

The Lee County Legend

K E E P I N G T H E M E M O R I E S A L I V E

1922

The importance of sports in the Lee County community was especially evident even back in 1922. Baseball for all ages and the Annual Field Day for the schools were events that mattered! See these quotes taken from the Powell Valley News.

- "...There are at least 3 things that every town needs; one or more good churches, a good public school and a GOOD, BAD OR INDIFFERENT BASEBALL TEAM.....!"
- "...Get behind your team and back it up. The youngsters will enjoy it and so will you. All work and no play makes Jack and Jill a dull boy and girl."

1922—Warren Harding was president and he had the first radio installed in the White House. The US Navy finished it's first aircraft carrier, the USS Langley. My Dad wasn't born yet and my Poppaw was 32. Ava Gardner, Judy Gardner, Patricia's Mom and mine were born in 1922. 1922 seems like a long time ago.

In National Sports, the struggling American Professional Football Association became the National Football League (NFL). Morvich won the 48th Kentucky Derby. Construction began on Yankee Stadium. In other baseball news, George Sisler became the 1st American League MVP with a .421 batting average.

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE-THANK YOU POWELL VALLEY NEWS!!

In attempting to put together the history of sports in Lee County, I have found that the Powell Valley News is the best source of information for me. Since 1922, the PVN has highlighted so many interesting facts about sports. No other source has been so consistently available with countless articles about the people and events that drive me to attempt this journey. I want to give credit and thanks to the people who make up and have made up the staff of the Powell Valley News. You have done a great service for people like me. In addition, thanks to the folks at the Library in Pennington Gap, who have made it possible for me to read the old PVN copies. Your efforts to those of us who would like to preserve our history are deeply appreciated.

Many articles I do are written as they were in the original PVN and many are the basis for stories that I put together. For other stories that I get from interested folks, are proven by PVN articles. So, to you, the Powell Valley News, again, "Thank you" for being available to me, but more importantly, for being there when these things happened, for taking to time to write it down and for publishing news then that is so dear to me now. *Dave Audia January, 2015*

*** SPORTS SCENE AND ODDITIES (TO US) IN 1922 ***

Lee Baptist Institute was an accredited high school which basically meant that the students went through the 11th grade to graduate. The other schools (which gained accreditation soon after 1922) were called 3 year high schools in that the students went through 10th grade.

1922 Lee County High Schools

Blackwater High School
 Dryden High School
 Ewing High School
 Flatwoods High School
 Jonesville High School
 Pennington High School
 Rose Hill High School
 St. Charles High School
 Lee Baptist Institute

WHAT?????

On high school game days, a girl's basketball game was played then a boy's baseball game followed.

The basketball games were played on outdoor courts due to very few basketball facilities being available during those days.

All the schools including the grammar schools came together in the Spring each year an Annual Field Day activities. Activities included basketball, baseball and track and field events along with various academic and art contests such as essay, recitation, declamation and music. In 1922, Field Day was held in Jonesville.

WAS I BORN TOO LATE?

Check out this quote in an article by a PVN correspondent in May of 1922, to help drum up support for an Inter County Baseball League. Are you like me?

"....There are at least 3 things that every town needs; one or more good churches, a good public school and A GOOD, BAD OR INDIFFERENT BASEBALL TEAM....."

Another 1922 PVN Quote

...Get behind your team and back it up. The youngsters will enjoy it and so will you. All work and no play makes Jack and Jill a dull boy and girl."

Sugar Run Had a Basketball Team!!! 10 Nov 1922 PVN

The girls of Sugar Run motored to Pennington last Friday afternoon where they played a very interesting basketball game with the town team girls...The referee for Sugar Run was George Kirk while Miss Vera Young refereed the last half for the town team. The score was 5 and 18 for the town team. The line up for Sugar Run is unknown but the following is the line up for the town team.

FORWARDS: Mabel Castle and Ida Russell

CENTERS: Pauline Munsey and Rusha Crowell

GUARDS: Maude Ethel Rogers and Lora Zion

The game started at 3:15 and was played very hard by both teams throughout.

PVN—10/13/1922 Headline—P.H.S. and L.B.I. Girls Play Basket Ball

A very interesting and hotly contested basket ball game was played at Pennington High School grounds, Friday afternoon, beginning at 3:30 between the teams of Pennington High School and Lee Baptist Institute. The first goal was made by the PHS girls and many cheers were made by the outsiders and fellow students.

Miss Lynn Grabeel, of LBI, refereed the first half while Miss Belle Myers of PHS refereed the last half of the game. When the last half of the game was ended, it was reported by the score keeper as a tie. It was then decided that the two teams should play five minutes longer to untie the score. When the five minutes were up, the score was 8 and 9 in favor of PHS.

The lineups were as follows: PHS Forwards—Ida Russell and Ola Smyth, Centers: Atlee Russell and Isabelle Allison, Guards: Joanna Hobbs and Lora Zion. LBI Forwards—Golden Reasor and Myrtle Hobbs, Centers: Mae Reasor and Ruby McDermid, Guards: Joy Bales and Ina Litton.

PVN—10/13/1922 Headline—Flatwoods Baseball Team defeats Ewing

The Flatwoods School boys defeated Ewing, Saturday, October 7, by a score of 7 to 8 at Flatwoods. It was a close game all the way through. Ewing made the score 7—6 in the 7th inning and in the ninth inning, the Flatwoods boys went to bat with their famous ninth inning rally and scored two runs giving Flatwoods a victory 8—7.

Both teams played a good game of ball, which looks good for the coming Spring. Contests among the County schools. Fulkerson was batted from the box in the sixth and Fugate took the mound. Stickley, the 3rd sacker for Flatwoods made 3 hits out of 4 times to bat—one single and two doubles. Wolfe and Lamb also got a double.

Batteries—FHS: Tyler and Unthank. LCI: Fulkerson, Fugate and Thompson

AROUND LEE COUNTY*Other than Sports***Oh How Times Have Changed****11/10/1922—PVN-Important News**

Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Bondurant of St. Charles, motored through Pennington on Sunday.

Same paper—Miss Virginia Walker returned from Norton Hospital last week where she had her tonsils and adenoids removed.

FIELD DAY EXERCISES, May 1922

High School Girls Recitation Contest

Josephine Humphreys-Ewing HS—The Story of Patsy
Ida Cooper—Keeokee HS—In a Street Car
Margaret Griever-Jonesville HS-Angaline at the Seal Back
Myrtle Hobbs-Pennington HS-The Sioux Chiefs Daughter
Bernice Spencer-Flatwoods HS-Light firm Over the Range
Elizabeth Bailey-Dryden HS-The Cutting of Ham
Sallie Frank Hickam-Blackwater HS-The Mustard Plaster

The Winner—Margaret Griever

High School Boys Contest-Roland Carter

General Essay Contest-Elizabeth Young of Dryden HS

Music Contest—Ollie Grabeel

Grammar School Girls Contest-Mary Helen Frye

Grammar School Boys Contest— Freddie Frye

5/12/1922 PVN

Ball Game Saturday—Pennington vs. St. Charles

The ball game here Saturday between Pennington and St. Charles, Jesse, Pitcher for St. Charles, was wild, Pennington boys eat him up. Score 6 to 3.

5/12/1922 PVN

Sunday Ball Game— Big Stone Gap, vs. St. Charles. Young, pitcher for St. Charles shut Big Stone out. Score 8 to 0.

BASEBALL NEWS

Several leaders in Lee County were lobbying for the start of an inter-county baseball league consisting of teams representing the towns of St. Charles, Pennington Gap and Jonesville of Lee County and the towns of Norton, Appalachia, and Big Stone Gap of Wise County.

It was believed that this league would be a paying proposition for the businesses of the communities involved.

These “town teams” were made up of men from the community, along with an occasional recruit from other towns or even other states. The games were the social centers of these communities from the early 1900’s until the mid 50’s to early 60’s.

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website: www.leecountylegend.net
Let us see and hear your stories, articles and pictures!!

LEE COUNTY SCHOOLS FIELD DAY-1921/22 School Year

In spite of the inclement weather, field day exercises were observed for the High Schools and Grammar Schools of Lee County, at Jonesville, Va. On the 5th and 6th of May. The athletic events for the 5th were not played owing to wet grounds.

**LEE COUNTY GIRLS BASKETBALL CHAMPS
DRYDEN DEFEATS FLATWOODS 24-10!!!**

On the afternoon of the 6th, there was a very spirited Basket Ball game played between the teams representing Flat Woods High School and Dryden High School. The Dryden team defeated the Flat Woods Girls, by the score of 24 to 10.

**LEE COUNTY BASEBALL CHAMPS
EWING DEFEATS JONESVILLE 2-0!!!**

After the above Basket Ball Game, the long looked for game of Base Ball battle was fought out between the teams representing Jonesville High School and Ewing High School. The Ewing boys got started with a score in the early stage of the game and added another in the latter part of the game, while the Jonesville boys seemed unable to solve the benders served by TYLER, the Ewing pitcher. The Jonesville boys played a very good fielding game but was short on stick work and base running. It was a good game of base ball just the same and the score was 2 to 0 in favor of Ewing.

The Lee County Legend
444 Campground Road
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TO:

KEEPING THE MEMORIES ALIVE