

A Word From the Publisher

What a special couple of weeks we have had in Callahan history! I'm not sure why, as a young teenager, that you are not very interested in history. This week has certainly tested my knowledge and memory and taken me down memory lane. Saturday, I attended the dedication of the Pine Forest Community School Historical marker. What a special day that was for the former students and teachers.

This week, I'm sitting down with Linda Morgan talking about Ann's Diner and her diner Linda Jean's. Oh my goodness. When we moved to Callahan, Ann's Diner was the neatest thing around. Everybody knew about it and where it was, right in the middle of Callahan.

From then on, my mind has been going crazy with all the memories stored up in my head. We moved to Callahan in 1964. Yep...I was a mere child of 4. Fortunately for me, we lived right across the road from the school, Callahan High School, now Callahan Elementary. The crazy thing is, the school was a 1st – 12th grades school. That just blows me away. The school had a big wooden gymnasium, The Barn, on the right side, where the cafeteria now stands. The gym had big windows in it and was the coolest building to me. Of course, I was a child. I don't know when, but The Barn caught on fire one night. It was a huge fire and took forever to get it out because it was made of pure lighter wood. Roger was a career Nassau County firefighter at the time, and remembers the fire clearly. He remembers coming over the Crawford overpass from Bryceville and seeing the glow in the sky. He knew

then it was a big fire. That was before the county had career firefighters on the west side. Callahan and Hilliard had volunteer firefighters.

In 1968, integration took place. It was then that Pine Forest turned into Callahan Junior High with grades 7th – 9th; Callahan Elementary, K-6th; and West Nassau 10th – 12th. When attending Callahan Junior High, I walked to and from school. Yes, down US 1 and back. The walk home was always fun because we got to stop at Stanley's (Long's Sundries). He was like the Chicken House of today's world. Every kid loved going to Stanley's. My favorite was always a vanilla Coke and a frozen snicker. Oh man, those were the days! Stanley's was located where the Ice machine is. It was a huge brick building called the Conner Building. That building also caught fire one night and yes, Roger also worked that one. Those are two huge fires he or I will never forget. So sad, that such a big part of history burned up.

Callahan, Hilliard and Bryceville all have history that are important to know and learn about. Remembering those times and days is an important part of sharing our history. I am far from a history buff but I must say it is fun to think about those days. You want to enjoy some stories, spend a little time with some of our precious elderly. The history that they recall is amazing. The things they have seen and lived through are truly history at its best.

Have a blessed week!

Dawn S. West