

Heating was done by pot-belly heaters, wood being secured from the area by students and from student's bringing kindling from home. Seeing the need for additional wood patrons from the community donated fuel supplies. The school authorities supplied some coal.

Children brought bagged lunches from home. The lunches were heated in the home economics room. Later, a lunchroom was added; meals were ten cents.

As enrollment increased, the need for transportation became evident. Mr. Luke Washington purchased a bus. Driver Arthur Washington picked up his first school passengers at 5:45 a.m. and deposited them at home around 7:00 p.m.. The driver was paid thirty dollars a month, from each families' assessment.

Later, a sixty-seven capacity bus, costing \$2,000, was underwritten by Mrs. Janie Bell Washington. She was reimbursed by the parent-teacher organization.

The school gained recognition in agriculture, home economics, spelling and choral music. Students traveled throughout the state representing the Ruffin community.

The present structure was completed in 1953, built on land sold in 1950 to the board by Mr. Luke Washington, Sr., for \$2,700. The first graduation was held in 1954.

Mr. Greenlee's administration ended in 1969, with student enrollment of 597, grades 7-12.

## **1969-80**

Rev. Richard A. Leonard assumed the principalship of the school. Assistant principals appointed were: Mr. Owen McAlister (1970-73), Mr. Roger Meyer (1973-74), Mr. Brantley Reeves (1974-77), and Mr. Robert Spires (1977-80). Mrs. Vera Bowman was appointed secretary. She is currently secretary of the school. The enrollment reached its zenith with 573 students and 25 teachers.

Some faculty included: Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Lloyd, Mrs. Patsy Spires. Mrs. Odessa Stephens, Mrs. Vera Goff, Mrs. Mary Summers, Mr. M. Boles, Mr. Bobbie Allen and Mrs. Josephine Byrd.

When the school was integrated, the stadium and bandroom were constructed.