



10-15-1986

Hammon

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Recommended Citation

Crane, Glen (1986) "Hammon," *Westview*: Vol. 6 : Iss. 1 , Article 10.
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol6/iss1/10>

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Hammon

By Glen Crane

At the turn of the century, the town of Hammon was founded on the SE 1/4 of 36-14-21. The first school was established there in 1906.

In 1920, during the construction of the MKT railroad, the town was moved to its present site on the NE 1/4 1-13-21. The townsite was formerly owned by W. S. Creach.

After this move, school was held in a two-story building owned by J. D. Cobb. The smaller children's classes were held in a half-dugout located in the southeast part of town across the road south from the Leonard Wilder place. Miss Rula Woodruff was the teacher, according to Blanche Smith Parks, who was one of the pupils in the dugout school. Other early-day teachers, who taught in the temporary buildings, were Professor Moss, W. O. Carper, Flossie Keller Mangold, Nell Brady Harris, and Mamie Scott Eakins. Mrs. Eakins was the mother of another outstanding teacher, Miriam Eakins Walker. Mitchell and Miriam Walker taught in several schools in Roger Mills County before moving to Colorado Springs, where Mitchell was engaged in Military and Government work.

In 1908, when the county was divided into school districts, the schoolhouse known as Pleasant Hill was about one mile west and one-half mile south of the new site of

Hammon. It was called District No. 66. After a great deal of dissension in the community over the name of the school, it was changed from Pleasant Hill to Yankee Front and then back to Pleasant Hill but later was known as Yankee Front. It seems that School Board elections determined the name of the school.

In 1981, while in Hammon trying to get the exact location of the old schoolhouse, I was talking with two of the leading citizens--Orville "Fat" Morton and Lee Stephens. Lee's mother was the former Ruby Hiatt, who was an early-day teacher and former resident of the community.

Morton made the statement that he had attended Pleasant Hill School in 1914, and Stephens immediately countered, "You may have gone to Yankee Front, but you never did go to Pleasant Hill!"

It seemed strange to me that after 67 years, the heirs of the families were still fighting the battle over naming the school.

Sometime before 1916 the Pleasant Hill-Yankee Front School closed and merged into the Hammon School System.

(From Glen Crane's ONE HUNDRED ONE SCHOOLS REMEMBERED)

A student's questions

I Don't Understand

By David Klaassen

I don't understand

Why hotdogs come in packages of ten,

But the buns come in eights,

Why there are locks on the doors of places that are open 24 hours,

Why we have a Department of the Interior

That's in charge of everything outdoors.

Most of all, I don't understand

Why light switches have *on* and *off* on them

(When they are on, you can clearly see that they are on,

And when they are off, it's too dark to read it anyway.).

I do understand

Why salt shakers have more and/or larger holes than pepper shakers.

(David is Mr. and Mrs. Bob Klaassen's oldest child.)