

This report is by Lorene Gentry Pirkle. It is simply memories that she has of Coppel as she was growing up.

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N

Louisville

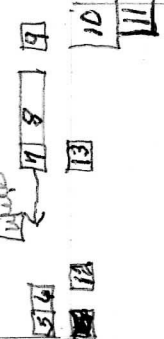
121

W

1. Bapt Ch.
2. Tabernacle
3. Coppel School
4. Methodist Ch.
5. A Service Sta
6. Barber Shop
7. Harrison State Bldg.
8. Bill King Hotel
9. Bank Bldg
10. 2 Story Store Bldg.
11. Pharmacy & Dr
12. Bureau of Office
13. Service Sta
14. blacksmith shop
15. well

#

well



well

well

well

well

well

R. R.

Baptist Church organized
8/29/1896 - no record when
1st bldg was built, and
Bldg built in 1947
dedicated

5

1
The first cotton gin was located west of Minyard's property. I believe that it was closed a few years before Sam McFall built the one on Cypress Road between Bethel Rd and the railroad track. That gin was built in the ^{early} 30's.

The first school was a 2 story building sitting back even with the old Baptist Church built in 1896. There was pasture land west of the school and tilled farm land behind it. The outdoor toilets were back against the fence. The building was a little west of the bridge across Bethel Road. The land the school sat on was a little higher than the branch so that the water curved around in front of the school. The branch just had water drainage when there was rain. The school building was 2 large rooms wide - wide enough for 3 or 4 grades in each room. The room on the east held first, second, and third grade and the room on the west held fourth, fifth, and sixth grades. In front of the 2 rooms was an entrance hall with two stairways upstairs, one on each side of the entrance hall. The entrance hall had double doors to the outside in front (north) and a single door into each of the 2 rooms. Above the 2 rooms was a single very large room. The seventh grade and only three grades of high school. The school only accommodated pupils through the tenth grade. Only the youngest

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Harrison & Children & J. J. Harrison finished high school. She went to Grapevine and got her high school diploma in 1917 when I was 2 years old.

I went to school in this building through the sixth grade. Bethel School (corner of Bethel and Moore Rd) and Gentry School (Gentry Rd which was about where Royal Lane is now crossing Beltline Rd - west of Belt Line.) were consolidated with Coppel School in the high school ^{students} were bussed to Carrollton High School beginning in 1928. I went to first school bldg built where Pinkerton school for 7th grade then to Carrollton 29, 30, 31, 32 graduated in spring of 1933. In the spring of 1933 E. C. Gentry leased the service station (#5 on map) and put in groceries and I ran the store and service station from June 1933 to May of 1934. Men could not get jobs and I couldn't either. President Roosevelt started the first help for men to earn a living. The depression was in full bloom. Men were hired to do road work for \$1 per day or if they had a wagon and team, he earned \$2 per day. The program was call F. W. A. for Public Works Association or something similar. Men did well to put their children through high school. Coppel was a very poor little community made up mostly of farmers. And farmers

3

were having a very hard time. And I married one. E.C. Gentry sold the grocery store and service station Oct. 25, 1942.

There was once a blacksmith shop I believe on the south side of the street, which was later a garage owned by Herschel Hood in the 40's. In 1934 or 35, E.C. Gentry & Duncan Harrison built a building for a grocery store and ran a grocery store there for a few years. Englishes had a store in that same building for a few years after that.

The barber shop has been in the same spot for many years. Floyd Hamwell was the town barber when I was a teenager 70 years ago. He was the barber for many years.

The widening of Coppel Road coming into Bethel Road took the land that ~~the~~ the service station and grocery store was sitting on that I ran in 1933/4 - not sure where.

My Grandpa Harrison's grocery store building sat about half way between Coppel road going north and Coppel road going south on the north side of the street.

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After Grandpa Harrison's eyesight deteriorated so he could read it, it was vacant for awhile. Later it burned while the Dickerson family had a grocery store in the building. I think this happened before my eleventh birthday. I remember the night that it burned just don't know how old I was. I was eleven Dec. 10, 1926. Grandma said that she spent the night with me the night that ~~was~~ burned and that we lived in the Hurst house. He lived in that house from Oct. 1928 to Sept. 15, 1931. I believe it burned earlier than that.

written by Lerene Pirkle
2002

What I want you to see in this picture is the road in the background. This is Moore Road between Belt Line and Hackberry in 1935. (It is now covered over by Northlake.)

