

## **Limestone County High School among stories told in new book**

*Note: The following article about the history of Elkmont High School is an excerpt from the newest book available at the Limestone County Archives, Schools: Athens and Limestone County by Betty Lindsay Taylor. The fifth book meticulously researched by Taylor, this 194-page, fully-indexed book tells the story of 281 schools with fascinating historical details and 275 photographs.*

*The book is available for \$35.00 at the Limestone County Archives, Pablo's on Market, and U.G. White. All proceeds benefit the Friends of the Limestone County Archives in their efforts to promote the Archives mission of preserving and sharing Limestone County's history.*

### **Elkmont High School Limestone County High School By Betty Lindsay Taylor**

In the early history of our schools we learn that a teacher would be hired by individuals to come into their home to teach their children. Later, very small private schools were organized with one teacher.

In April 1873, W. R. Hanserd opened a full-day school in Elkmont. Normally the school hours were short as some of the children were old enough to have chores at home that had to be done. Many schools were closed during the winter months for lack of stoves to heat the rooms and the condition of roads.

A public school opened on 9 July 1883 with teacher, Mr. A. F. Evans. By 1888 there were 65-70 pupils registered for school where tuition was \$1.00 to \$3.00 per month. In January 1912 Gov. O'Neal and members of the High School Commission met in Elkmont with the idea of locating high school there. The Limestone County communities had been asked to contribute \$5,000 and five acres of land for a school and Elkmont was the only town to apply. The site for the school was east of the railroad in Elkmont.

A new building was constructed in 1912 with nearly \$10,000 contributed by the citizens of Elkmont. Other funds came from the sale of the old school and other private donations. This was a two-story brick building with the second story to be used as an auditorium. Also included were a music room, home economics room and library. The first class to graduate from this school in 1915 consisted of five young ladies and four young men. When school opened in 1925, Sen. Heflin came as guest speaker. Elkmont was the only standard junior high school in Alabama. Appointed to the County Board of Education in 1931 were Dr. C. V. Mayhall, Warren Ussery and Ira D. Warren.

In 1935 a new auditorium and elementary building was planned for Elkmont. In June 1935 all sixth-grade students were invited to participate in the county-wide graduation exercises at the Agriculture school in Athens. Those attending were Lula Beeler, Stella Cox, Robert V. Dunnivant, Jimmie Evans, Claud Huber, Mary Holt, Anna Roe Phillips, Edith Smith, Gracie Vinson, Cecil V. Warren, Jane Yarbrough and Joseph W. Warren.

In 1938 a tornado hit the school, making a part of the building unsafe. By the fall of 1939 a one-story building was completed for the misplaced students to move into. The elementary building burned in 1942 and had to be replaced and included a lunchroom, the first lunchroom for Elkmont. Other construction at the school included a vocational building in 1955; a new addition to the high school in 1962; a band room

in 1967 a new elementary school in 1968; a new lunchroom in 1972, making room for a library; a science wing added in 1989; a new lunchroom built and an elementary wing added in 1995, and a new gym built and the old one demolished in 1997.

In November 1966 Miss June Griggs was selected as queen for the first homecoming at Elkmont School. She was escorted by Steve Wales. And so began another tradition! In 2010 the student population was 1,026 and a faculty and staff of 83.

Elkmont has a large group of clubs and organizations that attract the students. They include Scholars' Bowl, Theatrical Society, Poetry Club, Christian Athletes, FFA, Beta Club, Chess Club, Science Club, Spanish Club, Yearbook and several more. The principal is Mr. Stan Davis. Elkmont School address is 25630 Evans St., Elkmont, Alabama, and is in Township 1, Range 4 and Section 29-30. School Sites placed this school at the Upper Fort Hampton Road and Veto Road at Elkmont.

**About the Archives:**

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