

An Early School in the Clarkston District.

Mrs. Hugh Trotti, President of the DeKalb County Historical Society, interviews her second Vice-president, Judge J. C. Estes of Clarkston, Justice of the Peace, about the school he attended as a boy. (Judge Estes is eighty years old).

Mrs. Trotti: Judge Estes, did your father, Squire Z. Estes, have to pay tuition for you to attend school in Browning's District between Clarkston and Stone Mountain?

Judge Estes: Yes, the cost per pupil per day was five cents for the lower grades and six cents per day for the older pupils. The State payed three cents a day of this, and the parent the two or three cents per day per pupil.

Mrs. Trotti: How long was the school term?

Judge Estes: We went to school six to eight weeks in winter, then the larger children had to stop and help with the farm work. Then they went to school sixty days in the summer, and stopped to help with the crops.

Mrs. Trotti: What kind of school buildings did you have at the time we are speaking of?

Judge Estes: Our school houses were long plank buildings, unsealed. There was not a single sealed building in DeKalb County at this time.

Mrs. Trotti: How was your school house heated?

Judge Estes: There was a fire place at one end of the building that burned three-foot logs.

Mrs. Trotti: How in the world did the children keep warm?

Judge Estes: There was a bench without a back on each side of the fire place, and one across in front of it. Eight children sat on each of these. Then two benches back of the one facing the fire place took care of the larger children. We would stick our feet under the bench in front of us as far as we could to try and get warmer.

Mrs. Trotti: Did you have writing desks?

Judge Estes: There was a wide plank hinged to the wall at the other end of the room from the fire place. When no one was writing on it, it was let down out of the way.

Mrs. Trotti: What book did the children begin their education with?

Judge Estes: With the old blue back speller, it cost fifteen cents.

*Kyle's Early Schooler
Clarkston
School
built
1880's
1985-
75*

CLARKSTON CLARION

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CLARKSTON'S CITY HALL.—Many requests have been made that we publish this recent picture of the City Hall that once was Clarkston's school building. Built about 1880 the only change made since then has been a partition on the inside and the basement that now shelters the Civilian Defense's new fire engine. It was in this building that such well-known citizens as Tom and Clem Jolly, Mrs. Frank McLendon, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Johnson, Tom Norton, Mrs. Laura Kimbrell, Mrs. J. C. Estes and M. C. White, of Clarkston; Will Maddox and John Sheppard, of Stone Mountain; Dr. Tom Fincher, of Decatur; our staff photographer, and many, many more grandparents first learned their three R's and the blue-back speller. It is said that as many as 75 pupils were crowded into its one room.—*Staff Photo*