

years of service as a postmaster and rural mail carrier.

Banks

J.L. Jones had the first bank in Rule. Th First National Bank was started in 1906. It was bought out by Mr. Jones. The Farmers State Bank was started in 1916. It bought out the First National Bank in 1933. It recieved a National Charter and changed its name to Farmers National Bank in 1946. Charlie Neal was one of the orginal stock holders in the Farmers State Bank. His nephew, Morris Neal, helped convert it to Farmers National Bank. Morrie began work as office boy in 1928. He has now built a new building.

Doctors

MR. The first doctor in Rule was Dr. Ragan. He was there in 1905. He soon retired in 1918. Dr. M.W. Rogers came in 1906, he practiced medicine in Rule for 54 years. In 1910, he married the music teacher, Vera Johnson. Mrs. Rogers taught Mrs. Sam Davis, Jack Davis, brother of Mrs. C. Davis. Dr. J.E. Lindsey and Dr. J.D. Westbrook came in 1907. They run the dentist office and drugstore. Dr. H.C. Weaver came in 1906, he was the civic leader, he was also a Methodist. Dr. F.J. Gossett and Dr. J.C. Davis came in 1924.

Rule Review

The first issue of the Rule Review was published in 1906 by the Powers brothers. It was first published in the old Rock Hotel BUILDing in a room fronting the east. They sold it to a Mr. Carroll after a short time. Then he sold it to Jesse D. Hall, and he moved it to its present location. It was sold in 1920 to Mr. and Mrs. E.B. Harris and it expanded and enlarged as other businesses did. A modern brick building was raised in 1926. During the sixty years of operations of the Review it has been one of the towns greatest assets rendering service to the community that no other service could have done. We are indebted to the Alton Richards for the good job they did after the Harris moved to Graham. Mr. Payne was fifteen years old when he worked on the Rule Review. He later worked in a grocery store and his own store.

Gins

The Oil Mill was started in 1907 by A.C. Foster Sr., W.A. Earnest and J.L. Jones. It was finally closed. The Compress was started in 1923, and is still in operation.

The Farmers District Union Gin was started in 1913. The farmers bought shares=\$8,000 capital stock. R.M. Smith, J.F. Simpson, R.H. Penick, H.J. Leon obtained a charter. They are now worth many times more than the original investment of \$8,000.

In 1907, Mr. Swift built a gin where the present Lisle gin stands. Mr. Carl Lee and Mr. W.A. Earnest spent some time at the gin. Then Mr. Spurlock was the manager in 1920 when the gin was destroyed by fire. Mr. Jim Lisle was working for the Swifts in Benjamin, when he was sent to Rule to rebuild the gin. The Lisle family moved to Rule in 1921, and be became manager of the gin. In 1925,

he bought an interest in the gin and the name was changed to Lisle gin Company. Mr. Lisle met his untimely death in February of 1927 and in the Fall 1927, Mrs. Lisle took over management of the gin. She had a full time job rearing four small children and doing the work required of her at the gin. She has kept the building and machines in constant repair and remodelling to better serve her community in good years and bad years. She has spent 49 years as a ginner.

Families

In 1904, the Oreint Railroad made a survey into the west part of the county through the land owned by Joseph E. Cloud. Realizing his inability to establish a town sight, Mr. Cloud sold the land to Mr. Jesse L. Jones who became the founder of the new town built along the railroad. Mr. Jones came to what is now Haskell County in the 1880 s. He was grazing large herds of cattle and flocks of sheep on the lush grass lands as far west as Spur, Texas.

When the County was organized in January of 1885, he was made the first county clerk. He invited a boyhood friend, a lawyer, to Haskell to help set up the county records, etc. A.C. Foster. They set up a partnership land office, Foster, Jones Land Office. Jones was also working at a bank in Haskell. When the rumor of the new town site near the river was confirmed, the Orient Town Site Company was formed and bought the land which was surveyed into lots for a town on the new railroad. Mr. Jones made the transaction through his friend, Mr. W.A. Rule, Vice-President of Commercial National Bank of Kansas City Missouri, and the new town was called Rule in his honor. Since the county had a great promise as a farming area, and with his great business ability, buildings began to spring up on both sides of main street with a windmill and watering trough in the center of main street. The harness shop, Livery Stable, and Wagon Yard did a thriving business.

Mr. Jones and Mr. Foster built a two story stone building on the corner to house a hotel, J.L. Jones Dry Goods, and a bank. Mr. Jones opened a privately owned bank later selling it to a group of stockholders, becoming the First National Bank. In 1908, Mr. Jones and partners built the Rule Cotton Oil Mill and a gin. Mr. Jones was a very energetic man, and ambitions for the town that he had started, and worked early and late at banking, farming, ranching, and befriending mankind. His wife and companion through all his endeavors, was Hallie Milred Martin Jones. Their seven children (one died in infancy) are: Lennis, Chester, Nell, Francis, Thelma, and Foster.

NONE All of them graduated from Rule High School.

George W. May came to Texas in 1872, from Tennessee. He came to Haskell County in 1904. Mr. May and George met their families in a buggy and surrey. Mrs. May, Miss Ora, Sam John, Hallie and Zina were on their way to a farm at Haralson's, (at center point) landowner, farmer, cotton buyer, and store owner.

The "Invasion of the Normans" as our writer calls it, began in 1896, when Mr. & Mrs. Norman with Oscar, Virgil, Lillie and Lee, arrived. In 1897 a married son, Frank, and his family bought land near his father. In 1900, son Emmitt arrived and also settled near the parents. They all "sodded" in a lot of land, built fences and homes and became responsible citizens of the new community. Frank Norman, postmaster, mail carrier, barber, singer, and many other things to many people.

CLAUDE

Their families of the Norman men have many occupations and all are living responsible lives. They supported the Baptist, First Christian, and Church of Christ. There are 34 living grand children, 76 great, 70 great-great, descendants in 1966.

J.E. Cloud came to Rule in 1900. They lived in Haskell till their house was built on the Carothers Farm. Until then they lived in half a dugout five miles southeast of Rule. Their friends here included W.W. Kittley, Carothers, George Tanner. J.E. Cloud and his brother, T.W. Cloud bought 200 acres, now in the town site of Rule. There were only a few settlements here and they were: Jim Davis, W.R. Carothers, Tanners, Frank Smith, W.W. Kittleys. There was only one telephone for everybody to use. W.T. Smith and his son, R.M. Smith settled south of Rule several years before. In 1902, the Cloud family moved to their home south of Rule, where they lived for 26 years, then they moved to town. The area progressed from shepherd and cattle men to farming.

Many settlers came to Rule and Haskell County in the late 1800's and early 1900's. The Kittleys, Carothers, Tanners, Clouds, and among these were the E.L. Lewis. They bought land six miles northwest of Rule in the fall of 1902. In January of 1903, Mr. & Mrs. Lewis, with a fourteen month old boy arrived in a snow storm by covered wagon. Mrs. Lewis, nee Wink Louise Mitchell, daughter of R.A. (Uncle Doc.) Mitchell who bought land just west of the Lewis land. They were busy for years following this move. Land had to be grubbed after building a half dugout and one room home. Mrs. Lewis took her place in the fields, home, everywhere doing everything, even to adding three little girls at a year and a half intervals. When the last little was twelve a baby brother joined the other four children. She helped in caring for the crops, mules, horses, cows, chickens, hogs for sale and for the family consumption, plus all the kith and kin who wandered in to stay for weeks at a time, became "Dink" was a strong person and could take care of them. Mr. Lewis taught the Rule school two terms in 1904-1906 with the assistance of one other teacher. He organized the first baseball team that Rule had ever had, along with as much education as was possible in a two room school house with 125 pupils from eight to twenty.

Mr. Lewis too, was ambitious for this new town along the railroad and he spent much of his time and effort to the development of its interests. He was one of the organizers of the Farmers Gin association. The predecessor of the Coop Gin, and was an early director. He assisted in the organization of the Peoples Lumber Company, and was a director. He became a bank director in 1917, which continued until one month before his death at the age of 95 years old. The Lewis children were all teachers but one, Garland, Meredith, Madge, Mildred and Edward. Four finished at Rule High School, while the oldest finished Abilene Christian College and High School. Some of the pupils were Elgin & Olin Car, Audie Penick, Sam & John May, Ed & Henry Cloud, Miss Nora Cloud. The Trustees were: Mr. W.R. Carothers, R.M. Smith, and J.E. Cloud.

Rev. J.F. Curry and family came to Pinkerton in 1910, they came from Basque County. He preached at Pinkerton and Sagerton, Half the time at each place. Rev. Curry also farmed, a few years later he was appointed missionary of Haskell-Knox association. There were 36 rural schools and he preached in all of them or had simmons with the students help. He moved to Brownfield and eventually came back to Rule and retired.

"Time Marches on" Many changes take place, from the wide open spaces and sparsely settled to modern business houses and homes and thickly settled. Old livery stables have given way to the march of progress. Instead of Single or Double rig of horse and buggy days, automobiles are now plentiful. Gone are the hitching posts and old wells on main street with its water trough. Gone are the displays of side saddles in the harness shop. The modern women know more about the steering wheel of the car.

"Time Marches On" With good roads, automobiles, planes, radio, T.V., and the desire to go places and to see things, man kind has a greater outlook on life than was possible in the late 1900's or about 76 years ago.

May we pause for a moment in silent tribute to these pioneers who by their sturdy christian character, thrifty, homesty, industry and their zeal for the better things of life, assisted in the development and growth of our town and community and the making of a better place in which to live.



COMMUNITY PROJECT WORKERS—These five Rule citizens had a major role in construction of the Rule High School FFA show barn and sale arena dedicated at a community barbecue program Tuesday night at the school. From left they are: Ernest Williams, manager of Rule Co-Op Gin; Pete Kittley, carpenter-farmer; Clyde Grice, farmer-stockman; Connor Horton, superintendent of schools; and Joe B. Cloud, farmer-stockman and school board member. (Staff photo)



ASSIST ON PROJECT — Five men, all farmers, gave a big assist in establishment of a \$13,000 FFA show barn and sales arena at Rule High School. Attending a community barbecue and dedication program Tuesday night at the new facility were, from left: J. C. Lewis, school board member; Don Davis, A. D. May, school board member; Scott White and Wallace Allison. (Staff photo)



EXPERIMENTAL STAGE — Conducting chemistry experiments in science laboratory at Rule High School are these two freshman students — Dave McCandless, left and Dennis Riggins. (Staff Photo)

Small Schools Project Is Successful at Rule

RULE — Rule schools are in their third year as a pilot point of the Texas Small Schools Project — and officials here make no bones about being highly pleased with the program.

"This program has made it possible for us to schedule more course offerings despite our small enrollment and personnel limits," Supt. Connor Horton said.

"We feel it has been most successful for Rule."

One of First

Horton explained that the Rule school system was one of the first seven which began the pilot project. Since it began, a number of additional systems have been added.

"The demand for joining the program is growing faster than the requests can be met," Horton added. The Rule system joined the program for a five-year experimental period.

And what about the future? "We will stay with the Small Schools Project as long as possible," Horton said.

Under training and allowances from the project, Rule High School now offers its students the choice of 29 subjects. Under the program, teachers handle multiple classes — for example, beginner and advanced language courses or more than one mathematics course — at the same time.

Place High

"We believe our success in this is pointed out by how well our commercial contestants (typing and shorthand) did in UIL events last spring after learning in multiple classes," Horton said. Rule High School placed high in the state in its class in both events.

Another example of the Rule system's efforts to utilize its teaching staff comes in grades 3, 4 and 5, which are heavily overloaded this year.

The school hires a teacher's aide to assist the three overloaded staff members. The aide helps each teacher two hours per day. To leave the teachers full time

for their classroom duties, the aide handles routine matters, including the paperwork connected with teaching.

Rule schools are organized on an 8-4 schedule, with two adjacent campuses. Present enrollment is 390, including 103 in high school, the highest ever.

There are 52 Negroes enrolled in the eight-grade Dunbar school.

78 Square Miles

Rule Independent School District covers 78 square miles and uses four buses to transport its students.

The system has 22 professional staff employees and 33 on the total payroll. Salaries total some \$115,000 per year for the school.

Present bonded indebtedness is \$184,000. Property evaluations total \$3,091,000 with a tax rate of \$1.50 per \$100 valuation, based on about 20 per cent of market values.

Tax collections are expected to average about \$45,000 per year following a blanket 15 per cent increase in tax evaluations over the district effective for this tax year.

Unlike many of its neighboring

districts, the Rule system gets virtually no boost from oil property taxes. There is only one producing well in the entire district.

Plant Adequate

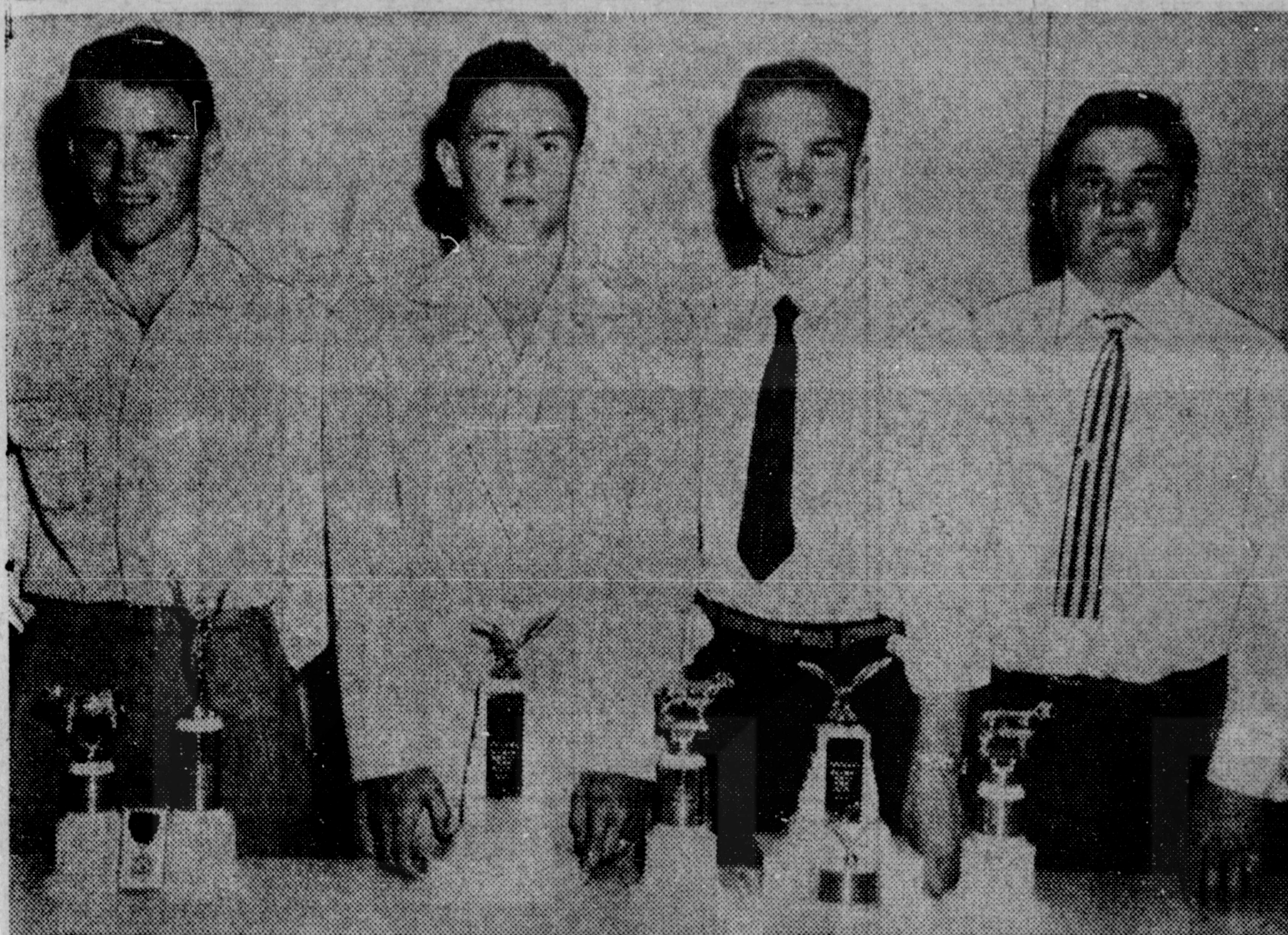
Supt. Horton labels the school's physical plant as adequate, although it is nearing capacity. He estimates the buildings could handle about 175 more students without additional construction being an absolute necessity, however.

Rule High School requires 22 credits, including 20 "solids," for graduation. A seven-period day is standard throughout the system.

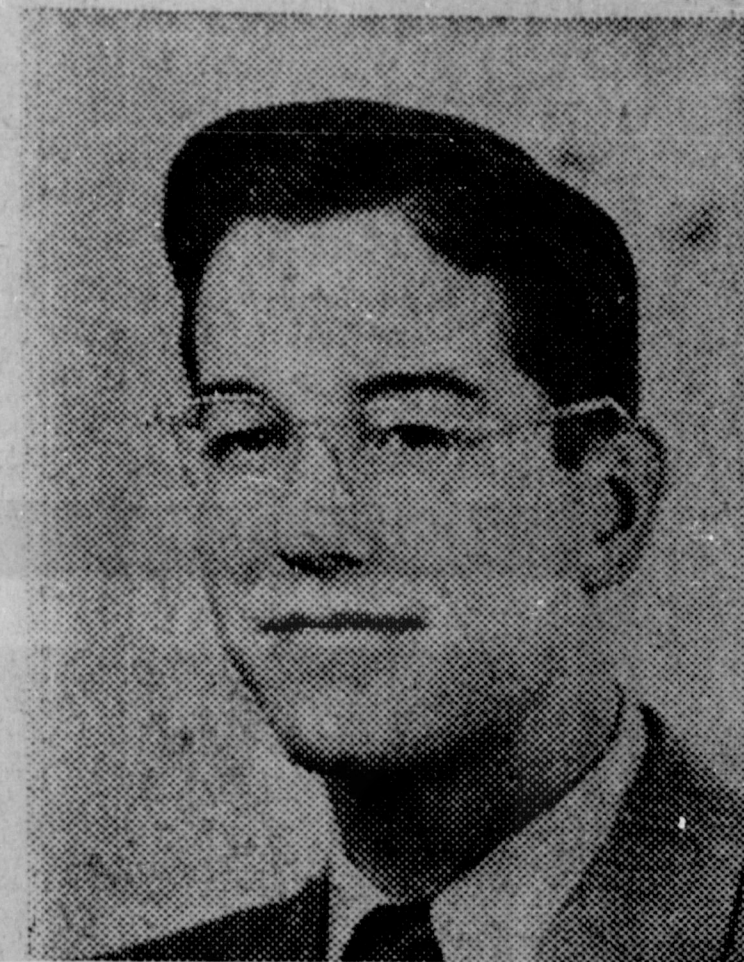
Because of the multiple classes under the Small Schools Project at Rule High School, the schedule offers four science, four English, five mathematics, three home economics and two foreign language credits among its 29 courses.

Lavon Beakley is high school principal and Ray Fulenwiler is elementary principal.

School board members include Joe B. Cloud, president; J. C. Lewis, secretary; L. W. Jones Jr., vice president; and Norris Anderson, A. D. May, R. K. Denson Jr. and R. E. McCandless.



TROPHY HOUNDS — This quartet of Rule FFA Chapter members won all seven of the trophies awarded at the annual father-son banquet last week. Four of them were donated by Power Feed Mills, Abilene, two were chapter awards and one from the Rule High senior class. Left to right they are Charles Gibson, winner of Power trophies for calf feeding and showmanship and senior class medal for outstanding VA student; Jerry Hannsz, chapter trophy for most outstanding freshman FFA member; Sonny Wharton, Power trophy for lamb feeding and chapter trophy for outstanding senior FFA member; and Jerry Don Laughlin, Power trophy for lamb feeding and showing. (Staff photo.)



TOM PIKE
... valedictorian



DORIS FRANKE
... salutatorian

Rule Honor Students Named; Graduating Exercises Scheduled

RULE, May 16 (RNS)—Baccalaureate services for the Rule High School graduating class will be held next Sunday at 11 a. m. in the school auditorium.

Graduates will receive their diplomas at Commencement exercises Thursday evening at the auditorium.

Valedictorian is Tom Pike, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Pike. He has a four-year average of 94.22.

Doris Franke is salutatorian with an average of 93.35. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Franke.

Honor students are Loretta Mae Neinast and Jan Fouts.

There are 26 members of the graduating class.

They include:

Audie Conder, Tom Pike, Ted Terrell, Doris Franke, Loretta Mae Neinast, Jan Fouts, Martha Foll, Lucy Gauntt Denson, Raynelle Ross Miller, Dorma Smith, Doris Perkins, Joyce Allison, Henry Salley, Roy Dean Smith, Lois Knippling, James Bailiff, Dallas Baugh, Jerry Kainer, Bertha Holcomb, Herbert Kainer, Patricia Kupatt, Bobby Kittley, Louis Ray Kimbler, Adrienne Lehrmann, Kenneth Stegemoeller and Eugene Rhoads.



1953

BACK ROW STANDING, LEFT TO RIGHT-- Superintendent Connor Horton, Sponsor, Walter Rinehart, Charlie Merle Eaton, Eugene Fischer, Doris Sprayberry, Wilbur Heatherly, Shirley Rhoads, Hayes Rowan, Sue Williams, Mrs. Faye Dunning, Sponsor.

SECOND ROW-- Sherrie Yarborough, Anella Hertel, Linda Lewis, Marilyn Pike, Glenda Clark, Kay Springs, Margie Lehrmann.

FRONT ROW-- James Ray Camp, Charles Gibson, Billy Bob Smith, Charles O'Pry, Billy Doyle Norman, Jimmy Hannsz and Victor Trammell not pictured.

11-4-1965



HASKELL HIGH CHEERLEADERS: Top row, left to right, Jennabeth Pitman, Johnnie Ray Lowe, Bonnie Howard, Doris Pace. Bottom row, left to right, Gloria Miller, Junior Leader; Debbie Wiseman, head leader, and Gerre Colbert.

FUTURE CITIZENS OF RULE



TOP ROW-- Left to Right-- Brenda Kay Holley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Holley, First Place Winner, Sharan Kae daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Billy Green, 2nd; Caron Csoud, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe B. Cloud, 3rd.

SECOND ROW-- Sammy Joe Self, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Self Fourth place; Lynn, and Melvin Richards.

THIRD ROW-- Gayle Richards, Mr. and Mrs Alton Richards and Gary, Sonja and Ruby Casey, --Mr. and Mrs. Lamar Casey.

RULE NEWS

Accepts Scholarship

Lester Rogers, Rule mathematics teacher, has accepted a scholarship from the National Science Foundation Summer Institute to study mathematics at West Texas State University in Canyon for eight weeks this summer.

Rule Seniors Leave On Trip

Members of Rule Senior Class are leaving for Washington D. C. by chartered bus at 4 p. m. on Tuesday, April 13.

Seniors making the trip will be: Danny Anderson, Jerry Barbee, Doris Briles, Jerry Cannon, Joe Cannon, Eddie Chambers, Patsy Clark, Joe Harold Cloud, Brent Davis, Janice Hertel, Gary Fannin, Jana Kile, Josephine Longoria, Dolores Macias, Ronnie May, John McQuinn, James Moore, Paula Pinkard, Kenny Gayle Ross, Steve Saffel, Linda Simpson, Larry Tanner, Rita West, Claire Wright and Carol Gann.

Sponsors making the trip will be Mr. and Mrs. Connor Horton and Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Dunnam.

Rule Wins District Contest

The play, "Four Hundred Nights," presented by Rule High School, under the direction of Mrs. C. W. Dunnam, placed first in the District 11B One-Act Play contest at Rule Friday night, April 2.

Members of the winning cast were: Crawford Allison, Jana Kile, Brent Davis, Joe Cannon, Dennis Barbee, Jerry Cannon, Kenny Gayle Ross, Janice Hertel, Paula Pinkard and Pat Moore.

Rochester placed second with "Antic Spring" directed by Mrs. Wanda Brown.

Carney High School of O'Brien placed third with "A Psalm of Thanksgiving," directed by Mrs. Francis Haymes.

Jana Kile of Rule received the Best Actress Award. Joe Cannon of Rule received the Best Actor Award. Members of the supporting cast were Vondell Archer and Mary Lue Alvis of Rochester! Buford Berryhill of Rochester, and Crawford Allison of Rule.

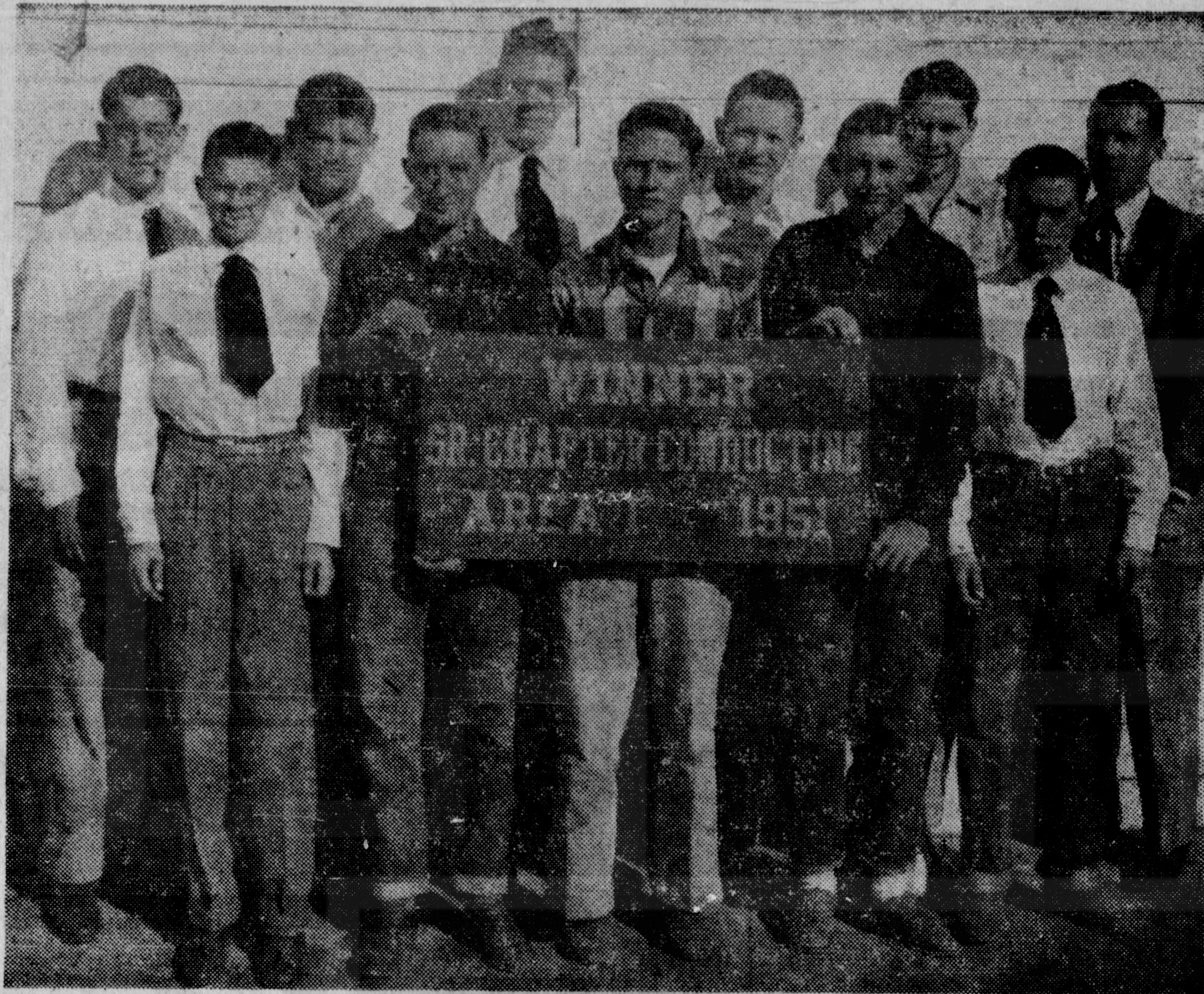


RULE, TEXAS (Looking North-East)

8-14 1949

AIR PHOTO BY STEFFA - HASKELL, TEXAS





FFA AREA I REPRESENTATIVES — These Rule FFA boys, winners of the Area I senior chapter conducting contest, will represent the area in the state invitational meet in Huntsville in March. The team, trained by W. C. Hadley, vocational agriculture teacher in the Rule Schools, won first place, a team of the same boys won second in senior farm demonstrations, and another team of three won second in junior farm demonstrations. Left to right, front row, are Louis Kimbler, Jerry Kainer, Jan Fouts, Bobby Kittley, Lawrence Ball; back row, Tom Pike, Ted Terrell, Wayne Eakin, Audie Conder, Bobby Wilson, and W. C. Hadley. Dallas Baugh, another member of the conducting team, is not shown.

1968

W. L. (Bud) Davis, who is in his fourth year as vocational agriculture teacher in Rule High School, seems to have done one of the top jobs in the area of selling vocational agriculture to farmers and business men at Rule.

A member of the Rule school board said that about all Davis has to do to get the full cooperation of the community is to mention something he would like to see accomplished. The farmers and business men pitch in and get it done.

He has been careful not to overload his community backers with financial burdens.

Since all of the livestock fed out by FFA boys are sold at the Rule show Davis sees to it that the boys don't feed out too many animals to be sold.

Next year he hopes to keep the number of calves and pigs down to a maximum of about 12 each and the lambs down to about a half dozen.