

The Iberia Wildcats Will Now Be Known As The Rangers

By Peggy Smith Hake

Of course, there is a story behind those headlines!

For many years, the Iberia athletic teams were known as the Wildcats and wore uniforms of maroon and black, the school's official colors. The high school was built at the end of the 1930's, and, until 1951, the teams proudly wore the maroon and black colors at all their basketball games.

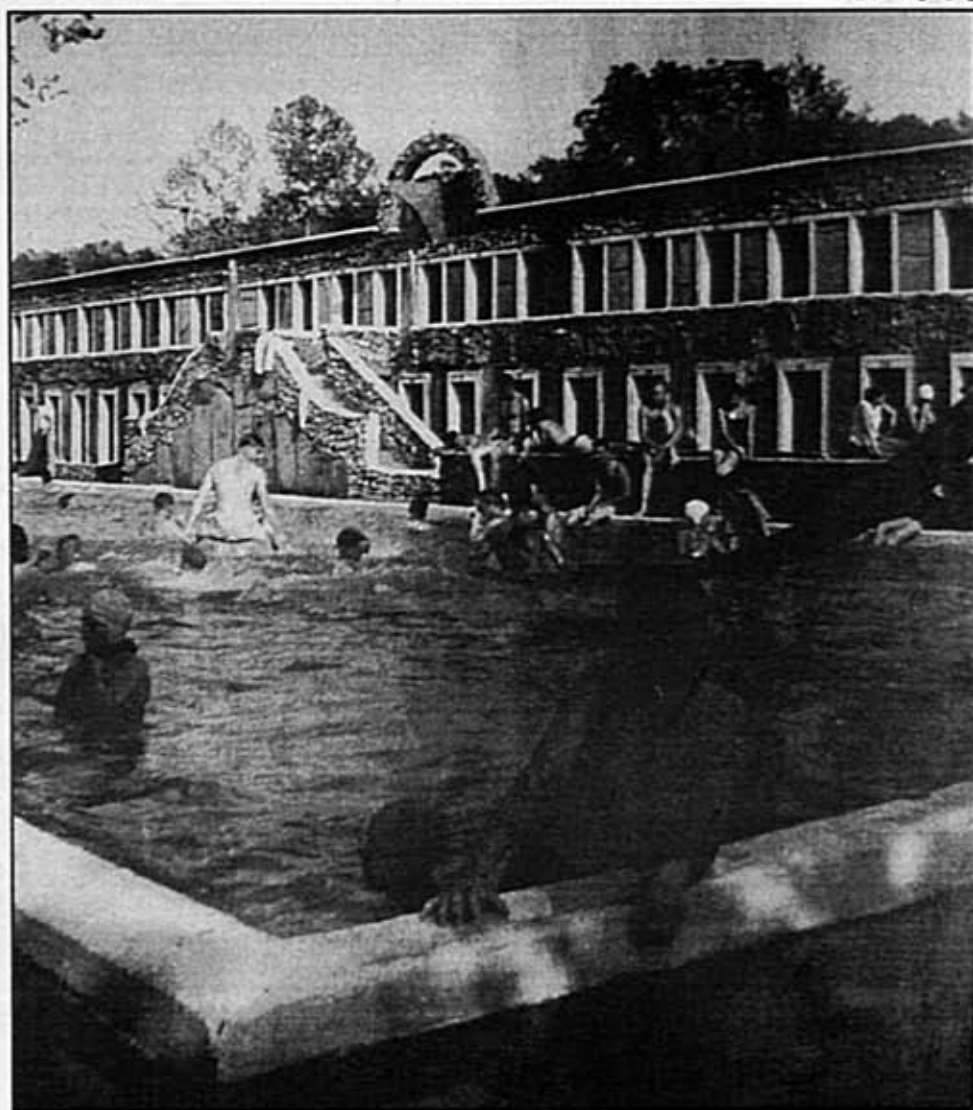
When the Iberia Academy and Junior College closed its doors for the last time in June, 1951, the school's administrative officers offered the Academy's new, bright green and white basketball suits and warm-up gear to Iberia High School. The name, "Rangers", appeared on the front of the uniforms, so the high school had to make a decision to accept the very generous gift and change the old school colors to the new 'green and white'. They also had to accept a new mascot name of 'Rangers' to replace the more

familiar 'Wildcats'.

George Lott, Superintendent of the high school, called together a school assembly and gave the students a chance to vote on the decision to change both the school's colors and its mascot name. No problem! They readily agreed to choose the new uniforms and a new name!

In 1952, the Iberia boys' basketball team began the season in the colorful green and white "Iberia Academy Rangers" uniforms. Over the past 43 years, new suits have replaced the original ones, but the colors and the name remain the same to this day.

The girls' basketball teams had to continue playing in the old maroon and black uniforms for several years. When the high school burned in May, 1959, the girls' team finally got new green and white suits to replace the old ones destroyed in the fire.



Bill Morgan at Stoneydell Swimming Pool on Route 66 near Arlington, June 1954.

Photo Courtesy of Irene Morgan



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