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COMMUNITY SURVEY OF PINE MOUNTAIN, KENTUCKY

•with Emphasis on Housing•

by

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•In partial requirement of Home Economics
Course No. 351--Housing

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Harlan County was formed from Floyd and Knox counties in 1819. It was named for Major Silas Harlan who came from Virginia and helped fight most of the battles with Indians. The county seat used to be called Mount Pleasant but then it was changed to Harlan.

The first person to settle in the Pine Mountain Community was a fellow named Metcalf. He moved in in 1824. The second person settled about two miles on farther up the creek in 1869. The only neighbors were two miles in one direction and about seventeen miles in the other direction. This made living here very lonesome indeed because one person wouldn't come by except every two or three weeks.

These people had no other way to live except by their hands. They lived in houses hewn of logs chinked with mud to keep out the cold. They had a puncheon floor if any floor at all.

At about this time the only way to make a living was by farming. There was no industry such as logging or mining going on at this time.

In about 1911 there was a logging company that came in ^{and} took out the logs on a little dinky engine. This brought many more people into Pine Mountain.

In about 1913 the Pine Mountain School was established. It was built at the forks of two creeks with good level land for farming. The purpose of this school was to bring education and a better way of life to the families in the outlying communities. The houses that were built at this time were of the very barest of needs. The boarding students there numbered eight. They went about learning to card, spin, weave and to farm profitably. The school was a community center for people to come and enjoy themselves and also to see what

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could be done with what they had.

The school got a sawmill and they had a good bit of trouble getting it over the mountain. They brought it over the mountain on a rickety incline. They finally got it to the school and started sawing their lumber to make some of their other buildings.

The school tried to help the community all that they could. They started a registered ^{Ayrshire} dairy herd in hopes that it would improve the families milk supply. The service of the bull was gotten for a small fee. Everytime the county agent had a chance he would have a farm meeting at the school to show the improvement methods that were being practiced.

In my community the buildings kind of just happened. Some of them look very nice but most of them show a great lack of plan when they were built. At the school they employed an architect to plan their buildings. They have one building that seems to have a New England influence. The top part sticks out over the bottom part about three feet. Most of their buildings are made of native sandstone half way up, then the rest is made of wood. Three of the buildings are of modern design.

They have a hospital that has been made from a dormitory. The people are very proud of their hospital. The number of maternity cases brought into the hospital has increased ^{in number} in the last few years. The doctor holds clinics for expectant mothers in different outlying communities about once a week. Occasionally there is a call for a home delivery but not often. On the days that the doctor is in the hospital, he might ^{treat} as many as 75 patients. In high school the girls who thought that they might want to be nurses worked in the hospital bathing the patients, serving their meals, cleaning and in general helping where needed.

When the high school found that it could no longer function under its set up it disbanded and they started a consolidated graded school. They are now teaching nine grades to about 200 pupils. This set up seems to be serving more people in a way that the high school didn't. There were six schools that were consolidated. In the high school there wasn't very many children coming in for further education after they completed the eighth grade if they got that far.

There are eighteen families in my community. The population is 76. Of the eighteen families there are seven of them that are not related to me.

In 1941 after much hard work we got R. E. A. over in Pine Mountain. There wasn't enough people who were interested to bring it seven miles over the mountain. The school had their own generating plant so they didn't need it so much. After much talking they finally talked the school into taking R. E. A. So in Feb. 1942, the lights came on in Pine Mountain and people put away their kerosene lamps for when the lights would go off. So in three days the lamps were brought out again because of a very heavy snow. This was taken care of in less than a week and they have been very satisfactory ever since.

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