

I REMEMBER

by Pauline Colborn

from the Clay County Advocate Press (1970's)

In approximately 1910 to 1914, the Clay county Fair was held on acerage south of where Flora Township High School stands today.

The fairgrounds were complete and up-to-date for that time. There were stock barns, chicken pens, a domestic arts building and even a racetrack, with an adjacent grandstand.

One thing I remember from those early fairs is that I, and probably many more people saw an airplane for the first time. It was provided for free entertainment - and entertainment it was.

The plane was a veritable crate, which took off straight up in the air for 200 or 300 feet, circled the racetrack a couple of times, then came straight down again.

That's what it did when it was behaving well. But it was a temperamental little cuss. More ofter than not, it decided not to fly, regardless of the pilot's coaxing, and sat stolidly on the ground. Sitting or flying, however, it was a great sight for fairgoers.

I don't know when Harter-Stanford Township High School became Flora Township High School, but it was after I attended school there from 1914 to 1918. The superintendent in those years was S. E. **Curlee**, who I believe, was the first head of the new high school. I don't know whether he had a doctor's, master's, bachelor's or no degree, because to all the kids he was "Professor **Curlee**."

Among the teachers at that time, some whose first names I don't remember, were **Eva Hanks**, **Mabel Crump**, **Meta Fluch**, **Miss Schmeisser**, **Miss LeFrenz**, **Luella Loutzenhiser**, **Mr. Torrence**, **Ferne Reid**, **Miss Ryan**, **Miss Borgelt**, **Miss Bluel**, **Miss MacAllum**, **Mr. Rodgers** and **E. W. Skaer**.

The class of 1917 entertained the class of 1916 at the annual Junior-Senior banquet on May 12, 1916, in the home of Miss **Thelma Scudamore**. With **George Farris** as toastmaster, the following program was given: "To Our Successors," **Leslie Jones**; "To Our Seniors," **Ausby Hendy**; "Prospects of the Future," **Sylvia Riggle**; "Our Senior Year," **Thelma Scudamore**, and "The Faculty's Standpoint," **Professor Curlee**.

Many years before student demonstrations, protests, picketing and strikes became an almost daily occurence on campuses allover the nation, there was a walkout at the high school in flora. Does anyone remember it? Well, I know at least three former students who do.

It was early spring of 1917, and time for the annual inter-class basketball tournament, which was a big event on the school calendar. One night, some over-zealous sophomores broke into the school building and, in some manner, climbed to