



**An Informal History
Of
Hughes, Arkansas**

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Clara Moses

**Crittenden Publishing Company
West Memphis, Arkansas**

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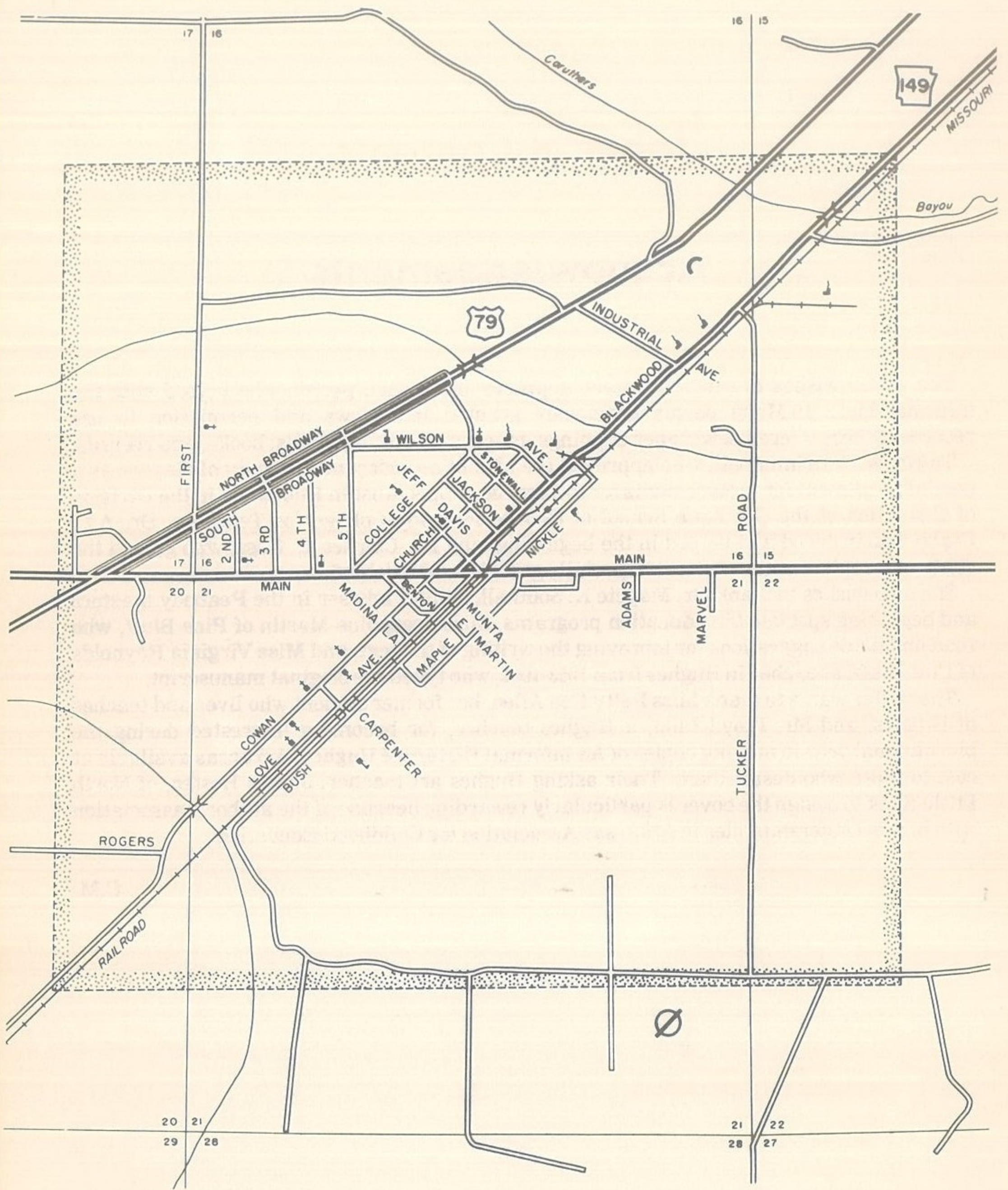
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C.M.



Map Of Hughes

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Introduction

This study was done in 1968 at George Peabody College, Nashville, Tennessee. Its purpose was to obtain, record, and preserve a history of Hughes, Arkansas, from sources available in the 1960's; to put together in usable form recorded history of happenings before and in the twentieth century in agriculture, business and professions, religion, education, government, and organizations; and to tell traditional stories which may or may not be true, but which help to give insight and add interest to the story of a delta section of Arkansas.

**History Before
The 20th Century**

History Before The 20th Century

MOVEMENT OF INDIANS

Within the town of Hughes and in the countryside in every direction Indian mounds have been found. Several have yielded well-preserved relics and artifacts. Elizabeth Chaffin Martin recalls seeing a mound on the western side of the campus where she attended school as a child. ¹ Mrs. W. D. Burch learned, after she and Dr. Burch bought their home, built by Finis Spruill in 1922, that its large lawn had once been the site of a mound. ² In the summer of 1965 mounds were still on the Nickey-Eason Plantation east of Hughes. ³ The Bert Pounceys built their plantation home, Anoka Farms, northeast of the city at Simsboro on one-half of the largest Indian mound and their barn on the second largest of five that were there.

The Pounceys allowed the artifacts and relics from the other half of the mound to be placed in a museum at Wycliff, Kentucky, operated by Mrs. Blanche Busey King and her husband, Col. Fain White King, Research Director of Archaeology of Kentucky. When on yacht trips on the Mississippi River, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Pouncey, Jr. and sometimes their sons, Bert III and Bobby, often climbed the bank of the river for visits with the Kings in the museum in Wycliff. These visits gave opportunities for them not only to view the collection from one-half the mound that could have been left at the back of their house but also to learn from the Kings of the research they have done on Indians. According to Mr. Pouncey, Mrs. King called those people mound builders whose relics and artifacts she had received from the Arkansas site, and she thinks they lived about nine hundred years ago. She thought the Osage Indians came later to that area. ⁴

In the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, Oklahoma, there is a frog effigy pipe from Sycamore Bend Plantation northeast of town. The following is under a picture in *Central States Archaeological Journal*, April, 1965: "Two extremely large Arkansas pipes, formerly in the Lemley Collection but now in the Gilcrease Museum, are made of sugar quartz. One was found... These pipes, no doubt, were of great value to the original owners and they often were used in the peace ceremonies." ⁵

The Taylors, living on the C. L. Burch Plantation, Wildwood, north of town toward Heth, found well-preserved pottery and sold most of it. ⁶

Cecil Gracey, living southwest of Hughes past Rawlinson, had an impressive enough collection by the summer of 1965 to have had several good offers for it according to his mother, Mrs. Gracey. There were such pieces as two dogs with apparent smokestacks on top. ⁷ Jimmy Walden, who lived in Hughes at the time, had also dug with his father, Mr. B. G. Walden, and obtained a sizable collection by the summer of 1965. ⁸

Research for a University of Arkansas Extension Service map showing Indian trails indicated that these were sometimes in the same areas where leading highways would later be. This map showed the Choctaw Trail extending from Memphis through Chatfield and Hughes, past Mud Lake, and across the St. Francis River to Haynes. ⁹ Old timers remember a highway from Memphis to Little Rock that possibly included part of the trail location from Memphis to Chatfield; then west to Greasy Corner, so named because of a greasy blacksmith who worked on the corner and who would come in to the store to make sandwiches for travelers; and on across the St. Francis River near Madison. ¹⁰ The Creek Indian Trail ran from Memphis across Shell Lake touching parts of what later became Highway 70. ¹¹

EXPLORATIONS AND CLAIMS OF WHITE MEN

Although historians agree that the Spaniard, De Soto, (with possibly 600 men) crossed the Mississippi River and entered Arkansas, some think he arrived first at Helena, while others believe he passed over the river south of Memphis at Chickasaw Bluffs. Dr. John L. Ferguson, State Historian, Arkansas History Commission, gives the place of crossing as Helena,¹² but he is named as one who cooperated in the *Roads, Old Trails, Traces and Historical Places of Arkansas* map which has: "F-7 De Soto Trail. In June, 1541, Hernando De Soto reached Chickasaw Bluffs, below Memphis, coming from Yazoo territory. He crossed the Mississippi River into Arkansas and was the first white man on Arkansas soil."¹³

In *The Chickasaw Nation, A Short Sketch of a Noble People*, by James Malone,¹⁴ a copy of which Mr. J. M. McKnight and Mr. T. H. McKnight, Jr., presented to Mr. Bert Pouncey, Jr., there are "strong reasons," Mr. Pouncey says, why it is believed that the Mississippi River was discovered at Memphis. Mr. Malone's research indicated that his information came from the last entry in a diary of De Soto that was entered at New Albany, Mississippi, in May 1541. The Tunica, Mississippi bottoms are usually practically impassable at that time of year due to overflows, Mr. Pouncey thought, while the Chickasaw Trail was a natural highway for Indians in that day. Mr. Pouncey's belief is based partly on the research done for *Under Your Feet, Story of American Mound Builders*, by Col. Fain King and Mrs. Blanche Busey King, who wrote, "It is not strange therefore that the ablest historians and the public at large have long since accepted the Fourth Chickasaw Bluff as the point of the discovery of the great Mississippi."¹⁵

According to *Roads, Old Trails, Traces and Historical Places of Arkansas* map,¹⁶ De Soto's trail in the Hughes area ran north of Simsboro and Greasy Corner, bearing south a short distance east of Gillett, near Arkansas Post, to Pine Bluff, where it began to run nearly parallel to the Arkansas River to Little Rock. From there it went past Hot Springs and then southeast to Louisiana. Thus the Spaniards were the first white men to claim Arkansas.

Although French explorers Marquette and Joliet visited Indian villages along the Mississippi, it was La Salle who claimed the Arkansas region for France in 1682, and his lieutenant, Henri de Tonty (or Tonti), who established Arkansas Post in 1686.¹⁷

Since France could not hold the Mississippi Valley against the English, in 1762 the French king gave all of Louisiana west of the Mississippi River to Spain...New European wars caused Spain to return Louisiana to France in 1800, but the French did not take control until shortly before Arkansas became part of the United States in 1803. In 1803 France sold all of Arkansas to the United States in the historical event known as The Louisiana Purchase.¹⁸

BOUNDARIES

After 1803, Arkansas became a part of the District of Louisiana. While Louisiana was a territory, Arkansas was a district with its seat of justice at Arkansas Post. In 1812 the name of Louisiana Territory was changed to Missouri Territory, and in 1813 the District of Arkansas became Arkansas County by an act of the Missouri Legislature. Arkansas became a separate territory by Act of Congress in 1819.¹⁹

On October 22, 1825, Crittenden County, which includes the eastern part of Hughes Special School District, was formed. It was the twelfth county in the territory and was established about twelve years after the first one, Arkansas County. Two years later, on October 13, 1827, St. Francis became the fifteenth county in the territory that nine years later, in 1836, was to become the state of Arkansas.²⁰ Almost a hundred years later the town of Hughes was established in St. Francis County.²¹

Other than possible scattered activities along the Mississippi River, much of the area must have been left for many years in its natural state. Blues Point, however, is shown on a map dated 1860 as the only place in the entire area. ²²

SUPPOSED ACTIVITIES DURING CIVIL WAR

The Phil Allen House, a big three-story structure having large rooms with high ceilings and much massive marble-topped furniture, faced the Mississippi River. It was supposed to have been used by federal soldiers as a hospital during the Civil War. ²³ If this were true, the possible deaths of wounded soldiers in those days before the use of modern drugs would fit in with "wild" stories told later about the place. Since Minie balls were supposed to have been found in the area, there is really little doubt in the minds of some people that actual fighting took place nearby, and that it is true that Texas Rangers were in the area when it was known as the Joe Sparpman (sic) Place and Federals raided the Hodges Farm on the river farther south. The house, as long as it stood, was said to be haunted because of so much bloodshed and trouble there. ²⁴

It is thought to have been a Jesse James hideout at one time. Now this was possible so far as time was concerned according to the following: "James, Jesse (Woodson) 1847-82 American outlaw. In 1866 he and his brother Frank (Alexander Franklin James, 1843-1915) became leaders of gangs which robbed and murdered through most of central states" ²⁵

The story is told of how the James brothers planted pine trees where they buried money and how the name of Council, southwest of the Phil Allen House, originated in the idea of its being a meeting place for thieves who counseled together before going on with some of their activities. ²⁶

People who had the privilege of viewing the house could see bullet holes in the walls and blood stains from a duel supposed to have been fought by brothers. Among the stories told about the house is the one referring to a couple who lived there and had separate cisterns because they got along so badly they would not drink water from the same one. ²⁷

Another tale is that there had been so many happenings in that house, when Mr. L. E. Stiles went to Hughes, people told him piano keys played at night there without being touched. ²⁸

In *Warfare Along the Mississippi, The Letters of Lieutenant Colonel George E. Currie*, there are accounts of guerrilla warfare along the Mississippi. The military action nearest Hughes was the burning of Austin, Arkansas, a town with a population of about one hundred before men and boys left to join the Confederacy. It was located about halfway between Memphis and Helena. Because Confederate snipers could hide along the river, attack boats, and move rapidly away while scarcely being seen, they posed quite a problem for the Union forces until men were recruited for river duty. After an attack on the quartermaster and commissary boat Fairchild by rebels from the area of an academy about half a mile from Austin, the Union army retaliated by seeking out and defeating Confederates, then burning every house in Austin in spite of tearful pleas by its women. ²⁹

Mr. Bert Pouncey, Jr., who is well-acquainted with the Mississippi River in the Memphis area, thinks that halfway between Memphis and Helena would have been about three miles south of Bruins Landing.

Checking river charts, Mr. Pouncey found that Austin is in Mississippi, southeast of Marianna, and that it was right on the river bank, probably in the bend of the river in the 1860's. ³⁰

History After 1900

History After 1900

BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS

Transportation

Two rivers, the Mississippi, east and southeast of the town of Hughes, and the St. Francis, to the west and southwest, provided rich soil and natural highways that played a part in the development and success of businesses and industries of the locality. That boats were widely used is indicated by a number of references to them and to several landings. The fact that there were few railroads, streets, or highways until many years after the turn of the century indicates the probable importance of boats to early settlers. According to a *History of St. Francis County*, the Hughes territory was served almost entirely by boats before a railroad was built in 1914. Reference is made to a landing, Blues Point, owned by Mr. J. N. Love. (Later the Wooten Andersons and the Richardsons had the land.) During low waters the nearest landing was ten or twelve miles above or below Peters Island, formed when the Mississippi River cut through land belonging to a Dr. Peters. In winter months when roads were extremely muddy and there was no drainage, it was impossible to travel by surrey or buggy to a landing. A planter and his family would ride horseback to a boat and have a wagon with four mules pull their baggage. Upon boarding the boat, the "mud splattered travelers" went immediately to their state rooms and changed to clean clothes before joining their friends. A well-known yacht in early days was the "Santa Claus," belonging to Mr. Russell Gardner, who lived in St. Louis. Mr. Gardner owned 12,000 acres of land on the Mississippi River in the Horseshoe Lake area. Making visits because of his hunting, fishing, and farming interests, he docked the "Santa Claus" at Fritz Landing, the name of which he changed to "Bruins," despite Mr. Fritz's unhappiness.³¹ (Mrs. Katherine Compton believed Seyppel was a landing before Fritz, later Bruins.)³² After a railroad was built through Hughes, he used a private railroad car which he left at the station until he was ready for a return trip to St. Louis. Dr. E. J. Chaffin, the first automobile owner in Hughes, remembers agreeing in 1915 to drive Mr. Gardner from the railroad station to his place near the Mississippi River. The trip over a levee road passing near what later became Ed's Camp took so long that Dr. Chaffin spent the night there before returning to Hughes. Upon his return to St. Louis, Mr. Gardner expressed appreciation to Dr. Chaffin by sending a set of new tires and tubes for the car.³³

The use of automobiles spread, especially after the end of World War II. In the nineteen-fifties, a professor at one of Arkansas' teacher-training institutions mentioned to a class that even if the superintendent of schools in Hughes did tell each prospective teacher he interviewed on the campus that there were more Cadillacs in Hughes than any other town of its size, those cars did not stop at the teacherage. Upon hearing of the college teacher's comment through a cousin who was in the class, the superintendent attempted to prove that the professor was incorrect, that most townspeople drove cars, many had "big" ones whose owners did associate with teachers—and sometimes married them. Long before there were paved roads, men began to use trucks instead of wagons and mules for riding, hauling, and transporting workers to farms.³⁴

About 1945, Mr. J. O. Davis, Jr., established bus lines from Hughes to Forrest City and Memphis after moving to Hughes from Pine Bluff, where he had worked for Greyhound Bus Lines. The Davis lines were in operation for a few years. After Missouri Pacific buses had operated on U. S. Highway 79 for a number of years, they became known as Continental Trailways buses and were the only public conveyances serving Hughes people. Greyhound

buses continued to run on U. S. Highway 70 via Heth, the northernmost community in Hughes Special School District. ³⁵

Mrs. Minnie Ashworth mentioned Peters Landing below Brickeys and a frighter named "Nevermind" that was important to Ashworth Mercantile Company of Rawlinson. She spoke of two ferries, one that crossed where Fifteen Mile Bayou and Blackfish Bayou meet, and another that crossed the St. Francis River between Hughes and Marianna. She remembered a gravel road being built in 1939-40 from Hughes to the two bannisterless bridges known as Twin Bridges. ³⁶ The paving of roads began several years later. During and after the Sid McMath administration as governor of Arkansas (1949-1953), ³⁷ most of the black-topping was done. Arkansas Highway 38 by Horseshoe Lake was paved first; then Arkansas Highway 50 from Hughes to Forrest City; U. S. Highway 79, with sideroads for use of Hughes traffic, was built from U. S. Highway 70 at Lehi and connected Memphis with Marianna and other points south; then Arkansas Highway 38 to Forrest City and Arkansas Highway 149 to Heth and Shell Lake on U. S. Highway 70 were paved. Excellent highways were finished to make connections with Interstate Highway 40, now being constructed. ³⁸

Although there was a possibility of a railroad line from St. Louis to New Orleans, which, if built according to a Frisco survey made in 1905, would probably have had Rawlinson as a main station, ³⁹ the Iron Mountain attempt was the most extensive one before a line was built. According to Chowning's *History of St. Francis County*, the Iron Mountain Railroad started making surveys and obtaining rights-of-way for building a railroad to connect Memphis and Marianna about 1905. Surveys followed the river's winding course and construction of the roadbed was begun, but due to the 1907 panic the idea was abandoned and the railroad ended exactly in front of the old Hodges Home, later called Deer Lake Plantation. ⁴⁰

Mrs. Stella Andrews Nickle, wife of the late Mr. R. C. Nickle, was present along with many others when the first Missouri Pacific train ran through Hughes on Easter Sunday, 1914. "Folksy," she said, was a term that could be used to describe Mr. W. H. Wilson, conductor on the first and last passenger trains through Hughes. ⁴¹ Dr. E. J. Chaffin mentioned that Mr. Wilson, conductor on the Mudline and later on a streamliner, "The Delta Eagle," would stop the train to pick up folks if they waved to him. ⁴²

Although stories are told of how the first railroad from Memphis to Little Rock reached White River only at DeValls Bluff, and that getting the rest of the way wasn't simple, the Rock Island passenger trains served Heth for a number of years. A person wishing to shop in Memphis could ride a train there in the morning and return in the afternoon. A fast streamlined train was "The Rocket." ⁴³

At privately-owned Tucker Field, on Mrs. T. H. Tucker's Plantation in Hughes, plane service has sometimes been available in case of emergencies, especially when Mr. Leon Tucker, Mrs. Tucker's son who was a pilot since World War II, was in Hughes. Some other plantations have planes for private use and cropdusting. Memphis Municipal Airport is used for commercial flights. Air transportation has increased greatly in recent years, especially for long trips. ⁴⁴

Communication

Post offices in addition to Hughes, Heth, Chatfield, and Proctor were at Rawlinson, in the Ashworth Store; Bruins, with ninety-eight boxes that remained in Bruins Commissary; Bledsoe, at Midway, where Ed's Camp was built later by Mr. Ed De Lap; Democrat, at Squire Burley Thomas' plantation later owned by the Grady Trainors; Lulu, named for the daughter of County Judge John S. R. Cowan, who owned land that later became Mr. T. H. Tucker's plantation; Seyppel and Pinckney, near the Mississippi; and

Happy, on land later bought by the Wooten Andersons and the Richardsons. ⁴⁵

Although Mr. C. J. Beasley said Heth was built because of a need for a Rock Island Railroad station after 50 miles of track were completed in 1874, ⁴⁶ Mrs. Lucy A. Stiedley, a former postmistress, has a complete record of postmasters serving there since 1896. The following is from a record she signed and dated February 2, 1968:

Heth, St. Francis County, Arkansas, Postmasters and dates appointed:

Thomas A. Hawkins	April 9, 1896 (Established)
Mary A. Gunter	March 16, 1898
Thomas A. Hawkins	December 16, 1898

This office was discontinued September 15, 1899.

This office was reestablished July 24, 1903.

Mary E. Hawkins	July 24, 1903
Thomas C. Kimber	April 21, 1904
Theodore M. Guss	February 9, 1912
Ross Guss	February 15, 1915
Howard A. Soper	April 15, 1919
Mrs. Lucy A. Stiedley (acting)	November 1, 1922
Mrs. Lucy A. Stiedley	January 23, 1923
Mrs. Lucy A. Stiedley (retired)	September 1, 1950
Cleve Lewers	September 1, 1950

Mrs. Stiedley, mother of Mrs. Charles Adams, Sr., moved to Forrest City after she retired. ⁴⁷

The Chatfield postmaster for many years was Mr. J. M. Hassell, who was preceded by Mr. Joe Billy Black. Hughes postmasters included Mr. R. E. "Bob" Love, Mr. J. O. Crunk, Mr. G. H. Grafton, Mrs. Emma Fong, and Mr. Edward Reeves.

Mail was brought from Penton, Mississippi, across the river to Bruins by a boat that also served passengers who wished to cross the river.

Before Southwestern Bell's Direct Distance Dialing, scheduled for Hughes in 1968, ⁴⁸ stories indicate that early telephone service left much to be desired. There were poles along the levee connecting Memphis with the Horseshoe Lake area.

Something was always happening to make conversation difficult. A planter trying to help someone get a message through was supposed to have yelled into the receiver, "Can you hear me?" A visitor of the lady next door said, "If he can't, he must not be listening." ⁴⁹

After a telephone exchange was installed in a store in Hughes, service improved somewhat, but while waiting on customers the owner would sometimes forget to notice the exchange and let a line stay "tied up" for as long as a half day. ⁵⁰

Personalized service of Mrs. Mozelle Flowers (1934-1956) could not have been better.

Modern means of communication brought many changes. Mr. Charles Hulen owned The Star Theater, east of the railroad track. Later Mr. Haven had the theater that he sold to Mr. Hays Kinney, who showed movies in Hays Theater every night for many years, but finally began showing them only on weekends. Some people went often to the theater in Hughes while others always saw the latest shows in Memphis. With every movie there was a news reel. ⁵¹

For those who wished to stay at home, there were such programs on radio as "Amos and Andy," "George Burns and Gracie Allen," "Major Bowes," "Jack Benny," and "Lum and Abner" in addition to news broadcasts. Early sets came equipped with earphones. WREC and WMC were Memphis stations. ⁵² William "Bill" Fogg was the founder of Forrest City

Broadcasting Company that began operating KXJK on April 29, 1949. ⁵³

WMCT Television Station, in Memphis, presented its first program on December 11, 1948, and had among other features country music singers, E. C. "Slim" Rhodes, his two brothers, "Dusty" and "Speck," and possibly a sister, Bea. ⁵⁴ With hardly any TV sets in Hughes at the time, Baddour Furniture Store, since it had sets for sale, was an unusually popular place. ⁵⁵

The first newspaper publisher in Hughes was Mr. Paul Chambers. Then Mr. Fred Hedges spent a few years there giving the Hughes paper its name, **Hughes Star Herald**. While it was published by the F. M. Causey Company of Forrest City, after Mr. Hedges left, its editors, Mrs. J. L. Nelson, Mrs. Raymond Dorman, and others lived in Hughes.

In addition to the **Hughes Star Herald**, a weekly, people may read **The Commercial Appeal**, published daily in Memphis and delivered mornings, **The Press-Scimitar**, published daily in Memphis and delivered afternoons, **The Evening Times**, published daily in West Memphis and delivered afternoons. Although most people seem to depend on Memphis news media for Arkansas news, some receive from Little Rock by daily mail the **Arkansas Gazette**, with delivery on Sunday. A few people may subscribe to the **Arkansas Democrat** from Little Rock. ⁵⁶

Among popular comics have been "The Gumps," "Mutt and Jeff," "Bringing Up Father," "Major Hoople," "Happy Holligan," and "Katzenjammer Kids," the first to talk in drawn balloons. ⁵⁷ Well-known magazines included **Cosmopolitan**, **Woman's Home Companion**, **Better Homes and Gardens**, **Pictorial Review**, **Comfort**, and **Hollands**, from which plans came for a house built for the G. H. Graftons, and later a home for the James Burch family on Bruins Plantation. ⁵⁸

Business Enterprises

Cane and mud are two things people remember when attempting to recall early days in Hughes. Cane grew so high that Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Nickle, riding horseback with their children from the farm into town, had to look up to see the top of it. ⁵⁹ From the railroad station one could see cane, possibly twenty feet high, on such locations as the corner where Lock's Store was later built. Because of deep mud, everyone wore hip boots. Often they cut the tops off in summer and continued wearing them. The building of a board sidewalk to the Hughes Clinic and later to the R. B. Wise home was thought to be a real mark of progress. ⁶⁰

Since the area is particularly suited to agriculture, a number of businesses connected either directly or indirectly with farming have come into existence. From very early times lumber companies were helping to clear land and build buildings. Among these were Miller Lumber Company from Marianna; Eastern Arkansas Lumber Company, which became Griffith Lumber Company, managed by Mr. W. D. "Bill" Lunsford after the Graham Griffiths moved to Forrest City; and Chicago Mill Lumber Company at Penjur. ⁶¹ Because almost every plantation at one time had a cotton gin that ran day and night during harvest season, some people thought possibly there were more gins in operation in the area than at any other place of its size in the world. There were fewer of these as cotton acreage decreased. Dillahuntys, on Bright Future Plantation, began operating a seed cleaning and delinting plant. At the Federal Compress and Warehouse there was much business. Cotton buyers set up offices.

With growth in the use of machinery came implement and parts businesses as well as wholesale oil distributors. Mr. M. D. Warren remembers a Mr. Christopher as one of the earliest oil distributors. ⁶² Adams Parts, Hughes and Looney Brothers Implement Companies, Tractor and Auto Parts Company, Standard Parts Company, and Fountaine Auto Parts have been serving farmers and others of the area. Mr. Roy Chism became the wholesale distributor of Esso products; Mr. W. E. McGaugh, Mobil Oil; Mr. Sam Lazenby

and Mr. E. D. Tate, Pure Oil Company. Mr. Paul Kelly, Jr., who took over the business his father started, observed the eighteenth anniversary of Kelly Oil Company by serving food and drinks and giving souvenirs on May 1, 1966. ⁶³

With farmers getting away from growing one crop, cotton, and turning to others such as grain, beans, and alfalfa, a group of people formed Hughes Grain Corporation of Penjur that was federally licensed to buy, sell, and store grain and soybeans. Mr. L. E. Vanderford became manager. Interest in establishing alfalfa mills began. After moving to Arkansas from De Soto County, Tennessee, in 1936, Mr. Hubert Blanton began to work at Horseshoe Milling Company, first alfalfa dehydrating mill in the state. Before buying equipment of his own and leasing an alfalfa dryer in 1956, he was also an employee at Belle Meade, Sycamore Bend, and S. E. Nickey Milling Company. As the number of men needed for the whole operation of dehydrating alfalfa and preserving the vitamins with the use of inert gas decreased from several to one, Mr. Blanton's mills went from production of 1,800 tons in 1956 to 18,000 tons in 1965. An important innovation was changing production from meal to pellets. ⁶⁴

After farmers began the wide use of chemicals, Mr. James Bailey became connected with Chapman Chemical Company and Mr. M. G. "Buddy" Keller opened Keller Chemical Company. ⁶⁵

Before natural gas lines were installed and gas was supplied by Arkansas Louisiana Gas Company in 1966, Weis and Warden Butane Companies had locations in West Memphis. After customers in Hughes increased, they opened business establishments to serve people there. ⁶⁶

Within Hughes were Hughes Mercantile Company owned by Mr. H. O. Harrison; Hey Mercantile Company; The Julius Reisman Store; Mack's Furniture Store operated by Mr. Mervin Reisman, who lived in Hughes many years but moved to Memphis; Western Auto Store operated by Smith and Smith and later Harmons; Zukerman's Store; Stiles Market; Kwong Wah Company; A. B. Smith Hardware; C. W. Martin Wholesale Groceries, and Delta Distributors; C. C. Moore, insurance and cotton buying; and W. B. Barbee, insurance. Earlier Mr. J. P. Hughes had a store at the location of the J. G. Adams and Son Commisary, established in 1933. Bill Baugh's at Horseshoe Lake advertised a Frozen Food Locker in *The Blue Banner*, 1942, first Hughes High School annual. ⁶⁷

At one time there was the Albert Pilkington Grocery where Mr. Chie Fong's store was later located. The Love Store was where Mr. Lock later had a five and ten cent store downtown. ⁶⁸

While Dr. E. J. Chaffin and Mr. R. C. Nickle owned the first drug store in Hughes, and Mr. Gene Barton and Mr. Ollie Warren had later ones, the name Wise was connected with drug stores there for more than half a century. "Dr." R. B. Wise, as he was called, was born in Ackerman, Mississippi, and had his pharmacy training in Atlanta, Georgia. He liked to help people with medicine, Mrs. Wise said. It was somewhat like having open house in the Wise Store until late each night. People who went out always stopped by there to see if there was any news before going home. It was a spot to meet and visit or wait for one's friends or transportation. "Sometimes there were fifteen kids reading funnies and magazines until you could hardly get around in the store," Mrs. Wise said. With a soda fountain, two marbletopped tables, and several comfortable chairs, people were encouraged toward carrying on conversations. Mr. James Wise began operating the place his father had while his brother, Herod, had the other Wise Drug Store. ⁶⁹

Making important contributions to the business life of downtown Hughes for many years were several Chinese American merchants. Mr. J. W. Lock came from China to live with and work for his uncle, Mr. Hong Lock, who had a store in Hughes. After attending school in

Hughes, Mr. J. W. Lock opened his first store in 1926. He went to Canton, China, for his bride in April, 1929. Many years later his son, Coy, accompanied by his mother, went to Hong Kong for Coy's wife, Ellen Chan (Yee Han). Sing Lock, another son, married Regina Chiang from Hong Kong. Late in 1966, Mr. Lock, with his two sons as business partners, opened an ultra-modern supermarket and variety store called Lock's Food Center on U.S. Highway 79.⁷⁰

Coming from Round Pond, Mr. Chie Fong has had Hughes Super Market, Fong's Department Store, and farming interests. His son, Gin, followed his father in being interested in business. Other Fongs as well as Lums and Lees owned grocery and department stores.⁷¹

The Baddours, including Victor, Fred, Paul, and Charles, whose parents came originally from Lebanon, had stores in Hughes and kept Baddour's Bargain Center there; but they established a chain of stores, using the Baddour name, extending from Earle in Eastern Arkansas to Southeastern Tennessee and Northern Mississippi.⁷²

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Fogg once operated a store and gin at Heth.⁷³

Wacasters have a store at Blackfish Lake, and Baughs built an up-to-date all concrete general store at Heth with space rented to the government for the post office.⁷⁴

Alfred and Sam Ashworth, Sr., who came to Rawlinson from Franklin, Tennessee, had a mercantile store and a gin, built by Mr. E. D. Beck, a native of Forrest City, who moved to Hughes from Marianna.⁷⁵

Other stores were Beck's Plantation, Belle Meade, R. A. Caldwell and Sons at Proctor, Fairfield, and Horseshoe Mercantile Company.⁷⁶

Most people recall "Grandma" Hulen when they think of a hotel in Hughes, but they also mention Spruills, Turmans, Bynums, Marshmans, Stokes, and Pilkingtons. Once when Mrs. Hulen went to the front porch of the hotel to ring a dinner bell, Mr. Pryor, who was sitting there, is supposed to have said to a dog that was growling, "Shut up! You don't have to eat that food!"

Then Mrs. Hulen proceeded to tell the gentleman in no uncertain terms how good her food was.⁷⁷

Among motels were Kathy's on U. S. Highway 79, owned by Kinneys in Hughes, Jim's at Blackfish Lake, and Shell Lake Motel on U. S. Highway 70.⁷⁸

Early eating establishments mentioned were Fred Bynum's Street Car Cafe and Dale's Cafe.⁷⁹

On October 11, 1967, Mr. and Mrs. John Hairald and son, Billy, opened John's Snack Shop connected with their new home of old brick across the street from the First Baptist Church. For nearly twenty years they had operated J and J's, later John's Place, which was north of Hays Theater.⁸⁰

Horseshoe Rendezvous, on the west side of Horseshoe Lake, is shown on a picture post card of it with "Chicken Dinners—Parties a Specialty" and the name of Mrs. Katherine W. Reames—Hughes, Ark. Phone 804F2-1. Mrs. Roy Nelson recalls having eaten unusually fine food there.⁸¹

The St. Francis Restaurant, with Mr. J.T. McCoy as manager, was located downtown next to Hays Theater many years before opening in a new location on U. S. Highway 79 on August 28, 1958. In its new location, the St. Francis Restaurant is listed on Travel mat U.S. 79, a place mat map of twelve recommended stops between Russellville, Kentucky, and Austin, Texas.⁸²

Moving to the location of what later became Hughes Auto Company in 1925, Hughes Motor Company, selling Ford cars until March 8, 1927, was organized in 1924 by Mr. E. A. Rolfe, Mr. Sam Rolfe, and Mr. W. C. Bowen. Mr. Gordon Love, who came to Hughes with his

parents from Senatobia, Mississippi, in 1900 when he was three years old, became manager on February 1, 1930, and bought the firm on January 2, 1935. He incorporated it under the name, Hughes Auto Company. Mr. E. C. Hamilton became vice-president and sales manager.⁸³ After Mr. Love's death on February 21, 1965,⁸⁴ Johnson-Leach Chevrolet Company was formed and had the same location where cars had been sold for more than forty years.⁸⁵

In recent years Mrs. C. W. Martin, Mrs. W. D. Lunsford, Mrs. J. R. Collier, Mrs. James Bailey, and Miss Dorothy Ann Jones have had gift shops.⁸⁶

From giving "hot" to "cold" permanent waves, beauty operators possibly started in a shop owned by Mrs. C. W. Denman, whose husband was Dr. C. W. Denman, a veterinarian. Ellen's Beauty Shop and LaVogue Beauty Shop were listed as boosters on a page in Hughes High School's **The Blue Banner** in 1942. Dona's Beauty Shop was mentioned. In the early nineteen fifties, Mr. Bob Meyers of Forrest City had a shop across the street from Hays Theater. Mrs. Lucille Shidler had House of Beauty on Main Street before moving it to her home. Hughes Beauty Shop, across from Lock's downtown grocery store, was operated by Mrs. Jean Medlin and others. Estelle's Beauty Shop, which became Charlotte's, on U.S. Highway 79 was the first one in the western part of town.⁸⁷

Giving visible evidence of its forty-six years of growth and prosperity, Planters National Bank held open house on December 7, 1965 in its new building of Southern Colonial type architecture. **The Hughes Star Herald** has the following about its beginning. "After being organized in the fall of 1919, it was formally opened on February 20, 1920 with total deposits of \$102,397...Officers at that time were B. C. Pouncey Sr., president, J. O. E. Beck, vice-president, and A. L. Waring, cashier." According to Chowning, "In 1919 John J. Hughes of Haynes (no relation to Robert M. Hughes, founder of Hughes) invested considerable money in town property...He was the chief organizer of the Bank of Hughes in that same year. The bank failed in 1923 with heavy losses to the depositors." Dr. E. J. Chaffin said that in 1931 when all banks closed no one lost money in Planters National Bank. It was able to meet government requirements for reopening.⁸⁸

Among bankers who served were Mr. Ed Allen and Mr. Carl Williams.⁸⁹

Mr. M.O. Rasberry became president of the bank on September 1, 1962. At that time, deposits were \$1,600,000. At the close of business November 30, 1965, they reached an all-time high of \$2,911,000. Mr. James Nipper became vice-president; Mr. Donald Brown, cashier; Dr. E.J. Chaffin, Mr. D.P. Warren, and Mr. Bert C. Pouncey, Jr., were directors.⁹⁰ From **Arkansas Almanac and Encyclopedia—1964 and 1967**, the following assets for Planters National Bank are given: 1962, \$1,869,119; 1963, \$2,068,448; 1966, \$3,057,238.⁹¹

Professions

Both permanent and temporary residents contributed to professions of medicine, education, religion, law, and writing.

Many changes came in the practice of medicine from the days when doctors rode horseback many miles through deep mud to visit patients. The long time and difficulty involved in going from one place to another was not easily forgotten by those who lived to see what they considered good roads and fast travel. Once it took a man from five o'clock until nine to go by horseback from Rawlinson to the home of Dr. Chaffin in Hughes to ask him to make a call. The doctor, knowing the area well, returned with him to Rawlinson by a shorter route, through woods, but spent the night rather than try to make the return trip

home after their journey and his work with a patient. ⁹²

Mrs. Katherine Compton said "children with dysentery died like flies" before it became easy for people to go to Memphis, West Memphis, Forrest City, Marianna, and Little Rock hospitals.⁹³ Mr. Fred Green, a plantation worker, recalled that at first there was not much sickness but that through the years there was a great deal. ⁹⁴

In summarizing happenings in the practice of medicine for the past half century, Dr. E. J. Chaffin mentioned Dr. Robison, an older man; Dr. C. M. Hammons, unusual in that he perfected a pulmotor, a breathing outfit for which he never secured a patent; Dr. N. B. Burch, who became a specialist in eye, ear, nose, and throat work in Hot Springs after he practiced in Hughes following World War I; Dr. W. D. Burch, a partner of Dr. N. B. Burch in Hughes after living and working on Horseshoe Lake for several years; Dr. R.B. Evans, who served people in the Chatfield area for many years; and Dr. Banks, who married Miss Stella Hulen and moved to Dyersburg, Tennessee, after nine months. ⁹⁵

After coming to Hughes in 1916, Dr. E. W. Pollard left to serve in World War I, then returned and continued practicing for more than fifty years. His wife was the former Miss Jamie Hamm. ⁹⁶

Being a native of Itawamba County, Mississippi, near Fulton, Dr. E.J. Chaffin had a long period of service after coming to the Hughes area on January 6, 1914. His wife was the former Miss Elizabeth Wilsford of Mississippi, and their children were Mrs. Elizabeth Martin and Mr. E. J. Chaffin, Jr., who also remained in Hughes. In May, 1966, Dr. Chaffin was honored at a breakfast given by the Arkansas Medical Society at their meeting in Hot Springs for members of the Fifty Year Club. ⁹⁷

Dr. S. C. Russwurm, whose wife was a sister of Mrs. E. J. Chaffin, Sr., and a teacher in Hughes School for many years, practiced with Dr. Chaffin from 1926 until he died. After Dr. R. B. Davis moved to Hughes from Chatfield, he and Dr. Chaffin formed a partnership. ⁹⁸

A story of the 1927 flood involved a doctor sent by the Red Cross. After a motor boat furnished him by a plantation owner capsized, the visiting doctor climbed into a thorn tree. He kept waving and trying to get someone to notice and rescue him until well into the next day. Some person who finally appeared let the man know, to his dismay, that the water was not too deep for him to have waded out. ⁹⁹

After Dr. R. B. Davis's retirement in 1945, Dr. C. H. Franks worked in Hughes Clinic before going back to school, and to Tupelo, Mississippi. Dr. Tom Gray and Dr. Thomas Cremeen, a dentist, practiced in Hughes Clinic at the same time. ¹⁰⁰

After graduating from University of Arkansas Medical School in Little Rock, Dr. Sam McGinnis joined Dr. E. J. Chaffin in Hughes Clinic in July, 1953. In March, 1964, he opened McGinnis Medical Center on U. S. Highway 79 in a new building with new equipment, and Dr. Thomas Beene joined him in July, 1965. Dr. Beene, son of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Beene, graduated from Hughes High School in 1956 and finished his work at the University of Arkansas Medical School. He did an internship in a Tulsa, Oklahoma, hospital. ¹⁰¹

Dr. Sam McGinnis of Marianna had married Dolly Jones, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Jones, and their children were Robert and Rita. In 1966 Dr. Beene moved with his family to Lebanon, Missouri. ¹⁰²

In the fall of 1966 Dr. Sam McGinnis moved with his family to Memphis, where he entered University of Tennessee Medical School for further study and work in Methodist Hospital. ¹⁰³

Dr. Fun Fong purchased Hughes Clinic from Dr. E. J. Chaffin in 1962. Reared in Hughes, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Chie Fong, Dr. Fong finished Hughes High School in 1951, graduated from Vanderbilt University and University of Tennessee School of Medicine, and married Mary Gong, a nurse from Duncan, Mississippi. The couple had three children, Fun Fong,

Jr., Cheryl Lynn Fong, and Andrew Fong.¹⁰⁴

Finishing Hughes High School in 1955, Mayo Fong, sister of Dr. Fun Fong, became a pediatrician and married Dr. Alex S. Y. Go, who spent a short time working in Hughes Clinic with Dr. Fun Fong. The two of them practiced in Blytheville, Arkansas, before Dr. Go west to serve in the U.S. Forces in Vietnam.¹⁰⁵

Dr. Jimmy Wise, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Wise and grandson of "Dr." R.B. Wise, graduated from Hughes High School in 1951. Finishing his doctor's training at University of Tennessee, he has practiced in Marvell, Arkansas.¹⁰⁶

Dr. Jerry Little, who finished Hughes High School in 1954, graduated from University of Arkansas Medical School in Little Rock and became associated with Dr. Gilbert D. Jay, III, in West Memphis. Dr. Little began his service in the United States Army in Alaska in 1966.¹⁰⁷

Dr. Grady Collum, a merit scholarship winner, who graduated from Hughes High School in 1959, studied at the University of Arkansas Medical School to become a doctor. By the summer of 1968 he was making plans to serve in Vietnam.¹⁰⁸

In order to interest good students in becoming teachers and to keep qualified personnel, efforts were made to keep the teaching profession on a high plane. Administrators and board members chose teachers carefully and helped to provide good living situations for them. Instructors often chose to study and work beyond what was normally required. Parents usually showed respect for teachers by giving them freedom to work with their children, electing them as leaders in the community, and accepting them as friends. One administrator in interviewing a prospective staff member sometimes assured the person he did not expect him to stay in Hughes permanently, that he hoped he would grow professionally, and that he could ask for help if he wished to seek another position.¹⁰⁹

From 1945, for twenty-one consecutive summers, one or more from the Hughes faculty did graduate work at George Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville, Tennessee. Miss Euleta Murdoch, while elementary principal, received an education specialist degree from there. Mr. O. E. Worrell, first high school principal, earned the same kind of degree from University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tennessee. Miss Betty Rea Allen, a 1955 graduate of Hughes High School, received a master's degree in English, then studied to get a mathematics degree after becoming a Hughes High School mathematics teacher. She studied further at Texas Woman's University, Denton, Texas.

Mr. Hugh Smith, Mrs. Frank Sanders, Mr. Clyde Koon, and Mr. Thomas Lee, former teachers and coaches, became superintendents of schools after leaving Hughes. Misses Mabel Grey Patterson, Mary Burton, Jean Condray, Helen Turner, Ida Turnage, Clara Moses, Mr. Ronald Thielman, Mr. Howard Schwam, and Mr. Kermit Hinesley became administrators, supervisors, or college teachers after leaving Hughes. Dr. Rodney Tillman, whose first teaching was in Hughes High School, received a doctorate from Columbia University, New York City. Before going to Memphis State University in 1967, as head of the department of elementary education, he was executive secretary of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development in Washington, D.C., a superintendent in Montgomery County, Maryland, a teacher at George Peabody College for Teachers, and Assistant Superintendent of Schools in charge of Elementary Education in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

At least six of the twenty-five Pearl Russwurm Future Teachers Association members in 1958 became teachers: Betty McCoy, Kay Moore Sims, Kay Hugueley Pounders, Linda Burchfield Estes, Barbara Lunsford Bernard, and Rolfe Martin, a nephew of a former teacher, Mrs. Pearl Russwurm, and son of Mrs. Elizabeth Chaffin Martin, who has taught first grade in Hughes for many years.¹¹⁰

In contrast to the number of people interested in going into medicine and education are the few who became lawyers, ministers, and writers.

Mr. Knox Kinney has practiced law in Memphis, Forrest City, and Hughes. He became the city attorney for Hughes. He attended Forrest City High School, Columbia Military Academy, and had one year at The Citadel before serving in World War II as a lieutenant. He received L.L.B. and B.S. degrees from Vanderbilt, was admitted to the bar in Tennessee and Arkansas, and began practicing in 1949. He served in the Arkansas State Legislature. ¹¹¹

A Hughes High School graduate of 1957, Mr. Clary Lunsford, son of Mr. and Mrs. W.D. Lunsford, attended Hendrix College, the University of Arkansas, and received a law degree at Vanderbilt University. He began practice in Little Rock and later moved to Memphis. ¹¹²

William Miles "Bill" Warren, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. P. Warren, who graduated from Hughes High School in 1962, received a B.A. degree from Texas Christian University in Ft. Worth, Texas, with plans to study law at the Southern Methodist University School of Law at Dallas, Texas. ¹¹³

Besides the ministers who have been pastors of Hughes churches, John Russell Collier, a Hughes High School graduate of 1957, studied to become a minister at Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas, and at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University and was ordained a Deacon and admitted into the North Arkansas Conference of the Methodist Church. ¹¹⁴

Mrs. Alice Noble Waring wrote *The Fighting Elder: Andrew Pickens, 1739-1817*, a definitive biography of one of her ancestors, General Andrew Pickens, who according to the encyclopedia was "An American Revolutionary partisan leader who formed an armed band to harass the British in South Carolina." ¹¹⁵ She has also written for *Journal of Southern History*, *The Huguenot Magazine*, and *The Catholic World*. ¹¹⁶

While he was band director at Hughes High School in the early 1960's, Mr. Ronald Thielman composed music and had published "Purple and Gray," a selection for band which was dedicated to his Alma Mater, Arkansas State Teachers College (now State College of Arkansas). According to an article in *Hughes Star Herald*, December 15, 1966, Mr. Thielman, an "assistant professor of Brass Instruments and assistant director of University Band at the University of Mississippi," had become the "author of some fifteen published compositions" and had "been commissioned by several schools to write special compositions." ¹¹⁷

Agriculture

Clearing and Draining Land

While land on the Mississippi River was called "the front" and that farther away "the back," by the turn of the century some clearing seems to have been taking place in every direction from what was to become the town of Hughes. Before the Mississippi River Commission and the United States Army Corps of Engineers completed a Mississippi River Levee system with levees averaging twenty-four feet in height, ¹¹⁸ activities along the river were not only difficult but hazardous. Mrs. Katherine Compton said when asked about clearing of land, that to quote Winston Churchill, it was "through shedding of blood and tears." ¹¹⁹

When there was a practice of allowing a responsible person or a group in the state to borrow prisoners from the Arkansas State Penitentiary, Miller Lumber Company secured convicts and had them clear land west of Hughes. Setting up a camp for them, the lumber company men moved the workers from one area to another in cages on wagons. These men cut trees and rafted logs down Fifteen Mile and Blackfish Bayous toward the St. Francis

River.¹²⁰

The Flannagans came to the Rawlison area early and cleared land there. Mr. J. F. Flanagan was from Ireland.¹²¹

Because timber which could not be used for logs was stacked around a "tie" tree and burned, Mrs. R. C. Nickle felt that there was much waste in clearing.¹²²

Estimating the amount of money to pay for timber by walking through it and counting the number of trees to seventy-two steps in an acre, Mr. John Claybrook, a Negro who owned land at Simsboro and Topaz, had a part in clearing land.¹²³ The G. W. Sims Logging Company cleared land in the area that was known later as Simsboro.¹²⁴

Mr. C. J. Beasley of Heth said it was a job to get land ready for cultivation, that timber men had been in early and gotten big trees; there was regrowth of timber that required axes, mules, oxen, tree saws, and later tree blades on bulldozers. Since mules were sensitive to mud, oxen were often used in moving logs.¹²⁵

Landing at Happy in 1912, after being at Melwood near Elaine since 1909, Mr. R. C. Nickle went to Chatfield to see a fellow Tutwiler, Mississippian, Mr. Smalley, who was clearing land there with Mr. Jack Pittman.¹²⁶

Being married to Mr. Nat Cravens, whose work was logging, Mrs. Bessie Cravens not only had the experience of living in a house built on a log wagon but of being involved in quite a bit of work indirectly connected with clearing Penjur land and Sycamore Bend. She told of feeding thirty Chicago Lumber Company Mill hands while the company's six year lease on clearing lasted. Raising a lot of hogs and chickens, milking six cows, and growing vegetables in summer, she managed also to have enough food for trainmen. Pitching their money into a bowl each day, the train people ate while someone loaded log cars going to Helena one day and back to Memphis the next.¹²⁷

New Hope, owned by Mr. C. F. Franks of Memphis, was one of the first farms to be cleared. It was higher than some other land.¹²⁸

Mr. Russell Gardner cleared some of his 12,000 acres of land around Horseshoe Lake, but never planned to clear all of it because of his desire for keeping a game reserve. Mr. Fred Green said Mr. Gardner paid \$5.00 for every rattlesnake killed and carried to him.¹²⁹ Later a new ground on Bruins was called "rattlesnake den."¹³⁰

In the summer of 1966 Mr. Fred New, game warden for Five Lakes Outing Club on Horseshoe Lake, killed a five and one-half foot timber rattlesnake with ten rattlers.¹³¹

Nickey Brothers, having a mill in Memphis, bought land with all virgin timber, for lumber. Blood weeds as tall as houses were growing beside the dirt road when Mrs. L. E. Stiles went to be the first teacher at Green River School. Underbrush as well as timber was difficult to remove.¹³²

Since men would realize enough money from the timber to pay for their land, they often bought large tracts just to get timber.¹³³

When large numbers of men cleared land on a plantation for 75c per day the year around, they were sometimes asked to spend 40c of this in a commissary and receive the rest in money.¹³⁴

On Mr. J. O. E. Beck's Plantation an engineer made plans for laying tile and secured Danes and Swedes who laid tile in winter when ground was wet and muddy, sometimes working in rain. Land was so loose one could ride over it and hear water being sucked into the tile, which finally reached almost a million feet. Being big men and good cooks, the workers ate a lot, but they had to walk so far from bachelors' quarters to the different areas of the 10,000 acres that they took time to cook and eat only twice a day. They prepared regular feasts to which they sometimes invited their friends.¹³⁵

Although hunting was hardly possible until there was some clearing of land, from earliest days there were hunting and fishing clubs. One of the oldest clubs was The Mud Lake

Hunting Club on land in the direction of Kokomo. The land later became the Oswalt home. (The club had a dining table made of tiny pieces of wood.) For many years virgin timber was at Shannondale, also south of Hughes. ¹³⁶

Recalling among other things that a canebrake of twenty feet high cane used to be where Mr. Lock built his stores downtown, Mrs. Cravens said one could not walk ten feet off the railroad right-of-way. ¹³⁷ That there was a particular drainage problem connected with the railroad is indicated by Ordinance No. 17, passed by the City Council June 17, 1920, "Requiring Railroad to Drain and Keep Drained all Barrow Pits within the town of Hughes." ¹³⁸ In order to build the railroad bed high enough to be above flood stage, deep pits called barrow pits were dug on either side of it and the dirt from the pits was used to make the railroad bed much higher than any other place nearby. Much planning and work went into making the extremely low land livable for those who were there in the beginning and inviting to ones who were to come later. ¹³⁹

Planting, Cultivating, Harvesting Crops and Other Plantation Work

Furnishing up-to-date housing facilities, helping in every way possible with health problems of a worker and his family, and encouraging recreation are claimed to have been some ways in which planters showed an interest in and concern for the welfare of people living on their farms. Workers have responded to a planter's concern by being loyal to a particular one, working efficiently for long hours, sometimes under extremely difficult circumstances, and staying with the same farmer even when neighbors were leaving with the idea that "pastures are greener on the other side of the fence." ¹⁴⁰

Attempting to Solve Problems by Changing Practices

In earlier days there was less that one could do about floods, rainy seasons, and droughts than in later years. The building of the Mississippi River Levee System has practically eliminated floods as they were known less than fifty years ago. ¹⁴¹ (Many old-timers recall floods of 1927 and 1937.) ¹⁴² Replanting can be effective if a rainy season ends in time for crops planted late to mature before the first killing frost, but if chemicals have been used before the first planting to avoid weeds, replanting is probably impractical. Mr. B. McCollum, a planter and former Arkansas legislator, who came to Greasy Corner from Mississippi in 1919, where he lived until his death January 16, 1966, is credited with being the first farmer in the Hughes area to irrigate cotton crops. ¹⁴³ As more irrigation wells were dug and systems installed, less difficulty with droughts existed.

Before the use of airplanes for poisoning, the operation was a difficult one, especially in new ground, where boll weevils were always particularly bad. (There were also army and alfalfa worms.) In preparation for poisoning, a line of possibly twenty men formed. They wore coal-oil burning (later carbide) lights on their heads which sometimes caught fire when their mules stumbled over stumps in a new ground. Shaking bags of calcium arsenate which they called "boll weevil coca cola," they worked from dusk until dawn. If there was the least breeze, there was no moisture and the men could not poison. Sometimes they had to wait all night for dew, while if it rained they could start poisoning early. If poison that got on bodies of men and horses wasn't carefully washed off, it caused a great deal of trouble. ¹⁴⁴

Realizing the importance of people in the successful operation of a plantation, attempts were made to recruit good ones, build adequate houses for them and keep them happy. That

recruiting workers has been considered important is indicated by the wording of a handbill advertising for cotton pickers for Bruins Plantation in 1940 which has:

"Big Bale-to-the-Acre Crop at Bruins, Arkansas . . . Pay is sure and treatment is good at Bruins. Pure drinking water flowing from Artesian well 1,651 feet deep. Ten acres planted in free turnips. Cotton pickers have learned that Bruins is the best place to work. Correct weights and correct pay is the motto." ¹⁴⁵

Before a federal law prohibited their coming, farmers depended upon hundreds of migrant workers from Mexico who came in the spring to hoe cotton and in the fall to help harvest it. ¹⁴⁶

With the coming of modern conveniences, in addition to making other improvements, many planters installed electricity and added running water and bathroom facilities to homes for workers. ¹⁴⁷

After recruiting labor, a planter may have a problem of keeping workers, as did one plantation owner who sometimes found that a family moved in the night without paying debts or giving any kind of notice. Observing that a light continually went off and on in the house of people on his farm and seeing no member of the family for sometime after this phenomenon, he became suspicious and went to the house. There he discovered that the "mover" had tied a rooster to the light cord. As the chicken moved about in the room, the light went on and off, giving the impression that the renters were still in the house. ¹⁴⁸

While a Saturday, July 6, 1940, handbill shows Seyppel, Perryland, Bruins, Happy and Bender having a "consolidated 4th of July Celebration at Bruins" that year, picnics for Bruins workers have become a tradition with Mr. H. M. Brinkley, owner, his family, and Mr. Bert Rivers, manager, according to Mrs. Bert Rivers, who recalled many of the forty-eight events. ¹⁴⁹

On the picnic handbills there were such things as the following on the thirty-fourth one:

"This is one of the largest FREE COLORED PICNICS in the world. All our friends are invited, BUT REMEMBER: POSITIVELY no razors, pistols, ice-picks, long knives or other cons will be allowed. JOHN THOMAS, Committee on the Whole."

There followed fifty-seven names of a committee to help keep order and entertain guests. A handbill for the 1959 picnic showed that Carpenter John Thomas, after thirty-nine years of service as Chairman of the Committee on the Whole, was to be succeeded by Tee-Bo Smith, another charter member of the committee. ¹⁵⁰

With men butchering a cow and possibly two hogs, food preparations got underway on Wednesday before a Saturday picnic. By Friday night, a large tin-covered barbecue pit was ready, and the cooking of meat began.

Available for adding to the fun were a circus, a merry-go-round, a picture-taking machine, and a Seaburg "juke box" furnishing music for listening or dancing; for those interested in participating, there were boxing and baseball; races included mule, car, foot, sack, bicycle, and greased pig; while among contests were watermelon, cracker, and banana eating, with apple bobbing, money splash, shoe scramble, hay scramble, and ice-water dive.

Drawings for prizes, for which everyone held tickets, took place at different times throughout the day.

Enough balloons were available for everybody to have at least one.

For a number of years, perhaps no other event of the day has been anticipated with more excitement and enthusiasm than the throwing out of a rooster from a helicopter by Mr. Hugh Brinkley. Upon catching the rooster, a person would receive the animal and a pair of shoes. In 1967, he received the rooster and five dollars. ¹⁵¹

Recalling what people on Bruins consider a prize story connected with the event, Mr. Charles McGee, Mr. Brinkley's step-son, told how that in order to vary what took place, Mr. Brinkley threw out a manikin once before releasing the rooster in a parachute. Those near him heard a worker excitedly state, "Lawd have mercy! Mr. Brinkley done killed hisself and he owes me five dollars and a half!"¹⁵²

Long before U.S. government regulations of acreage on farms began in the nineteen thirties, following the depression and President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal Program, some planters varied their crops. Although one plantation owner said he was a cotton farmer, he planted a third of his best land in feed crops. He encouraged people to raise spring and fall vegetable gardens by allowing space for them near homes and charging each family \$25.00 if its spot of land lay idle. The family members received all the vegetables they grew.¹⁵³

In addition to cotton and soybeans, which in 1963 were his main profit crops per acre, Mr. Earl Beck, Jr. told Mr. Evetts Haley, Jr., of Arkansas Farmer that he also raised corn and oats which he marketed through feeding them to hogs on "foot."¹⁵⁴

In 1967, for the first time in St. Francis County's history, the biggest crop was soybeans, according to County Agent G. J. Green, who also mentioned harvesting of rice.¹⁵⁵

Because it has proved to be advantageous to them in increasing the yield, farmers have practiced using the skip row method of planting cotton, planting two rows and skipping two or planting four and skipping four.¹⁵⁶

Though the use of chemicals before and after planting became a common practice in weed and grass control, some farmers, including Mr. Earl Beck, Jr., had misgivings about the excessive use of them. Crabgrass, cockleburs, and Johnson grass he mentioned were probably the very plants his father, Mr. Earl Beck, Sr., had to deal with on the same farm many years earlier; but Mr. Beck was eager not to damage the soil by overdoing modern practices, he said in an interview referred to before.¹⁵⁷

Machinery of all kinds improved, although it wasn't made to run smoothly in early days when cotton, if the least bit wet, had to be run through two or three times. Self-starters were made for cars and trucks, eliminating cranking; tubeless tires replaced ones with tubes and earlier solid rubber ones; heaters and air conditioners became standard equipment for trucks and cars; and tractors, bulldozers, combines, cotton pickers, and airplanes were used on farms.¹⁵⁸

Personalities

One of many owners of the Horseshoe Lake area who have had business interests and homes in places other than Hughes, Mr. Russell E. Gardner of St. Louis pioneered in his efforts to clear some land for cultivation but keep a large hunting reserve. Dr. E. J. Chaffin said that Mr. Gardner manufactured the first Chevrolet car. *Who's Who in America, 1930-1931, Volume 16* states that Banner Buggy Company of St. Louis, of which he became vice-president in charge of sales in 1912, was reorganized as Chevrolet Motor Company of St. Louis in 1916.¹⁵⁹ He was evidently still an owner of the Horseshoe Lake land in 1917, for he was married in that year and Mr. Fred Green recalled that Mr. Gardner's wife, "Miss Maude," was at the clubhouse on a Sunday morning when he took a rattlesnake in a sack to collect five dollars for it from Mr. Gardner.¹⁶⁰

About the time when *Who's Who in America* indicated many business and social activities for Mr. Gardner as well as a tour of duty with the United States Navy from 1917-19,¹⁶¹ he sold his land to Mr. Buford Jennings. Mr. Hugh Brinkley, Mr. Robert Snowden, and some of the Becks acquired most of the Jennings estate.¹⁶² (Mr. Earl Beck, Jr.'s place, Casa

Lorraine, and where Mrs. Katherine Reames lived were part of the Jennings land, formerly belonging to Mr. Gardner.) When selling, Mr. Gardner reserved land where deer crossed. ¹⁶³

Coming from Vidalia, Louisiana, in 1908, and spending most of his eighty-five years in clearing land and working for men who owned it, Mr. Fred Green, a Negro worker, learned a great deal about the people, places, and things of the area. He worked at first for Mr. Russell E. Gardner and Mr. Wooten Anderson, who had worked for Mr. Gardner before buying a plantation southwest of the Gardner 12,000 acres. After spending two years in Natchez, Mr. Green returned and worked for many years on Belle Meade and Anderson's Plantation.

Recalling experiences in clearing land, Mr. Green spoke of cutting cypress, willow, oak, hackberry, maple, pecan, and sassafras trees "so many acres at a time." At times he snaked logs with oxen teams and sometimes stacked and burned the logs all night or for two or three days. He mentioned a dummy railroad line from Penjur to Bruins that was helpful in getting timber moved.

In speaking of his own life, Mr. Green said he married three times, had five children in Chicago, two in California, two in Memphis, and 106 grandchildren and great grandchildren. ¹⁶⁴

RELIGION

Activities Indicating Interest In, Respect For, and Tolerance Toward Religious Efforts

Although Goodspeed's *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas in the St. Francis County section* seems to show nothing about the Hughes area as such in 1890, the following on religion may indicate the kind of religious climate into which some early settlers came: "That the people of this county are pre-eminently a Christian people is shown by the fact that three-fourths of the adult population, both white and colored, are members of one or another of the religious denominations, the principal of which are Methodists, Baptists and Presbyterians. In every section of the county, churches of more or less pretensions obtain, always of a substantial character, and the court records indicate a very small proportion of crime, mostly misdemeanors." ¹⁶⁵

Reasoning that the church's efforts were toward making the community a decent place in which to live, Mrs. R.B. Wise told of collecting money for church work before Hughes churches were strong enough to support themselves. Asking church and non-church people alike to contribute, she said none ever refused and she felt that non-religious men as well as religious had a great deal of respect for religious principles. ¹⁶⁶

For many years a practice of rotation of Thanksgiving Cooperative Services in First Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian churches has existed. Money from the offerings at these services is divided equally and used for the orphanages of the three churches. ¹⁶⁷

When a minister from one church was in an accident and was hospitalized in Montgomery, Alabama, the people of another denomination voted to send him a "love offering" of one hundred dollars. ¹⁶⁸

Thinking that members and friends have more money to contribute to the church during the harvest season, Hughes Chapel Baptist Church set aside "Friend's Day" one Sunday in the fall. Asking both members and friends to help, they raised as much money as possible on that day. ¹⁶⁹

Singing and shouting at a baptizing on a plantation lake or bayou on a Sunday afternoon

following a brush arbor revival were something to hear, according to Mrs. Bertha Driver. His friends in Memphis used to tell Mr. Beck to be sure to let them know when there was to be a baptizing so they could be there and hear the choir directed by Mr. Earl Kimmons or Mr. Andrew Driver. ¹⁷⁰

Mrs. Wise tells of her first arrival in Hughes from Madison by train on a Sunday in June, 1918. Upon being met not only by her husband, who had moved all their belongings from Madison in wagons, but also by everyone else in town, she went immediately to church with her family. Entering the vestibule in hat and gloves her Mississippi mother had taught her were proper attire for church, she noticed a water bucket and dipper. After being seated she saw a man in overalls and hip boots sitting by an open window toward the front of the church. With legs crossed, he would chew and spit tobacco juice out the window and make peculiar sounds with every expectoration. Unable to concentrate on the sermon, she began to have misgivings about the kind of place to which she had brought her children to rear them. At a point about the middle of the sermon she became more astonished than ever when the man in hip boots got up, walked all the way to the vestibule to the water bucket, took a dipper of water and proceeded to rinse his mouth. The training of her Mississippi father would permit her neither to turn around nor to reveal in any way how she felt, but from where she sat looking at the minister she could hear some outlandish noises coming from the rear of the church. With his mouth evidently cleared to his satisfaction and ready to listen, the hip-booted man clomped down the aisle and took his seat toward the front of the church again. ¹⁷¹

Endeavors in Securing, Building, and Maintaining Places of Worship and Parsonages

Recalling early church services, people often mentioned their being held in schoolhouses. "Brother" Porter came on a train and preached at a one room school in Hughes before a Baptist Church was built. Since it often rained when he came and people were extremely conscious of mud, a familiar saying on a rainy day was, "Well, Preacher Porter must be coming." ¹⁷² Pioneering in church work in the territory, Methodists had "Brother" Best, who preached and played the organ as early as 1907. Their circuit riders continued with missionary efforts until a church was built in 1918. ¹⁷³

With help of contributions from all faiths in Hughes, Methodists built the first church. Their first pastor, Rev. J. W. Moore, went to the church in November, 1917, not dreaming that he would return exactly fifty years later to preach to a larger congregation than the one of eleven charter members and visitors on the day he organized the church March 31, 1918. When work began on the new church, "Brother" Moore helped "Grandma" Hulen, of Hulen Hotel fame, turn out the bricks with a hand crank for the first church located where the Yit Fongs later lived. (Mr. Crawford of Marianna owned the brick-making apparatus.) ¹⁷⁴

Other Methodist ministers and the time of their appointments were as follows:

Rev. A. F. Jernagin, Nov., 1918
Rev. R. A. Teeter, Jan., 1919
Rev. J. J. Decker, Nov., 1921
Rev. J. T. Spencer, Jan., 1922
Rev. T. R. Davis, June, 1922
Rev. E. J. Slaughter, Nov., 1923
Rev. M. N. Johnston, Nov., 1925
Rev. F.H. Cummings, Nov., 1926
Rev. G. C. Johnson, Nov., 1928
Rev. J. M. Harrison, Nov., 1932

Rev. J. J. Galloway, Nov., 1934
Rev. H.F. McDonald, Nov. 1938
Rev. B. C. Few, Oct., 1945
Rev. A. W. Harris, Oct., 1947
Rev. Harold Womack, June, 1950
Rev. James Chandler, June, 1952
Rev. Elmus Brown, June, 1954
Rev. Charles W. Lewis, June, 1959
Rev. Raymond Dorman, June, 1962 ¹⁷⁵

The first parsonage was built about 1923 and the second during the time of Rev. Galloway's pastorate. After the church burned about 1930, a new one was built. ¹⁷⁶

There is also a St. Paul's A.M.E. Church. ¹⁷⁷

The Hughes Memorial Presbyterian Church was organized August 1, 1928, with eighteen charter members by Reverends J. E. McJunkin of Forrest City, Algernon Killough, Marianna, and W. M. Scott, Arkansas superintendent of Synod's work. Their first meeting was conducted in the Methodist Church and their second one, some years later, in the Baptist Church. ¹⁷⁸

After a Sunday School was organized September 25, 1938, Rev. Killough held services once a month for several years in Hughes Grade School Auditorium. ¹⁷⁹

On February 28, 1942, Dr. A. P. Kelso, Southwestern College, Memphis, began to conduct services twice a month until on April 3, 1949, assisted by Rev. A. H. Harris, Methodist minister, and Rev. W. D. Wallace of the Baptist Church, Dr. A. P. Kelso conducted the first service in the new building and had services twice a month until the church called Reverend Algernon Killough in 1950. A new manse was ready for occupancy for the first time by the Killoughs and their son, Glenn. ¹⁸⁰

Later pastors were Rev. A. W. Whitaker and Rev. Henry Calhoun. ¹⁸¹

The First Baptist Church of Hughes was organized in 1922 by Rev. J. W. Porter, who was a missionary of the Arkansas Valley Association. The first building was erected in 1922 and the second one in 1951-52.

The first pastor was Rev. Emory Calloway who lived at Elaine and divided his time between the two fields. First deacons were Mr. L. E. Burch, Sr., Dr. N. B. Burch, Mr. E. B. Hemphill, Mr. J. B. Ray, and Mr. J. F. Stoddard.

Pastors other than the Reverend Mr. Calloway who served were Rev. Fred Ogles, Rev. H. L. Lipford, Rev. Archie Partain, Rev. Will Edd Langford, Rev. W. D. Wallace, ¹⁸² Rev. Billy Pierce, who served from 1958 until 1967, and Rev. Ben Rowell, who began serving in 1967. ¹⁸³

According to records in possession of Mrs. Jessie Hicks, church clerk, Hughes Chapel Baptist Church was organized the fourth Sunday in March, 1913, at the St. John Baptist Church near what became Bright Future Plantation. By the first Sunday in April a slab church had been constructed near where a water tank was later built in Hughes. Mr. Robert Hughes gave land, Mr. J. P. Hughes the first pulpit, and Mrs. J. P. Hughes the name for the church. The first pastor for two months was a Rev. Mr. McQuens.

The congregation sold plate lunches and refreshments to build a frame church which burned. The next church was blown down by a storm before it was completed. Another one was destroyed by high water. The membership grew to 172.

Some members from Hughes Chapel Baptist congregation started King's Chapel Church, which later became the Rising Sun Baptist Church. ¹⁸⁴

Hughes Central Missionary Baptist Church, with Elder J. C. Walker first pastor, was dedicated on September 13, 1964. ¹⁸⁵

The Church of Christ congregation which met in Hughes Grade School Auditorium in the late 1950's built a church in the early sixties and had as first pastor "Brother" Bernard Hogan. ¹⁸⁶

Involvement in various rural religious activities is indicated by the following recollections and observations. German World War II prisoners, from a camp between Griffith Lumber Company and North Hughes, overhauled St. John Missionary Baptist Church on Bright Future. ¹⁸⁷ Mrs. George Walker held Sunday School at Twin Bridges. ¹⁸⁸ Mr. and Mrs. Carl Edmonson started the Methodist Church at Blackfish. ¹⁸⁹ "Brother" Porter preached at Green River and at Buck's. ¹⁹⁰ An interdenominational Church of Christ was at Greasy Corner. Students held revivals at Blackfish Methodist Church. Shell Lake

Baptist Church was in the Heth area. Many rural people joined Hughes churches and others attended in West Memphis and Memphis.¹⁹¹

Personalities

Two pastors who helped with buildings at churches with the largest number of members were Rev. James Jessee Galloway and Rev. W. D. Wallace.

Rev. James Jessee Galloway, having moved with his parents from South Carolina to Arkansas in 1882, grew up in the foothills of the Ozarks near Van Buren. In his twenties, while a Frisco Depot agent, he was licensed to preach by the Methodist Church. Resigning his position with the railroad, he entered Hendrix College and graduated in 1897.

His first pastorate was Mansfield, Arkansas. He later held almost every position in his conference viz. pastor, presiding elder, college executive, and a member of most boards. He had long experience in building and acting as financier for the church with an active part in erecting seven churches, two parsonages, and two college buildings.

He stayed at the Hughes church four years and during that time helped to erect a new church and parsonage.¹⁹²

Visiting with Rev. Raymond Dorman in Hughes in 1967, Bishop Paul Galloway recalled happenings in his boyhood home, the parsonage his father helped to build while a pastor.¹⁹³

Serving a longer period than any other pastor in town, Rev. W. D. Wallace, assisted by Mrs. Wallace, worked in Hughes First Baptist Church from May 23, 1944, until February 12, 1958, more than thirteen years. "Brother Wallace," as many people called him, thought of the area as being a typical delta one, similar to Wilson and Crawfordsville, his former pastorates near the Mississippi River. "Brother" Wallace said that there was a "readiness on the part of people to accept the minister and to allow him freedom to go about his ministry as he felt he should." He said further that he was "fascinated with the bigness of agricultural operations."¹⁹⁴

Although the Wallaces represented their church at Southern Baptist Conventions in several United States cities, including nearby Memphis, and a Baptist World Alliance in Cleveland, Ohio in 1950, the highlight of their stay in Hughes came, they felt, about three years before retirement. On a Spring Sunday in 1955, his church observed a "Brother Wallace Day" and presented Rev. and Mrs. Wallace an all-expense tour to the Holy Land and the Baptist World Alliance in London. (The Alliance meeting was every five years.) Church deacons had made secret arrangements earlier with Rev. W. O. Vaught of Immanuel Baptist Church of Little Rock, who was to conduct a summer tour especially for Arkansas Baptists.

In order to pay tribute to "the slow-moving and deliberate-speaking person dedicated to his own church and its program but whose love and concern knew no denominational bounds,"¹⁹⁵ church leaders planned a special program in addition to regular Sunday morning worship services. Visitors from other churches ate lunch with the Baptist congregation members in the education building, expressed good wishes to the couple, showed appreciation by their presence and words during an afternoon meeting in the sanctuary, and recalled numerous occasions when the pastor went "beyond the call of duty." Rev. Wallace had worked at Chie Fong's Department Store on busy fall Saturdays, not only to help there, but also to meet, give a friendly greeting to, and invite migratory workers and others to church services; this minister attempted to know and call each adult and child he met by name; during World War II, when gasoline was rationed and few cars were running, he met trains and buses to see who needed a ride and to drive them to places they wanted to go; as their leader, he encouraged Sunday School workers to be patient, for he said he invited a person to church for eight years before he saw him sitting in a service; townspeople assured him on his day of his having established his image as "a friend to

man." 196

Upon retirement the Wallaces moved to a new home they had built in Cleveland, Mississippi, nine miles from their farm. He received publicity in the local newspaper for his unusually fine garden. 197 He continued to preach occasionally and to spend some time at his farm. In reminiscing he said he spent three years in teaching, four in Mississippi Baptist College at Clinton, Mississippi, four years at Southwestern Baptist Seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas, and entered the ministry at thirty-one years of age. In 1967 he and Mrs. Wallace went to Clinton, Mississippi, for the fiftieth year reunion of his college class at Mississippi Baptist College. As parents and grandparents they were delighted with visits from their children and grandchildren.

A son, Mr. W. D. Wallace, Jr., became a hospital administrator at East Tennessee Baptist Hospital at Knoxville, Tennessee and a daughter, Mrs. S.E. Wiczorek, has lived in Hawaii. 198

EDUCATION

Before 1927

From 1912, when Miss Ernestine Vance taught the first school in Hughes, until 1920, the one-room schoolhouse was at the location that later became the Zukerman home. Other teachers were Miss Stella Andrews, later Mrs. R. C. Nickle, 1914-15; Miss Loraine Massey, later Mrs. Authur Spivey, 1916; Miss Janie Tharp, later Mrs. J. W. Moore, 1917; a Miss Seals and a Miss Jones, 1918 and 1919. 199

In 1920, Rev. R. A. Teeter taught older children in the Methodist Church; Miss Alice Moore, later Mrs. T. H. Tucker, had primary children in a house that the Russwurms and later the Jim Griffins owned; Miss Dell Flood finished the term for Mrs. Tucker and later married a Mr. Underwood; a Mrs. Moss also taught in a "shotgun" house on Peckerwood Row, a street where Southwestern Bell Telephone Company later built an office. Mrs. S. C. Russwurm began teaching in 1925. 200

With Mr. J. L. Nelson principal in 1921 and only three teachers in a school that for the first time went beyond six grades, board members Mr. R. C. Nickle, Mr. R. B. Wise, and Mr. T. H. Tucker voted to buy ten acres of land and build a high school. School patrons said ten acres was too much and that there would never be enough students for such a large building as they planned. 201

First eighth grade graduates in 1922 were Roy Curtis, Tom Payne, Louis and Ruby Stoddard. Mrs. Jack Jones (Artie) and Miss Rosetta Bidy were the first Hughes High School graduates, but because of the 1927 flood, they did not receive their diplomas until late in June. 202

Mrs. O. B. Cox, later Mrs. Bill Wilkie, taught in 1923. 203

Mr. Joe McCall became principal and was succeeded by Mr. J. L. Tisdale in 1925. 204

In 1924, Mrs. Tolise Purifoy was living and teaching with Misses Mayme and Mildred Jackson in Hughes. They lived in a big house and taught Negro children in a hall which had one room upstairs and two downstairs.

Mr. "Bunk" Carpenter later married Miss Mildred Jackson, and the couple had a daughter. After the death of the first Mrs. Carpenter he married Miss Mayme Jackson, and this couple had a son, Roland.

After he grew up in Hughes and received teacher training, Mr. Roland Carpenter became principal of Mildred Jackson School. 205

Having several families moving to plantations, planters began helping to establish schools and hiring teachers. In 1925, Miss Eunice Nance, later Mrs. L. E. Stiles, of Blue Mountain, Mississippi, became the first teacher at Green River; ²⁰⁶ Miss Jennie Legg began in 1926 and continued teaching at Rawlinson until 1939-40, the last year a school was there. ²⁰⁷

Mrs. Eldon Cooper was a teacher at Beck's. ²⁰⁸

About two miles east of Hughes, near a curve of Arkansas Highway 38, an early teacher is supposed to have been buried in a brick-covered steel vault. Mr. Herod Wise heard that she came on a boat, was a relative of Dunns, whose headquarters were where Adams Commissary was later located, died of smallpox in 1913, and was buried in a vault because of high water at the time. He thought someone broke into the vault with the idea that the teacher was buried wearing diamond rings. ²⁰⁹

At one time when Rawlinson had three white schools and two Negro ones, three school directors there were Mr. J. F. Flanagan, Mr. Sam Ashworth, and Mr. Levi Huggins, a Negro man. ²¹⁰

Teachers in some of the schools were Laura Eleanor Smith, Celeste Tarver, and Mrs. Casey Ashworth (Virginia Riffey) who was there in 1925-26. ²¹¹

From 1927 to 1960's

By 1956 the number of board members had increased from five to eight and were Mr. Bert Pouncey, Jr., president, Mr. Cliff Nickle, vice-president, Mr. Charles Adams, secretary, Mr. Simon Capps, Mr. E. H. Clarke, Sr., Mr. Charles D. Brown, Mr. L. E. Burch, and Mr. Hugh T. Dillahunt. ²¹²

Mr. Harry Williamson became principal in 1931. Home economics, music, a football team, and a cafeteria were added that year. ²¹³

Mr. Roy Nelson became superintendent of schools in 1937, and the same year Miss Ruth Taylor, later Mrs. Roy Nelson, joined the faculty as home economics teacher. ²¹⁴

Following Mr. Bert Pouncey, Jr.'s being acting superintendent, Mr. Roy Stobaugh became superintendent in 1959. ²¹⁵

Included in Mrs. Katherine Compton's activities as a high school teacher of the early nineteen thirties were teaching English and general science, being librarian, and directing plays. ²¹⁶

Serving consecutively for a longer period of years than any other faculty member, Miss Julia McKemie was a business education teacher and secretary to the superintendent before becoming a guidance counselor. ²¹⁷ In *Who's Who of American Women* in 1965, she is listed as past president of St. Francis County Education Association, executive secretary of student councils for 1957-1963, and was state president of Delta Kappa Gamma from 1963 until 1965. ²¹⁸

Mrs. J. R. Collier taught at Beck's and Mrs. M. D. Warren was a teacher there in 1932. ²¹⁹

Mr. Ralph Fulks was a teacher at Heth and a Rotarian in 1938-39. ²²⁰

Since there is a custom of having students return for Homecoming ten years after graduation, many make a special effort to be there. Some try to see school friends any time they visit as did Mary Perez, a Mexican-American girl, who shared top honors with Helen Lock, a Chinese-American girl, at their graduation in the late nineteen forties. Mary's visit to Hughes in 1967 gave her an opportunity to renew friendships formed earlier. ²²¹

Generously giving of their time and talents when called upon, parents have helped to sponsor school trips, been members of booster clubs, contributed to P.T.A. projects, entertained faculty members in their homes, and substituted, if needed, for teachers who

were absent. ²²²

The first pre-school conference for Hughes School was held on September 1-4, 1948, with Mrs. Helen Brown from Arkansas State College at Jonesboro as consultant to the elementary group and Miss Mary Ellen Burton, recorder. ²²³

At the second conference Miss Lula Doyle Baird, elementary school supervisor of Morrilton Schools, was a consultant to the elementary teachers. Miss Ida Turnage was director and Miss Hazel Knight was recorder. ²²⁴

In pre-school conferences, plans were begun for activities of the year including a Halloween Carnival, which was not only a total school but a total community activity until the last one in 1965. ²²⁵

Decisions were made to have May Day Festivals which were musical programs involving all elementary children and teachers. ²²⁶

For a number of years the elementary school sponsored either an art exhibit or a book fair each year with total school involvement. ²²⁷

Civic clubs, Rotary and Lions, cooperated in furnishing gifts for all elementary children who attended a Christmas tree in the school gymnasium. Efforts were often made to have every elementary child take part in a Christmas program at the time. ²²⁸

Following Mr. Crier's effort about 1933, the first school band was organized in 1955 and included students from grades five through twelve. ²²⁹

The Blue Devil, first annual since The Blue Banner in 1942, was published in 1950-51. Being a high school publication, it pictures mostly high school events but also contains items relating to elementary school. ²³⁰

In order to give youngsters opportunities to practice democracy, Hughes Elementary, Junior High, and High Schools have had Student Councils for a number of years. ²³¹

On the day that Christmas holidays begin, elementary and high school students visit each of three churches that members of Hughes Garden Club have decorated. The pastor of each church gives a short message, the organist plays, and the children sing carols. The ladies are in the churches to serve as hostesses and wish pupils and their teachers a Merry Christmas. ²³²

The St. Francis County Board of Education (Mr. Eldridge Butler, Mr. E. B. Smith, Mr. R. B. Wise, Mr. L. B. Peevy, and Mr. T. G. McCorkle), met December 17, 1928, at a meeting called by the County Superintendent of Schools, Mr. J. M. Wilson, to consider petitions for consolidation of school districts of Rawlinson (No. Fifteen), Heth (No. Forty-three), and Hughes (No. Twenty-seven). The board voted to meet on January 15, 1929, to consider objections to consolidation. ²³³ There is no record of the discussion at this meeting. ²³⁴

At the March 11, 1929, meeting legal counsel for both sides argued the case. Attorneys Lanier and Norfleet represented Districts No. Forty-three and No. Fifteen. Attorney Mann represented No. Twenty-seven. After listening to both sides, the board voted unanimously to wait until March 26 for further consideration of the matter. ²³⁵

On March 26, 1929, a majority of the board voted for consolidation. ²³⁶

On August 27, 1929, there was a rehearing of the consolidation matter and the fact was brought out that a case concerning it was also pending in circuit court. ²³⁷

After June 9, 1930, when consolidation plans had been completed, the County Board of Education ordered funds transferred to Hughes District. Keeping in mind their decision to have a board member live in each area of the district, they appointed nine members to the first board of the newly formed Hughes District. These were Mr. J. R. Collier, Dr. E. J. Chaffin, Mr. Bob Parker, Mr. R. C. Nickle, Mr. Sam Ashworth, Mr. T. B. Green, Mr. J. B. Black, Mr. J. H. McCracken, and Mr. R. C. McNeil. ²³⁸

After correspondence with Mr. T. P. Johnson, County Superintendent of Crittenden County Schools, arrangements were made for special elections on December 13, 1931, at

which time voting was in favor of seventeen sections of the Chatfield District consolidating with Hughes. ²³⁹

Other Crittenden County schools were consolidated with Hughes until the district included an area of 248 square miles. ²⁴⁰

Before the 1928-29 school year, schools for white children in the Hughes Special School District No. Twenty-seven were Hughes, Happy, Pinckney, Green River, Belle Meade, Bruins, Chatfield, Heth, Rawlinson, Twin Bridges, and Beck's. ²⁴¹

In 1948-49 Hughes schools for Negro children in St. Francis County were Penjur, Bright Future, Red Gum, Section, Davis, Stump City, Frenchman, Heth, McNeil, Ashworth, Willow Bend, Green, Shell Lake, Blackfish, and Mildred Jackson. ²⁴²

In 1948-49 Hughes schools for Negro children in Crittenden County were Claybrook, Snowden, Simsboro, Chatfield, Watt, Beck, Walnut Grove, Morning Star, New Zion, Green River, and Highland. ²⁴³

In 1954-55 when Mrs. M. C. Arrant visited Negro schools in Hughes as Elementary Supervisor, State Department of Education, she found 1,442 pupils and thirty-two teachers in fourteen schools. Those schools were Beck, Chatfield, Heth, Highland, Jackson, McNeil, Morning Star, New Zion, Penjur, Section, Simsboro, Walnut Grove, Davis, and Bright Future. ²⁴⁴

Mr. W. V. Armstrong, County Supervisor of St. Francis County, felt that the consolidation of schools was a remarkable accomplishment. He mentioned the three schools in operation, Hughes with twelve grades, Mildred Jackson with twelve grades, and Arthur Evans with six grades. He called attention to the large number of schools which had been consolidated to establish these three. ²⁴⁵

In 1933 the first gymnasium was built ²⁴⁶ and in 1965 the second gymnasium was dedicated. ²⁴⁷

In 1940 home economics and agriculture buildings were added. ²⁴⁸

By 1946, a small frame building was placed behind the home economics building, making room for seven elementary classrooms. ²⁴⁹ By 1957-58 the number of elementary classrooms was nineteen. ²⁵⁰

A teachers' home was completed but was destroyed by fire on November 27, 1948. Another one was finished in time for occupancy by the fall of 1949. Members of the school board at the time were Mr. Bert Pouncey, Jr., president, Mr. Cliff Nickle, Mr. Charles Adams, Mr. Simon Capps, and Mr. E. H. Clark, Sr. ²⁵¹

The new air-conditioned cafeterium was opened in 1955. ²⁵²

Other buildings pictured in the *Blue Devil*, 1961, were a primary and an elementary building, a superintendent's home, a shop, and a high school. ²⁵³

At Mildred Jackson School a cafeteria was built in addition to high school, elementary, home economics, and agriculture buildings. ²⁵⁴

The Arthur Evans School near Horseshoe Lake was built in the nineteen fifties. ²⁵⁵

After federal legislation was passed allowing schools to use federal aid for certain elementary and secondary activities, Miss Euleta Murdoch became Director of Federal Programs. ²⁵⁶

According to an *Arkansas Gazette* article, biracial enumeration of school age people in Hughes Special District Number Twenty-seven in 1964 included 819 white, 1,973 Negro, 2,792 total. ²⁵⁷

In adopting a plan for desegregation, Hughes School District used the freedom of choice enrollment procedure with 1965-66 being the first year any children were allowed a choice.

The plan called for, according to the *West Memphis Evening Times*, is "Grades One to Four inclusive to be desegregated in 1965-66; Grades Five to Eight, inclusive, in the school year 1966-67; and Grades Nine to Twelve inclusive, in the school year 1967-68. ²⁵⁸

In the summer of 1968, the same freedom of choice plan approved in the beginning was still in operation. ²⁵⁹

Personalities

These people are representative of many unusual ones connected with Hughes School; administrator, Mr. Roy M. Nelson; board member, Mr. Bert Pouncey, Jr.; teacher, Mrs. Pearl Russwurm; student, Mr. Billy Hairald; and parent, Mrs. Stella Andrews Nickle.

After Mr. Roy Montgomery Nelson was elected president of the Arkansas Education Association, the A.E.A. Journal had the following information in a January, 1947 issue:

"The president-elect of the A.E.A., who will take office July 1, 1947 is Roy Nelson, Superintendent of Schools at Hughes. Mr. Nelson is a native of Arkansas, born at Havana, in Yell County, where he graduated from high school. Intermingling teaching in rural schools and continuing his education, he attended one year at each of the following colleges: Bryson College, Arkansas State Teachers College, Presbyterian College, Clinton, South Carolina, and graduated with the B.A. degree from Erskine College, Due West, South Carolina. He did graduate work at Columbia University in the summer of 1928 and at the University of Missouri the summer of 1933, and took off one year from his teaching to complete the masters degree in the University of South Carolina in 1936. His teaching includes a year each at Plainview and Rover. Mr. Nelson became superintendent of schools at Ola in 1928 and remained in that position until he left to assume the superintendency at Hughes in 1937." ²⁶⁰

He became a life member of A.E.A. and N.E.A. ²⁶¹ and remained at Hughes until his death on September 6, 1958. His wife was the former Miss Ruth Taylor of McCrory, a home economics teacher in Hughes. Their two daughters are Mrs. Sarah Ruth Nelson Womble and Miss Carolyn Sue Nelson. ²⁶²

In spite of having undergone surgery for two ruptured discs in a Memphis hospital, four hours later Mr. Fred N. McCollum telephoned an editorial paying tribute to Mr. Nelson in his newspaper, the **Forrest City Daily Times-Herald**.

"The entire county, school people and citizens everywhere were immensely shocked by the sudden and untimely death of Roy Nelson, Superintendent of Hughes Schools.

He was a man who believed in the work he was doing, and the results he attained thereby were not unfounded. He worked diligently, ceaselessly, untiringly, and effectively to make this a better world. . . .

He was unostentatious but he was cultured. . . . When he walked into a room, his presence commanded respect. . . . The fact the Hughes School has grown as successfully as it has is a tribute to him. . . .

He was loved, admired, and respected by people in every walk and rank of life.

He was a man of which any community and any state might well be proud. He was earnest, honest, and sincere and his handiwork will last long after his personal attributes have been forgotten." ²⁶³

In the **Forrest City Daily Times-Herald**, September 8, 1958, come ideas of ways he worked with people at school.

Mr. Nelson's friendliness and efficient administration were obvious to patrons as well as teachers. ²⁶⁴

Knowing most of the students by name, he took a personal interest in their welfare.

Watching youngsters load on buses each afternoon, he was likely to hear some of them calling out, "Goodbye, Mr. Nelson!" ²⁶⁵

Becoming a member of Hughes School Board about 1943 and serving as president since 1946, ²⁶⁶ Mr. Bert Pouncey, Jr., was an acting superintendent of Hughes Schools in 1958-59. ²⁶⁷ This gave him experiences as an active educator in addition to those he has had in being a business man, banker, landowner, civic leader, and marine expert. ²⁶⁸

A native Arkansan, Mr. Pouncey was born in Helena and moved to Hughes with his mother and father in 1917. He graduated from Central High School in Memphis, attended Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, where he received a B.S. Degree in Commercial Engineering in 1932. He married Miss Dorothy Holmes in June of that year. ²⁶⁹

In 1936 he assumed ownership and operation of Anoka Farms. The name "Anoka" is an Osage Indian word meaning "on both sides" and alluding to the fact that his land lies partly in St. Francis and partly in Crittenden County. ²⁷⁰

With his interests and service reaching beyond the boundary lines of the two counties, most of Mr. Pouncey's activities have been in or near Hughes. Businesses in which he had interests included Kelly Oil Company formed in a partnership with Mr. Paul Kelly, Sr., in 1947, and Anoka Towing Company of Hughes and West Memphis, with which his eldest son became connected. Serving as president of Planters National Bank from 1939 until 1950, he later became chairman of the Board of Directors. In 1945-48, Mr. Pouncey was a representative of Crittenden County in the Arkansas State Legislature. ²⁷¹

Being an Eagle Scout, he helped with scouting, especially when his sons, Bert and Bobby, were Boy Scouts. ²⁷²

Mr. Pouncey was First National Commodore of the U.S. Coast Guard in 1951-52 and he served as president of the National Coast Guard Auxiliary. ²⁷³

Mrs. Pearl Wilsford Russwurm (1880-1959), wife of Dr. S.C. Russwurm, taught in Hughes School about twenty years. Interviewees remembered her interest in people and apparent feeling of warmth as she greeted and talked with them. One spoke of her neat appearance and nice-looking clothes. ²⁷⁴ Teaching children of families that acquired great wealth or those who had very little, she attempted to bridge the gap for those with less, not only by helping them to achieve fundamental skills but also by asking people to give them material help. There was her story of a first grade girl who was a "fighter." The child confided to her teacher that if she had pretty dresses like another girl in class she would be good too. Realizing that this little one from a broken home was perhaps "fighting" many problems, the teacher tried to work as patiently as possible with her and to get someone to give her clothes.

After she retired from teaching, Mrs. Russwurm's continued interest indicated unusual school spirit and dedication to the cause of education for children. She substituted, tutored, attended Parent Teacher Association meetings, complimented teachers and administrators, showed interest in former students, made telephone calls to anyone who would talk with her about school, and became the institution's number one public relations person. Because of the interest she took in helping to provide for needy children, the Parent Teacher Association named its clothing fund The Pearl Russwurm Fund. The future teachers group in high school chose to honor her by calling their organization The Pearl Russwurm Future Teachers of America. They placed a large picture of her in the classroom where they held their meetings. The 1952 school annual, *The Blue Devil*, was dedicated to her. ²⁷⁵

Confined to a wheelchair because of cerebral palsy, and with a speech impediment that

made communication difficult, Billy Hairald graduated from Hughes High School in May, 1965. ²⁷⁶

Having his teachers go to the home during his first six years and his mother, Mrs. John Hairald, help with his lessons, Billy was alert and enthusiastic in learning whatever the teachers gave to him. ²⁷⁷

Upon reaching junior high school age, Billy and his mother went to classes, took notes, and went home, where the mother studied with him. ²⁷⁸

Using reference books at home, Billy did research and took notes for his mother to use in writing papers that were assigned by his teachers. His learning to use an electric typewriter did not prove to be as successful as the family had hoped it would be. ²⁷⁹

After missing only a few days of the six years of school, the son and mother received diplomas. The mother's was unusual in that it was an expression of appreciation for help she had given her son in his education in the Hughes Public Schools and was signed by Mr. Roy Stobaugh, superintendent, Mr. Bert Pouncey, Jr., president of the board, and Mr. Charles Adams, secretary of the board. ²⁸⁰

When Mrs. R. C. Nickle, formerly Miss Stella Andrews, went to Hughes in 1913 to ask the directors for the one room school, as was customary at the time, she found Mr. Tom Cockran digging potatoes. After making her application to him, she went to see Mr. B. Custer Friar and a Mr. Blocker. Having spent six years in Galloway, a Methodist school for girls located at Searcy, she explained that she felt that her qualifications were adequate. ²⁸¹

After teaching one year, Miss Andrews married Mr. R. C. Nickle, a school board member. They had five children: Mrs. Davis Biggs, Mrs. Herod Wise, Mrs. Rodney Tillman, and Mr. Clifton Nickle and Mr. Robert Nickle, who were twins. ²⁸²

Mr. R. C. Nickle was president of Hughes School Board for a number of years, and the Nickles entertained each year with a party for faculty members. Later, when Mr. Cliff Nickle became a board member, he and Mrs. Nickle, with his mother to assist, followed the Nickle tradition of entertaining faculty members once each year. ²⁸³

Since they sent their children to Hughes School, Mrs. Nickle became active in P.T.A. work, serving as president. Also taking an interest in the school work of her grandchildren she continued to attend P.T.A. meetings occasionally, especially if Mary Ann, Cliff, or Harriet Wise, or Elizabeth, Mary Louise, Preston, or Margaret Ann Nickle was involved. During this time the Hughes P.T.A. honored Mrs. Nickle with a life membership. ²⁸⁴

A charter member of the Hughes Methodist Church, Mrs. Nickle has been active in W.S.C.S. and other work of the church. ²⁸⁵

Also an active member of Hughes Garden Club, she served as president of it. ²⁸⁶

Mrs. Nickle was connected with school as a teacher, wife of a board member, mother of a board member, parent and grandparent of school children, P.T.A. president, and a patron of the school. ²⁸⁷

GOVERNMENT

Incorporation, Organization, First Decisions, and Elected Mayors

The city of Hughes was incorporated by order of the County Court of St. Francis County on June 5, 1916. It started with one square mile but later became one and one-half square miles. ²⁸⁸

All surveying of the city was done by Mr. Harry Shellhouse. ²⁸⁹

The Federal Census reported the Hughes population as 1,960 in 1960. ²⁹⁰

Mr. Robert M. Hughes of Senatobia, Mississippi, having bought a half section of land from the L. F. Dunns, gave land for the railroad and the stop was to be called Hughes. (Having "considerable interests" around Senatobia, Mississippi, Mr. Hughes never came to Arkansas to live, ²⁹¹ but his son, Mr. J. P. Hughes, lived in Hughes. He had two sons, Bob and Joe.) ²⁹² Mr. Hughes laid off lots north of Main Street, which is on a section line, and sold them for homes and businesses. Mr. Hughes and Mr. John S. R. Cowan, who owned land south of the section line, thought all businesses should face the railroad. ²⁹³

The first mayor in this mayor-alderman type government was Mr. R. C. Nickle. ²⁹⁴

The first aldermen were Mr. W. H. Ellis, Mr. T. H. Tucker, Mr. A. McDonald, Mr. W. A. Spivey, Mr. B. C. Friar, and Dr. E. J. Chaffin. ²⁹⁵

After the first ordinances set up duties of officers, beginning with Ordinance Number Five they dealt with conducting trials, prohibiting carrying of weapons, preventing disturbances of religious congregations, church, etc., prohibiting sale of whiskey, prohibiting vagrancy, protecting highways and bridges, prohibiting malicious mischief, and providing for license and privilege tax and their collections. ²⁹⁶ At the next meeting a regulation of sale of merchandise, cold drinks, and fresh meats on Sunday was passed. ²⁹⁷

On May 23, 1925, Mr. J. J. Brennan was given permission to construct an electric light and power plant in Hughes. ²⁹⁸

On April 26, 1926, an ordinance was passed giving three more months to get lights in operation. Mr. Brennan sold his interest in the franchise to East Arkansas Power and Light Company. ²⁹⁹ Meanwhile Mr. Joe Stoddard had a Delco Plant which served four or five buildings. ³⁰⁰

On October 8, 1928, an ordinance was passed establishing a water and sewer improvement district. ³⁰¹

On August 23, 1935, borrowing money from U.S. government for a Public Water System was agreed upon. ³⁰²

Fire fighting facilities and water supply were installed in 1936. Only a few houses hooked on before the 1937 flood. An artesian well supplied drinking water for flood victims. A second well drilled was artesian. A third well completed in the nineteen sixties is 1,820 feet deep. ³⁰³

On March 4, 1944, agreement was made with Arkansas Power and Light Company for a street lighting schedule. ³⁰⁴

On March 21, 1938, an ordinance was passed approving private sale to the United States of America \$20,000.00 sewer revenue bonds with the aim of completing the system by March 28, 1939. ³⁰⁵

According to Mr. M. D. Warren, City Water Commissioner, the sewerage system was completed and in operation in 1940. ³⁰⁶

On April 25, 1939, there was discussion in regard to forming an improvement district for paving streets in Hughes. ³⁰⁷

On June 19, 1946, talk started of getting natural gas for inhabitants of Hughes. ³⁰⁸

Mayors of Hughes included Mr. R. C. Nickle, Mr. J. L. Nelson, Mr. J. R. Bradford, Mr. H. R. Browning, Mr. W. A. Harp, Mr. J. O. Crunk, Mr. E. E. (Gene) Barton, Mr. J. R. Collier, Mr. Charlie Wilkerson, Mr. C. C. Moore, and Mr. Herod Wise. ³⁰⁹

Later Activities with Franchise Approval

More recent city council action had to do with a revised franchise to Arkansas Power and Light Company for increasing its tax levy; ³¹⁰ securing natural gas; and securing Federal

Housing that was completed in 1968.³¹¹ At a meeting of the council on November 7, 1967, city planning was discussed by Mr. Tom Eeabrook, city planner under contract with the City Planning Division of the University of Arkansas.³¹² On June 4, 1965, Arkansas Power and Light Company dedicated a new building in Hughes. In his dedicatory address, in an auditorium that was to be available for public use, Mr. Reeves Ritchie pointed to an increase in street lighting wattage from "4,200 watts to nearly 53,000 watts." Continuing, he said, "You've built a new city hall; improved your water system; paved most of your streets; and made a significant start in the installation of storm sewers."³¹³

Conclusion

Conclusion

ACTIVITIES OF ORGANIZATIONS

The Hughes Garden Club, first one to be organized, was active in not only decorating three churches for Christmas each year but also maintaining a roadside park northeast of the city. ³¹⁴

Realizing a need for a place for recreation, The Town and Country Garden Club built and maintains a swimming pool. The members sponsor a junior club for girls. ³¹⁵

Among activities of the Spade and Dream Garden Club was planting trees in front of the primary school building and shrubs around the cafetorium building and at the school superintendent's home. ³¹⁶

In the year of its beginning in 1938, the Hughes Rotary Club began supporting the Hospital for Crippled Adults in Memphis and having Hughes faculty members as dinner guests at a September meeting. In the beginning Rotarians entertained members of the senior class in May and at their December meeting during the holidays had students who were attending college as guests. ³¹⁷ The Rotary Club has a scholarship fund which can be used by college students. ³¹⁸

The Hughes Lions Club, with sight conservation as a major goal, provides examinations, treatment, and sometimes glasses for needy children and adults. ³¹⁹

Hughes Chamber of Commerce, formed some years ago, was reorganized December 11, 1965, and agreed to be active in promoting projects to help meet the needs of the city. ³²⁰

The Hughes Junior Chamber of Commerce was organized May 6, 1965, with Mr. Hugh Monty Dillahunt elected charter president of the group. ³²¹

"Nothing kept us away from Memphis," Mrs. Clyde Conlan (Mrs. A. J.) McDaniel recalled when telling how she often crossed the Mississippi River on a skiff and took the train at Penton, Mississippi for Memphis. An article in *The Commercial Appeal*, Memphis, January 15, 1965, told of Mrs. McDaniel's death at the age of eighty-two, and that being born at Swope's Landing, south of Hughes, she had watched the section change from "a wilderness of giant trees to broad cultivated fields and paved roads." ³²²

While many people of Hughes have gone to Memphis for shopping, entertainment, club meetings, and other activities, Memphians went to Hughes, especially the Horseshoe Lake area, for fishing, hunting, boating, water skiing, and other outdoor sports. Buying acreage from Mr. Earl Beck, Jr., developing it into subdivisions, and selling lots, "City Real Estate" of Memphis established Horseshoe Lake Estates, helping to attract many Memphians and other people to that area who wished to establish permanent or temporary homes near a lake. ³²³

Through the relatively short number of years it has existed, Hughes has acquired some qualities of a cosmopolitan area. Arkansans, Mississippians, Tennesseans, Kansans, German, Chinese, Lebanese, Swedish, Irish, Mexican, Negro, Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant people have worked together to clear land, build homes, schools, churches,

communities, and lives for themselves.

Mrs. M. C. Arrant, who visited the Hughes Negro schools when she was an elementary supervisor in the Arkansas State Department of Education in the late nineteen forties and early fifties, said she felt then that Hughes was truly a melting pot with its caucasians, Negroes, and Chinese. ³²⁴

FUTURE POSSIBILITIES

Although clearing a swampy, snake-infested, mosquito-filled wilderness required extreme physical stamina and determination, men made communities and worked together through the first half of the twentieth century to bring beneficial changes to them. With their heritage of cleared farmland, businesses, government, schools, churches, and homes, it seems reasonable to think that most of those people living in the last half of the century are prepared to face challenges of their day with courage and to work together effectively in identifying and solving current problems.

Footnotes

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