

PITTMAN COMMUNITY CENTER

A Mountain Mission

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This book has been published for the sole purpose of restoring the records, and to make public, the accomplishments of the endeavors by the Methodist Mission Board of Home Missions of Elmyra, N.Y. How they set about to educate and help the children of a section of the Appalachian Mountains in Sevier County, Tennessee.

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THE BEGINNING

1920 - 1927

PITTMAN COMMUNITY CENTER

PREFACE

On today's maps of Tennessee, Pittman Center appears as a settlement east of Gatlinburg and southeast of Knoxville. The name of the town of Pittman Center evolved from Pittman Community Center, a missionary project. Pittman Community Center evolved out of a need felt by the Board of Home Missions and Church Extension, Methodist Episcopal Church, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Pittman Community Center was the new name given in meeting the needs of schooling and training mountain boys and girls. When the school project was first begun in the summer of 1920, its name was associated and identified with Emerts Cove. This was carried over from the valley community of Emerts Cove, a name in honor of the Fredrick Emert family who was the first permanent family to arrive around 1790. The Methodist Church originally stood in Emerts Cove near the Emerts Cove Cemetery. A snow storm in 1886 brought that aging church building down.

In the history of man, he has always been a traveler, a seeker, a builder. In his quest to fulfill his destiny to the best of his inner callings, some men get fulfillment by working where they are. Other meet the challenge to the invitation of a Macedonia Call. Others go to the moon. In the quest to reach out and help their fellowman, the Board of Home Missions sent a select group to this mountain region in the early 1920s to bring a home mission project. Those folk were travelers, seekers, helpers, builders.

In the role as traveler and builder, man most often becomes a placemaker. As individuals, we select our own choice places and hold them dear to us as we travel life's pathways and as long as memory and time last. Then we want, in our attempts, to pass on certain qualities of the past as landmarks for the future. We call such our heritage. Such is the attempt, the goal, the combined efforts of the Pittman Center Historical Committee, so appointed by the Pittman Center Alumni Association, and the many who shared photographs or comments to bring this publication into being. Much of Pittman Community Center is recorded memory and history, history of the past. This publication is presented so others, in future years, may know a piece of their heritage better.

The environment, the earth, the planet, are collections of places because we are placemakers. We become the product of the places we create and have known. As Noah and Abraham built their altars, as Jacob discovered his Bethel, men since have added to the long list of places, some more permanent than others. Pittman Community Center was such a place for many folk whose lives were touched by the educational institution, the medical clinic, the Pinnacle Handicrafts, the store, the post office, the farm, the orchards, and all the activities associated with the center during 1920-1964. No one whose life was touched by Pittman Community Center can deny that they are richer indeed. The outside world came to us through the introduction of Pittman Community to other areas by Dr. J. S. Burnett, Dr. R. F. Thomas, and others who spoke of its success and needs. Outsiders came as teachers, nurses, doctors, social workers, public speakers, ministers, summer workers, reporters, visitors. In due time the Center sent forth students and leaders to other areas of the nation and world because of the instruction received. The list of professional leaders would be long and, being human, incomplete because we would forget some professions. Society surely has benefitted because Pittman Community Center touched the lives of hundreds of young folk that left to serve elsewhere.

When Pittman Community Center ceased to exist as a mission outpost of the Methodist Church, the effects continued. The first major change occurred with the Sevier Country School Board purchasing all school buildings and the land on which they stood in 1955. The second major change came with the consolidation of Pittman Center High School with Pi Beta Phi High School in 1963, and in 1964 with the retirement of Dr. R. F. Thomas. The Pittman Center Elementary School continues, as does the name given the town of Pittman Center which was chartered in 1974 by the State of Tennessee.

Much change has occurred since those first wagon loads of school children were driven to the new school in August, 1921. Did Pittman Community Center serve its role? Yes. The communities received new and improved highways. Electricity and telephones were brought in. The communities were no longer isolated. The buildings of Pittman Community Center were of wooden structure, getting old and dilapidated, hard to heat and maintain. Had Pittman Community Center continued on with the medical clinic, the high school, the post office, the community water works, it would have been just a matter of time that the new government regulations would have altered the scene to insure proper health and safety standards. Consolidation is quite often the best solution.

Man, the placemaker, has left memorials and created memories that will remain. The whole of Pittman Community Center is our heritage. Heritage is that which we have received from those who have gone before, because they have found a value in it, and want to pass it on. A place is any part of the environment that has been claimed by feelings. Those whose lives have been touched by the heritage of Pittman Community Center, either directly or indirectly, have feelings about the school, store, post office, dormitories, clinic, buses, wagons, orchards and farms, outside visitors, teachers, staff, or whatever comes to mind. It is the intent of this document that readers may catch a glimpse of what blessings and heritage are theirs because Pittman Community Center existed briefly for 44 years in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains - much of which has been claimed by the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Claiming, believing, and exercising the old proverb that a picture is worth a thousand words, we have documented heavily with photographs shared by those who made this book possible. Our thanks to all who encouraged and participated, particularly, the Pittman Center Alumni Association who appointed Mrs. Kate Price Reed, Mrs. Mary Manning Eakin, Mrs. Ethel Eastridge Shultz, Miss Vida Reagan, Mr. Glenn Cardwell, and Mr. Arnold Morris, as a committee, to work on this worthwhile project.

Glenn Cardwell
May, 1985

A DREAM COME TRUE

This book will attempt to show the beginning and growth of Pittman Community Center as a project of the Methodist Mission Board, through pictures and interviews with families of this area. We hope this heritage that was ours to enjoy can be passed on to present and future generations. At the beginning of the construction of the Pittman project, the people were about to experience a whole new way of life after being isolated so long. There was little contact with the outside world due to bad roads and mode of travel. Pittman Community Center was to affect every mountain family in one way or another.

It is very fitting that we begin this book by telling how Dr. John Sevier Burnett fulfilled his dream of establishing a Christian community center in the hills of East Tennessee, and area he dearly loved. He often defined the center's purpose as ministering to the people's total needs - spiritual, mental, and physical.

By 1919 Dr. Burnett had spent much time in Sevier and Cocke Counties looking for a suitable place to build a school. Born of mountain parents near Webster, North Carolina, he was much acquainted with mountain folk and their ways. As a poor country lad himself, he experienced all the hardships of getting an education. This prompted him to help other mountain children in the same situation.

In his book *The Spirit of Pittman Center*, Dr. Luther Flynn describes in rich detail the steps which Dr. Burnett took to achieve his dream, all the trials he went through to reach his goal, how he went about getting others interested enough to help with the project, and his devotion to the vision of helping others. "Financing the Pittman Center project was one of his biggest problems," stated Mrs. Ruth Burnett Kennedy, a daughter of Dr. Burnett. One of the persons he convinced to help him in this worthwhile cause was Dr. Eli Pittman, Superintendent of the Elmira District of the Central New York Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. So much was Dr. Pittman convinced of the worthiness of the project that he enlisted eight other District Superintendents of the Genesee Conference, all of whom joined Dr. Burnett in making a trip to the mountains seeking a suitable place to build this dream. As Dr. Burnett and Dr. Pittman tramped through the countryside, they stopped to rest one day on a knoll overlooking a clearing of several acres. Right then and there as they overlooked the area at the confluence of Webbs Creek and Middle Prong of Little Pigeon River, they decided that this was the place to build the school. Dr. Pittman was the foremost person responsible for raising funds needed for purchase of land and the building program of Pittman Community Center. It was through Dr. Pittman's continued interest and influence that led Dr. Burnett to name this mountain project in honor of Dr. Pittman.

On September 2, 1919, Dr. Maud Lee Etherage purchased property for the Board of Home Missions and Church Extension of the Methodist Episcopal Church on which Pittman Community Center was to be established. This property, consisting of 135 acres, was owned by Garfield and Mollie Scott. On February 4, 1920, Dr. Etherage deeded this property to William H. G. Gould of the Board of Missions.

On May 5, 1920, the county newspaper advertised for sealed bids for the erection of a school and community house and stated that plans were on exhibition at the Bank of Sevierville. For historical notation, and accuracy of documentation, the following items were published in the *Montgomery's Vindicator* and are hereby included to help verify the early history of Pittman Community Center.

The *Montgomery's Vindicator*, dated September 7, 1921, carried the following: "The Pittman Community school at Emerts Cove will be dedicated Sunday, Sept. 18, Monday, Sept. 19, and Tuesday, Sept. 20, 1921. See the announcement. This school is worth while and the public is cordially invited to attend the dedicatory exercises." The September 14 and 28, 1921, issues of *Montgomery's Vindicator* carried the following articles:

MONTGOMERY'S VINDICATOR, Sevierville,
Tenn. September 14, 1921
STOP LOOK READ
SEVIER COUNTY'S GREAT
CELEBRATION
WONDERFUL PROGRAM

At Dedication Services of the New, Big, Free College at Pittman Center
Pittman Community Center
near Emerts Cove, Sevier County, Tennessee

THREE BIG DAYS

Sunday, Sept. 18. Sacred dedication services.

Inspiring sermon by

Bishop Frank Bristol of Holston Conference
of Methodist Episcopal Church.

Special sacred services.

Afternoon. Address by Paul Vogt, D. D., of Philadelphia. Address and
dedication of school by Bishop Bristol. Evening. Sermon by

Dr. Paul Vogt, D. D. Song service.

Monday, Sept. 19. Farmers Day. Morning. Old Folks Devotional

Service. Address by Frank Stapleton, D.D. District

Superintendent. Song Service. Young Peoples Service.

Address by Dr. Paul Vogt.

Afternoon. Big Farmers Meeting. Dr. William Barnett from the
University of Tennessee will come by special request to address farmers. Bring the family.

Tuesday, Sept. 20. Governors Day. Morning. Arrival of Gov. Alf. A.

Taylor and party. Arrival of Cong. Carroll Reece and
party. Arrival of Hon. J. B. Brown and party. Guard of Honor
of 100 horsemen and brass band will meet and accompany Gov.

Taylor. Selection by band. Mass singing. Address of welcome
by Dr. J. S. Burnett. Address by Hon. J. B. Brown, State
Superintendent of Education. Address by Dr. Paul Vogt.

DINNER ON GROUND

Big hearty and old fashioned basket dinner on college grounds with
Gov. Taylor. Don't forget to bring your basket.

Afternoon. Music by band. Community singing. Address by Dr. J. S.
Burnett. Address by Cong. Carroll Reece. Address by Gov.
Alf A. Taylor.

Dedication of college to free patronage of the people of Tennessee.

September 28, 1921 (lead article in the Montgomery's Vindicator but was from the Knoxville Sentinel)

Pittman School State Superintendent Describes Modern Building

Beginning at the lowliest scenes and conditions of the state's attempt to educate its people and now where towers and spires of great colleges and universities rear their heights the State Superintendent J. E. Brown returned last night to Knoxville after assisting in the dedication of a beautiful temple of learning built in the barrens of the public educational systems of Tennessee in the mountain wilds and wilderness of Sevier County 18 miles from Sevierville where the best that children ever saw in the way of a school was a log cabin with glassless windows and hewn logs for seats.

It is called the Pittman Community School, and the missionary spirit, generosity and the devotion to ideals of service of a great protestant religious denomination the Methodist Episcopal Church, reared it.

It is a novel and inspiring sight, this building beautiful and complete containing every modern equipment - - standing in the midst of splendid surroundings where hovels pour their winter smoke from the deep valleys and the axe of the unlettered youth rings daily in the forest while the crude log and mortar one room school buildings used for years stands hard by. To these hardy youth this new school brings courses which the science of rural education has evolved especially for the illiterate and unlettered of that community whose blessings are so few and whose needs are so great. It is adapted and adjusted to their great and peculiar needs, says Supt. Brown.

By inspiring contrast this new modern and thoroughly equipped and adapted school which is of the consolidated type stands almost in sight of the schools it succeeds. This building now joyfully abandoned is a coarse log affair. It has windows hewn out of the two walls of the building. It has a crude stove for heating purposes and the stove pipe leads out through a hole in the wall. The mortar has become loose and falls from between the logs. There are no desks and there has never been any.

Consolidated School

The Pittman School or Pigeon Valley School and several others of its character operating five months in the year have been merged in the new consolidated school which not only carries its literary education courses but includes many courses adapted to the state of the people it seeks to uplift from the universal misfortune of ignorance prevailing here. It has domestic science courses for the girls, manual training courses for the boys, and a thorough and adaptable agricultural course for the boys of that community most of whom probably will cast their lots here.

Best of all and featuring the new installation is a course that is being installed for teachers. A modern course that will carry those desiring to teach through a regular high school course and give them a teachers course on top of that combined with the fact that these teachers are to be given certificates and will last for one year and hold them in that county for the benefit of the educational progress has been devised. This is a new feature adopted into the school situation in Tennessee. The problem that vexes this situation Supt. Brown says is to retain teachers in such backward communities. They wish to get away from the backwardness failing to realize the fact that the greatest possible work they can perform is in the backward communities that need to be uplifted and that must be if illiteracy is to withdraw to be succeeded by a liberal and practical enlightenment such as this school is prepared to bring into being.

Will Operate Full Time

Still another distinctive feature of this school is the fact that its splendid plant and diversified families are not to be stunted and hampered by the characteristic five months session. The Methodist Episcopal Church out of its funds propose to operate the school after the county and state funds set apart for such term shall have been exhausted. The church proposes to operate this school as a vital educational force for nine and one half or ten months each year, paying the expenses beyond the scheduled official term, thus the 600 children in that community will have school annually to the standard school terms of the cities and equal to the standards of any education. The difference is that this school is scientifically situated and adapted for the needs of the community for whose particular and unusual conditions it has been built.

Supt. Brown expressed great pride in the new institution, the modern high vocational and teachers training school combined into one and claims that in such institutions as these lie the key to the solution of the rural school problem. "If we had them in a thousand communities of the state instead of this one" he said, "progress in every channel of Tennessee would spring from this new rural enlightenment as the grass springs from a drought blighted earth after a generous rainfall. No grander fortune could come to the state than the dawning of the vision that had dawned in the Pittman community upon the whole sisterhood of Tennessee. There stands that splendid example of adjusted learning in the midst of the mountains where lie people who never dreamed or hoped that they would or ever could be any further advanced than they are, yet now they possess the means to train their natural process and none advance more surely than the pure blooded naturally strong minded and willing hearted Americans and Tennesseans of the eastern section of this great state."

When Gov. Alf Taylor was making his canvass for governor he declared that the rural schools of the state need more of the state's resources and income devoted to their advancement. He renewed this pledge when he was elected and was inaugurated. He appointed Prof. Brown State Superintendent who was a rural school inspector and had the vision of the need of the rural communities. The Pittman School is one notable instance of the policy being carried out.

The August 31, 1921, issue of Montgomery's Vindicator carried Pittman Community school news, stating that the school opened August 15th with enrollment of 100, which had increased to 110 since then. Two school wagons ran to and from the school each day for the accommodation of students living too far away to walk. The news emphasized that the school building was the best equipped school building in Sevier County, having all modern conveniences. It was electrically lighted, steam heated, had its water system, had toilets in the

basements, drinking fountains on each floor, and a shower bath for the teachers. The building contained a large auditorium, six large well lighted and well ventilated class rooms, each having its lockers for students and teachers and book cases. In addition, the basement was large and well equipped with manual training room, domestic science kitchen, and a large sunny sewing room.

With such news about the school, it is appropriate to give credit to those who worked on the construction of Pittman Center School, by listing the names of all who are remembered or whose names were listed in the Montgomery's Vindicator. There are as follows: S. I. Lane, construction foreman, Haden Morris, Alfred, Ben, and Jake Parton, Lum Reagan, Jesse Stamey, Arnold McMahan, Otis and Scott Grubb, "Big Rob" and Luther Lindsey, Steve McCarter, Walter and Jim Blalock, Noah Ogle, Ellis McCarter, Dave Morris, Carey Stamey, John Henry, Arch Shultz, Tilman Huskey, Sanders Williams, Walter Cardwell, Arthur Watson, Leonard Huskey, Garfield Scott, Rev. John Lindsey, J. T. Huskey, Rev. Joe Shultz, and A. J. Huff. The Blazer Brothers planned the lumber. There were two sawmills that provided assistance for the building. One was located on Webbs Creek above the Tunis Creek Junction. The other was located on Little Pigeon River downstream from where the school was to be erected. The land here in the Line Hollow area was very steep, but the steepness was an asset in that the log ground skidders constructed placed the fallen logs close to the river and sawmills. Horses and mules were used to navigate many of the logs as needed to the sawmills. Most of the people who helped gave free time and labor because they were most anxious for a school to be built. The lumber was kiln dried on the property near where the school was to be erected. Lawson Smelcer once stated that he helped haul 300 sled loads of sand from the Little Pigeon River to help pour the foundation of the school and other buildings of Pittman Community Center. There are undoubtedly many other folk who helped, but time has dulled the memory of those present today, and no records can be found. But to each that labored in the physical construction so that a dream might come true of which Dr. Burnett had so long envisioned, "God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love which ye have showed toward his name in that ye have ministered to the saints" Heb. 6:10.

Facts and figures never tell the whole story, but one Knoxville News-Sentinel reporter made the following observation after a visit to Pittman Community Center in 1939: "It is the only school in Tennessee supported jointly by a county (Sevier), the state (Tennessee), and a church (Methodist Episcopal Church). It is set on 1,500 acres of forest and farm land, containing 15 buildings, and cost approximately \$9,000 to operate in 1938. Of the faculty of ten, five are ordained ministers."

The concept of Pittman Community Center was of many facets, but zeroed in on four main goals. Dr. Luther Flynn said it well: "At Pittman Community Center we have endeavored to minister to the various needs of the people. Dr. Thomas looked after the health needs, many of us tried to minister to the spiritual needs, the entire program ministered to the economic and educational program". This concept was followed through the ensuing years, and we believe that the last graduating class of 1963 felt it to be true as did the first class of 1928.

Photographs which follow in the continuation of the story of Community Center were supplied by former graduates, teachers, and friends of Pittman.

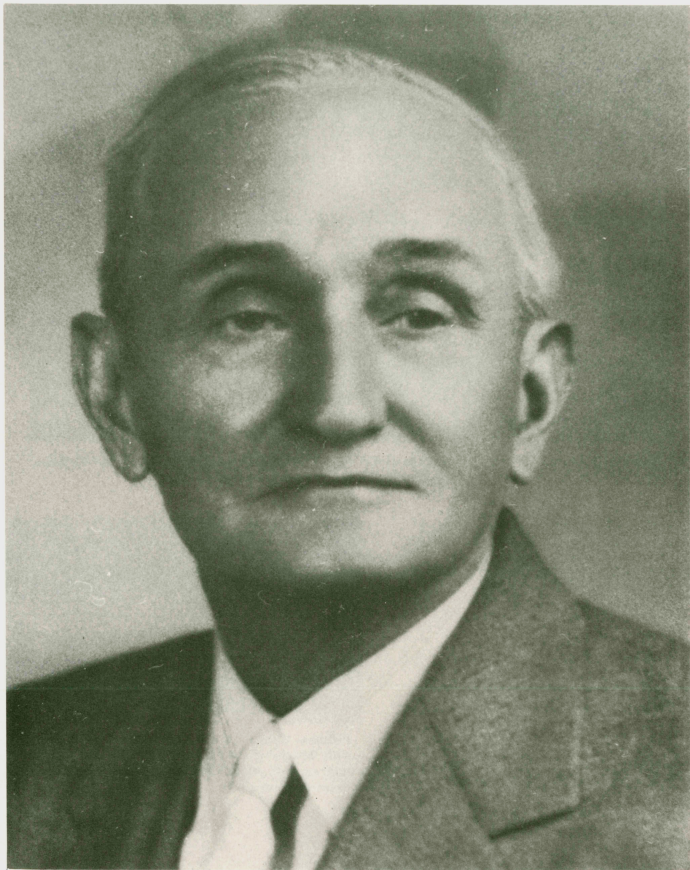
Kate Price Reed
Vida Reagan
Glenn Cardwell



Pittman Community Center , October, 1922. Shows School House, Barn, Teachers' Cottage, several utility houses, Ike Huskey's House and Jesse Stamey farm in background.



Pittman Community Center School in August, 1920, with Teachers' Cottage to the right and Janitor's Cottage on left. Note the footlog spanning Webbs Creek in lower center.



Rev. J. S. Burnett, D. D. - November 25, 1866 - February 9, 1942. His was the dream.

HIS WAS THE DREAM!

Dr. John Sevier Burnett dreamed of building a school so far back in the mountains that the children for whom it was built would not otherwise have had the chance for an education. His dream was the training of children as a whole — the basics of formal education plus shop work for the boys — sewing and cooking for the girls, and character development for all. Part of the dream was for the school to be of assistance to the community in any way it could.

Dr. Burnett was born in Webster, N. C. He educated himself after he was grown and married. He tramped all over the mountains looking for a suitable location for the school. He walked from Sevierville all the way to Pittman on foot — stopping along the way at homes to rest and warm his wet feet by the fireside of the hospitable mountain people.

Dr. Burnett enlisted the help of Dr. Eli Pittman, superintendent of the Elmira District of the Elmira, N. Y., conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Through Dr. Pittman other districts of the Methodist Church were involved with support of the school. Dr. Burnett lived to see his dream fulfilled through Pittman Community Center.



Rev. Eli Pittman, D. D. - July 10, 1862 - October 23, 1946. A true friend of the mountain people

Dr. Eli Pittman, Superintendent of the Elmira District of the Central New York Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was a life long friend of the Pittman Community Center. He was responsible for much material support toward the full realization of the Center. Because of his influence in enlisting overall support, the mountain mission project was named Pittman Community Center in his honor.



School Wagons arriving at Pittman Center School - 1922. That the children were eager for an education was evidenced by their willingness to rise early of a morning, ride sometimes for two hours through all sorts of weather, arriving cold through and through, muddy and tired. And this was before their school work even began.



Dr. John Sevier Burnett on school steps; in 1921 (Left) and in 1923 (Right)



Pittman Community Center School, 1922.
This photograph was made while Pittman Center Community Fair was in progress.



Pittman Community Center in the early years. This picture shows the School House, Principal's House, Teachers' Cottage, Gymnasium, Shop, Dr. Thomas's House, and Girl's Dorm.



This group picture was made at close of school in 1928. Teachers identified include: Mrs. Luther Flynn, Jessie Mechem, Dr. J. S. Burnett, Luther Flynn, Iva Bradshaw and H. T. Ogle.



Teachers Helen Blakeslee, Docia Cate, and Ann Handlon in back of the Community House (girl's dormitory).



Seventh and Eight Grade geography class, 1924. Students are unidentified.



Pittman Center School, March, 1924. Principal's House at the right.



Library Day-1924



Supper at Teachers' Cottage in 1923. Dr. Bornman, Jessie Mechem, Mr. Wilk, Helen Wilk, Dr. Burnett, Robert Sizer, Docia Cate, Helen Wesp, Mrs. Bornman, Anne Handlon, Bobby and Margaret Bornman.



Seventh and Eighth Grade Classes, 1923. Students identified are: Ray Lindsey, Roy Whaley, Clifford Price, Lou Williams, Allen Ledford, Velma Brown, Wayne McCarter, Mayme Williams, Glenn Ledford, Christine Ramsey, Lucille Stamey, Garland Ramsey.



The Teachers' Cottage in its heyday during the 1920's.



View of Principal's House, Teachers' Cottage, Barn, and other utility buildings associated with Pittman Community Center, as seen from the top of the mountain across from the school. 1923



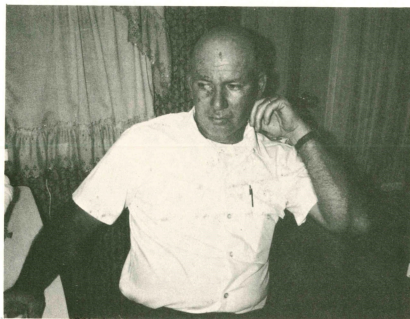
Left to Right: School Nurse Mable Jackson, and Teachers Jessie Mechem and Helen A. Wesp with their pets in the Teachers Cottage.



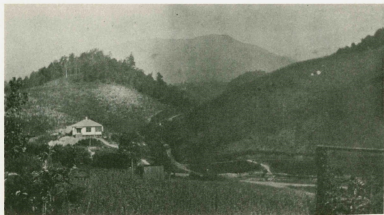
Fifth and Sixth Grade Classes, 1923 - 1924. Overalls bran-sack dresses, and going barefoot was common in that day.



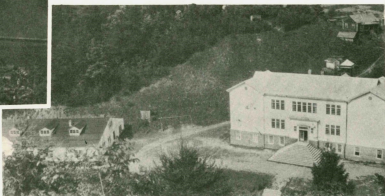
1927 - 1928 Faculty. Left to Right: Dr. R. F. Thomas, unidentified, Dr. Luther Flynn, Dr. J. S. Burnett. Back Row: Bill Kohl, Susan Kohl, Helen Wesp, Jessie Mechem, Juanita Maupin.



Ernest Manning - Bus Driver



Baldwin Clinic, 1928, with Tunis Road on the right. Every child that attended school at Pittman Community Center undoubtedly received treatment at the Clinic one time or another from Dr. R. F. Thomas or one of his nurses.



Pittman Community Center School with the Goodwill Store, around 1928.



Old Barn and Crib - 1923.



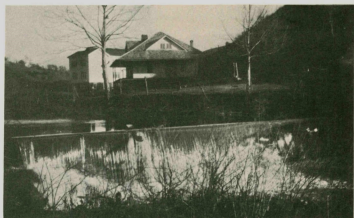
First order of the day was to go to the chapel as seen here in October, 1922. Devotional services were held each morning before classes began. It was also here in the beginning where basketball games were held before the gymnasium was built.

Remains of Saw Mill and Grist Mill across the creek from the school and school grounds. The Saw Mill was owned by Walter Blalock. He, along with Arnold McMahan, sawed the lumber for the school building. Jessie Mecham is seated in center.

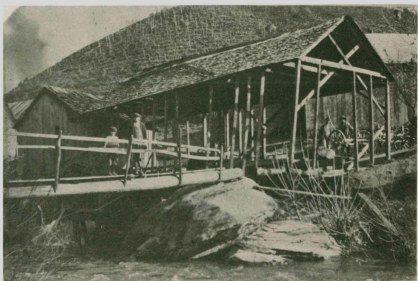


Mill and Saw Mill debris. Notice the suspended footlog in upper left.

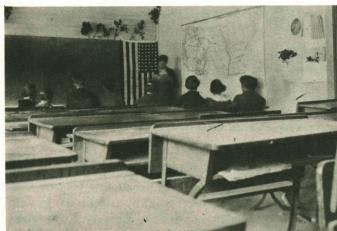
Mill Dam on Webbs Creek at the junction with the Little Pigeon River. Ike Huskey's new house is seen along with the new school beyond. Later occupants of Ike's new home were Sam Brown and Richard Ridings.



"Uncle" Richard Parton's corn mill, log saw mill, Ike Huskey barn, and footlog across Webbs Creek toward school.



At the beginning of the school day, 1923, students formed a line in front of school to march in for the day's activities.



After the morning chapel devotions, classes took up. The size of the early classes were small. This class in the early 1920's and the teacher is unidentified.



Mr. N.E. Hixson, Agriculture - Shop Teacher with Shop Class. Most of the students are unidentified except Floyd Huskey who stands in back.



Shop Class, October 1922. Mr. J. J. Asher, Teacher, with students: Wiley Martin, Earl Whaley, Clifford Price, Clarence Branam, Oliver Huskey, and two other unidentified boys.



Mrs. McConnell's First and Second Grade Class in session, October, 1922.



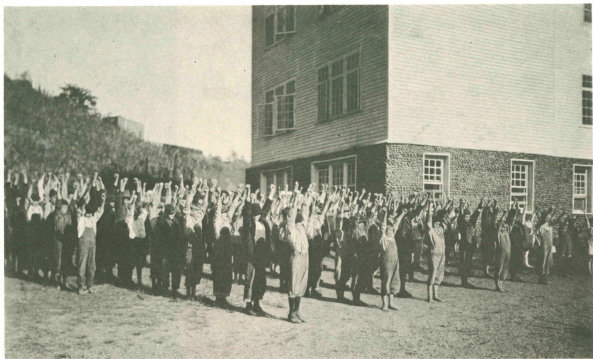
School children leaving school, early 1920's. Webb's Creek wagon in front left (driver unidentified); Copeland wagon, middle back, with Pinson Whaley as driver; Emerts Cove/Hills Creek wagon fording Webb's Creek with Ed Branam as driver; other wagon is unidentified except Ruby and Julia Price standing.



Steve McCarter, wagon driver, and other school children headed for home, 1924.



It may have been a covered wagon but Pittman Center School was the first school in the vicinity to have student transportation - 1924.



Exercise Class, 1922. The school had plans to educate the mind along with a healthy body and a class in Calisthenics was always appropriate. Helen Wesp reported that in 1922, the school had Kindergarten, along with industrial arts class, weaving and quilting classes, and domestic science class for the community benefit.

Children at play on homemade see-saw. Small house on right is storage building for "Coal Oil" (kerosene) for light plant.



With children at play, note teacher at left standing with folded arms supervising this activity.



This barn in the foreground belonged to Joe and Salina Shultz. When Dr. J. S. Burnett first came to Pittman Center he lived and took his meals with Aunt Lina.



Unloading the piano, 1923, at the side door of the Chapel. The drivers are John Russell and Lloyd Seagle. Dr. J. S. Burnett with overcoat and hat off. Dr. McMahan in grey felt hat. John Smelcer standing by Dr. McMahan.

1928-Four members of the Girl's Club.
Left to Right: Pauline Hoffman (daughter of Dr. Charles and Ann Hoffman), Kittie Price (daughter of Bob and Maggie Price), Lucile McCarter (daughter of Ellis and Martha McCarter), and June Price (daughter of Bill and Bertie Price)

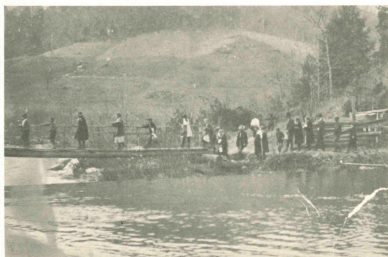


Dr. J.S. Burnett, 1923



Jessie Mechem at Styles's Cabin - 1923

Eva Goforth visits the Center from her home six miles up on the mountains toward the Pinnacle.



Some lived close enough to walk home, via fords, rutted roads, short cuts through cow pastures and woods, and by foot log as shown here on Webbs Creek at the junction of Webbs Creek with Little Pigeon River. The Jesse Stamey farm is shown in the distance.



The new John Ringen Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church at Black Gum Gap.