

Beginning of Basketball in Continental

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With the opening of the 1973-1974 basketball season in a brand new gym, we would like to give you a little history of basketball in Continental, courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Harris of Dundee, Florida, former Continental residents.

When these pictures were taken, all of the games were played in a "very, very homemade cage"! The old school house was located in the extreme South end of town, no gym of any kind. All the games were played in a "makeshift" gym located between the Bowen Brothers pool room (Edgar and Merele Bowen) and an ice cream and confectionary store. There was an enclosed stairway that ran up between the two stores and over the top of these two stores was the homemade gymnasium!

The playing area was completely caged in with wire (sort of a "see through" wired mesh which reached to the ceiling) to protect the by-standers who occupied the

home built stair step fashioned seats surrounding the caged area.

There were no showers or dressing rooms. Players went in the suits they wore during the game and wore them home!

At the beginning of the basketball season, the prospects for a strong team were dim. The first game was lost. But after that, with hard practice, the girls developed a strong organization and won every game in the association.

Players of the 1919 girls' team were: Betrice Groff, jumping center; Creda Hersh, guard; Zella Prowant, captain; Alverda Kalt, guard; Ruhla Lowe, running center; Leona Moran, forward. Mrs. Lela Watterson Claypool was the coach.

Players of the 1916 boys' team were: 'Deke' Oral Herman; 'Doc' John Watterson; Clarence Harris; Don Rice; Cloren Wright; Henry Madden; Dean Purnell. Carl Ross was the manager and the coach was Bert Mull.