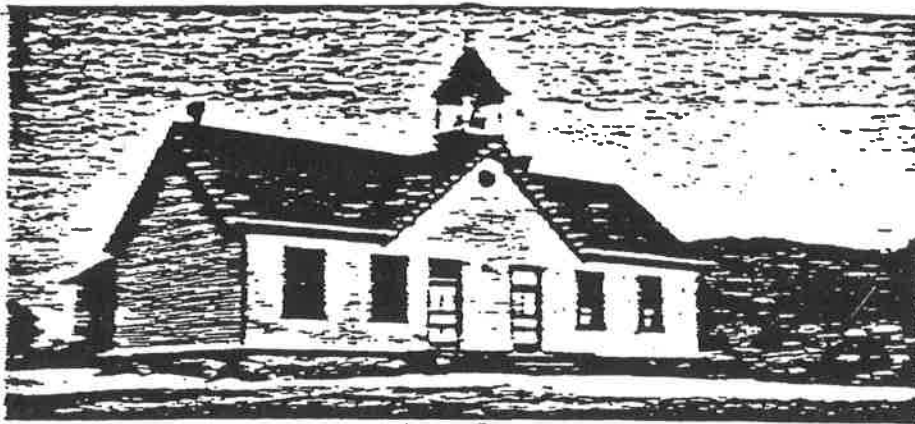


**SKAGGSTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
Corryton, Tennessee  
1961 - 1962



1898

THE FIRST SKAGGSTON SCHOOL - This 3 room school was located just below the present Skaggston School building in the Skaggston Community. This photo, belongs to Mrs. Grace Major who went to school in this building. It was made sometime between 1900 and 1910.

## HISTORY OF THE BELL AT EAST KNOX ELEMENTARY

In talking with some of the people in the community; namely, Jake Nicely, Paul Major, Mary Kennedy and Lawrence Major, we came up with the following information about the bell we have just installed at East Knox County Elementary School.

The bell was made in Ohio by the G.S. Bell Co., in Hillsboro. It has a number 28 yoke. We were unable to come up with the date it was first brought into this community; however, it was first bought for Antioch School in the 1800's. In 1902 the bell was moved to the Old Hopewell School on Rutledge Pike, which used to be across from Bob Robinson's drug store. This was a three-room school until 1904 when they added another room. Someone would ring the bell once so the children would know that within five minutes they had to be in the classroom. They would run to school, because if you were not there the second time the bell rang you would have to stay after school to make up your tardiness.

When the highway came through, they took all of the schools' playground, so they obtained 5.5 acres from the Vesser family to build Skaggston School. Skaggston was built just up behind the Old Hopewell School. In 1928 they moved the bell to Skaggston where it remained in the belfry in the attic until 1976, the bicentennial year. Mrs. Simon's class had Jim Boyer and some other men bring the bell out of the attic and install it in the Courtyard of the school, near the old well. Also, they buried a Time Capsule in the flower bed in the courtyard that year, which as of this date has not been found.

The children did not like for the bell to ring because they knew it meant they were to be in school, so one day Paul Major and another boy put two 2x4's inside the bell so it would not ring. Also, one day Bob Bozeman hid in the attic of Skaggston School and went to sleep. They could not find him until they rang the bell, which woke him up in a hurry.

In 1979 Skaggston School was closed and the bell was put in storage. It remained at Dante School in storage until last year, 1983-84, when we asked that it be brought here to East Knox to be installed.

Mr. O. H. Webster and his son, Bill, installed the bell for us and we really appreciate all the work they did.

We dedicated the bell to our school on April 12, 1985. We were very fortunate to have Mr. Jake Nicely give us first-hand information regarding the bell. Mr. and Mrs. O. H. Webster were also present and we thanked him dearly for the work he had done.

This bell is the Heritage of Skaggston Community and it means a lot to us here at East Knox Elementary School and to the community. We, as a community, want to see that the bell remains intact and that it stays here where it belongs.

I would like to thank all the people who gave information and also my mother, Ruth Webster, for collecting the information. I have truly enjoyed my work as PTA president for the last two years. It has been two long, hard years but to see results is very rewarding. Thank all of you for your help and cooperation.

Brenda Coffey, PTA President  
1983-84 1984-85

## HISTORY OF SKAGGSTON COMMUNITY

MR. PRESTON SKAGGS CAME FROM IRELAND TO CANADA IN 1820. HE CAME ON DOWN TO HOMESTEAD IN THE PRESENT DAY SKAGGSTON COMMUNITY. HE SETTLED HERE ABOUT 1845. HE OWNED WHAT IS NOW THE WHOLE COMMUNITY FROM MACANELLY RIDGE ON.

MR. PRESTON AND HIS NEIGHBORS, OTHER SETTLERS, PITCHED IN TOGETHER TO SET UP A TANNING YARD SO EVERYONE COULD DRY THEIR COW HIDES. THIS WAS PROBABLY THE FIRST COMMUNITY PROJECT. AFTER THAT A GENERAL STORE WAS ESTABLISHED, A POST OFFICE WAS ERECTED, AND MR. JIM HAL OPENED A COFFIN SHOP.

THIS COMMUNITY WAS LOCATED ON MILLERTOWN PIKE, WHICH WAS THE MAIN HIGHWAY THEN, AROUND THE SPRING.

THE STAGECOACHES RAN ALONG MILLERTOWN PIKE AND MAKE THEIR STOP AT BRICES' TAVERN, WHICH BURNT ONLY A FEW YEARS AGO.

HOPEWELL WAS THE CENTER OF ATTRACTION WHEN IT CAME TO CAMP MEETINGS. THE WHOLE COMMUNITY WOULD PACK UP AND GO TO HOPEWELL FOR THEIR REVIVAL.

WHEN THE POST OFFICE WAS MOVED, SOUTHERN RAILROAD BOUGHT

(CON'T)

THE SKAGGSTON RAILROAD WHICH WAS MOVED FROM WHERE OUR BALL  
PARK NOW STANDSTODAY ON ACROSS TO WHERE THE NEW POST OFFICE  
WAS BUILT.

WE ARE PROUD OF OUR COMMUNITY AND STILL HAVE SOME ANTIQUE  
REMINDEES. THE OLD POST OFFICE WAS REMOKLED AND IS NOW A HOUSE,  
LETTERS ARE STILL KEPT WITH THE "SKAGGSTON, TENNESSEE" POST  
MARK, AND HANDLES AND DECORATIONS FROM THE OLD\*TIME COFFINS  
ARE STILL HERE.

FROM THAT TIME AROUND 1845 SKAGGSTON COMMUNITY HAS GROWN  
AND IMPROVED GREATLY.

inch. 29<sup>th</sup> 1985



Above -  
Ruth Webster,  
quilting on a  
Churn dasher  
quilt during craft  
day at East Knox  
Elementary School

Page 10, COUNTY CHRONICLE, April 29, 1985



Sara Eastridge

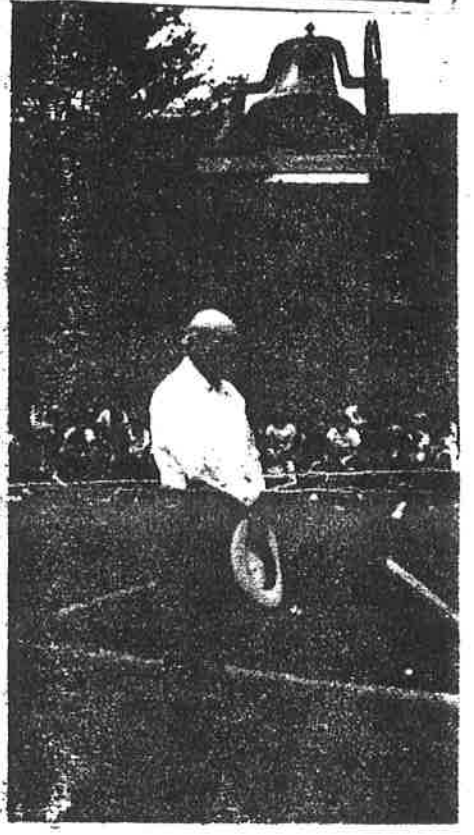
Mascot  
933-4089

In honor of Mr. Frank Gibson's 90th birthday on May 11th, there will be a birthday party in the Fellowship Hall of Mascot Methodist Church from 2-4 p.m. Everyone is invited to help Uncle Frank celebrate. Also, on May 24, Mr. and Mrs. Gibson will celebrate their 59th wedding anniversary. We hope all friends and neighbors will plan to be at the party on Saturday, May 11th.

On Friday, May 10th, the East Knox Elementary School PTA will have a Bean Supper and Fun Night/Talent Show, beginning with the Bean Supper at 6:30. The Talent Show will begin at 8:00. Admission for both is \$2.00. Chances will be sold on prizes at \$1.00 each. The prizes will include a country ham, Cabbage Patch Doll, radio-cassette, telephone, and a ball glove. We would like for you to plan to be with us that night.

On Friday, April 12, East Knox Elementary School PTA had a dedication ceremony of the bell that was at the old Skaggston School. Mr. David Wetzel, the principal, introduced the guests, Mr. and Mrs. O. H. Webster and Mr. Jake Nicely. Mrs. Brenda Coffey, PTA President, gave a brief history of the bell. Mr. Nicely spoke to the students and faculty and told how he used to ring the bell for the school. He also stated he was very happy that we have the bell back in the Skaggston Community. Mr. Wetzel rang the bell and cautioned the students to always respect the bell and remember it is a landmark for the community. It is estimated it has been around since the 1800s. Mrs. Coffey will be doing more research on the history and will be writing about it. Anyone desiring information regarding the bell may pick it up at the school after May 1st.

Below - Brenda Coffey  
reading history of Bell  
during dedication  
ceremony.



Above -  
Mr. Jake Nicely  
talking to the  
children during the  
dedication ceremony  
of the bell.