

**HENRY S. MILLER CO., REALTORS®** 2001 BRYAN TOWER, 30TH FLOOR, DALLAS, TEXAS 75201 TELEPHONE 214/748-9171  
AUSTIN DALLAS EL PASO FORT WORTH HOUSTON SAN ANTONIO BRUSSELS FRANKFURT TELEX 73-2459

**Beth Wallace**  
Assistant Vice President

July 13, 1983

Mr. Duane Gage  
Tarrant County Historical Commission  
c/o TCJC NE Campus  
828 Harwood Road  
Hurst, Texas 76053

Re: Mosier Valley School

Dear Mr. Gage:

The property on which the Mosier Valley School is located has been sold to R & M Development Corporation. Therefore, we relinquish all rights and claims to the school building. All future correspondence regarding the relocation of the school should be sent to the following:

Mr. Leo Merkow  
R & M Development Corp.  
9400 North Central Expressway  
Suite 1110  
Dallas, Texas 75231

We appreciate your efforts in attempting to preserve the history of Tarrant County and hope you will have much success in the future.

Best regards,



Beth Wallace

BW/sl  
cc: Leo Merkow

HENRY S. MILLER CO., REALTORS® 2001 BRYAN TOWER, 30TH FLOOR, DALLAS, TEXAS 75201 TELEPHONE 214/748-9171  
AUSTIN DALLAS FORT WORTH HOUSTON SAN ANTONIO BRUSSELS FRANKFURT TELEX 73-2459

April 1, 1983

Mr. Duane Gage  
Tarrant County Historical Commission  
TCJC NE Campus  
828 Harwood Road  
Hurst, Texas 76053

Re: Mossier Valley School

Dear Mr. Gage:

In response to your letter dated March 22, 1983, we are in agreement for you to move the school building and fill in the well as described in the letter.

Please let us know when you plan to have the appraisals completed and the building moved.

Best regards,

  
Beth Wallace

BW/sl

L. BRADLEY MARLING  
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW  
P. O. BOX 186  
HURST, TEXAS 76053

L. BRADLEY MARLING

March 22, 1983

817/284-1141

OUR FILE NO:

Mr. Duane Gage, Chairman  
Tarrant County Historical Commission  
c/o TCJC NE Campus  
828 Harwood Road  
Hurst, Texas 76053

Re: Mosier Valley School

Dear Mr. Gage:

This refers to the copy of the letter you sent us from Henry S. Miller company regarding the Mosier Valley School

I will be happy to supply an appraisal upon completion of same. Mr. Gaylon Mayfield, Certified Appraiser, is currently at work on the appraisal and this will include pictures of the subject property.

We would do normal land clean up with reference to the building removal and are willing to fill the well in with reasonable care from the fill after the removal of the school house. However, we will need the exact well to be specified so there will be no mistake as to the proper well being filled in. As a point of clarification, this will be the extent of the responsibility we will take for the well and will not be responsible for any legal complications relating to that well.

Should you need additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

  
L. Bradley Marling

March 10, 1983

Mr. Duane Gage, Chairman  
Tarrant County Historical Commission  
c/o TCJC NE Campus  
828 Harwood Road  
Hurst, Texas 76053

Re: Mosier Valley School

Dear Mr. Gage:

In response to your letter dated February 24, 1983, the Highway 183/Pipeline Road Joint Venture, which the Miller Company manages, would be willing to donate the Mosier Valley School building, provided the appraisal, which you stipulated will be provided, contains pictures of the school for our records.

In addition, we would like for the persons who move the building to fill in the old well adjacent to the school as part of their clean-up. The well is to be filled in such manner as to prevent any accidents due to the opening.

We look forward to working with the Commission in helping preserve part of the heritage of Tarrant County. Please call me on our metro number (263-8201) if you have any questions.

Best regards,



Beth Wallace

BW/sl

## Tarrant County Historical Commission

% TCJC NE Campus  
828 Harwood Road  
Hurst, Texas 76053



Feb. 24, 1983

TARRANT COUNTY COURT HOUSE  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS

Bruce Harbour  
Henry S. Miller  
2001 Bryan Tower  
30th Floor  
Dallas, Texas 75201

Dear Mr. Harbour:

I appreciate your interest in our project to remove and preserve the old Mosier Valley School. Enclosed is a form, which our county officials expect us to use, in which is specified the conditions in which we may be given the old frame structure for removal for preservation purposes.

If the wording is satisfactory, please arrange to have the form signed by the proper authority and return a copy of it to me at your earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,

Duane Gage  
Chairman

AN EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY ONE ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE:

MOSIER VALLEY SCHOOL

RESEARCH REPORT

Presented to Dr. Watson  
North Texas State University  
in Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirements

For the Course of

EDAD 571

By

Gordon Doggett

Summer I, 1984

### Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to provide historical information relating to early twentieth century rural one room schoolhouses, in particular the Mosier Valley Schoolhouse or Euless School of Tarrant County.

### Background and Significance of the Study

Information concerning the physical structure, equipment, school organization, and curriculum are all important in the preservation of remaining schools of the early twentieth century. Most schools of this period have had little done to preserve them from gradual ruin. As they were closed in the forties, fifties, and sixties, most buildings and furnishings were sold at auctions. The buildings were then used as homes, machine sheds or hay storage with the furnishings purchased for sentimental reasons. The rich history from these schools is quickly fading as schools are torn down, students and teachers are passing on, and the memories are fading (5).

## Physical Structure

The small rural schoolhouses were usually of simple rectangular design with wood frame construction and shiplap siding. There was very little ornamentation of woodwork or doors as this only served to "catch dust and other microbes" (4, p. 9). The floors were double laid to add insulation. Windows provided the light and ventilation and were placed to allow lighting over the pupils' left shoulders as most were right handed (1). Care was also taken to see that the building faced north or south. Exterior color of these buildings was usually white although some were grey or brown. Toilet facilities were invariably outdoors.

The Mosier Valley school conformed to the physical attributes noted above. The structure is a simple, twenty-four foot by forty-six foot, wood frame building with shiplap siding. The original building was built about 1924 with an additional room added during the forties. The toilet facilities were outdoors. The building does have double flooring and windows along one wall. The building faced north with east windows and had a small porch which was later enclosed for protection (6).



## Equipment

A well equipped rural school had little by today's standards. Major items consisted of desks, thirty feet of blackboard, one bookcase with twenty-five dollars of suitable books, window shades, a drinking fountain, and a stove for heating. Classrooms might also have a standard phonograph or talking machine, maps, floor brush, dustcloths, fire shovel, erasers, bell, wastebasket, door mat and foot scraper (1, p. 31). Desks were arranged in rows facing the teacher and blackboard.

The Mosier Valley school was typically equipped with desks, blackboard, coal burning stove, bookcase, and water fountain. The students' desks faced the teacher's desk which was located at the southern end of the room (6).

## Organization

In the twenties and thirties small rural schools were supervised under the county superintendents or independent school districts. Teachers often had one room with up to fifty or sixty multi-graded students for which they were paid four hundred to five hundred dollars per year (8). Schools were classified as the number of grades with the boundaries of county schools recorded in the Plats and Field Notes of Common School Districts (2).

The Mosier Valley School was part of the Euless Schools of Tarrant County. The Tarrant County superintendent was B. Carroll with J. T. House being the Euless superintendent at the time Mosier Valley School was built (7, p. 10). In 1934 it had sixty-seven students with one teacher who earned four hundred and nine dollars a year (9, p. 67).

## Rosenwald Fund

Another area important to the establishment of the rural school of this era, in particular the black rural school, was

the Rosenwald Fund. The Julius Rosenwald Fund cooperated with public school officials in constructing schoolhouses and teacher's homes, providing transportation, extending school terms, stimulating vocational agriculture, improving teacher education and experiments in health education. The first school in the construction program was built in Alabama in 1913. By 1932, a total of 5,357 buildings were completed with this aid in fifteen southern states (9). There were five hundred twenty-four such Rosenwald Fund school buildings built in Texas (8).

Julius Rosenwald was born August 12, 1862 and was "a typical mid-western American boy" (11, p. 60). In 1895 he bought an interest in Sears, Roebuck and Company and spent the rest of his career as Vice-President and Treasurer, President, and finally as Chairman of the Board of Directors. Mr. Rosenwald contributed greatly to Sears. He initiated the policy of "your-money-back-if-not-satisfied" at the Company and contributed more than forty million dollars to other educational, civic, and charitable purposes (11, p. 61).

Although the Mosier Valley school matches in general the description of a Rosenwald school, no verification of this has been found as yet.

## Curriculum

Curriculum of the one room school included the usual studies of Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Spelling, English, Geography and History. Music, Art, Citizenship and Health rounded out the curriculum. Reading was the most important subject taught in the primary grades along with Writing and Math. Other courses received more emphasis in the upper grades. In reading, teachers focused on developing skill, comprehension, speed, and a love for reading. Arithmetic was seen as a "...tool to be used in the affairs of everyday life where numbering is necessary...." (12, p. 19) and the curriculum included exact lists of skills to be mastered at each grade. Social studies concentrated on home, school, and community in the early grades and broadened to include geography and history of the United States and the world in the upper grades (12). Basic curriculum topics remain very similar to today's.

## Summary

The Mosier Valley School appears to have been a typical one room school of the twenties and thirties which has undergone many transformations. Many students recieved their basic education there from 1924 to 1949 when it was closed and the children were bused to Fort Worth. It was reopened in 1950 with Miss Vada Johnson, a former pupil, as a teacher until 1953 when it was closed for good. Miss Johnson taught grades one through four with Mr. C. A. Rettig teaching the remaining of the total fifty students in grades five through seven. In 1953 a new brick school was opened to replace the old one room structure. The structure was sold to Hattie and Lewis Cribbs and moved to a location on Highway 183 in Euless where it was used as a duplex and later as a hay storage. The property was sold for development in 1984 and the structure was moved to 2016 Bedford Road to avoid being bulldozed. It is presently being restored to "relive" the fading memories of the past.

## Implications

Much information has been documented pertaining to the Mosier Valley School. In fact there appears to be enough documentation at this point to apply for a Texas historical marker. However, further study could still be done gathering first hand information, pictures, and documents. The Rosenwald Fund might prove to be a connection in providing further research. More information may also become apparant as the building is restored and used once again.

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2. "County Superintendents' Records, 1916-1955," Texas Christian University Archives, Fort Worth, Texas, TAR-239.
3. Davis, Jan, "Mosier Valley School," unpublished paper, Duane Gage, Instructor, Tarrant County Junior College, Hurst, Texas, 1983.
4. Doughty, W. F., "School Grounds, School Buildings and Their Equipment," Department of Education, Austin, Texas, LXV, August, 1917.
5. Haack, Paul A.; And Others, "Architectual Aspects of Kansas Country Schools, Country School Legacy: Humanities of the Frontier," Mountain Plains Library Association, Silt, Colorado, Country School Legacy Project, 1981.
6. Johnson, Vada, Interview, Bedford, Texas, June 26, 1984.
7. Marrs, S. M. N., "County and City Superintendents, 1925-1926," State Department of Education, Austin, Texas, CXCVII, October, 1925.
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11. -----, "School Plant Improvement Public Forums Negro Education," State Department of Education, Austin, Texas, CCCLXXI, February, 1937.
12. -----, "Suggestive Outline for Studies in the Elementary Grades," State Department of Education, Austin, Texas, CCCXXXVII, October, 1934.











Quane

3/21

11:00

Mr. Marling  
called - please call

284-1141

Re: Historical Black  
School Bldg.

11-5

TO Gage  
DATE 6-18 TIME 3:42

**WHILE YOU WERE OUT**

M Gordon Roggett  
OF \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE 281-6937 Home  
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CALLED TO SEE YOU	WILL CALL AGAIN	<input type="checkbox"/>
WANTS TO SEE YOU	URGENT	<input type="checkbox"/>
RETURNED YOUR CALL		<input type="checkbox"/>

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School House  
— Moved in —

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TO Duane

DATE 10/19 TIME \_\_\_\_\_

**WHILE YOU WERE OUT**

M Leo Merkow

OF Dallas

PHONE 248-1400

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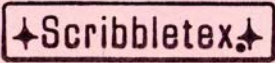
Valley School Bldg)

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7/107 Perez -



# Man moving 'back to basics' schoolhouse

By BOB FRANCIS  
Daily News Staff Writer

When Gordon Doggett decided to go "back to basics," those weren't just idle words — he meant them.

And Friday his dream came true, as the one-room schoolhouse that was Mosier Valley School was moved from Highway 10 to Doggett's property behind his school supply shop, The Magic Slate, on Bedford Road.

It was, and will be, education at its most basic.

It's not a beautiful structure, Doggett admits, but he hopes it will be soon.

"I could manufacture a building with more architectural significance, but it wouldn't have the character of this building," Doggett said Friday afternoon.

And slowly, ever so slowly, Doggett is uncovering some of the early character of the building he thinks was constructed in the 1920s.

The schoolhouse was moved from its first location to Highway 10 in the late '50s, where it was used as a small apartment and then for storage. At that time many features were covered up that Doggett is now finding.

"Over here was probably the first door

and I think a small porch," he says, pointing to a darker area uncovered when he removed the siding from the building.

He also points to a section of the structure which doesn't match the larger portion of the building.

"This was where they added on a room at some point," he said.

The school was part of the Mosier Valley community, which had its own school until integration in the late '50s.

Last month, the final Mosier Valley School was given a historical marker by the Texas Historical Commission.

The wooden schoolhouse had been located on Highway 10 where a road to some

new developments were set for construction. Doggett said the builder delayed the project so he could get the building moved.

He also had to get special permission from the city of Bedford. He has to get the building in shape within a year.

"There's so little history from this area, I really wanted something to remain," he said.

"After it's fixed up, I'll probably use it for conferences and such."

Doggett teaches gifted children in the Hurst-Euleless-Bedford school district.

For a long while, Doggett didn't know if he would get the building.

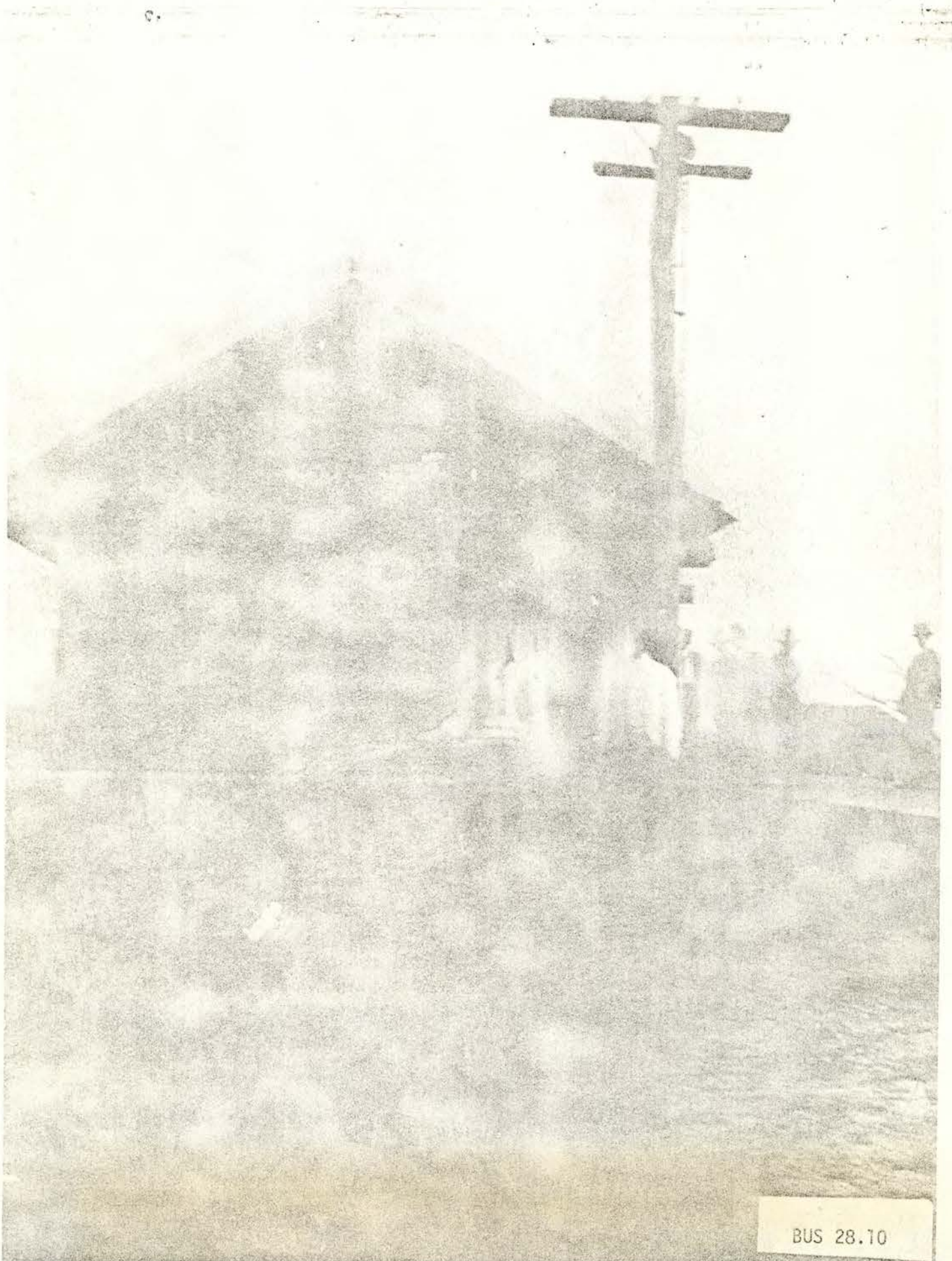
"I was in limbo. I couldn't get excited, I couldn't get depressed. Now it's on my property. I can get excited," Doggett said.

To Doggett, having the schoolhouse moved was like a project he gives his students.

"I give my kids an independent project to do and they asked me to do one too. So I said all right.

"They told me I had to do something written, so I told them that would be the documentation I send to the historical commission."

"And they said 'What's going to be the product?' and I said my restored school house," Doggett said.



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Daily News photo by MARILYN STROOP

### His 3 R's include renovation

George Doggett is moving one of the first Mosier Valley schoolhouses to Bedford, where he intends to use it as a conference center. Some paneling has been removed to reveal the original wood structure. See story Page 4A.

## Local/area

# Old schoolhouse renovated to school supply shop

By ELIZABETH CLARKE  
Daily News Staff

BEDFORD — Every day, almost like magic, Gordon Doggett's new school supply store becomes a little more like it was some 50 years ago.

Piece by piece, Doggett has almost completely renovated an old one-room school house for The Magic Slate, his school supply shop on Bedford Road.

Since January, crews have been working to bring the Mosier Valley School, a rural schoolhouse built in 1924, back to what it looked like years ago.

When finished, Doggett plans to complete the effect by using authentic pieces from the time period in which the schoolhouse was built.

"I want it to look like it did — it should be all original," he said. "We don't have much history in the community here — we need to save what we do have."

And, with the help of a \$65,000 loan for the renovation project, the building also will have all the amenities of modern times — including air conditioning, restrooms and a plumbing system.

Doggett expects The Magic Slate will move to its new location in November. The store's current facility in front of the schoolhouse will be leased.

Doggett, who teaches gifted children in the Hurst-Eules-Bedford school district, has spent a lot of time researching his project.

"My dream was to restore an old schoolhouse," he said. "It's been a lot of fun and a career enrichment too."

The Mosier Valley School, part of the Eules Schools of Tarrant County, had 67 students with one teacher in 1934, Doggett said.

It was a typical one-room schoolhouse of the time, complete with shiplap siding and windows along one side.

The school was open from 1924 to

1949 and then again from 1950 to 1953, Doggett said.

The building was sold in the late 1950s and moved to Highway 10 in Eules where it was used as a duplex home and later for storage.

Doggett, who is chairman of Bedford's new Historical Committee, opened his school supply store on Bedford Road about six years ago.

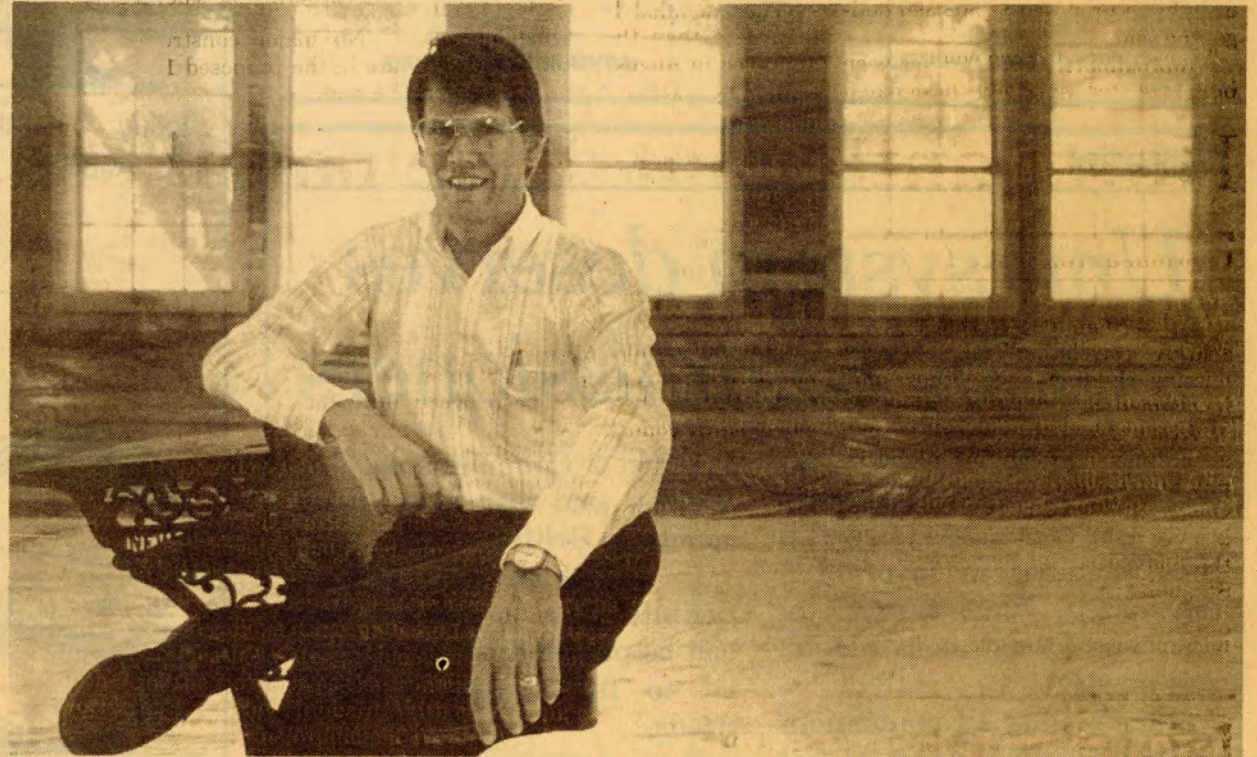
"I first saw the Mosier Valley school when I was just opening the shop — I thought then it would be neat for the store," he said.

Finally, about a year ago, Doggett bought the school for \$200 and began planning his project.

In the future, Doggett said he may set up small museum in the store and even give tours of the building.

Doggett expects the new store will attract more customers.

"The historical value of the school will interest people," he said. "People will find it fun, as well as educational, to shop here."



DARRELL BYERS/Daily News  
Gordon Doggett is renovating the old Mosier Valley School in Bedford for his school supply shop.

# Retiring

## Johnson's path leads her back to the valley

By **TERESA SMITH**  
Daily News Staff

An education was the most important thing to Vada Johnson as she grew up in Mosier Valley.

She knew life didn't keep a lot of promises when it came to her family's truck farming business or to someone's health.

But an education could never be taken away.

Johnson is retiring this year after 36 years of teaching in the Mosier Valley-Euleless area. She taught at the Mosier Valley School and Wilshire Elementary.

"My education has been a challenge since I started," she said in the gentle voice that comes from years in the first-grade classroom.

"When I was five I was on the floor watching my mother ironing and I told her I wanted to be a teacher," she said.

"It was always in me. I always liked to read. I wanted to know all the whys and whens."

Johnson has been called the "elder statesman" of the HEB school district not because of her age — she's only 60 — but because this area is hers more than anyone else's.

Her great-grandparents Robert and Dilsie Johnson were the first black people to settle in



**Vada Johnson**

the Mosier Valley. Lucy Lee, a plantation owner, gave the couple 80 acres when they married.

Johnson lives less than a mile from the site where her ancestors' log cabin stood on what is

**See FIRST, Page 3A**

MCDN 6-8-86

# First black teacher shelves her books

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Continued from Page 1A

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now Jimerson Lane.

She went to the one-room schoolhouse near there until seventh grade when the Euless school district stopped providing education for black children, she said.

Resentment huddles in her voice as she describes how she and others had to pay the daily bus fare to go to I.M. Terrell High School in Fort Worth without any help from the Euless school system.

She started high school with four Mosier Valley classmates, but Johnson was the only one to graduate.

She was the first person in her family to graduate from college when she finished her bachelor's degree at Paul Quinn College. Later she earned her master's degree from Prairie View A&M Uni-

versity and did postgraduate work at North Texas State University.

In 1950 she returned to her old school, now expanded to two rooms, where she taught 20 students in four grade levels.

It wasn't easy that year. The frame schoolhouse was old and drafty. In winter, her greatest relief from the cold was that trustees said if no children showed up, she could go home.

That didn't happen often.

"Bobby was always there," she said of her younger cousin Robert Stanton. "If he was willing to braze it and was willing to learn, then we'd stay."

Stanton now works with the federal parks department in Washington, D.C. and keeps in contact with his former teacher.

In 1965 Johnson taught the first integrated classes in HE-BISD, a Head Start program at Wilshire Elementary.

Charlie Mayberry

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Charlie Mayberry

2014-2012

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Stucco House  
| Tony S. Miller



**L. BRADLEY MARLING**

**ATTORNEY AT LAW**

**CASTON & MARLING**

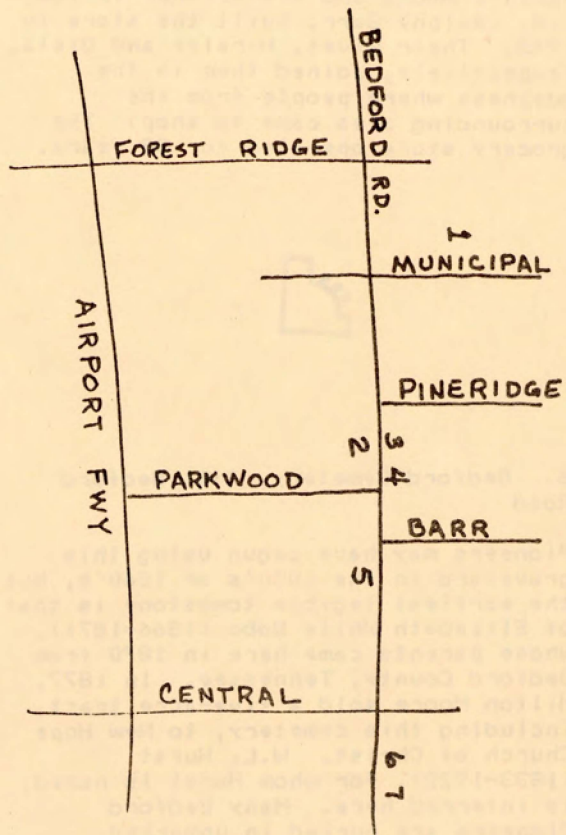
**301 LOOP 820 N.E., SUITE 500  
HURST, TX 76053**

**TELEPHONES  
(817) 284-1141**

mn 281-4282

Pat

MAP OF OLD BEDFORD



SPECIAL THANKS:

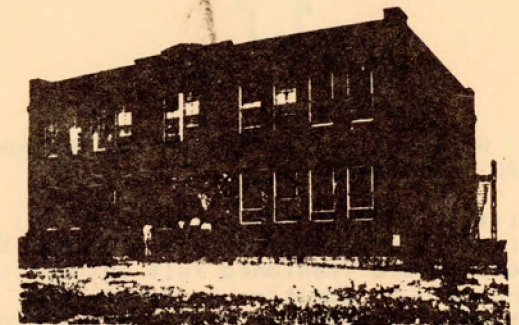
Balloon Fantastique  
Docents

- Ned Colvert, School
- E.M. Bilger Jr., Fire Station
- E.M. Bilger Sr., Filling Station
- Oleta Bilger, Cemetary
- Roxie Brazil, Church
- Evelyn Fitch, Well/Store

Historical Committee

- Melissa Cosgrove
- Gordon Doggett, Chairperson
- Janette Moore
- Wanda Waller

# A WALK BACK THROUGH HISTORY WITH OLD BEDFORD



SPONSORED BY  
BEDFORD HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

A WALK BACK THROUGH HISTORY  
WITH OLD BEDFORD

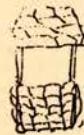
1. Bedford School, 1801 School Lane

Bedford School was built on the site of the first school in the area, which met in a log building during the early 1860's. In 1882, Milton Moore, a pioneer resident of the area, deeded 2.5 acres for the construction of Bedford College, an elementary and high school academy. In 1893 it was destroyed by fire and local citizens raised funds for a new elementary school nearby. Grapevine builders Frank and Charles Estill constructed the existing two-story brick structure in 1912 at a cost of \$5,000. It was the first use of brick as a building material in the Bedford area. The building was used as a school until 1969.



2. Bilger Filling Station and Garage, 1940 Bedford Road

Built in 1928, E. M. Bilger, Sr.'s Filling Station and Garage provided 50 years of old fashioned full automotive service. In addition to Humble and Citiservice gasoline being sold during the years, the station inspected cars, one year--2,800 cars. Mrs. Bilger, a certified mechanic, provided added support to the garage.



3. Fitch General Store and Well, 1937 Bedford Road

The general store and well served the community since the 1800's and was a rest stop on the Grapevine-Fort Worth Route. Joel Haden Bobo (1845-1921), son of Bedford area founder, Weldon Wiles Bobo (1813-1884), owned the store from 1896 to 1910 and was the first postmaster. His son-in-law, William R. Fitch (1873-1959), owned the store from 1910-1933, followed by his son, Walter R. Fitch, a World War II veteran, (1912-1972). Walter Fitch was also a postmaster and helped Bedford become a city in 1953.



4. Old Fire Station, 1949 Bedford Road

The first fire department was formed in 1955 as a Volunteer Fire Department with one government surplus fire truck and 30 male volunteers. The department was expanded in 1958-1959 when a new fire hall, city hall and community center complex was constructed using public contributions.

5. Barr-Simmons Grocery Store, 2008 Bedford Road

James Simmons and his brother-in-law, C.R. (Ralph) Barr, built the store in 1945. Their wives, Heralee and Oleta, respectively, joined them in the business where people from the surrounding area came to shop. The grocery store operated for 33 years.



6. Bedford Cemetery, 2401 Bedford Road

Pioneers may have begun using this graveyard in the 1850's or 1860's, but the earliest legible tombstone is that of Elizabeth White Bobo (1866-1871), whose parents came here in 1870 from Bedford County, Tennessee. In 1877, Milton Moore sold a five-acre tract, including this cemetery, to New Hope Church of Christ. W.L. Hurst (1833-1922), for whom Hurst is named, is interred here. Many Bedford Pioneers are buried in unmarked graves.



7. Bedford Church of Christ, 2401 Bedford Road

Founded about 1874, this congregation was originally called New Hope Church of Christ and met in a meeting house on a farm owned by Milton Moore. Moore deeded five acres to the congregation in 1877.