

Mattoon Crittenden's first consolidated school

March 1, 1929 County Board Meets

The groundwork for Crittenden's first consolidated school was created in March of 1929 when the Board of Education set up a meeting with the patrons of the various schools near Repton to discuss the matter of a school center. The meeting was to be held at the Post Oak School house.

Superintendent F. F. McDowell told The Press that many people had asked for this meeting and plans have been arranged. Everyone is urged to be present and to ask questions relative to the school.

At the meeting a proposed consolidation of schools near Repton will be discussed. The schools included are Post Oak, Seminary, Applegate, Going Spring, Moore's, Oakland and possibly others.

A modern building for this community school center would be constructed at some centrally located point. None of the schools intended for consolidation are as much as a mile from the highway, making it easy to provide modern transportation. The new school, it is said, would require only three teachers, where as six or more are now employed.

At the meeting sentiment concerning the project was almost unanimously in favor of the idea. A centrally located point would be selected and on that site a modern school building will be constructed, using for the most part, volunteer labor, which was promised at the meeting. Students would be taken to school in a motor bus provided by the county school board.

Motor transportation would be provided for the students from the districts to be consolidated. This was highly favored by the parents of the students that would be attending.

The board was asked to also provide two years high school work for

students attending the school center.

March 22, 1929. Location of New School.

At a meeting of the Crittenden County Board of Education with Fred F. McDowell, superintendent of county schools, unanimous approval was given for the consolidation of six schools near Repton. Schools to be consolidated are Post Oak, Seminary, Applegate, Going Springs, Moore's and Oakland.

The county board of education, after making a close study of the school situation around Repton and Mattoon, have definitely decided to carry out the program and have the new school ready for the coming term, provided the citizens keep their part of the agreement with regard to contributing labor.

Old school property is to be sold and the proceeds used in helping to finance the construction of a modern five-room building to be used as a school center.

Much of the labor for the building of the new school house was promised free of charge, the promises being made at a recent community meeting held at the Post Oak School house.

The location for the new consolidated school is to be near Mattoon, a central location for the schools involved in the project.

No teacher will have more than two or three grades at best.

May 17, 1929. Construction Starts

J. C. McGraw, Sullivan contractor, will start to work at once on the construction of the framework of Crittenden County's first consolidated school, which is being built near Mattoon on U. S. Highway 60.

The foundation is complete and was laid in place by volunteer labor from citizens of the six districts to be consolidat-



The New Mattoon Grade and High School 1930. The Mattoon Consolidated School, consisting of grades 1-8, plus a 2-year high school, is seen completed and ready for opening day in the fall of 1930. Also shown is the motor transportation that would be provided for the students from the closed districts. It was the first consolidated school in Crittenden County and one of the first in the state, according to Supt. F. F. McDowell.

ed. Later the people will be asked to build steps and outhouses and to beautify the grounds.

A large basement has been made and will contain a heating system, a lunch room and a home economics department. The new building will have six rooms and a large auditorium and gymnasium combined.

It is estimated that there will be between 175 and 200 pupils in attendance.

After the first year, in order to meet the needs of the enrollment, Mattoon became a four-year high school.

April of 1931. First Graduating Class.

Mattoon High School had four students to graduate. They were Frederick Brown, Mary Evalena Cook, Lee Etta Howerton and Alma Leta Nunn. This was the first graduating class from Mattoon High School. Mr. H. W. Faith was principal at this time.

Dec. 18, 1953. School destroyed by fire.

The graded school building at Mattoon was destroyed by fire yesterday, Dec. 17. The one-story frame structure contained six classrooms, an auditorium, and two offices.

The fire, of unknown origin, was discovered about 4:00 o'clock p.m., after everyone had left the building and gone to their homes at the time when the school had been dismissed for the day.

The Marion Fire Department was called to the scene of the blaze, but the fire had already gained such headway that the Department could render practically no help. All the contents of the building were also

new Mattoon school was ready for the students.

Spirit Lives On.

Mattoon school had been through many changes during its lifetime. The consolidation of more one-room schools, the removal of the high school grades to Crittenden County, then later the seventh and eighth grades being moved to the Crittenden County Middle School and the final ending with the closing of the school in the fall of 1981 as they were consolidated with the new Crittenden County Elementary School in Marion.

All our communities

hated to see the closing of their schools. It is hard on the community, parents and students to lose their neighborhood schools. It is devastating to a community when it loses its school.

But I'm sure the Spirit of Mattoon will always live in the hearts of the students that once went to school there.

(Brenda Underdown is chair of Crittenden County Historical Society and a member of Crittenden County Genealogical Society. Much more local history can be found at OurForgottenPassages.blogspot.com).

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REDUCED - Crittenden County - 25 Acres - \$425,000
Nestled in the heart of "Big River Country," this enchanting country home on sprawling acreage offers the perfect blend of comfort and opportunity. Includes a 3,720 S.F., 5 BR, 1.5BA home built in 2005 with multiple shops and sheds.

REDUCED - Crittenden County - 66.5498 Acres - \$360,000
This property offers an idyllic rural lifestyle with all the comforts of home. The 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom, 1,664-square-foot residence provides the perfect backdrop for a peaceful life.

Crittenden County - 71.46 Acres - \$232,250
Situated in an area renowned for its big bucks, this all-timber hunting tract offers an exceptional opportunity for avid hunters seeking their next trophy.

Crittenden County - 83 Acres - \$285,900
Nestled along the picturesque Piney Creek, this diverse hunting tract offers an idyllic setting for outdoor enthusiasts and wildlife aficionados alike.

Crittenden County - 115.86 Acres - \$446,000.00
Nestled in an area renowned for its big bucks, this diverse hunting tract offers an idyllic setting for both deer and turkey enthusiasts. Includes 31+/- acres of open ground throughout.

Crittenden County - 598.28 Acres - \$2,700,000.00
This stunning 2BR, 2.5BA, 2,720 S.F. home epitomizes comfortable living on a large acreage hunting tract. Includes a 3,854 S.F., 4-bay shop, complete with a bunkhouse. Located on the Ohio River.

Crittenden County - 16 Acres - \$169,000.00
Nestled within the embrace of tranquil countryside, this charming 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom home offers the perfect retreat from the hustle and bustle of city life. Includes a 32' x 48' metal barn.

Crittenden County - 50.5498 Acres - \$200,000.00
Embrace the best of both worlds with this exceptional property, offering a harmonious blend of hunting opportunities and potential for livestock farming.

SOLD - Crittenden County - 237.03 - \$799,000.00
Discover the epitome of hunting excellence in this top-tier tract. Boasting a diverse blend of habitat types, this property is meticulously optimized for deer and turkey hunting.

SOLD - Crittenden County - 93.14 - \$479,000.00
Scenic and secluded farm with three homes! Nestled in a picturesque country setting, this scenic and secluded farm offers a rare opportunity for extended and multifamily living!

SOLD - Crittenden County - 304.955 - \$1,350,000.00
This extraordinary property features a 3BR, 1BA, 1,808 S.F. furnished cabin offering comfort and functionality. Includes 85+/- tillable acres and everything needed for quality deer and turkey hunting!



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PUBLIC NOTICE

Crittenden County Board of Elections will meet at 8 a.m. Tuesday, May 21 in Crittenden County Clerk's Office in the new Crittenden County Office Complex at 200 Industrial Dr. in Marion to process excused mail-in absentee ballots returned for the primary election. Results of absentee balloting will not be released until after 6 p.m. that same day.

This notice is given pursuant to Kentucky statutes

GoVote.ky.gov

To find out where you will vote in this year's primary election



PUBLIC NOTICE

Crittenden County Board of Elections shall offer no-excuse, in-person Early Voting for the primary election in the new Crittenden County Office Complex at 200 Industrial Dr. in Marion on:

- Thursday, May 16 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Friday, May 17 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Saturday, May 18 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This notice is given pursuant to Kentucky statutes

GoVote.ky.gov

To find find a sample ballot for your party's primary election

PURSUANT TO KRS 424.290, "MATTERS REQUIRED TO BE PUBLISHED," THE FOLLOWING RACES WILL APPEAR ON THE VOTING MACHINES AND PAPER BALLOTS IN THE PRECINCTS LISTED IN CRITTENDEN COUNTY FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION, MAY 21, 2024.

REPUBLICAN PARTY PRIMARY ELECTION	
1st CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	
PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES	
(Vote for One)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ryan L. BINKLEY
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vivek RAMASWAMY
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ron DeSANTIS
<input type="checkbox"/>	Donald J. TRUMP
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chris CHRISTIE
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nikki R. HALEY
<input type="checkbox"/>	"UNCOMMITTED"
STATE SENATOR	
1st Senatorial District	
(Vote for One)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jason G. HOWELL
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lynn BECHLER

ALL PRECINCTS

DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRIMARY ELECTION	
1st CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	
PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES	
(Vote for One)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Joseph R. BIDEN JR.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Marianne WILLIAMSON
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dean PHILLIPS
<input type="checkbox"/>	"UNCOMMITTED"

ALL PRECINCTS