



PULASKI COUNTY'S POOR FARM

By Adlyn Sheldon Willets

The "Poor Farm" was owned by Pulaski County. Purchased in the 1800's, it consisted originally of some one hundred acres of land. It was established for the care of those in the county who were not mentally, physically or financially able to care for themselves.

The site location was about a mile up on Roubidoux Creek above Waynesville. The "Poor

Farm" consisted of farmland and several large buildings, including a large resident's home, a home for the caretaker and his family, shelter for the farm animals, large fields and a garden plot.

Until later years, all laundry was done on a washboard. The water for washing had to be pumped, carried out into the yard and emptied into a large iron kettle with a fire under it. The laundry was placed in the hot water, rubbed with good strong soap, vigorously scrubbed on a washboard, wrung

out by hand and hung on the clothes lines to dry. Next day, they had to repair and iron the clothes. Most of this was done by the caretaker's wife.

The caretaker's wife had the cooking of three meals a day, the cleaning of all the houses and the caring for all the residents.

The man of the family did the farming.

There is a large cemetery on the farm where there are about one hundred people buried.

When the farm was

disbanded, the land was divided up and sold in 1947.

I remember the Poor Farm when George W. Sanders and Margaret Phillips Sanders were the caretakers. Margaret was my father's sister. My father was J. L. Phillips. We called Margaret "Aunt Maggie."

I remember the large cabinet filled with green depression glass, which came in the large boxes of Mother's Oats that they bought to feed the residents and family.



Cecil Rice and Pete Prewett manufactured hardwood flooring at Waynesville Hardwood Products Co., located on Y Highway north of St. Robert. Courtesy of Sue Hansen.



Fresh produce was one of the many convenience items Route 66 travelers could buy at Riggs Station, which was located eight miles west of Waynesville. Courtesy of John F. Bradbury.



Souvenirs that Route 66 collectors would 'die for' today were abundant and cheap at Toop's Souvenirs, west of Waynesville. Courtesy of Sue Hansen.

1941 ALFIE JOHNSON READY FOR TRIP TO WASHINGTON



Alfie Johnson stands in front of the 'bus' that was used to transport the Waynesville High School senior class on a trip to Washington, D.C., in 1941. Courtesy of Paul Rice.