

# A Backward Look Over Trenton P.T.A - 1922-1951

by Mrs. Hugh F. Hunter

In 1922 a mere handful of mothers of pupils of the Trenton school meet in the auditorium of the new building which was completed in 1920 to organize the first Parent Teacher Association.

The new building much larger than the dilapidated old one it replaced needed practically everything in the way of equipment. The scant supply of rickety chairs and tables plus some shabby seats and desks bearing the marks of many years hard service and innumerable initials carved by generations of pupils were not enough to go around. The town at last had it's fine new school building.

Civic pride demanded that it be furnished fittingly. So the first few years of the P.T.A were devoted primarily to raising money to buy the necessary equipment. Every one worked indefatigably. Nearly every one in town gave a seat for the auditorium - which cost \$5.00 each. Some generous people gave several. Even so it was many years before seats for the auditorium were complete. The classrooms were equipped with teacher's desk and chair, and desks and seats for the pupils. Before this several classrooms had had only one large, roughly-made table around which the teacher and pupils sat in split-bottomed chairs. Maps, books, book-cases, shades, water-coolers and other things were added as they could be bought. This took a good many years of tireless effort.

Mrs. Anderson Garth who pioneered in founding the P.T.A was it's first president. She served well for two years and was succeeded by Mrs. Mack Russell whose term of office was curtailed after only one year by her removal to Hopkinsville. Succeeding her the following women have served as president:

- > 1922-1924 Mrs. A. Garth - President, Mrs. H.G Boone - Sec, Miss Henry Fox - Treas.
- > 1924-1925 Mrs. Mack Russell
- > 1925-1927 Mrs. Hugh Hunter
- > 1927-1929 Mrs. Garrot Hatcher
- > 1929-1931 Mrs. J.C Bronauch
- > 1931-1932 Mrs. Bradley Gillis

- > 1932-1934 Mrs. W. F. Ware
- > 1934-1935 Mrs. M.R. Crutchfield
- > 1935-1936 Mrs. Bryan Taylor
- > 1936-1938 Mrs. Buford Sweeney
- > 1938-1940 Mrs. Lewis Bransford
- > 1940-1942 Mrs. S.D. Chesnut
- > 1942-1944 Mrs. H.W. Peters
- > 1944-1946 Mrs. J.P. Moss
- > 1946-1948 Mrs. Clay Camp
- > 1948-1950 Mrs. J.D. McClendon
- > 1950- Mrs. J.G. Glascock

One important innovation that helped immensely in organizational work in those early years, was the introduction of the room-mother system. Mrs. Norton Garth had observed how well this functioned in the Miami, Florida schools, so she introduced and helped start it here, where it also worked most successfully.

After the classrooms, auditorium and gymnasium had been furnished and the school made reasonable comfortable-though such things as running water, drinking-fountains, and rest-rooms were to wait a good many years - the P.T.A. turned it's attention to child health problems. Before the organization of the county health department, local doctors cooperated on Child Health Day annually by giving free examinations when all school and pre-school children were weighed and examined. Later, with the cooperation of the health department, a tonsil clinic was sponsored. This was held in the Baptist church and was conducted two days by Doctors Gilmore, Ezell, Bassett and Lamotte, and Mrs. Smith, R.N. of Hopkinsville. There was no charge for these operations, all services were donated. More than forty children ad adenoids and tonsils removed. This was considered a very successful project.

Earlier, teachers and mothers had felt it was desirable for the children to have a hot lunch during the cold winter months. There were no kitchen facilities at all, but in spite of this, some mothers volunteered to make soup at home and send it to school at noon to be served hot to the children. Each child had to furnish his own cup and spoon which he brought, used, and took home with him to be properly washed each day.

From such a meager beginning our present fine and efficient cafeteria had its

inception. Later, after the new gymnasium was built, a part of the north wing, formerly the old gym, was converted to cafeteria use.

With the aid of government sponsored, free lunches for under-privileged children (others paid ten cents per plate) more children were able to obtain a hot noon lunch. Mrs. Frank Waller was the first dietician in charge of the cafeteria. She was followed by Miss Bertie B. Leavell, Mrs. C.W. Royate and Mrs. Martha Ramey who has given years of faithful and efficient service.

In addition to constant efforts through the years to administer to the material comfort and health of the school, much time and effort have been devoted to the cultural and spiritual needs of children, parents and teachers. Many good speakers have been heard, book reviews given, after-dinner speakers, numerous dinners and banquets, and inspirational programs each month have been the rule. In the nature of fine arts-early in the thirties, a very fine loan exhibit from Nashville of both old masters and modern art was displayed in the school auditorium. Ten cents admission was charged adults and this money was used to buy two of the pictures, Millet's "SONG OF THE Land" and "The Gleaners", which hang permanently in the auditorium. Books, both reference and fiction as well as magazines of the best type, had been added to the library.

Beautification of the school grounds has come in for a share of attention. Trees, one an elm planted on the sesquicentennial anniversary of George Washington's birthday, and shrubs have been set out on the campus in cooperation with the Garden Club.

A district meeting of the P.T.A. was held in Trenton in the early thirties. In recent years the special activities sponsored by a strong Parent Teacher Association whose membership has grown until it now numbers 455 include mainly enlarging and improving the cafeteria which is now modern, sanitary and electrically equipped. Over 200 lunches are served there daily.

Excellent playground equipment has been added with the help of other organizations and the churches in town. Also in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce and the Athletic Association, a movie projector and sound which are shown from time to time and add measurably to the pleasure and visual education of the pupils and community as a whole. This equipment is also used by the Farm Bureau and other organizations in the

locality.

In 1944 a Halloween carnival was held in the gymnasium under the advise of the P.T.A. This proved so successful as entertainment and so rewarding financially, that it has been repeated each year since and has become an institution in the community by means of which a double purpose is served. Children are kept occupied and out of mischief on a difficult nigh and the necessity for continued money-raising projects is eliminated as this one entertainment can be relied upon to furnish operating funds for the year.

Through it's almost thirty years of existence, the P.T.A. has served with unflinching willingness and vision wherever a need for the school existed. Spiritually and materially it has made itself felt as a live and growing force for good in the community.

Founders Day, Feb. 23, 1951  
Trenton, Kentucky

## P.T.A. Presidents

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> 1948-1950	Mrs. J.D. McClendon
> 1950-1952	Mrs. J.G. Glascock
> 1952-1953	Mrs. R.E. Evans
> 1953-1954	Mrs. Paul Sanders
> 1954-1956	Mrs. T.S. Vinson
> 1956-1958	Mrs. James Patrick
> 1958-1960	Mrs. Harvey Hughes
> 1960-1961	Mrs. W.W. Peters
> 1961-1963	Mrs. Clyde Foster Chesnut
> 1963-1965	Mrs. Lewis Bransford
> 1965-1967	Mrs. Clyde Woods
> 1967-1968	Rev. Gerald Jenkins
> 1968-1969	Mr. W.R. Dudley, Jr.
> 1969-1970	Mrs. Lewis Bransford