

Glimpses From Two Mile Prairie's Past

On September 16, 1960 the two schools, Judy School and Murry School came together and formed the Two Mile Prairie PTA. At that first meeting the name of Two Mile Prairie was accepted, it was decided the PTA meeting would alternate between the two schools, new American flags were approved for both buildings, and a Pie Supper Committee was formed. The president was Jack Glenn. During the 1963 – 1964 school year Jacobs School joined Judy and Murry Schools to form the New Organized Two Mile Prairie PTA.

This was the start of the school we now affectionately know as Two Mile Prairie. PTA meeting in the 1950's and 1960's had many of the characteristics of today's PTA. Officers were elected each year and the names in the minutes are names we still see associated with TMP. At each meeting the PTA discussed ways they could add to the school through a program or the purchase of a needed supply. There was usually a program with an educational subject that demonstrated the PTA's commitment to continuing education. Finally, there were usually committee reports that often focused on a way to raise funds to support the children of TMP. As you can see some things do not change. In the next few paragraphs I will try to give you a glimpse of the history of TMP.

In looking over the minutes from Judy School and then TMP there are some interesting instances that seem to jump from the pages. On March 13, 1958, the program was "Children's Problems from 2 to 6, growing up in Modern America," now isn't that a title that could be used at a PTA meeting today. We are always looking for the most modern way to supply children with information and an important way in the late 50's and 60's was the bookmobile. There are many references about the bookmobile's visits to Judy School and later TMP, bringing books and films to the school. In September 1958, the PTA discussed whether a telephone was needed and the discussion was tabled. At the October 1958 meeting the telephone issue was further discussed and the vote was **No**. It is fun to think of a time when a telephone was not needed to conduct the business of running a school. A phone was approved in October 1960. Being an outstanding PTA has always been a goal at TMP and in 1960- 1961 the TMP PTA received the State Certificate of Recognition.

The first PTA meeting in the new Two Mile Prairie School was held on January 22, 1965. At this meeting, the program was a demonstration of the new Mouth to Mouth Respiration Procedure. The treasure's report was made and there was a balance of \$44.93 (after the telephone bill was paid). During the business meeting it was approved to have the harp tuned, to buy scrapbooks for the four graduates, whether there could be a hot lunch program at the new school, conducting a bake sale, and to cancel the membership to the Boone County PTA Association. It would be interesting to know why the membership was cancelled. Other items the PTA took care of to make sure the school ran smoothly included grocery pick-up from town, trash hauling and the paying of the phone bill. It is good to see some changes in these areas of responsibility.

During the 1971 – 1972 school year there was an addition of classrooms to TMP. TMP became a part of the Columbia Public School District during 1972 – 1973. This was made necessary because of changes in the laws dealing with school accreditation. The principal at that time was Sam Wiggins. Mr. Clay Austin became principal of TMP starting with the 1973 –1974 school year, a position he held through the 1995 – 1996 school year. In 1988 there was the addition of the primary classroom wing and the Media Center was added during the 1991 – 1992 school year. This glimpse of TMP history came from the PTA minutes.