

The Shelby Sentinel
Columbiana, Alabama
Thursday, February 27, 1879

CAMP BRANCH SCHOOL.

“THE SCHOOL at this place will re-open on the THIRD DAY OF MARCH, 1879, AND WILL CONTINUE FOR THE TERM OF EIGHT SCHOLASTIC MONTHS. Persons wishing to improve the advantages offered by a permanent country school cannot do better than to give us their patronage. All the studies usually pursued in Preparatory Schools will be thoroughly taught. First class country board can be obtained within convenient distances for the small sum of five dollars per month; and tuition is correspondingly low. For particulars address T.A. BIVENS, Longview, Shelby County, Ala.”

Shelby County Reporter-Democrat
Columbiana, Alabama
Thursday, December 14, 1950

**“Be sure to keep this as it carries historic value as well as enlightening data.”
By Mildred White Wallace**

**INTERVIEW OF
MRS. WILSON DURDEN**

Copied by Bobby Joe & Diane Seales

In 1926, three schools, Camp Branch, Ebenezer and Saginaw, consolidated into what is now known as Camp Branch-Saginaw Elementary School, located near Saginaw, Alabama. A few years later Mt. Era was added to this school.

The plant consists of four classrooms and an auditorium, which is also used as a classroom. It is heated by jacketed heaters and the janitorial services are taken care of by the teachers and pupils. There are five teachers and six grades. The school is served by three busses. The high school pupils of these communities attend Thompson High School, Siluria, Alabama.

The Camp Branch-Saginaw P.T.A. has always had a keen interest in the progress and welfare of the school. The following accomplishments have been realized through the efforts of this P.T.A. Wiring the building for lights, a lavatory and drinking fountain in each room, stage curtain and scenery, venetian blinds throughout the building, film strip projector, victrola-radio combination, maps and globes, and a mimeograph machine. In the fall of 1948, a concrete block building was erected for a lunchroom and furnished with electric stove, water

heater, and refrigerator. The project took the united efforts of the teachers, pupils, parents and friends working together on a worth while goal. The next project under consideration is the purchase of playground equipment.



Camp Branch-Saginaw School Stage Scenery ... 1938-1939
(Preserved by Charles E. Seales)

The two main purposes of our school are to improve the physical well-being of the child and to teach the fundamental skills in a more functional way. The program of this school is planned and carried on cooperatively by the entire staff with the help of the children, parents and supervisors. This program is attempting to learn and practice democratic living. It is also flexible in guiding them in terms of their interest, abilities, needs and maturity.

Among the extra-curricular activities are cooking, sewing, clubs, field trips, activity periods, trips, special day projects and a cooperative store operated by the sixth grade. These pupils do the buying and selling, keep accounts, get experience in handling money and meeting the public, and balancing books at the end of the month. With the profit from this project, the children get a trip to Birmingham or Montgomery by chartered bus. Two new sets of World Book Encyclopedia and a radio have also been added to the school by this project.

These first-hand experiences are valuable to the pupils in many ways. They have a share in planning, learning to cooperate with a group, shared leadership, learn the value of money, keep accurate accounts, practice honesty, evaluate work done and enjoy travel experiences.

