

Alice Dickson wrote the following in 1935:

Belair community is located in the Pan-handle section of Lancaster county on Highway number 26. Numerous changes have taken place in this community since the days of the stage coach, the operation of the Hagan [Hagins] Inn, and the days when Cornwallis and his men ate dinner under the famous oak; but the three marked changes during the last decade have been made in the schools, churches, and roads.

Ten years ago the old school house was located on the Belair Methodist church ground and was a one room building with the Woodman of the World Lodge over head. This small two story building was very unattractive for a school house. Into this building, poorly equipped with desks and straight backed chairs, all of the grades were crowded for six months in the year. Only two teachers attempted to instruct these one hundred or more pupils. Attendance was poor on account of bad roads and lack of attraction. The pupils began to drop out about the seventh grade due to the lack of interest and because it was customary. Now the grammar grades are instructed by three teachers in one of the best grammar school buildings in the county. It is equipped with four class rooms, a library room, an auditorium, and all necessary teaching equipment. The ground is well kept and the building is kept painted, and stands as a credit to the efforts of the people in the community. All the pupils are transferred by bus to the school for eight months in the year.

The high school pupils attend the Indian Land high school. Four school districts of the Panhandle section: Barberville, Pleasant Valley, Belair and Osceola, consolidated to form this high school. This large commodious brick building is located in Belair school district. This eight room building and large auditorium is modern in every respect and has few peers in the county. It was largely through the efforts of the Belair people that this district was formed. Through the excellent service of Supt. C. A. Byrd and his corps of teachers this is now an accredited high school. The pupils now receive an accredited high school diploma where formerly they dropped out about the seventh grade. It can clearly be seen that the educational advantages in Belair have made great progress in ten years; from two teachers with poor equipment to eight teachers with modern equipment.

The Belair Methodist church of which Rev. J. B. Kilgore is pastor is a new building sufficient large to meet the needs of its congregation and is a decided improvement over the old building. While the building is adequate in most respects there is a deep felt need for more Sunday School rooms, and with a little effort on the part of its members, these rooms could be added on in the near future. The church is painted both inside and out and is modernly equipped.

The Six Mile Presbyterian church, one of the oldest in the county has been remodeled and refurnished. The work of this church is a memorial to the few faithful members.

Ten years ago the country roads of this community were practically impassible during rainy weather. At times the mail carrier had to make his rounds on horse back and farmers who had to go to town did so in wagons. Highway number 26 which traverses the entire length of the community was poor at best and during rainy seasons cars had to be pulled out of mud holes in places. Now most all of the roads have been top-soiled through the excellent service of Commissioner D. S. Wilson and Highway 26 has been hard-surfaced. The wonderful progress that has been made in the schools and churches can be credited to a large extent, to the marked improvement of the community roads.

The school buildings, churches and superintendent's home, and the yard full of busses and cars which may be seen from highway number 26 makes a passer-by take notice, and gives the impression that much interest has been manifested along road building and educational activities.