

# HANNA

by Dan Slais

Before 1943, the general store at Hanna was a pretty busy place on Saturday mornings. The store itself had bulk supplies, "no canned stuff", with bins of flour, salt, sugar, crackers, and other staples that could be weighed out by the pound. Milk, eggs, chickens, and field produce were exchanged before noon so they could be loaded in the truck for Richland. The store carried all necessities clothes, shoes, tools and ammunition. The store also served as the local postoffice.

Bob Sutton recalls buying shotgun shells at six for twenty-five cents. "At that price, you had to make your shots count," he says. He also remembers selling rabbits at the store for fifteen cents. Money was not usually part of the bargain. A person brought things to trade for items needed. Eggs for flour was a common deal.

Hanna is in the south central part of Pulaski County down what is now highway NN south of Laquey. Today paved NN stops at Hanna. Gravel NN-360 continues along the Roubidoux to the south. East of Hanna, a gravel road crosses the Roubidoux to connect to highway H just at the boundary of Fort Leonard Wood.

The creek crossing caused a few problems when the water was up. Former resident Roy Lee Dye remembers hitching up the team of horses to help some automobiles get across. The road west from Hanna, NN-362, is still gravel and goes some three miles to reach highway 17.

In this area, Roubidoux Creek is a classic example of a "lost stream" in karst topography. The creek runs full as it comes into Pulaski County. However, as it reaches a high ridge called "Devil's Backbone",

the water seeps into the gravel floor of the creek bed. Most of the lost water from the Roubidoux has been dye-traced to flowing underground over ten miles from the Backbone to Roubidoux Spring in Waynesville. The Backbone is about four miles upstream and south of Hanna. Former residents report that there was more water in the Roubidoux flowing by the town in the past. Stories about a nearby swimming hole indicates the amount of flow probably has lessened over the years. The creek is completely dry at Hanna today, except after heavy rains.



Parents of Stella Dye, Steve, Rose and Little Ike in Hanna, Mo. 1925.

The many springs and caves in the Hanna area are further features of Karst topography. Notable caves include Maxey, Barnett, and Berry. Residents of the Dye farm even used a cave to shelter sheep and store watermelons.

The town of Hanna consisted of the rock store/postoffice building. A gas pump was situated in front of the structure. The creamery building and feed store was located across the road. There was a corn mill, an ice house during the 1940's, and a fur house located out back. Jobs around the store included testing for the amount of cream in the milk and candling the eggs. The Dye farmhouse was to the north up on the hill. For a brief time in the 1930's, a stave mill was located down the road.

Harvey Franklin Dye, who was known as W. F. or Whis, and his wife Stella,

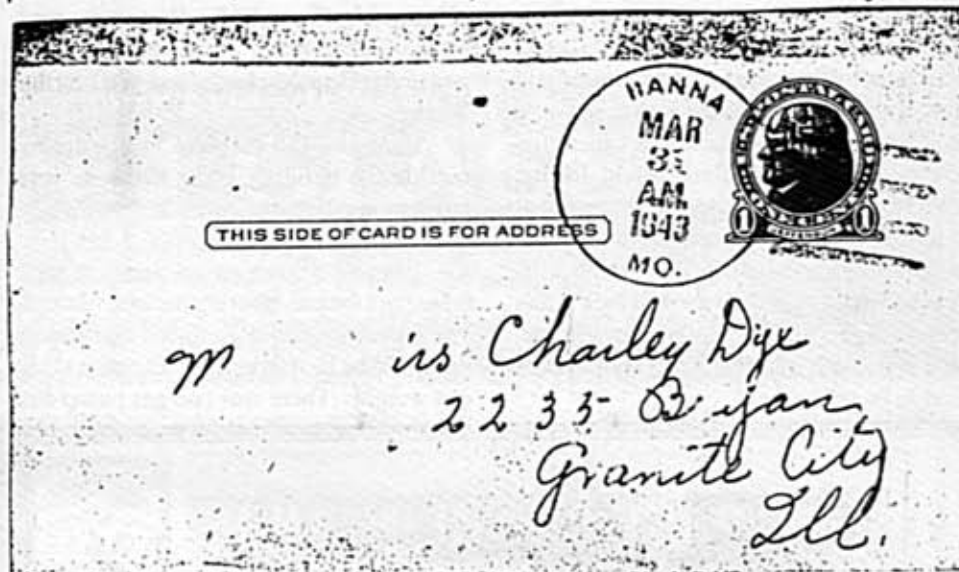
moved to Hanna from Big Piney. The bought the Hanna store from Ben Doyle in 1918. In 1923-24, a new store (the present structure) was built from rocks carried from the Roubidoux Creek bed.

The Dye family had eight children: Elsie, Charlie, Frieda, Clara Mae, Georgia, Roy Lee, Harvey, and Chester. Each helped with the farm and store operation.

The Dye boys remember herding cattle ten miles north down highway 66 to their T highway farm in Waynesville for the summertime.

Other families who lived in this area include the Clarence Berry family, the Sutton family, and the Mc Clary family.

Children who lived in the Hanna area went to Cave Springs School, a typical one room schoolhouse, which was located up the hill and west of the community. It is no



Cave School, predecessor to Deerlick School. 1896 or 1897. 1st row (L to R) Charley Bates, Clarence Robinson, Fred Trower, Tom Trower, Horace Robinson, Vollie Barnett, Herbert Robinson, Robert Trower, Alice Trower, Emma Bates, Stella Trower, Rose Trower; 2nd row, Preston Trower, Drue McMillan, Luther Trower, Myrt Trower, Bert Yarbrough, Scott Curtis, Docie Vaughan, Teacher, Crochia Trower, Cora Trower.

longer standing. Students brought water to the schoolhouse from Cave Springs, located in a nearby hollow. When students graduated from Cave Springs, they could attend high school at either Waynesville or Richland.

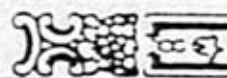
Two miles further down the road from Hanna, Fairview Baptist Church was another important part of community life. Fairview Baptist still is an active church.

As Fort Leonard Wood acquired land and opened as an army training facility in World War Two, the surrounding communities underwent change. The fort's boundary is less than two miles east and south of Hanna. Residents in those directions were forced to relocate. Towns of Bloodland and Cookville were encompassed by the fort. The resulting loss of trade eliminated the need for the Hanna store, which closed in 1943.

George Berry reports that he was in Mrs. Jewell's class at Cave Springs School in its last session in 1950.

The rock store building at Hanna was used for a while by Bill Gann to make oak woven chairs. It was divided into residences for a time. The building, now owned by George Berry, currently is used for hay storage. The structure is likely to remain for many more years a visible reminder of the past glory of the community of Hanna.





Newburg Street Scene Postcard



Postcard of Gascozark Hills Resort in Hazelgreen



Pep's Place on Route 66 in Rolla.



Usery's Cafe on Route 66 in Rolla.



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