



Among the pictures in the book "Ruleton and Its School" is a shot of the students in the first year after country schools consolidated to Ruleton, lined up in front of the old school house with the new buses, taken April 28, 1927: Front row from left: Fred Meinen, Martin Nelson, Maurice Weedman, Suzie Pearson, Emma Underwood, Esther Nelson, Clarabelle Vettters, Milton Parish Jr., Quinton

Ingram, Lowell Veselik, Anna Beal, Wilma Evans, George Anderson, Harry Nelson, Georgia Beal, Juanita Roberts, LeRoy Duell, Roy Veselik, Ed Vernon Vettters, Dalton Long, Genola Evans, Crystal McClung, Esther Cotter, Vera Epps, Doyle Middleton and Fredrick Wells. Back row from left: Vernice McCall, Lawrence McClung, Esther Middleton, Trude Hamilton (teacher), Agnes

Middleton, Ernest Middleton, Maurice Evans, John Ingram, Pearl Gernhart, Lois Evans, Alma Beal, Howard Cotter, Reuben Parish, Walt Veselik, Cora Beal, Almeda Beal, Bernita Day, Oren Parish, Don Light, Vernie Wells, Otis E. Doane (teacher and principal), Lester Ingram, Eldon Thompson, John Fraley, Melvin Anderson, Violet Hawks and Ruby Gernhart.

New book recaps Ruleton history

RULETON, from Page 1

"Oh, yeah," Topliff said. "Moth-ers would bring cupcakes, and we played games."

"They had the cheapest lunches," Sieck said. "I think it was a quarter, and you could go back and get all you want. They had the best cooks and the best cinnamon rolls. The seventh and eighth graders helped serve."

Students took their trays to the classrooms and ate, Topliff said; they didn't have a lunch room.

"I was in the seventh or eighth grade," Sieck said, "when the Ruleton's basketball team, which only had one or two substitutes, be-sides the five starting players, wanted to play Goodland.

"They finally talked Goodland into it, and I remember their play-ers kept coming in and coming in, and I was wondering if there was enough room for them.

"They had cheerleaders who looked so nice in their uniforms, and the team had uniforms. We only had jeans and T-shirts."

The Ruleton Bulldogs beat Goodland, she said, and the Mus-tangs never wanted to play them again.

"The most interesting story to me," Topliff said, "was when they consolidated all the country schools."

Sieck's family figured into the tale. John Gernhart, her grandfa-ther, was one of the early postmas-ters in Ruleton, and her father was one of the first to graduate from the high school there. Her mother, Pearl (Parish) Gernhart, is the oldest liv-ing Ruleton graduate.

"My grandfather was instrumen-tal in getting it consolidated," she said, "so they could have buses in-stead of riding horses. I didn't know about this until all this (compiling the book). Father was 9 when they moved here, and he fell off a horse and broke his leg."

Many people were upset about consolidating and having buses, she said, because they thought it would raise their taxes.

The Ruleton School is on the state and national historical registries, and its owners, Gary and Cynthia Kickler have been trying to raise money to restore it. It's been going slow, Mrs. Kickler said.

Topliff has lived in the Ruleton area since 1949. She graduated from Edson High School in 1945, but her daughters went to school in Ruleton

for six years. Her husband Ralph was on the Ruleton School Board.

Sieck graduated from Sherman Community High School in 1956. The last graduating class in Ruleton was in 1943, and the school consoli-dated with Goodland in 1969. Scanlon said she went to school in Ruleton eight years. Her father, Milt Parish, is a 1935 Ruleton graduate.

To compile information for the book, the women went through old newspapers, called people they know, put an announcement in the newspaper, which garnered several calls, and went to offices in the area seeking records.

They said they had help from the Goodland School District; Carol Armstrong, register of deeds; and the Sherman County Historical So-ciety, especially Lloyd Holbrook

Information in the book includes lists of the students who went to school in Ruleton, minutes from school board meetings, interviews with Seth and Martha Duell, records of teachers' pay and records of what the school building and items inside sold for at auction in 1969.

The building sold for \$425, the book says, and John Golden bought two desks for 25 cents each.

National siesta could solve nap shortage

"I need a nap." I can't tell you how many people have said that to me. The only response I ever have is, "me too."

Everyone is tired. I'm tired of being tired. And I'm really tired of people telling me I look tired. But then I do the same thing to others. I should know better, but that doesn't stop me.

I have been rushing along, trying to get things done, and someone told me I looked tired. And it hit me — I am tired. I hadn't noticed; I was too busy. I sure wish they hadn't told me; I had more to do, but it didn't get done because I realized I was tired.

Everybody is always on the run. There's work, errands, chores at home, bills to pay, shopping to do, places to go, people to see, things to do. It never ends.

People with kids have sports practice and games, clubs and activities, dance class, piano lessons and whatever else they can add to the never-ending list of things to keep kids out of trouble these days. But mostly it keeps the parents out of trouble — they're too busy play-ing chauffeur to the kids to do any-thing else.

We always have to be in a hurry, always need to get something done. No time to rest.

I think our neighbors to the south have the perfect solution, the siesta. Why can't we stop in the middle of the workday and take a nap? Maybe



**sharon
corcoran**

• just for fun

esta? Would busi-nesses start requiring their employees to stay late to make up the time? That would defeat the purpose, I'd think.

Would everything shut down so every-one could siesta at once? How would we survive? What if a lot of people simply couldn't rest and ran around waking people up, hoping to get things done?

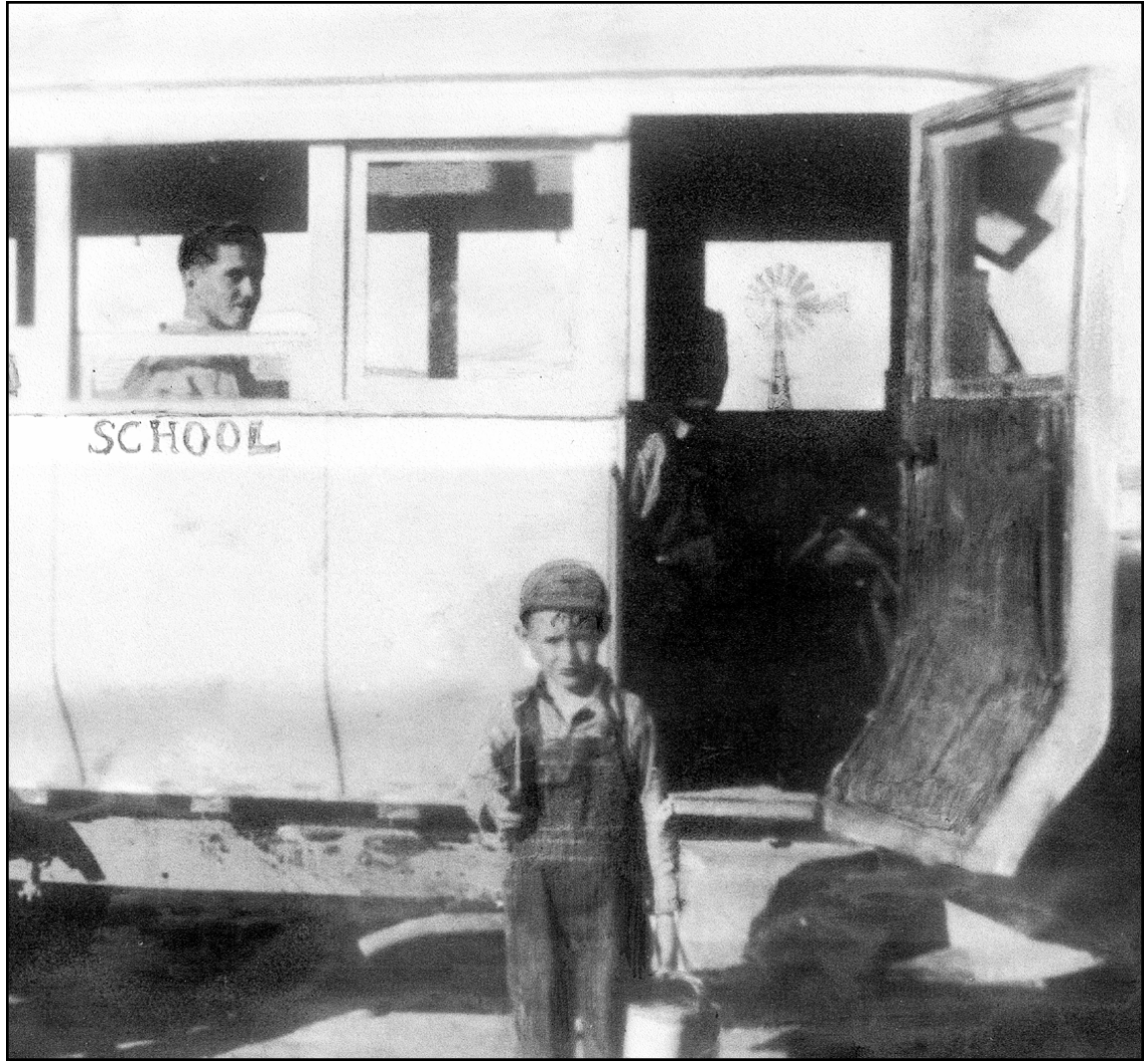
There could be a crowd outside the bank pounding on the doors wanting to cash checks or apply for loans. There might be a mob scene at McDonald's, people wanting a snack or cup of coffee.

Everyone is so used to using sugar and caffeine to keep going, would they even know what to do if they had to take a nap?

What about cities like Denver? Would traffic come to a halt for siesta? Would police officers be able to take naps?

Traffic would be gridlocked around scenes of numerous acci-dents, waiting for the dispatchers to get back from siesta to take the calls.

We would probably have to rede-sign our whole society to work a si-esta in without disaster. People are simply not used to stopping what they're doing and taking it easy. But it would be worth all the trouble just to never have to hear, "You look tired," or, "I need a nap."



After the country schools in the area consolidated to Ruleton, students rode buses to school. On the bus was Milton Parish, father of Janice Parish Scanlon and uncle of Lois Sieck. His brother, Robert Parish, was getting off. The driver was Edgar Middleton.

Lois Sieck's collection.

FOR SALE – 2000 GMC Jimmy

- 4WD
- Good condition inside and out.
- Uses no oil.
- Clean body.
- 20 mpg on highway.
- Mostly highway miles.



Call Evan - (785) 462-3963

Shop Burlington for all your needs

Health Essentials

Natural Foods, Vitamins,
Massage Therapy,
Acupuncture & More

Natural Living Cottage
& Wellness Center

314 14th Street, Burlington, Co.
719-346-4681

Advertising
pays give
Anne
a call today.

785-899-2338



Cutoff Date for Fiscal Year 2006 EQIP Signup

January 20, 2006, is the cutoff date for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) applications in Kansas to be considered for Fiscal Year 2006 funding. Stop by your local United States Dept. of Agriculture Service Center and visit with the Nat-ural Resources Conservation Service or local Conservation District Staff to get more information about helping address your resource concerns.

**Office address: 210 West 10th Street
Goodland, KS 67735
Phone: 785-899-3070 ext 35**

**Web site: <http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/2006>
USDA NRCS is an equal opportunity employer and provider**