttle, Joe Bander and J. C. Bumpus of the County of Gregg State of Texas all that certain tract or parcel of land

BEGINNING at a point 21 feet North and 21 feet East of the S.E. corner of the present Grade School building of White Oak School District No. 5;

THENCE East 156 feet to a stake;

THENCE North 750 feet to Yount-Lee road;

THENCE in a Northwest direction along Yount-Lee road 480 feet to where said road intersects new highway;

THENCE South along East Boundary lines of White Oak School to place of beginning, also, all land that I. E. Orms and Essie Orms own and claim between the old White Oak School Ground and the tract of school ground purchased from M. C. Satterwhite running South approximately 12 feet beyond new building under construction;

THENCE due East to I. E. Orms's tract bought from W. A. Ray in 1915.

The School Board of trustees, namely, J. M. Tuttle, Joe Bander and J. C. Bumpus and County Superintendent, Cora Mackey, and their successors in office, understand

That all above described land so purchased from L.E. Orms and wife, Essie Orms is under an Oil & Gas Lease to Magnolia Petroleum Company. Therefore, they agree not to protest or interfere in any way with any development that said Company or other Companies may want to perform on the above described property.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the above described premises, together with all and singular the rights and appurtenances thereto in anywise belonging unto the said Trustees of White Oak District No. 8, namely, J. H. Tuttle, Joe Bander and J.C. Bumpus heirs and assigns forever and we do hereby bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators, to warrant and forever defend, all and singular the said premises and the said Trustees of White Oak District No. 8, namely, J. H. Tuttle, Joe Bander and J.C. Bumpus heirs and assigns, against every person whatsoever lawfully claiming, or to claim the same, or any part thereof.

WITNESS our hands at Longview, Texas this 31st day of August 1934.

L.E. Orms,  
Mrs. Essie Orms.

50¢ revenue stamp affixed and cancelled.

THE STATE OF TEXAS )  
COUNTY OF GREGG )

BEFORE ME, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, on this day personally appeared L.E. Orms known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

A.D. 1934. GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE this the 4th day of September

Julia Bassett  
Notary Public in and for Gregg County,  
Texas.

(L.S.)  
THE STATE OF TEXAS )  
COUNTY OF GREGG )

BEFORE ME, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, on this day personally appeared Essie Orms wife of L.E. Orms, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and having been examined by me privately and apart from her husband, and having the same fully explained to her, she, the said Essie Orms acknowledged such instrument to be her act and deed, and she declared that she had willingly signed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed, and that she did not wish to retract it.

A.D. 1934. GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE this the 4th day of September  
Julia Bassett  
Notary Public in and for Gregg County, Texas.

(L.S.)  
FILED FOR RECORD July 11, 1935 at 2:41 PM  
RECORDED July 23, 1935 at 2:50 PM (PB)

*Noted Bassett*  
COUNTY CLERK, GREGG COUNTY, TEXAS

0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0  
-7710-  
STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS  
RIGHT-OF-WAY DEED

STATE OF TEXAS )  
COUNTY OF GREGG ) KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

FEAT I, W. H. Lindsay of the County of Gregg in the State of Texas, for and in consideration of the sum of One DOLLARS to each in hand paid by the State of Texas, acting through the State Highway Commission, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, have this day sold, and do by these presents grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the State of Texas all that certain tract or parcel of land situated in the County of Gregg, State of Texas, and being part of a survey originally granted to Hamilton Hovitt, by Patent No. . . . . Vol. . . . . and being a part of a tract of . . . . acres conveyed by . . . . by deed dated the . . . . day of . . . . 19 . . . . and recorded in Volume No. . . . . of the Deed Records of Gregg County, Texas, said tract or parcel of land herein conveyed, being more particularly described as follows:

Being a strip of land varying from 17 feet to 21 feet in width off of the W. H. Lindsey Lot No. 6, Block No. 16, in the City of Longview, Gregg County, Texas, and being more particularly described as follows:-  
BEGINNING at the S.W. corner of said lot, said corner being 24 feet, more

White Oak  
High School



This Certifies That

**Agness Hughleen Satterwhite**

*has satisfactorily completed the Course of Study prescribed by the Board of Education  
for the High School Department and is therefore entitled to this*

**DIPLOMA**

*Given under our hands at White Oak this 2nd day of June 1937*

*G. E. Smiley*  
SCHOOL COMMISSIONER

*J. L. Stogin*  
SECRETARY

*W. C. Mathis*  
SUPERINTENDENT

*P. E. Anderson*  
PRINCIPAL

101,673  
20,59

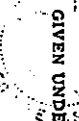
59

SINGLE ACKNOWLEDGMENT

THE STATE OF TEXAS,  
COUNTY OF GREGG

BEFORE ME, the undersigned a Notary Public in and for said County and State, on this day personally appeared  
ROBERT CARGILL,

known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.



(L. S.)

*Robert Cargill*  
Notary Public in and for Gregg

County, Texas

JAN 15 1966  
A. D. 1966,

Filed for Record on the 14 day of June A. D. 19 66, at 11:35 o'clock P.M.  
Duly Recorded this the 12 day of June A. D. 19 66, at 3 o'clock P.M.  
Instrument No. 5215 B.M. "BUCK" BIRDSONG, COUNTY CLERK  
Gregg County, Texas  
By Robert Cargill Deputy.

128—WARRANT DEED

TEXAS STANDARD FORM

The State of Texas, } 5769  
County of Gregg } Known All Men by These Presents:

That we, H. E. Bingham and wife, Aline Bingham

of the County of Gregg State of Texas for and in consideration

of the sum of ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

THREE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$3,700.00) ~~XXXXXXXX~~

to us in hand paid by White Oak Independent School District

as follows:

\$304 cash, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged and

have Granted, Sold and Conveyed, and by these presents do Grant, Sell and Convey unto the said  
White Oak Independent School District

of the County of Gregg State of Texas all that certain tract: Being a part of the H.E. Bingham tract in the Wm. Castleberry Survey, Gregg County, Texas, and being more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at iron pin for the South East corner Lot 3 Block 5 Suburban Lake Park Addition, White Oak, Texas, same being the West right of way line Janis Street for plat of beginning;

THENCE S. 85° 36' W. along the South boundary line Block 5 Suburban Lake Park Addition a distance of 262 ft. to stake in the centerline creek for corner;

THENCE along the meanders of the creek in a Southwesterly direction a distance of 810 feet to iron pin for corner same being a corner for Boy Scout 1 acre tract and a corner for the White Oak Independent School district;

THENCE S. 58° 40' E. a distance of 687.8 feet to a stake for corner;

THENCE S. 37° 40' W. a distance of 380 feet to stake for corner;

THENCE S. 81° 35' E. a distance of 40 feet to stake for corner;

THENCE N. 37° 30' E. a distance of 359.2 feet to stake for corner;

THENCE N. 89° 49' E. a distance of 55.6 feet to stake for corner;

THENCE N. 7° 23' E. a distance of 1076.1 feet for corner;

THENCE S. 87° 30' W. a distance of 251 feet to stake for corner;

THENCE N. 9° 47' W. a distance of 30 feet to the place of beginning, containing 12.03 acres Save and except 1 acre tract out of the South West corner, deeded to Boy Scouts by H. E. Bingham and wife Aline Bingham, leaving a net total of 11.03 acres.

It is further agreed that \$3,700.00 will be paid now and \$2,000.00 payable Jan. 15, 1966 and final payment of \$2,000.00 Jan. 15, 1967 without the interest on the unpaid balance.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the above described premises, together with all and singular the rights and appurtenances thereto in anywise belonging unto the said White Oak Independent School District and its

~~trustees~~ assigns forever and we do hereby bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators, to Warrant and forever defend, all and singular the said premises unto the said White Oak Independent School District and its

~~trustees~~ assigns, against every person whomsoever lawfully claiming, or to claim the same, or any part thereof.

WITNESS our hands at Longview, Texas  
 day of June 1965

Witnesses at Request of Grantor:

*H. E. Bingham*  
*Allene Bingham*

THE STATE OF TEXAS, }  
 COUNTY OF GREGG

JOINT ACKNOWLEDGMENT

BEFORE ME, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, on this day personally appeared H. E. Bingham and Allene Bingham known to me to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that they each executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed, and the said Allene Bingham, wife of the said H. E. Bingham, having been examined by me privily and apart from her husband, and having the same fully explained to her, she, the said Allene Bingham, acknowledged such instrument to be her act and deed, and she declared that she had willingly signed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed, and that she did not wish to retract it.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE this 17 day of June A. D. 1965

(L. S.) *H. E. Bingham* Notary Public in and for Gregg County, Texas

Filed for Record on the 16 day of June A. D. 1965, at 11:36 o'clock a.m.  
 Duly Recorded this the 17 day of June A. D. 1965, at 3:30 o'clock P.M.  
 8:01 "BUCK" BIRDSONG, COUNTY CLERK  
 Gregg County, Texas

Instrument No. 5767

By *Robert Bruce Harrell* Deputy.

128—WARRANTY DEED TEXAS STANDARD FORM

5767

The State of Texas, }  
 County of GREGG } Known All Men by These Presents:

That I, Bernice Harrell

of the County of GREGG State of Texas for and in consideration of the sum of Ten (\$10.00) Dollars

DOLLARS

to me in hand paid by Elizabeth Ann Rles, Mary Jane Ferguson and Robert Bruce Harrell as follows:

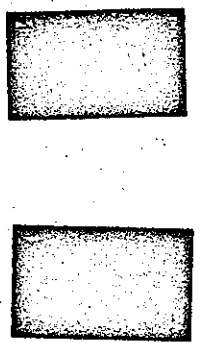
The receipt of which is hereby acknowledged in full.

101,674  
P. 6

have Granted, Sold and Conveyed, and by these presents do Grant, Sell and Convey unto the said  
**MANSFIELD HARDWOOD LUMBER COMPANY OF TEXAS**  
of the County of **Gregg** State of **Texas** all that certain

Lot Twelve (12), Block Five (5) in **COUSHATTA HILLS ADDITION,**  
in the John Jackson Survey, Gregg County, Texas, according to  
the plat of said Addition recorded in Volume 594 at Page 578  
of the Deed Records of Gregg County, Texas;

**SUBJECT TO all Reservations and Restrictions of Record.**



**TO HAVE AND TO HOLD** the above described premises, together with all and singular the  
rights and appurtenances thereto in anywise belonging unto the said

**MANSFIELD HARDWOOD LUMBER COMPANY OF TEXAS, its successors**  
~~here~~ and assigns forever and **we** do hereby bind **ourselves, our**  
heirs, executors and administrators, to Warrant and Forever Defend, all and singular the said premises  
unto the said **MANSFIELD HARDWOOD LUMBER COMPANY OF TEXAS, its successors**

~~here~~ and assigns, against every person whomsoever lawfully claiming, or to claim the same, or any  
part thereof.

WITNESS **our** hand & at **Longview, Gregg County, Texas**  
this **25th** day of **June,** 19 **65.**

Witnesses at Request of Grantor:

*C. M. Mills*

*N. S. M...  
J. S. M...  
J. S. M...*

**SINGLE ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

**THE STATE OF TEXAS,**  
COUNTY OF **Gregg**  
**N. S. M...** the undersigned, a **Notary Public** in and for said County and State, on this day personally appeared  
**W. W. WARD, JR., C. M. MILLS AND H. F. MARTIN,**  
known to me to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to  
me that they executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.  
**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE** this the **25** day of **JUNE,** A. D. 19 **65.**  
*Notary Public in and for* **MARSH HOUTSON**  
**Gregg** County, Texas

Filed for Record on the **28** day of **June** A.D. 19 **65**, at **4:40** clock **P.M.**  
Duly Recorded this the **1** day of **June** A.D. 19 **65**, at **2:40** clock **P.M.**  
Instrument No. **6227**  
By *Shannon Post* Deputy.

185 - OUIZ-CLAIM DEED

TEXAS STANDARD FORM

**The State of Texas,**  
County of **Gregg**  
That **WE, H. E. BINGHAM and wife, ALICE BINGHAM**  
**6227**  
**Know All Men by These Presents:**



## WO exes return home for 100th anniversary

First in a series

By **ROY LINSON**  
Business Editor

**WHITE OAK** — This weekend former White Oak students, teachers, administrators and employees will be returning to the campus to mark the school district's 100th anniversary.

The exes, along with today's students and school personnel, will be celebrating a spirit of tradition that has remained an integral part of White Oak from its 1880s beginning as a farming and saw mill community, through the East Texas Oil Boom era when wells dotted the landscape. The tradition continues today as White Oak takes its place as one of East Texas' fastest growing cities.

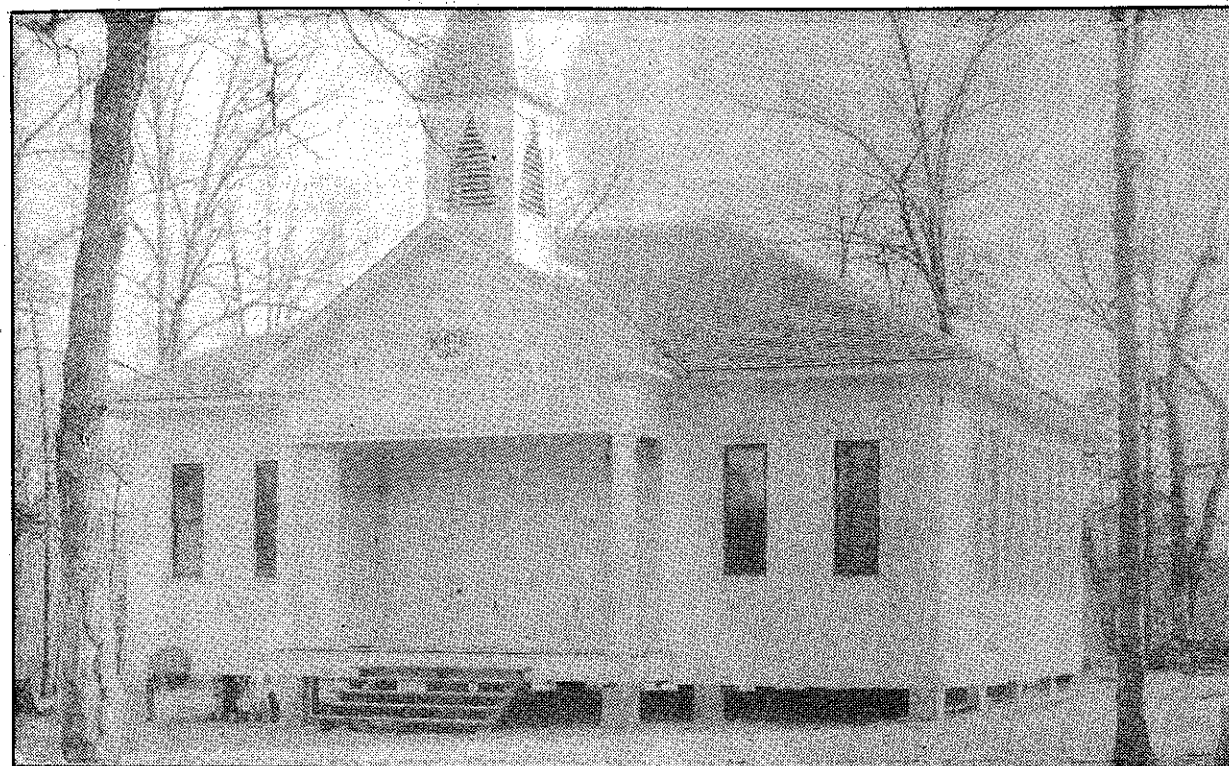
Tradition is hard to define, according to White Oak Ex Joe Lee Smith, the author of a recently published book, "Beneath The Towering Oil Wells — A History of The White Oak Roughnecks."

Smith, who serves in the public relations department at Lamar University in Beaumont, wrote, "Each school has spirit, to a limit. Each school has pride, to a limit. Each school has community support and other intangibles, to a limit."

"The difference, it appears, between White Oak and most schools is a combination of the ingredients with the longevity of practices and beliefs handed down. Few have experienced the type of tradition that exists at White Oak. Few of the thousands associated with White Oak's schools can probably adequately explain the tradition.

"After all, it is difficult to describe the special feelings for teammates, classmates, coaches and teachers; or why strong feelings remain ingrained long after departure from the community; or why chills may flow through the body 25 years later when the Alma Mater is heard.

"The significance of White Oak's achievements is not only the array of impressive feats, but the consistency of those accomplishments for such an



This postcard shows the second school built in White Oak in 1912.

Although it may be difficult to explain the tradition, it's not difficult to trace the history that led to many of the White Oak ISD traditions.

Over the years, school officials, including Superintendent Robert Proctor and journalism instructor Vera Porter who compiled a pamphlet "The White Oak Story," have carefully preserved many old records, photographs and other mementos that detail the school's growth from a one-room school near Hawkins Creek in the 1880s. Many of these are on display at various locations in the White

The White Oak story begins back in the early 1880s when T.J. Tuttle and J.E. (Uncle Bee) Shelton built a small frame building for the area children. When that structure burned in 1885, the two set to work with the aid of volunteers, to build another school.

Pleas Harris and Kaleb Bumpus donated a plot of land near a spring between two White Oak sapling trees. When the work was done, Bumpus, who had served as foreman of the job, suggested that the school be named White Oak because of the two

When the doors of the 20-by-30-foot school opened, Will M. Dunagan became the first White Oak teacher. The 20 pupils attended school from Oct. 1 to March 22 and spent the rest of their time helping on their families' farms.

Dunagan's teaching certificate, dated 1886, hangs in a place of honor in the WOISD Administration Building and many of his descendants, including his great-granddaughter 3½-year-old Lauren Bedsole either still live in White Oak or have been associated with the school.

By 1897 the district's population was growing and another room was added and another teacher was hired. The growth continued at a steady pace until January 1931 when Gregg County's first oil well came in and changed White Oak and East Texas forever.

In the fall of 1930 the White Oak school had two teachers and 50 pupils. However by the next year the influx of oil field workers created the need for more schools and more teachers. Overflow classes moved in the community's only church until October 1932 when work began on a modern brick building with 10 classrooms and an auditorium.

By 1933 the Oil Boom was in full swing and White Oak had 13 classroom teachers, a music teacher and approximately 400 students. Shiloh school was built in 1933 for the area's black students and opened for the 1933-34 school year with four teachers.

White Oak became so identified with the oil industry that in September 1949 when the district's new stadium was dedicated, one of White Oak's most enduring traditions — that of the spirit of the oilfield Roughneck began.

"Whereas, the citizenship of White Oak Community is composed largely of people closely connected with the oil industry and whereas the roughneck is an integral part of the oilfield life and symbolizes the rugged and dauntless spirit of its people...therefore, be it resolved that in honor of the roughneck...this field shall hereafter be

January 1, 1998  
Vol. VIII, No. 47

One Section This Week  
Offices at 201-B Hwy. 80 East  
P.O. Box 445, White Oak TX 75693  
(903) 759-4410 • Fax: (903) 759-8100  
e-mail: newman@jongvlew.net

*The White Oak Independent*  
January 1, 1998

#### **4. Trustees face dilemma over fate of Meredith building**

It's one of White Oak's few historical landmarks. But it's also leaky and dangerous. And what to do about it presents a no-win dilemma for White Oak school trustees.

"It" is the Judy C. Meredith Building, abandoned since the district built the elementary campus.

To renovate the structure would not only require a new roof, but also a "retrofitted" elevator to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. That alone would cost about a quarter of a million dollars.

The solution, if distasteful, seemed obvious. Tear it down.

But then engineer Michael Dunn pointed out some complications. For one thing, all the asbestos must be removed by a specialty company before the building can be razed. For another, leveling the old building

**See TOP 10 on page 2**

#### **Continued from page 1**

could cause structural damage to adjoining middle school and C.C. Simmons Auditorium.

The bottom line? Expect to pay \$600,000 for a parking lot.

The decision? None in 1997.

*The White Oak Independent*  
October 3, 1998

**THIS WEEK  
IN WHITE OAK**

**Donations for  
WOISD history  
marker needed**

Donations are requested to help with the purchase of a historical marker for White Oak schools. James Oliver and the Gregg County Historical Commission have been working on the project for a years. Historical documents and records have been gathered and information has been sent to Austin.

Cost of the marker is \$650. Money left from donations will be used to purchase a plaque honoring members of the first graduating class of 1937 and to the White Oak Ex-Students Association.

Send your donations to  
Oliver, 205 Monterrey, White Oak, 75693. Make checks payable to White Oak Schools Historical Marker.

APPLICATION FORM  
OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER

This marker is for (title or subject): WHITE OAK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Marker location (street address and city, or specific directions from nearest town on state highway map):  
200 South White Oak Road, White Oak, TX 75693

County: Gregg  
Distance and direction of marker topic from marker site (if applicable):

\*\*\*\*\*  
APPROVAL OF COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The application and narrative history must be approved by the county historical commission before forwarding to the Texas Historical Commission.

Chair's Signature: [Signature] Date: 10-1-88  
*The CHC chair automatically will receive all copies of correspondence regarding this marker project.*

PERMISSION OF OWNER FOR MARKER PLACEMENT

Permission for placement of a marker must be obtained by the property owner. Please provide the name of a contact person if the owner is an institution, organization, or public entity. This section need not be completed if the marker is to be placed on right-of-way maintained by the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation.

Name: White Oak Independent School District  
Contact person(if applicable): Dr. Tim Sonnenberg, Supt.  
Mailing address: 200 South White Oak Road  
White Oak, Texas 75693 Phone: 903-759-4492

Owner's Signature: WHITE OAK ISD by [Signature]  
*Do you wish to receive copies of all correspondence concerning this marker application?*  Yes  No

To whom should the request for payment be addressed?  
Name: James Marcus Oliver 205 Monterey White Oak, TX 75693

(Provide contact person if payee is an institution, organization, or public entity.)  
Mailing address:

Does this person wish to receive copies of all other correspondence concerning this application?  Yes  No  
Is there anyone else to whom all correspondence concerning this marker application should be addressed?  
(One additional name and address only, please.)  
Name: Beth Dodson Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: NP 106 Lake Cherokee, Longview, TX 75603 Phone: 903-643-9509

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS

In order to facilitate delivery of the marker, neither post office box numbers nor rural route numbers can be accepted. If the marker is to be placed on the highway right-of-way, it will be shipped directly to the district highway engineer.

## WHITE OAK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

In the year 1884, or thereabouts, north of the Sabine River and west of Hawkins Creek, the small community of White Oak was born.<sup>1</sup> Because of two beautiful white oak trees which were located in a prominent location, this community was named White Oak.<sup>2</sup>

Before 1885 there was a small school building near Hawkins Creek that children attended. This building burned in 1885.<sup>3</sup> At this time fifteen families of this sawmill community saw the need for a school for their children. The names of these families included T. J. Tuttle, John Bumpus, Joe Persons, Jim Rucker, Marion Phillips, J. P. Ray, Teague Todd, McBee Fisher, Kaleb Bumpus, Pleas Harris, and Austin Shelton. In 1907, the heirs of some of the above pioneers donated approximately two acres of land, where a forty by sixty foot building facing west on the grounds of the present White Oak School stood.<sup>4</sup> There were four windows on each side, two windows in the rear, and a door on each side in the front. A front loading stove made of iron provided heat in winter. A stage, blackboard in the rear, and homemade benches completed the school room. The first teacher, W. M. Dunagan, taught from 20 to 30 students.<sup>5</sup> It is interesting here to note that this little school not only served the children's needs, but

here to note that this little school not only served the children's needs, but also their religious needs, as it was used as the community's church for the next twenty-five years.<sup>6</sup>

By 1912, new settlers had moved into the community, and it was necessary to replace the little building with a more adequate two-room structure. The original school, and later the larger building, had among their teachers George Cunyus, Miss Cora Mackey, who was later county superintendent, and Miss Colista Davis.<sup>7</sup> There had never been more than seventy pupils enrolled at any one time, and classes continued much the same as they were in 1884. Then in January of 1931, the discovery well of the Gregg County section of the East Texas oil field was brought in, a mammoth gusher that completely changed the course of events for this area.<sup>8</sup> New families came flooding into the county, attracted by the flowing gold.

It was with open dismay that the school board and faculty struggled with the situation that confronted them when school opened in the fall of 1931.

The building was literally overflowing with children. Two more rooms were hastily added to the school, but the situation was relieved very little. Many problems, other than lack of space, confronted the teachers, who were all women, and their trials were almost more than could be born. There was no sanitary drinking water, no sanitary toilets, firewood was scarce, and other problems too numerous to mention. Before the term was over, the staff had increased to six teachers. Classes spilled over into near-

by churches, and teachers were now struggling as best they could without desks or regular equipment.<sup>9</sup>

It was at the end of this 1931-32 session that Superintendent W. C. Mathis took charge of the school.<sup>10</sup> The sanitary problems were first attacked, and by the time school opened for the next term, improvements had been made, but water was still a terrible problem. Severe weather added another hardship for the teachers and over 200 pupils enrolled in grades one through eight.<sup>11</sup> To graduate, students were being transported to attend high school in either Longview or Gladewater.<sup>12</sup>

The school board was in the difficult situation of being forced to take immediate action of some kind, though no one knew as yet what the district was worth. No tax rolls had been approved and it was impossible to plan intelligently for this great influx of people.

It was finally decided to construct a modern brick school plant on 3.8 acres of land purchased from M. C. and Ada Satterwhite.<sup>13</sup> This was completed in February of 1933. The teaching staff and school board breathed sighs of relief as classes were formed at the start of the term, and it seemed that the beautiful two story, light-colored brick building, occupied for the first time on the 10th of February, would comfortably accommodate all of the children of the community. But their peace of mind was short lived as the enrollment continued to climb, and more teachers were added. Public

school music was taught, as well as homemaking for the girls, and industrial education to the boys. At this time some four hundred children were attending, and taught by thirteen teachers.<sup>14</sup> But, by 1933, this East Texas community was fast outgrowing even the wildest of dreams, and new families continued to pour into White Oak, which was proving a very rich part of the oil fields.

By 1934, work consisting of eight rooms and a gymnasium had been started on an addition to the plant.<sup>15</sup> At this time grade nine was offered for the first time and as more buildings were built, grades ten and eleven were added.<sup>16</sup> During the 1935-36 session, commercial work and a science department were added, plus a strong Class-B football team was organized. Everyone rejoiced when, on June 2, 1937, twenty-seven members of the first graduating class of White Oak High School marched across the stage to receive their diplomas.<sup>17</sup>

Sports play a major part in activities at White Oak. In 1949, a \$50,000 Roughneck Stadium was dedicated on land purchased from L. E. and Essie Orms.<sup>18</sup> A new gymnasium was completed in 1952.<sup>19</sup> Max McGee, graduate of 1950, carried the White Oak tradition to the West Coast when

he played in the first Super Bowl in 1967, scoring the first touchdown in Super Bowl history.<sup>20</sup>

In 1968, a new auditorium was begun to meet the growing enrollment.<sup>21</sup> In 1975, a modern new high school, consisting of science labs, a theatre, shop, home economics department, band hall, library, choir, cafeteria and gymnasium was built, which is still in use today.<sup>22</sup>

With the fluctuation of oil revenues looming in the 1980s, the construction of a new elementary school was begun on land purchased from H. E. and Aline Bingham.<sup>23</sup> An administration building and a new middle school were accomplished during this time. The last new facility to be erected was in 1991 when a middle school gymnasium was erected, bringing the number of gyms to four.<sup>24</sup>

Academics have always played a major role at White Oak. Many honors have been won down through the years in University Interscholastic League.

Under the leadership of the present superintendent, Dr. Tim Sonnenberg, a multi-age program was instituted in 1994. Beginning as a controversial area, this program is now a shining step in the academic attraction of the

district. <sup>25</sup> Present enrollment of the White Oak ISD is 1,299.

Superintendents serving White Oak Independent School District:

W. C. Mathis	1932-1939
Lloyd Taylor	1939-1942
R. E. Anderson	1942-1948
Dana Williams	1948-1950
R. C. Fagg	1950-1958
E. B. Carrington	1958-1973
C. M. Koonce	1973-1980
Fred Gottlieb	1980-1981
Robert Proctor	1981-1993
Dr. Tim Sonnenberg	1993-1998
Jack Hale	1998-interim

The 113 year history of the White Oak Independent School District would be honored by the selection of an official Texas Historical Marker as it successfully continues serving the students of Texas.

This paper is dedicated to the class of 1937 and Dr. Tim Sonneberg.

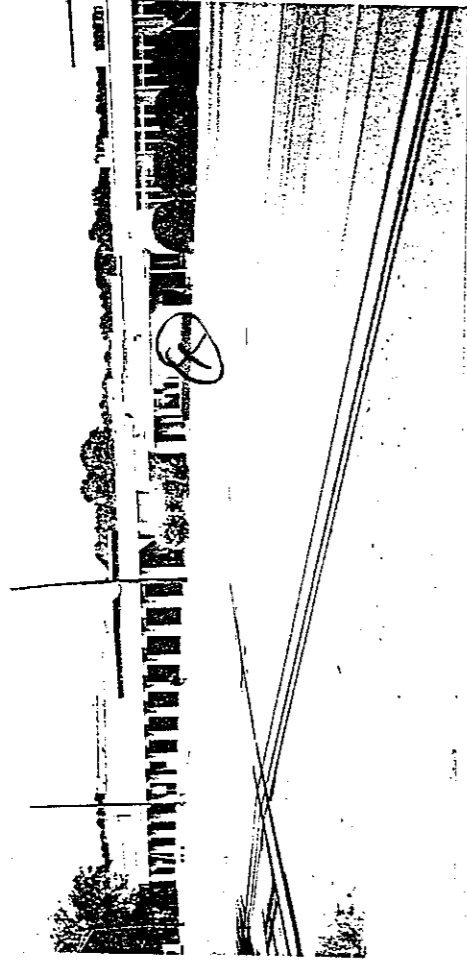
## Footnotes

1. The New Handbook of Texas, Volume 6. Austin: Texas State Association, 1996, p. 939.
2. Gregg County History. Walsworth Publishing Company. Missouri. 1957.
3. Ibid.
4. Deed Records Gregg County. Volume V, p. 569.
5. Tuttle, Nobie. Oral History. Transcript of conversation with Pastor J. A. Kirkland, October, 1981.
6. Ibid.
7. Longview Sunday News Journal. January 24, 1954.
8. Longview Morning Journal. January 27, 1966.
9. Turner, Louise Carson. Unpublished diary. 1987.
10. Ibid.
11. PTA Minutes. September 22, 1933.
12. Gregg County History. op. cit.
13. Deed Records Gregg County. Volume 207. pg. 109-110.
14. Turner. op. cit.
15. Turner. Ibid.
16. Turner. Ibid.
17. White Oak Diploma. Agnes Satterwhite. June 2, 1937.

18. Deed Records Gregg County. Volume 185, pg. 472-473.
19. Gregg County History. op. cit.
20. Smith, Joe Lee. Beneath the Towering Oil Wells: History of the White Oak Roughnecks. 1985, p. 4.
21. Cornerstone. White Oak Auditorium. 1968.
22. Cornerstone. White Oak High School. 1975.
23. Deed Records Gregg County. Volume 673, pg.59-60.
24. Cornerstone. White Oak Middle School Gymnasium.
25. White Oak Independent. June 18, 1998.

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- Cornerstone. White Oak Auditorium.
- Cornerstone. White Oak High School.
- Cornerstone. White Oak Middle School Gymnasium.
- Deed Records Gregg County. Volume V. p. 569.
- Deed Records Gregg County. Volume 207, pg. 109-110.
- Deed Records Gregg County. Volume 185, pg. 472-473.
- Deed Records Gregg County. Volume 673, pg. 59-60.
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- Longview Sunday News Journal. January 24, 1954.
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- Tuttle, Nobie. Oral History. Transcript of conversation with Pastor J.A. Kirkland. October 1981.
- White Oak Diploma. Agnes Satterwhite. June 2, 1937.
- White Oak Independent. June 18, 1998.



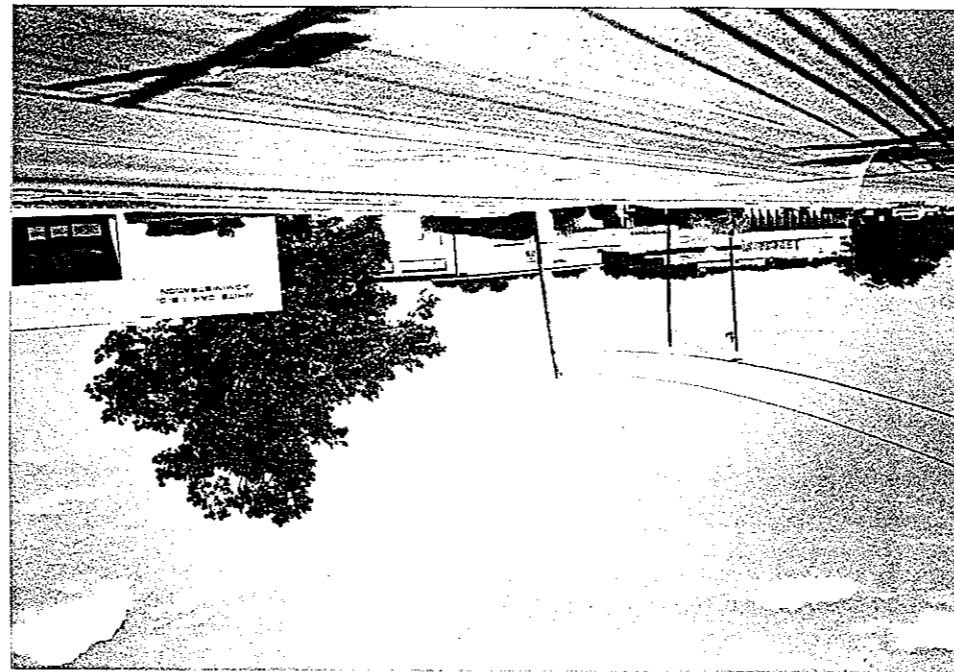
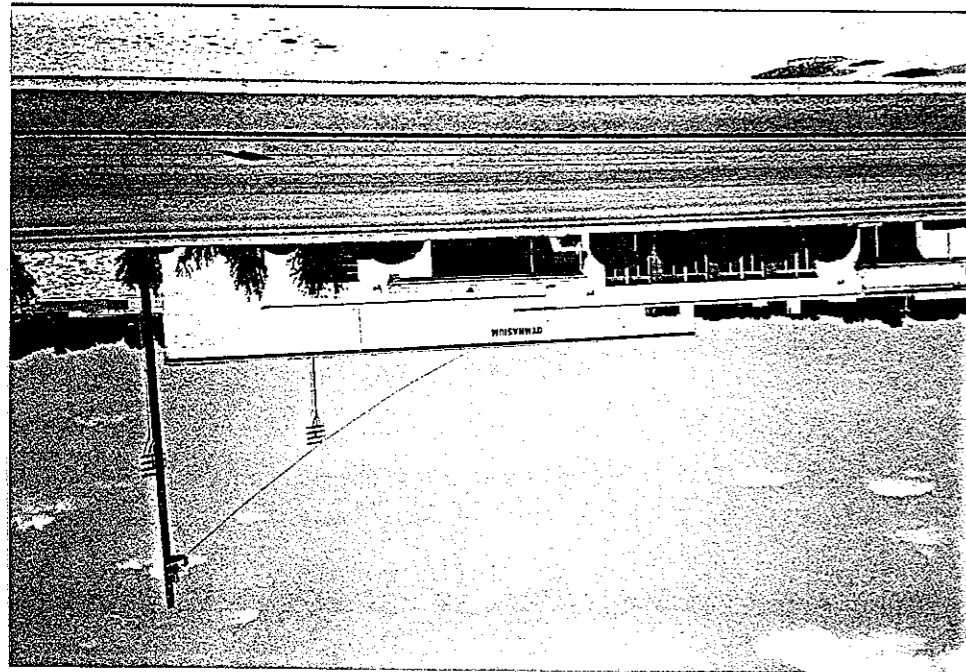
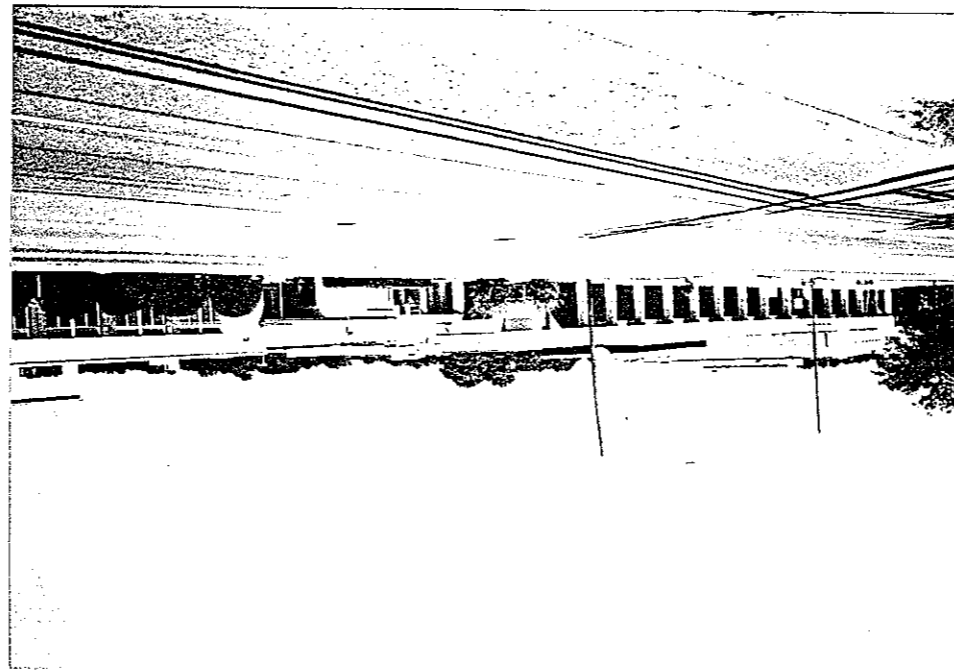
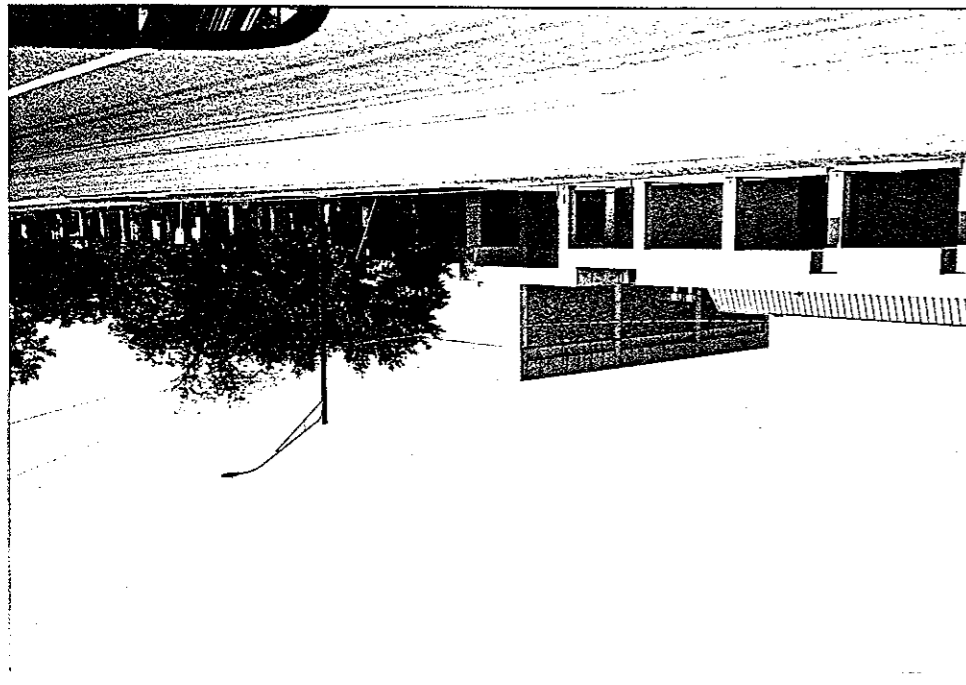
White oak High School  
White oak, Texas

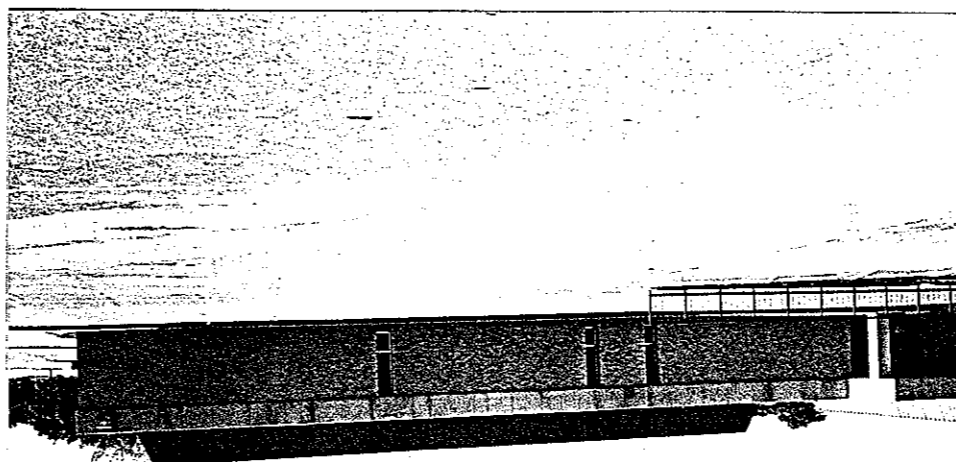
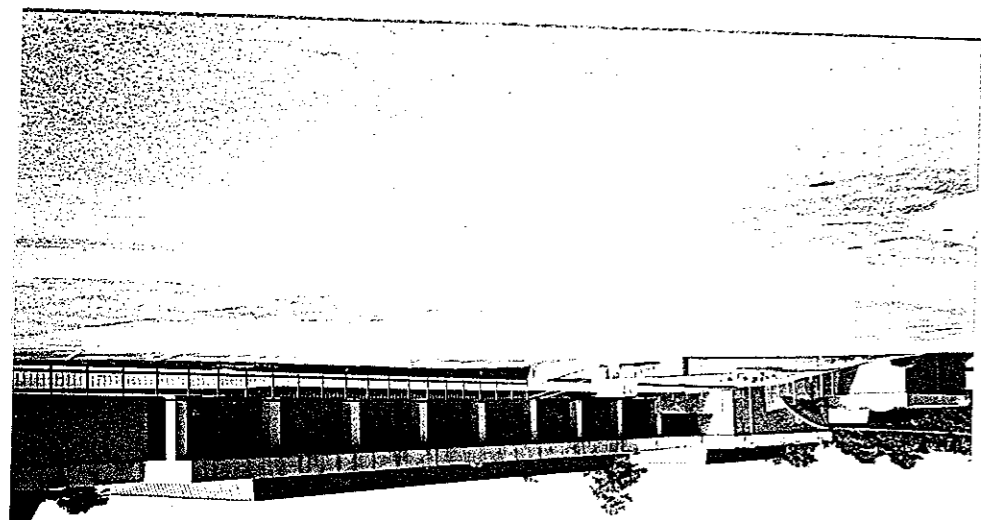
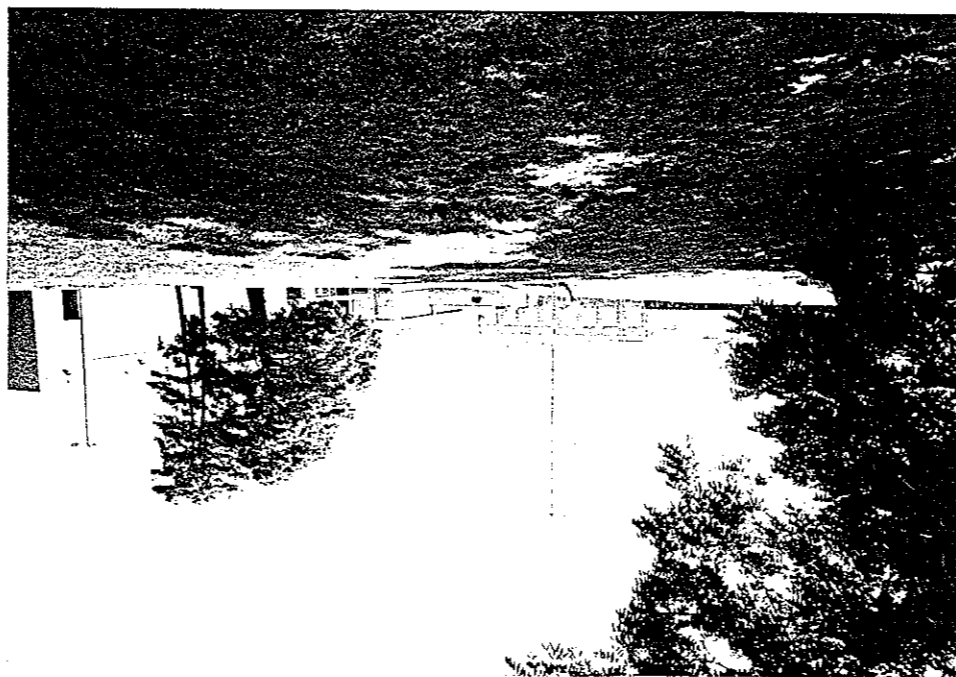
Front (West side)

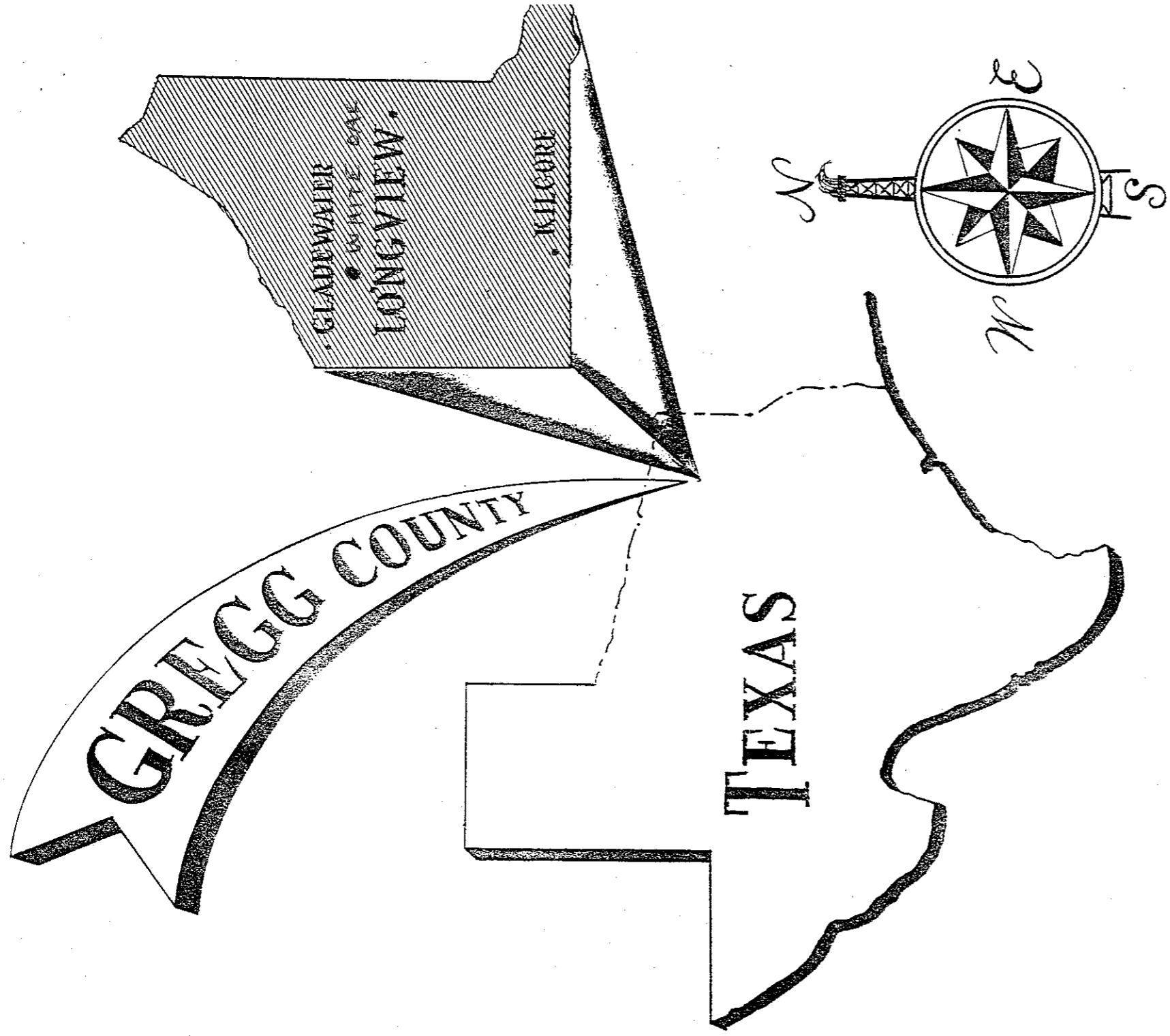
GREGG CO.

(X proposed site of  
O.T. Hist. Marker

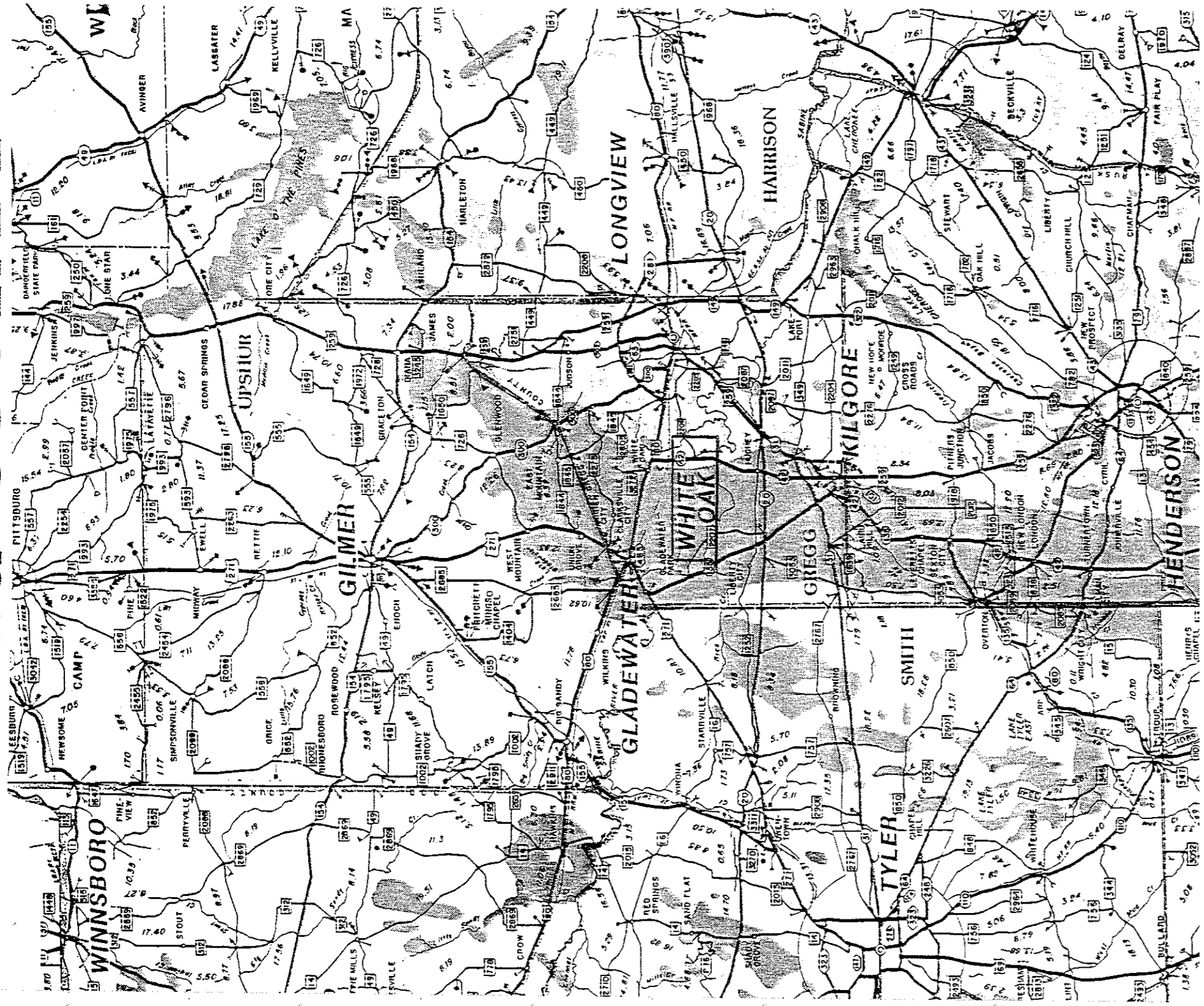
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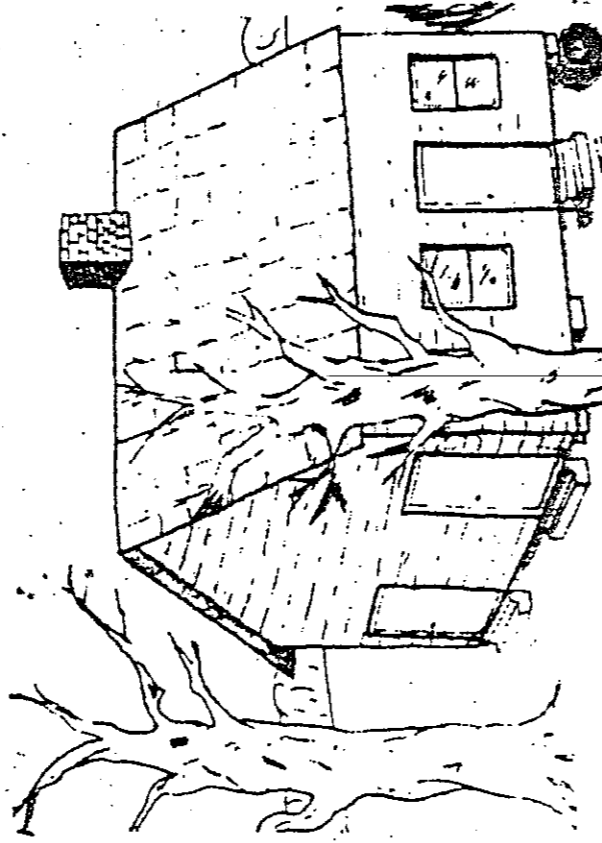
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Serving

# comr

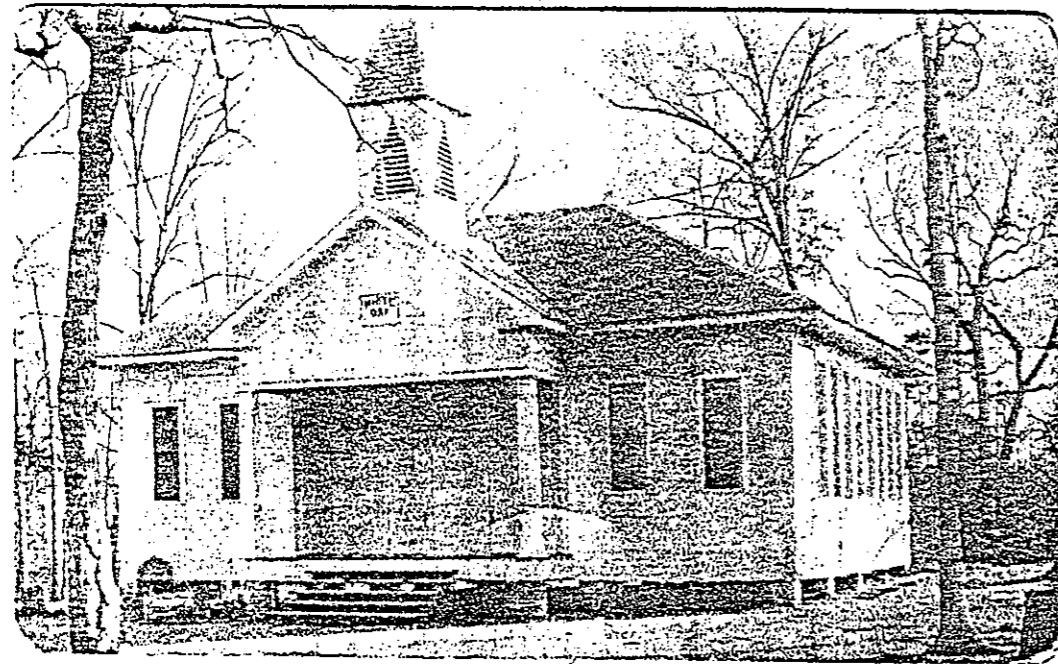
VOLUME XXIX—NO. 14 32 PAGES · 5 CENTS



### *First church, school building*

This drawing depicts the first church and school built in White Oak as described by Noble Tuttle. It shows the two white oak trees for which the community was named.

FROM FILES OF  
GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
417 Motherly Avenue  
Longview, Texas 75602  
903-757-2261



Second school built in White Oak in 1912

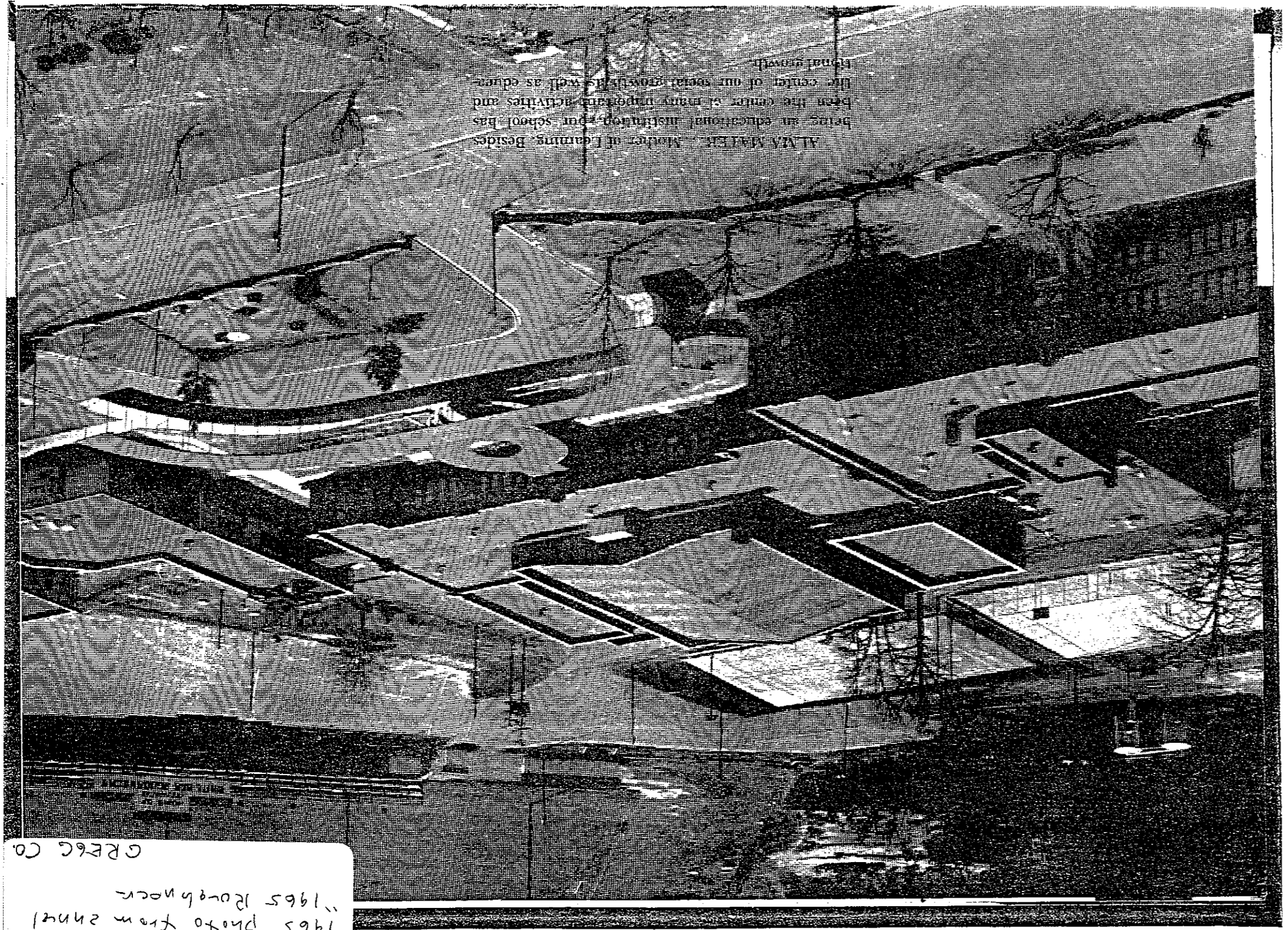
From a photograph and article in the Longview Daily News, Wednesday, September 18, 1985.  
The article states this is a photograph of a post card.

White Oak early School and Church

FROM FILES OF  
GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
417 Moberly Avenue  
Longview, Texas 75602  
903-757-2261

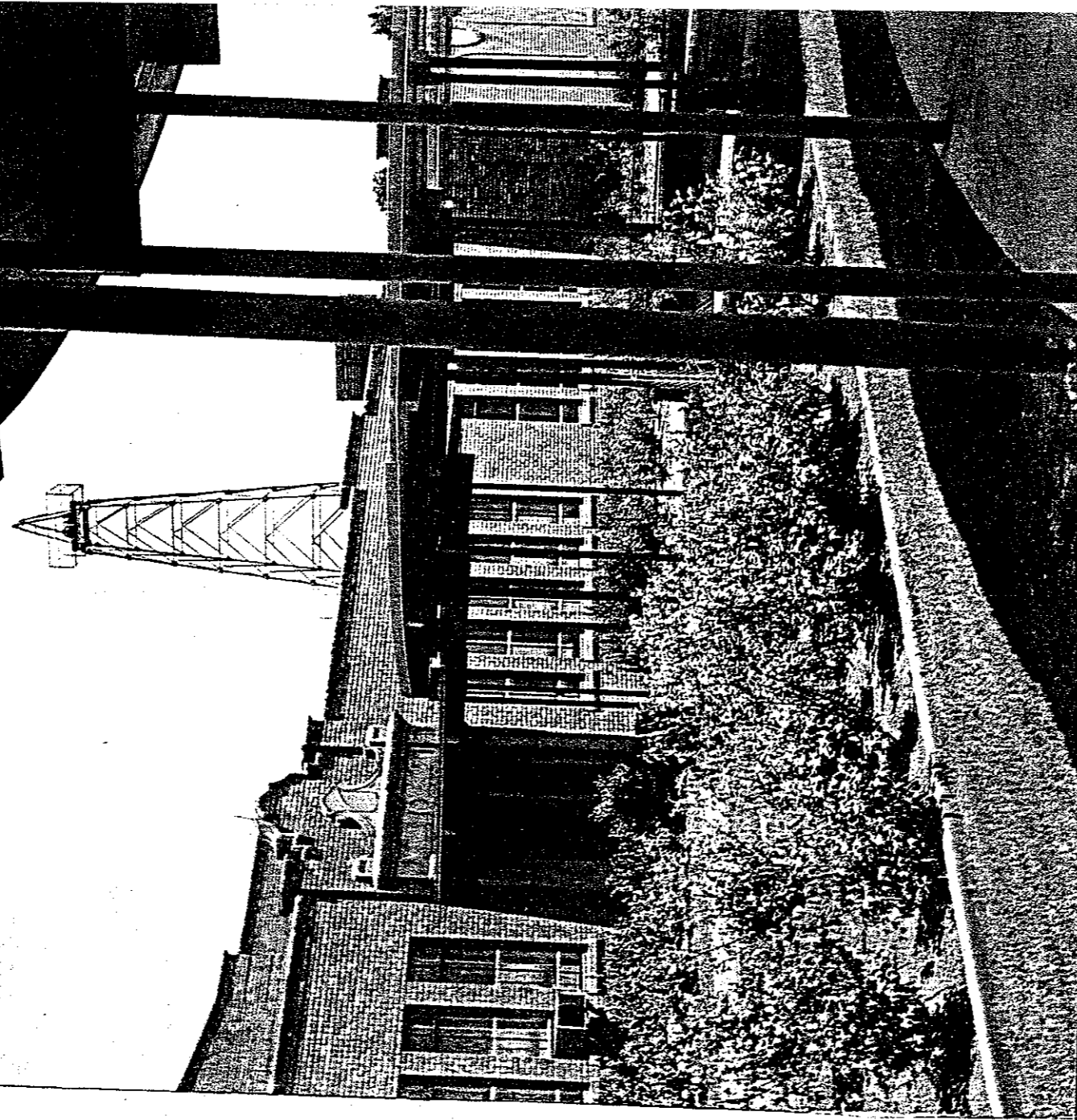
ALVA MAIER, Mother of Learning. Besides  
being an educational institution, our school has  
been the center of many important activities and  
the center of our social growth as well as educa-  
tional growth.

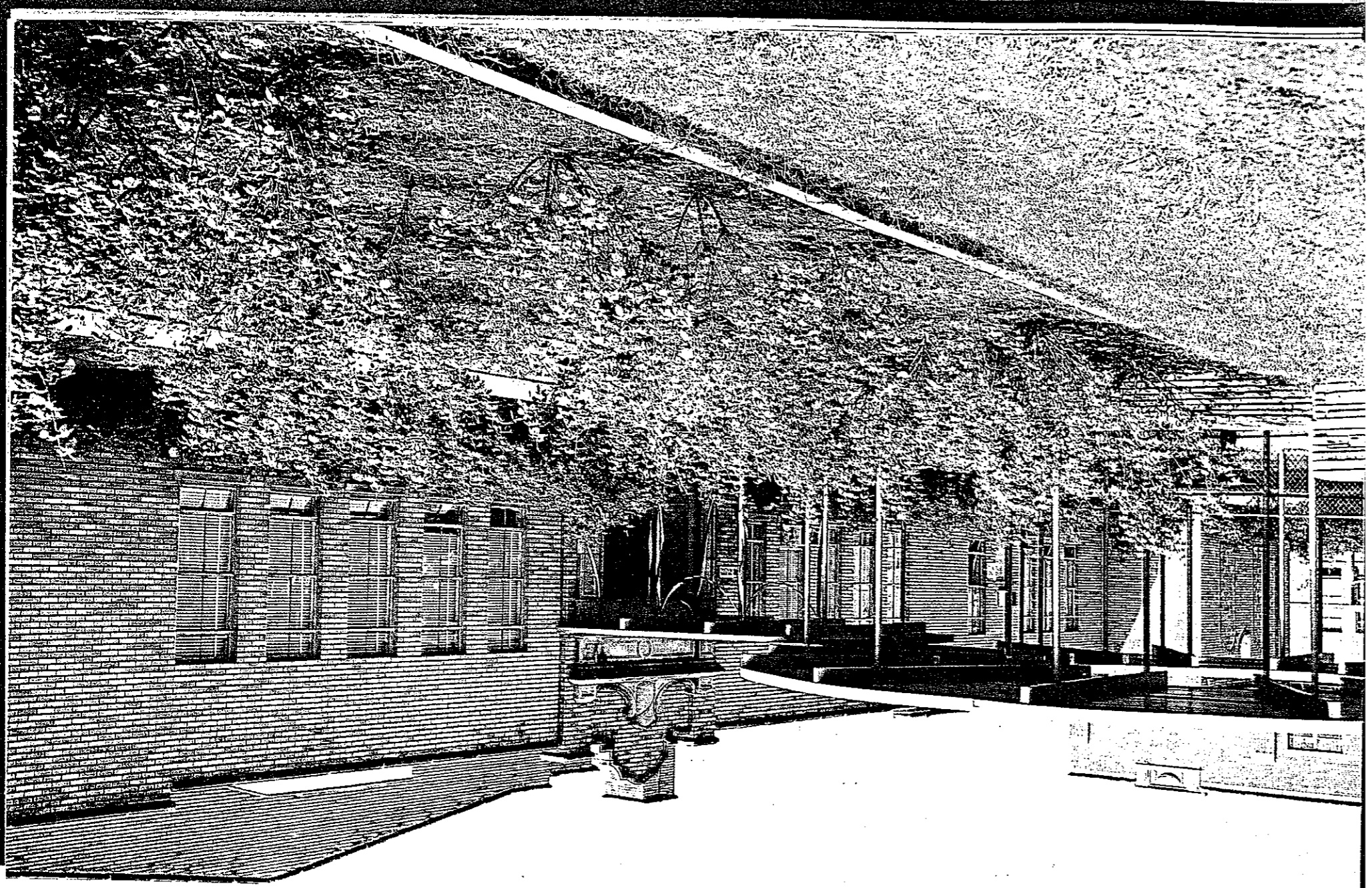
White Oak High School  
"1965 photo from sheet"  
"1965 Roughneck"  
GREGG CO.



White Oak High School  
from annual (1961 Roughneck)  
1934-1982 ("old high school")

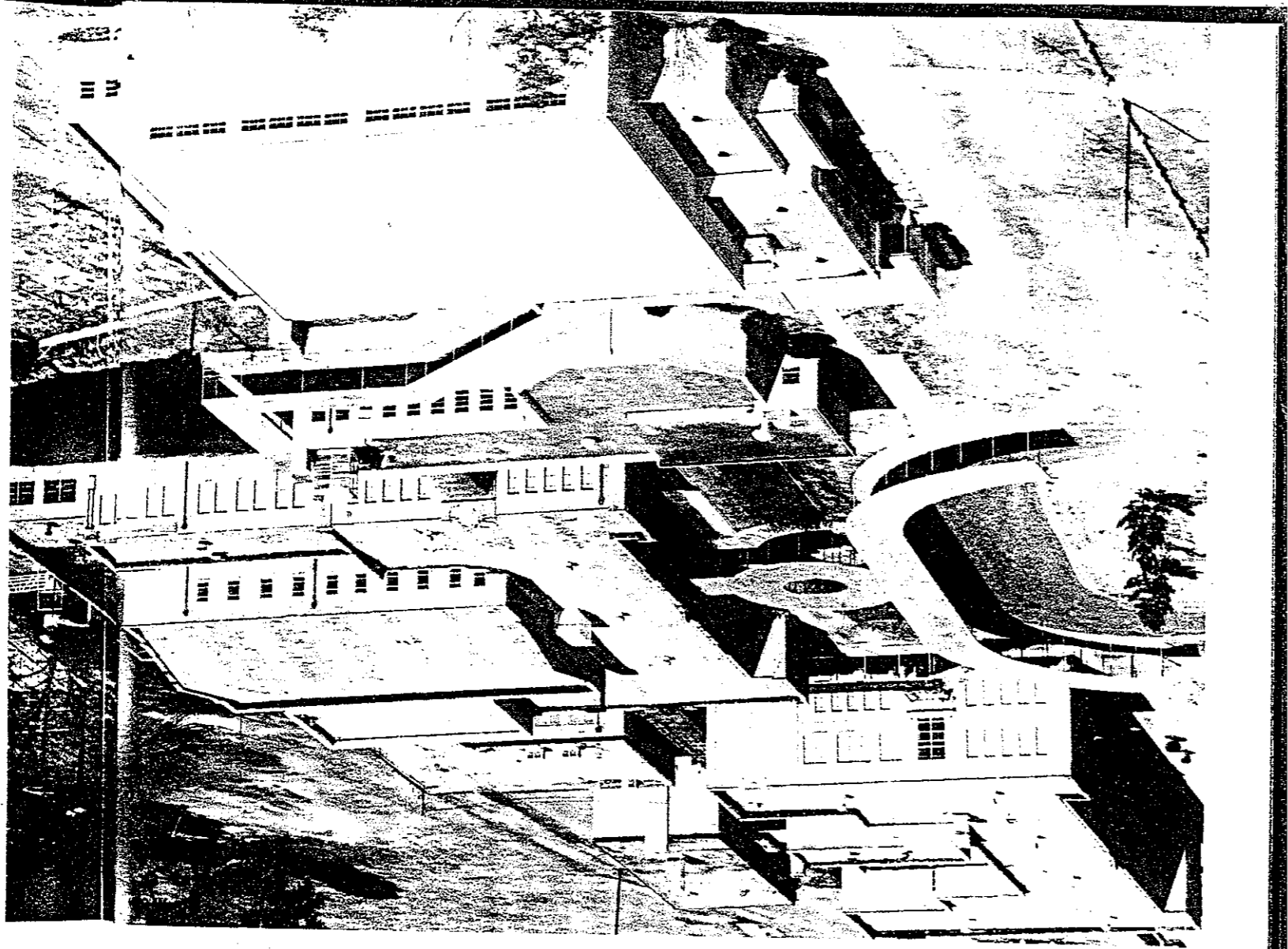
GREGG CO.



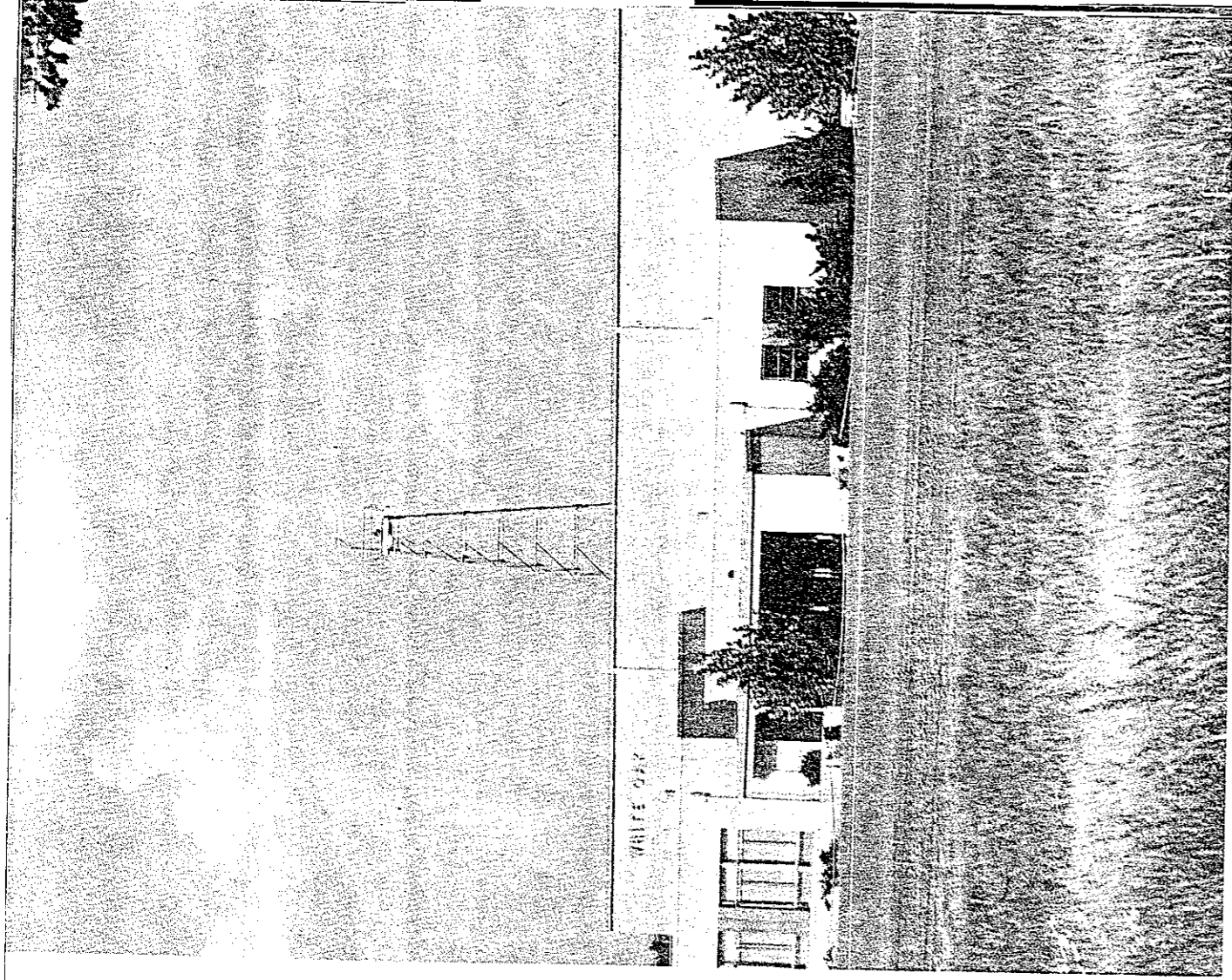


White Oak High School  
from annual (1967 Roughneck)  
11012 High School - 1934-1982

On your part of your meet friends and grow to your school guide you, complete s All the year junior high that will so memories. few of these serious day For you, the important d problem or catastrophe you forgot game you maybe any dilemmas t of White O As you turn your annual collection you be, or



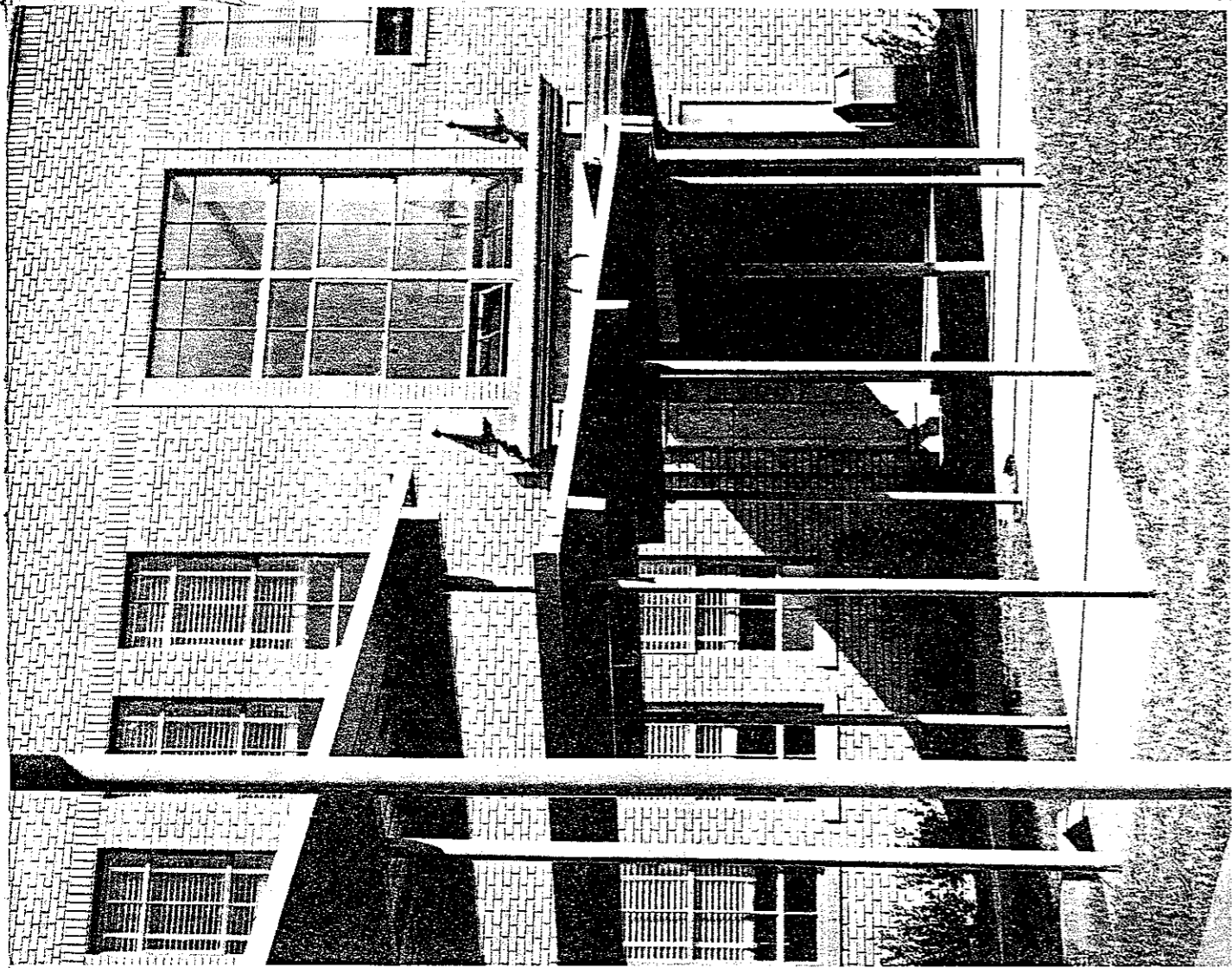
1952 photo from annual (1966 Roughneck)



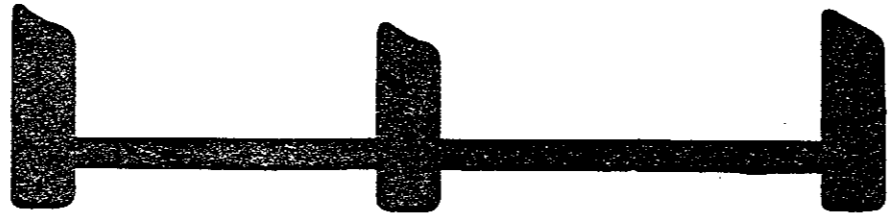
*athletics*

White Oak High School  
Photo from annual 1962  
(White Oak Roughneck)

GREGG CO.

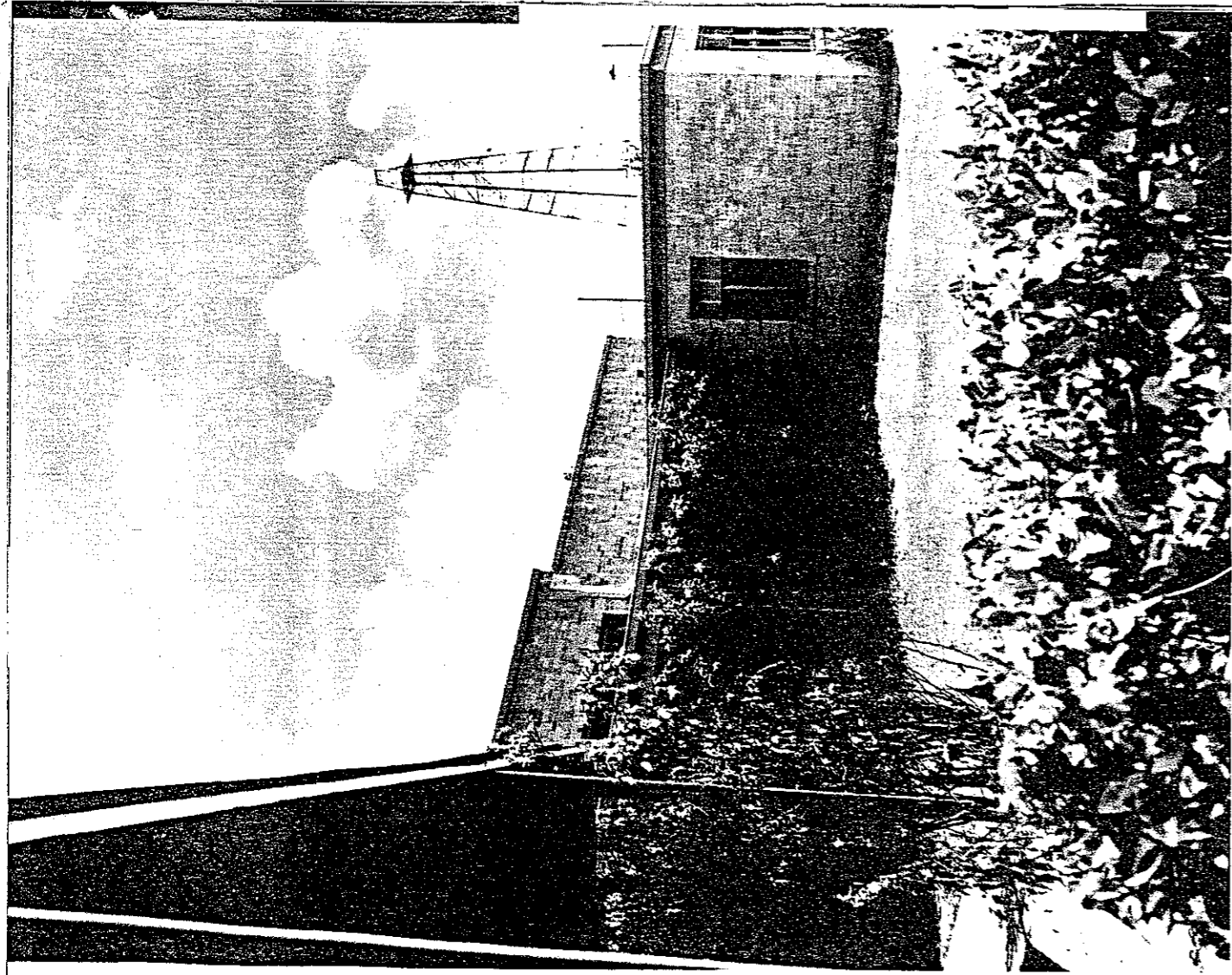


*lementary*



White Oak High School  
photo from annual (white  
Oak Roughneck - 1962)

GREGG CO.



GREGG CO.

White Oak High School  
photo from annual (1962  
(Rough neck)  
Home Economic & Gymnasium  
- Much the same as in 1998.

ctivities



## WO exes return home for 100th anniversary

First in a series

By **ROY LINSON**  
Business Editor

**WHITE OAK** — This weekend former White Oak students, teachers, administrators and employees will be returning to the campus to mark the school district's 100th anniversary.

The exes, along with today's students and school personnel, will be celebrating a spirit of tradition that has remained an integral part of White Oak from its 1880s beginning as a farming and saw mill community, through the East Texas Oil Boom era when wells dotted the landscape. The tradition continues today as White Oak takes its place as one of East Texas' fastest growing cities.

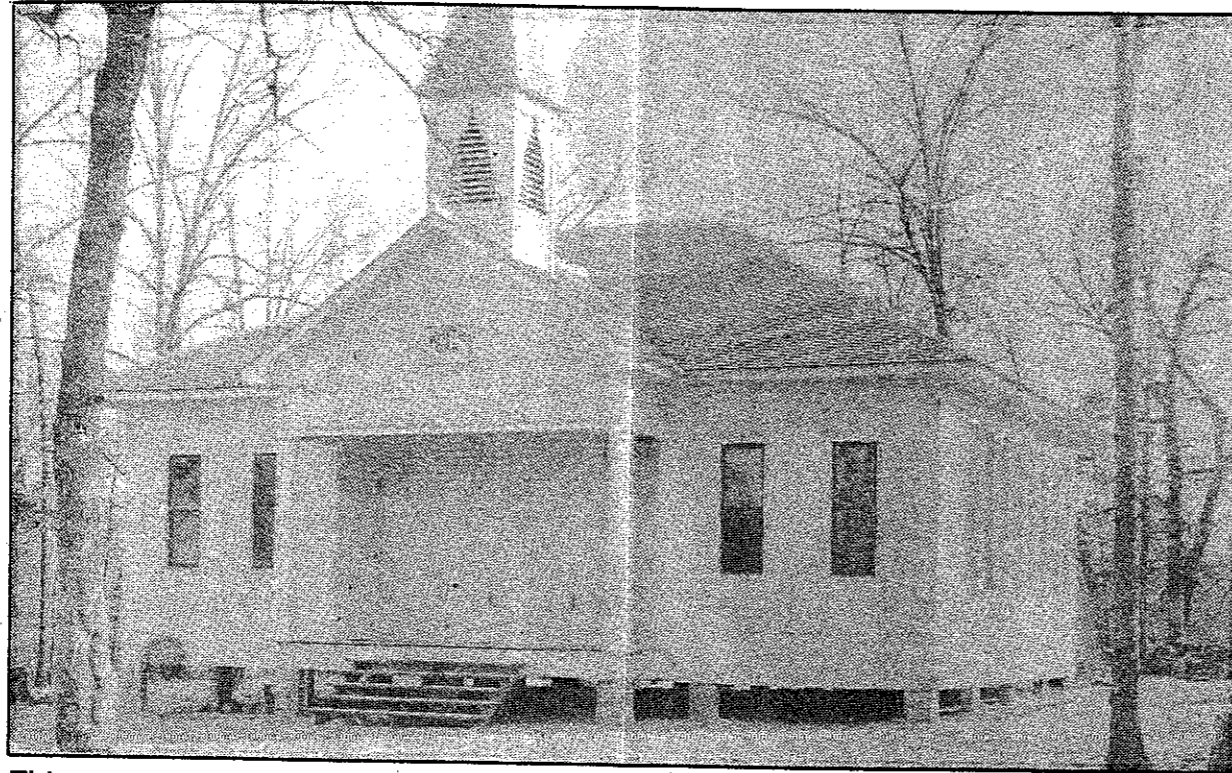
Tradition is hard to define, according to White Oak Ex Joe Lee Smith, the author of a recently published book, "Beneath The Towering Oil Wells — A History of The White Oak Roughnecks."

Smith, who serves in the public relations department at Lamar University in Beaumont, wrote, "Each school has spirit, to a limit. Each school has pride, to a limit. Each school has community support and other intangibles, to a limit."

"The difference, it appears, between White Oak and most schools is a combination of the ingredients with the longevity of practices and beliefs handed down. Few have experienced the type of tradition that exists at White Oak. Few of the thousands associated with White Oak's schools can probably adequately explain the tradition."

"After all, it is difficult to describe the special feelings for teammates, classmates, coaches and teachers; or why strong feelings remain ingrained long after departure from the community; or why chills may flow through the body 25 years later when the Alma Mater is heard."

"The significance of White Oak's achievements is not only the array of impressive feats, but the consistency of those accomplishments for such an extended time frame."



This postcard shows the second school built in White Oak in 1912.

Although it may be difficult to explain the tradition, it's not difficult to trace the history that led to many of the White Oak ISD traditions.

Over the years, school officials, including Superintendent Robert Proctor and journalism instructor Vera Porter who compiled a pamphlet "The White Oak Story," have carefully preserved many old records, photographs and other mementos that detail the school's growth from a one-room school near Hawkins Creek in the 1880s. Many of these are on display at various locations in the White Oak school complex.

When the doors of the 20-by-30-foot school opened, Will M. Dunagan became the first White Oak teacher. The 20 pupils attended school from Oct. 1 to March 22 and spent the rest of their time helping on their families' farms.

Dunagan's teaching certificate, dated 1886, hangs in a place of honor in the WOISD Administration Building and many of his descendants, including his great-granddaughter 3½-year-old Lauren Bedsole either still live in White Oak or have been associated with the school.

By 1897 the district's population was growing and another room was added and another teacher was hired. The growth continued at a steady pace until January 1931 when Gregg County's first oil well came in and changed White Oak and East Texas forever.

In the fall of 1930 the White Oak school had two teachers and 50 pupils. However by the next year the influx of oil field workers created the need for more schools and more teachers. Overflow classes moved in the community's only church until October 1932 when work began on a modern brick building with 10 classrooms and an auditorium.

By 1933 the Oil Boom was in full swing and White Oak had 13 classroom teachers, a music teacher and approximately 400 students. Shiloh school was built in 1933 for the area's black students and opened for the 1933-34 school year with four teachers.

White Oak became so identified with the oil industry that in September 1949 when the district's new stadium was dedicated, one of White Oak's most enduring traditions — that of the spirit of the oilfield Roughneck began.

"Whereas, the citizenship of White Oak Community is composed largely of people closely connected with the oil industry and whereas the roughneck is an integral part of the oilfield life and symbolizes the rugged and dauntless spirit of its people...therefore, be it resolved that in honor of the roughneck...this field shall hereafter be named Roughneck Stadium."

The White Oak story begins back in the early 1880s when T.J. Tuttle and J.E. (Uncle Bee) Shelton built a small frame building for the area children. When that structure burned in 1885, the two set to work with the aid of volunteers, to build another school.

Pleas Harris and Kaleb Bumpus donated a plot of land near a spring between two White Oak sapling trees. When the work was done, Bumpus, who had served as foreman of the job, suggested that the school be named White Oak because of the two trees outside the door.





TEXAS  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION

George W. Bush • Governor  
John L. Nau, III • Chairman  
Curtis Tunnell • Executive Director

*The State Agency for Historic Preservation*

**Date:** October 15, 1998

**Re:** White Oak Independent School District      **Gregg County**

Thank you for your application to the Texas Historical Commission for an Official Texas Historical Marker. It has been received in the History Programs Division office, and we look forward to working with you on this project. Please refer to your guidelines and application booklet for information on the application process, but if you have any questions, don't hesitate to call us.

In making a preliminary review of the application, we may have noticed some missing components. If a list of one or more items appears in the space below, we would ask that you submit these items as soon as possible. That will allow us to make a more thorough evaluation when your application comes up for review in approximately 60-90 days. In order to be fair to all the marker applicants, we review the applications in the order in which they are received.

Here is what we need to complete your application packet:

**Your packet appears complete. Thank you!**

**Comments:**

Thank you for your interest in preserving Texas' heritage. If you have questions at any point throughout the process, please do not hesitate to call our office at 512/463-5853. We look forward to working with you.

Cynthia Beeman, Director  
Local History Programs  
512/463-5854  
cynthia.beeman@thc.state.tx.us

Emily Bell  
Historian  
512/463-8769  
emily.bell@thc.state.tx.us

Egina Reyes  
Office Manager  
512/463-5853  
egina.reyes@thc.state.tx.us

HISTORY PROGRAMS DIVISION

## WO school board discusses roofing needs of campus sites

Board members discussed different options in regards to roofing existing buildings on the campus of White Oak ISD during Monday night's regular monthly meeting of school trustees.

Jeff Potter, an architect with Harrison, Walker and Harper, offered two different plans of attack when trustees eventually move forward with reconstructing various roofs that have leaks.

The first option is to re-roof the existing buildings and secure 20-

year warranties with the work. Option two, though more expensive, calls for metal sheets to be placed atop the present structure. This, however, could cause cosmetic problems.

Trustees voted to unanimously contribute \$1,250 to help city officials produce a brochure that highlights the many advantages White Oak has to offer. These brochures are given out to prospective new businesses and residents new to the community.

James Oliver gave a presentation regarding White Oak ISD receiving a historical marker. Trustees agreed to contribute \$200 to the cause. It costs \$650 to receive such a marker. Tentative plans to erect the marker are set for early spring of 1999.

Board members also voted to nominate Jackie Don Carpenter to serve on the Appraisal Review Board of the Gregg County Appraisal District. Carpenter is one

**See BOARD, page 8**