

Rural Educational Heritage Inc.

A non-profit organization serving Rural Special School in Fox, Arkansas and the surrounding community

February 2011

Volume 2, Issue 1

Good News Blasts.....

Rural Special was recognized 20 times by U. of A. in their Outstanding Performance Awards. Read about it on our website www.ruralspecial.org

The Fox Store is open again! New proprietors are alumni Ronnie & Tangie (Lee) Callahan.

Meadowcreek Inc. is planning a resurgence and looking for involvement and input from the Fox area community. See www.meadowcreekinc.com

Spring Fundraiser

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Coordinated by Kim Linville who will be recruiting the help of parents of young children from the community. Call Kim to volunteer. 870-363-4841

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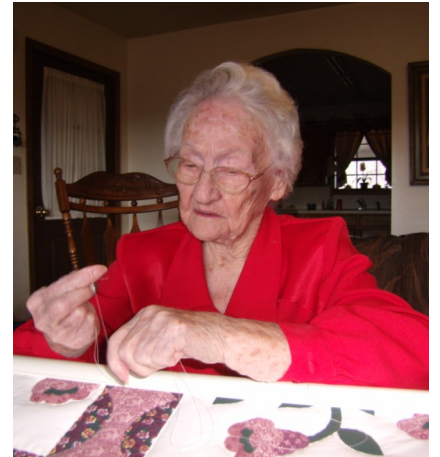
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Elsie Compton, community matriarch and long-time teacher, to celebrate 100th

Son honors his mom's friends and companions through a contribution to REH

J.T. and Norma Compton wish to acknowledge some special friends who have provided care, companionship, and friendship to Elsie Compton over the past several years as she approaches her 100th birthday. Although longevity is thought to be hereditary, these women who laugh with her, sing with her, and even dance with her have added "life to her years." Elsie's nieces: Janice Miller, Dayle Bonds, Faye Rushing, Deloris Brewer, Gearldee Dodd, Karen Morris, friend Viola Schlabach, and a special sister, Ruby Berry have been recognized by the Comptons with a \$10,000 gift to Rural Educational Heritage Inc. Mrs. Compton had a forty-five year career as a teacher with the first twenty alternating between Parma and Turkey Creek, one year at Timbo, and the

remaining twenty-four years at Rural Special School. She rode horseback two miles a day to her first job at Pine Log. All of the honorees including her sister, Ruby, are former students of Mrs. Compton's with the exception of Viola, but Mrs. Compton taught some of Viola's children before retiring in 1974. Elsie and the late W.A. Compton are the parents of J.T. (Class of 1952) and Niva Lancaster (Class of 1955). A scholarship in Mrs. Compton's name was established by her family and has been given annually to a Rural Special graduate(s) over the past fifteen years. Please send birthday greetings to Mrs. Compton, at Box 187 Turkey Creek Rd., Mountain View, AR 72560. The family requests no gifts. Thank you, Mrs. Compton for many years of service and thank you J.T. and Norma, for the generous gift!



Elsie recently quilting at her home

100th Birthday Celebration
for
Mrs. Elsie Compton
Sunday, February 20, 2011
1-4 pm
Rural Special Cafeteria
Everyone invited.
Barbecue provided by the
Compton Family.

John Taylor & Sons of the Ozarks band performs benefit concert



John Taylor and his band performed a concert in memory of Violet Taylor during the Thanksgiving holiday. Proceeds and donations in Violet's memory totaled approximately \$2,000 with the proceeds going to Rural Educational Heritage's capital drive. Violet Rogers Taylor (Class of 1955) passed away in 2010 and was a

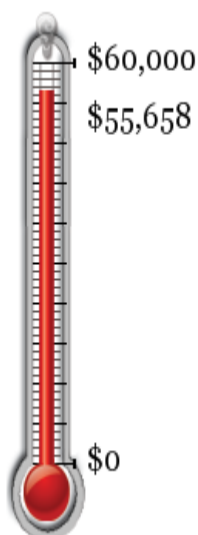
well-loved community member who served the school as secretary-bookkeeper for many years and later served in the county clerk's office. Her good rapport with the public and impressive memory served her well in both. Violet and Keith Taylor's three children Ruth, Janet, and John are also alumni.

Violet's brother, Stanley Rogers (Class of 1960), was a guest performer with the band for the event. REH board members wish to thank John and the band for a fun and lively evening and for continuing Violet's tradition of supporting school and community.

Rural Educational Heritage Inc.
633 Highway 9
Fox, AR 72051

A message from the board...we appreciate the recent donations which were spurred by the \$30,000 gift from Jeanne Taylor Castro in memory of Herbert & Shirley Taylor and Jeanne's challenge to the community to match the donation. We are now within \$4,400 of meeting that challenge. This moves us ever closer toward the goal of constructing a community facility near the school that will house a pre-school and business/technology center. We welcome input from the community and alumni as we work toward that goal.

Sincerely, Chuck Hastings, Jay Berry, Renee Carr, Marvin Sutterfield, Alfred Schiefer, Johnny Thomas, Doug Daniel, Stanley Morrison, Debra Kocher, Cindy Osburn, Travis Linville



We're on the web!
www.ruralspecial.org

Mildred "Toughy" Young celebrates her birthday by giving

Mildred Finch Young who is known by friends as "Toughy" will celebrate her 94th birthday with friends and family at the Fox Community Center on Wednesday February 16 at 3:30 pm. Mildred was born near Tomahawk Creek in Stone County to Dave and Jessie (McMullin) Finch on February 20, 1917. She moved to Oklahoma at the age of five, and she well remembers the trip in a covered wagon. Mildred served as a W.A.C. during WWII and she met a serviceman "Dog" Young who nicknamed her Toughy. They married and Dog served in the military for 20 years, so the couple lived many places and raised two sons, Bill and Tom. The Youngs moved to Stone County when

they retired. Toughy is now a widow. She and her son, Tom, who is now a resident, enjoy the local music together. She stays busy with her church and has served many years with the White River Medical Center Auxiliary in Mountain View. In fact she was honored in 2006 as the hospital's volunteer of the year. Next she was named the 2006 Arkansas Auxiliary Member of the Year by the Arkansas Hospital Auxiliary Association. A fond memory is serving as Grand Marshall of the Folk Festival Parade. Toughy has continued her life of giving by providing a generous donation of \$13,400 to Rural Educational Heritage, providing a big boost to the building capital drive. Thank you, Toughy!



Mildred "Toughy" Young
Join us for Toughy's 94th Birthday Celebration Wednesday, February 16 3:30 pm
Fox Community Center~Enjoy refreshments.
Music provided by young musicians.

Alumni Spotlight...the Hart siblings are alumni of Rural Special: Brook (1952) is a business owner and resides in Mountain View with his wife, Judge Josephine. Reece (1954) deceased, lived in Little Rock, but spent most every weekend in Fox. While still in high school he drove a school bus to help provide the family with income. Ruth (1956) is a retired nurse and returned to Stone County from California. She is married to "Coach" Jimmy Anderson. Rex (1956) a.k.a. Joe, lives in California and is celebrating 42 years of marriage to Carol. He has twin granddaughters named Reese and Brook along with grandsons Rex, Thomas, and Jonathon. The youngest Hart siblings, Tony and Linda, moved to California with their mother during junior high school and graduated there. Tony and wife Monica live in Valencia, California where he is an attorney. They have a son, Christian, and two grandchildren, Brennan and Sebastian. Linda is retired and lives with husband Curtis Fesler at Mountain View. Rex said "I loved school and rarely missed a day. Rural Special was the hub of my life-I felt safe there." Tony adds "the education I received at Rural Special was the most profound and influential of all of my educational experiences through and including law school. I was profoundly shaped by my education, my teachers, and my community and it remains in the core of who I have become." *Thank you, Hart Family, for sharing your memories and for being proud Rural Special alumni!*

Take the "Alumni Challenge"

Donate \$1 for each year since you graduated from Rural Special School
(For example: Class of 1949 = \$62; Class of 1998 = \$13)

Name _____

Amount of Contribution \$ _____

Mailing Address _____

Alumni Challenge Yes No

Town, State, Zip _____

Other Donation (specify) _____

Email address _____

In memory or honor of _____

Thank you for your tax deductible contribution. Please mail to Rural Educational Heritage Inc. 633 Highway 9, Fox, AR 72051