

Jerry McKelvy's
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CAROLINA CHURCH



The old Carolina Methodist Church building still stands in a remote area of Nevada County which was once part of Ouachita County. The church dates back to about the time Nevada County was created. Much of the information about the early days comes from the family Bible of John and Nancy Shell who were charter members. The name Carolina comes from North Carolina, the home state of John Shell. John Shell and Americus Shell, his wife deeded three acres of land to James Blake, John Wylie, Mallard Pipkin, W. D. Simpson, W. Marsh, W. H. Potter, and P. Simpson “to build thereon a house or place of worship for the use of the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church South”. That deed was dated January 15, 1870. W. C. Hatley and his wife also deeded two acres to the same men on the same date. A sign on the front of the church says it was established in 1868. Perhaps the building was constructed a few years before the property was officially transferred by deed.

Two acres just east of the church property were deeded July 31, 1873 to W. E. Hatley, A. P. Greer, W. J. Blake, P. B. Jones, and Wm. Marsh for the Caney Academy and School.

The church is located on what was once the Old Washington road connecting Camden and Washington. The pews inside the church were made from knot-free virgin pine timber, but these were removed several years ago. A divider separated the pews with women sitting on one side and men on the other. There is nothing inside the building today. Even the pulpit has been removed. The church building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places

For many years a reunion or homecoming was held at the church building once each year with a “dinner on the ground”. A rocking chair was given to the oldest lady present compliments of Stewart Furniture Store in Prescott.

There is no cemetery at the church site. The cemetery for that community is located about three miles to the east and is known as White Church Cemetery.

The community near Carolina Church was once called Caney and is shown on the 1865 map of Ouachita County. Marsh’s store was the center of the community and was also the post office.

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Some of the early families who settled in this area include the Maddens, Hatleys, Shells, Mendenhalls, Gladdens, Blakes, and Youngs.

The church building was restored in 1977. Recently a new metal roof was installed and plans are to give the building a new coat of paint which is badly needed. It is well worth a visit to Carolina to see the church building although the road can get slick in wet weather. Visitors would also need to be careful about wasps during the summer months. The church yard was once bush-hogged each year, but in the last year or two, it has not been done.

As I said, it is in a very remote area with no homes nearby. The location is on County Rd. 10 about one half mile east of Rd. 47. Turn east on a dim road at the intersection where Rd. 10 leaves Rd. 47.

Some information for this article comes from:

The Little Brown Church in the Wildwood by Betty Meeks and published in the *Nevada County Picayune* July 8, 1976

An article from the Nevada County Depot & Museum by Peggy Lloyd published in the *Nevada County Picayune* March 17, 2004

The church is now under the care of the Nevada County Depot & Museum.

Here are a few pictures of Carolina church taken in the last few years:



Carolina Church in 2012
(Photo taken by Charlotte Woody)

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Carolina Church in 2013



Carolina Church in 2015



Carolina Church – July, 2016

Rainfall Record

January – 4.7 inches February – 6.5 inches March – 12.7 inches April – 6.4 inches
May – 1.3 inches June – 2.3 inches

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Inside view of Carolina Church



Windows with wooden shutters. You can see where pews were attached to the wall.



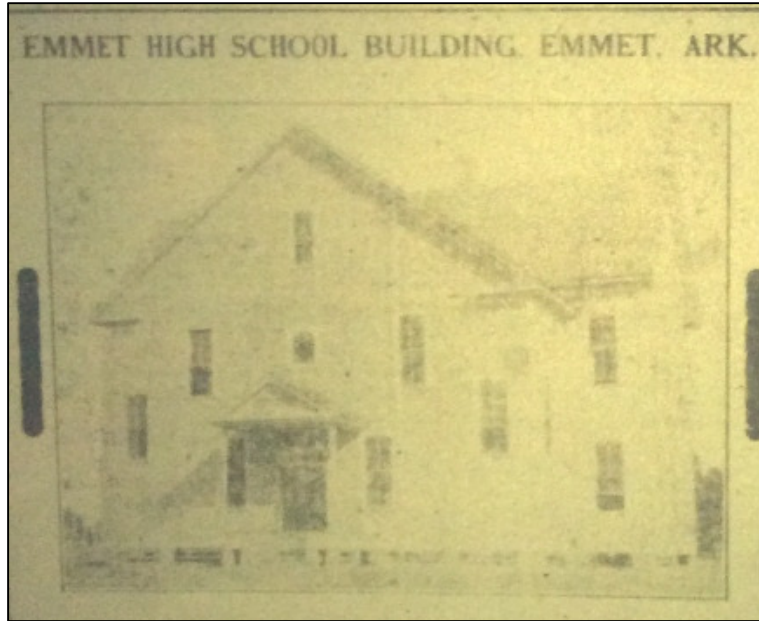
Foundation stones at Carolina Church



WHAT IS IT?

This tool is about 8 inches long. Send me your guess and I'll have the answer in the next issue.

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This picture was taken from microfilm so it's not too good, but this gives you an idea of what The Emmet High School looked like in 1908. Photo from the July 22, 1908 issue of *The Daily Picayune*.

100 YEARS AGO (JULY, 1916) (from the files of The Nevada News)

The Nevada News sponsored a contest with the prize being two round trip tickets for Confederate veterans to attend the Confederate Reunion in Birmingham, Alabama. All Confederate veterans in the county were eligible if they filled out the form printed in the paper. The one who received the most votes won the prize.

AN UNUSUAL CONTEST

An unusual contest was held in 1919 by Nelson Jewelry Co. in Prescott. A clock was placed in the store window with the names of all eleven Prescott High School graduates on the clock dial. The clock was then wound. The winner would be the student whose name was nearest the hand on the clock when it stopped. If the winner was a girl, she would receive a gold photo locket. If the winner was a boy, he would receive a gold knife.

JAMES LESLIE FRANKLIN JR. APRIL 5, 1928 – JULY 12, 2016

J. L. Franklin, well known in the Bluff City area, passed away July 12, 2016 at the age of 88. He worked for many years at the state nursery. He was living in Little Rock, but frequently returned to his old home place to hunt. A memorial service was held July 15 at the Bluff City Church of Christ with a large number of friends and relatives attending.

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THE FLYING JENNY

We had the usual amusements most folks had when I was growing up. We had a rope swing hanging from the tree in the yard that was well used. We took our toy trucks and graders out in the yard and built roads in the sand, hauled dirt, or whatever our imagination might lead us to do. We had lots of fun with our Tom Walkers or what some folks call stilts. We had our bicycles to ride, pitched horse shoes, and even played croquet. We also had indoor toys like tinker toys, erector sets, and board games like Chinese checkers and one I liked called Wahoo. Then TV came along and spoiled all the fun.

One of the outdoor games we had for a short time was the flying jenny. It was similar to a see-saw, but went around in circles like a merry-go-round and was tilted so the person on the low end could push with their feet to make it go around. At that point, the person on the other end would be high in the air.

The board on our flying jenny was fastened to an old truck axle stuck in the ground (in concrete, I think). The other end stuck up out of the ground and a wide board was fastened to the wheel hub. Round and round we went on our flying jenny. We thought it was a lot more fun than just a regular see-saw, but as I said, we didn't keep this around too long because it was decided by our parents that it was too dangerous. If someone had fallen off the thing while it was in motion they could have easily been hit in the head by the board as it came around. It was fun while it lasted, but I think it was probably a wise decision to get rid of it for that reason.

Sometimes I wonder how we ever made it to adulthood. We were always doing things for fun back then that kids these days wouldn't think about doing. We ran around barefoot in the summer, but we soon learned to avoid the bull nettles, the grass burrs, and to watch for snakes. We had the usual scrapes and scratches that most kids had in those days. Bottles of merthiolate and mercurochrome were always in the medicine chest. We hated the merthiolate because it burned when it was applied to an injury.

We climbed trees, rode over small saplings like riding a horse, and generally made our own fun out of whatever was available. We even ate the kernels from the bull nettle vines. I guess the Good Lord was looking out for us, at least most of the time. I never broke a bone or had any serious injury. My younger brother did get bit by a copperhead once and stayed overnight in the hospital in Prescott until it was decided the snake didn't really inject much venom. He also swallowed a penny one time and I remember seeing the penny in his stomach at the doctor's office when they used a fluoroscope on him. I still have a scar on my foot where a nail went completely through my foot at the base of my toes when I pried a board off the side of the barn. It hurt for a few days, but I didn't even go the doctor or get a tetanus shot. I guess we didn't know about them back then.

Times have changed. Boys these days had rather sit inside playing a video game than doing stuff like we enjoyed back in the old days. I still see a few boys playing basketball now and then, but

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I don't see many kids riding bicycles. There is too much electronic stuff to keep them occupied. They had rather play with their smart phones instead of doing some of the good old fun stuff like we once did, and if they are not careful, will end up with diabetes at a young age from being overweight and not getting enough exercise.

Just think what kids are missing these days. We had BB guns, cap pistols, yo-yos, a slinky, rubber-tipped bow and arrows, jacks, erector sets, tops to spin, a collection of comic books, and many more. We played games like tic-tac-toe, hangman's noose, and other puzzle games. I even remember having a board game based on the old "What's My Line" game show on TV. When TV came along, we sent off for our "magic drawing screen" to stick on the TV screen so we could draw on the TV screen during the Winky Dink and You show. We all watched the Mickey Mouse Club and practically every boy in America fell in love with Annette.

I have a book called "The Way to Play" which has instructions for more than 2000 games and pastimes. I've never heard of most of them. I've got another book called "Just for Fun" which is about two inches thick and is filled with all kinds of indoor games to play and most of them are educational in nature.

As the old saying goes, "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy". We all need some recreation from time to time, even adults. Some have added a second line to that old saying, "All play and no work makes Jack a mere toy".



THE LITTLE GRAND CANYON

Some folks living within ten miles of this beautiful work of nature have never seen it in person. It is part of the spillway on Lower White Oak Lake about three miles east of Bluff City.

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CODES FOR THE ELDERLY

Police officers use the 10 codes when talking on the radio and some of us remember when we used them when talking on our CB radios. It is a system to get a message across to another person without tying up the air waves. The code 10-20 means what is your location? The code 10-4 means OK or I understand. There is a long list of these 10 codes to cover just about any situation.

I was thinking a system like this might be useful for some of the older people who like to talk on the telephone and end up spending thirty minutes telling each other about all the ailments they have. All you would have to do is come up with a list of codes to keep by the phone such as this:

- 1.-- dizzy
- 2.-- back hurts
- 3.—sleepy
4. – tired
5. – constipated
6. – headache
7. –can't hear
8. –can't see

You get the idea. A conversation might go something like this when Ethel calls Gertrude:

Ethel—“How are you feeling today?”

Gertrude looks at her list and says —“Well, I’m #4 and I’ve got a little #6. How are you doing?”

Ethel—“I was #4, but I took a nap and I’m feeling better now.”

Gertrude—“#7”.

Ethel (speaking louder)—“I said I was #4 but took a nap”.

Gertrude – “Prunes are good for that”.

Ethel (speaking louder, realizing that Gertrude can’t hear well) – “I called you earlier but you didn’t answer”.

Gertrude—“That’s because of #7.”

Ethel – “Maybe you should get a hearing aid”.

Gertrude—“#7”.

Or they could make it even simpler:

Ethel – “How are you feeling today?”

Gertrude—“#1, #3, and #7”

Ethel – “Well, I’m #2 and #5”

Gertrude—“Hope you get better. I’m going to hang up now. I’m #3”.