

Sundays, they'd take 'em out over that hill where Mrs. Rockholt lives and take 'em for a walk in the woods to exercise some. They worked the roads and such as that. They had nice guards and cooks with 'em. They stayed there a long time. Two or three of them guards would come down to our house and bring us the slop and scraps from up there for our hogs. They'd save it for us, you know. They'd buy chickens and eggs from Mama. But that was for themselves, it weren't for the prisoners. And I think they'd take a little drink once in a while, but I never knowed 'em to get drunk. They musta' stayed up there 'bout six months or so.

The first I ever saw Pal was in a dream. Then the first time I really saw him I didn't recognize him, cause it was at the old Methodist Church and he was dressed up. Then later that week I was at work, and I heard someone comin' up the stairs and I looked up. Well, I thought I was gonna' pass out. There he was. He had his work clothes on just like I'd seen him in my dream. Well, I reached over and pinched Matt on the arm. Me and Matt worked side by side, and our arms stayed spotted up where we pinched one another to get attention. Anyway, she said, "Is that him?" You see, I'd done told her about that dream. He'd just moved down here from Greenville.



THE PASSENGER CAR ON THE "DUMMY": l. to r. Pal McKinney, Flora McGarity, Mattie Dawkins, and Melvin McFadden. (Photo courtesy of Flora McKinney)

We later got married at home by a Justice of the Peace. His wife was our Sunday School teacher and she was the best Sunday School teacher, except Helen Bolton, that I ever met

in my life. Mrs. Perry that was her name. We had set the day to be married and Mama had this colored woman to come down and help fix dinner. She was the one who tended to me and Florence when we were small children livin' on the farm. Ethyl was about ten years old then, and she stayed down there and took care of us while Mama was workin' in the field. She stayed at our house from Sunday to Saturday and her mother would tell Mama, "Mrs. Anna, if she don't behave and need a whippin', you give it to her." She come down then and helped us on our weddin' day and after everybody'd done got scattered around, Ethyl come in there and she looket at Pal and she said, "Now Mister, if you ever want to whip Flora Reid, you just come out there to Mr. Reid's place and whip me, for I've took whippings for her before." Now I wonder if Ethyl is still livin'.

Me and Pal went to housekeepin' in that little three room house right behind the store and that's where my first baby was born. We moved to another little three room house and it was snowin' on the ground and Pauline was still a little tiny baby. One of the fireplaces was bein' worked on when we moved in. Mr. Garrison was up there fixin' a new fireplace, and I remember it was so cold.

I've lived here a long time. I was born November 15, 1898 and I'll be 78 years old this year. We've raised eleven children and they're all still livin' and all but our first son have families of their own. But you know, we had good times. We didn't know anythin' about it bein' bad times. ■



THE McKINNEY CHILDREN

Pal McKinney

I'm from Greenville County. I come here by myself in 1914. I was raised up on a farm, and when I was young I helped my father run a rolling mill-grindin' flour. He had a corn mill too. I was about 23 when I came here. I met up with some people that had been to Lando to work, and in the conversation, they started telling me about the things here, so I decided to see what it looked like. They said it was a good place, and I had worked in a blanket mill before and I thought I'd find out about it. I came in here one day and went to work the next. It wasn't any trouble to get jobs back in them days. I came in here on that little "dummy" down here. It'd meet the



PAL McKINNEY AND FLORA McGARITY: "The first ever I saw Pal was in a dream."

train twice a day up there at Edgemoor, and it had a passenger car. They run it regular but on Sunday. I believe Jeff Stephenson was running that dummy when I come in.

This place is all together different now than when I come in. It was very few shade trees here then. All the houses was filled up. People that worked here, stayed here. They had no transportation – no automobiles, just horse and buggy. People that didn't have a family here boarded here. I boarded with Mr. Montgomery and then with Mr. McFadden, then with Gilreaths, then old Mr. Long and Lawrence Gibson and the Oglesbys. I boarded with several people. They would just have a extra room and I slept and ate there. The Boarding House was filled up when I came here, so I got to boarding around in private homes, meeting people. I only knew one man when I came here and he found me a place to board.

When I first got here, I went to the overseer of the weave room about a job, and he told me to come in the next morning. I wove maybe three or four years. Then I went to fixin' looms and I fixed looms close fifty years.

There wasn't so much to do here but they had a band. People stayed here most all the time – weekends and all. They didn't get out very much. They had a ball team here, and they had big picnics here on the Fourth of July. All the people in this section – Rock Hill, Chester and around – looked forward to the Lando picnic back then. They'd have two ball games on that day.

When I came here there were two churches – Methodist and Baptist. The Baptists had already built a church. When

they first organized, they met in the Methodist Church until they built where the Church of God is now. The old Methodist Church and the Baptist Church when it was first built, was just one-room frame buildings. Then about 1927, the Baptist Church added some Sunday School rooms. Later that frame building was getting in pretty bad shape, and we was gonna have to have some repair work. Back in that time, both churches attendance was larger than they have now. So we just decided to build a new church straight out.

The mill company said if we wanted to build, they'd give us the ground. The land we had belonged to the company, it's deeded that way, you know. They deeded us the new land and they give us some on the old building, and then they give us a good donation on the new church building. Then the mill company let the Church of God have the building we moved out of. They remodeled it – brick veneered it and all. I've got here a list of all the Baptist preachers that ever preached in our church.

Lando Baptist Church constituted and organized July 12, 1906 by: Rev. Jimmie Little of Sanford, North Carolina; Rev. Little and Rev. J. L. Benett served the church as pastors from 1906 - 1913. Others serving as pastors and interim pastors: Rev. G. C. Baker - one year, 1914; Rev. T. H. Roach - January, 1915 - January 1918; Rev. R. I. Corbett - February, 1918 - January, 1921; Rev. C. Frank Pittman - January, 1921 - August, 1923; Rev. W. F. Sinclair - September, 1923 - about 3 months; Rev. S. F. Robinson - supply pastor 1 year, 1924; Rev. J. R. McKittrick - April, 1925 - December, 1927; Rev. F. T. Collins - February, 1928 - December, 1934; Rev. Fred Poplin - March, 1935 - July, 1937; Rev. J. M. Flowers - November, 1937 - June, 1940; Rev. E. L. Larsen - October, 1940 - March, 1950; Rev. F. O. Kelly - March, 1950 - September, 1953; Rev. E. E. Hite, Sr. - September, 1953 - May, 1964; Rev. Carl Allen - August, 1964 - March, 1966; Rev. G. C. Heyl - Interim - March, 1966 - September, 1966; Rev. E. L. Reese - April, 1967 - June, 1972; Rev. G. W. Rollins, Jr. - August, 1972.

Preachers then preached, visited and done their pastoral work. We had some good revivals then – generally run about a week. You know there was a evangelistic preacher at the Methodist Church back then – he'd been a dentist. He came down there and held a meeting and lot of people joined the church, and he told them to go to any church they wanted to – a lot of 'em come to the Baptist Church.

Bout the time of this meetin', our preacher left – resigned – and they called Preacher Collins here from N. C.. He started here in February, and he baptized forty-five people that come from that meeting in the Methodist Church. That's the largest number one preacher here ever baptized in one year. We had no way of warmin' the water at that time. We had a baptistry pool in the church. And it was a cold February. He stood in that ice cold water til he was numb. I wonder how he stood it. But now we got a way of warmin' the water. They paid the preacher then by the month and it was very little to give him then. Mr. Collins was a good man. He was here durin' the depression. He had three churches – this church, Fort Lawn and Harmony too. Harmony and Fort

Lawn paid a little more than we did, but they didn't pay much – just didn't have it to pay. He cut his own salary while he was here – he said he was just willing. We didn't pay him much – 'bout \$30.00 a month and him livin' in Fort Lawn. In them days, it took about 2 or 3 churches to make enough to pay a preacher. But he said he was willin' to share what he had with the people. Used to go through the mill and take up collections when they was havin' a revival.

There was a preacher come in here and just got to preaching at some of the homes around and they finally got a little store buildin' at the edge of the hill, then they built that little one-room church there where the American Legion is now. That's how the Church of God got started here. Then they moved from that building to where they are now. A fellow called Galt was the first preacher they had.

Preacher Goodwin was about the first preacher I remember at the Methodist Church. Course, there was preachers before that, but he's about the first I remember. He lived at Richburg and preached at Lando. We didn't have a preacher livin' in Lando 'til our church went on full time in 1950 and built our parsonage out there. The other churches have built parsonages since we did. The Methodist preacher come from Fort Lawn for a long time.

Course, times have changed what with automobiles and all, but people used to go to Church more than they do now.

Our Sunday School has run as much as 130 or 40 average attendance a Sunday. We have had as high as 300 enrolled in Sunday School. But there's not as many people around here, and a lot that's here don't go.

The mill company has always cooperated with the churches – always ready to help any way they could. ■



PAL AND FLORA McKINNEY: "We've raised eleven children and they're all still livin' . . ."



LANDO BAPTIST CHURCH

LANDO CHURCH OF GOD

HEATH MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

