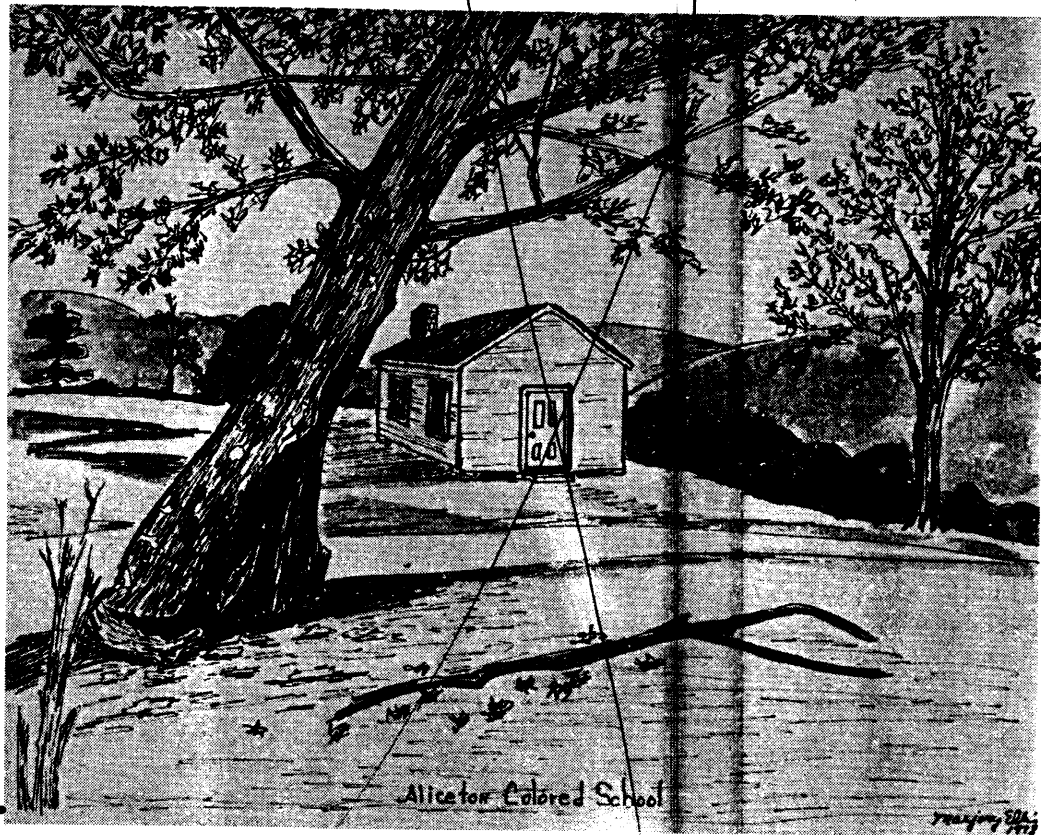


Eula Ray Kirkland

\$1.00

THE FORK

Gravel Switch---&---Ward's Branch



As I remembered them during the 30's

By James Shelby Eads

"BUCK"



James Shelby
Stella Mae



Mamaw & Papaw



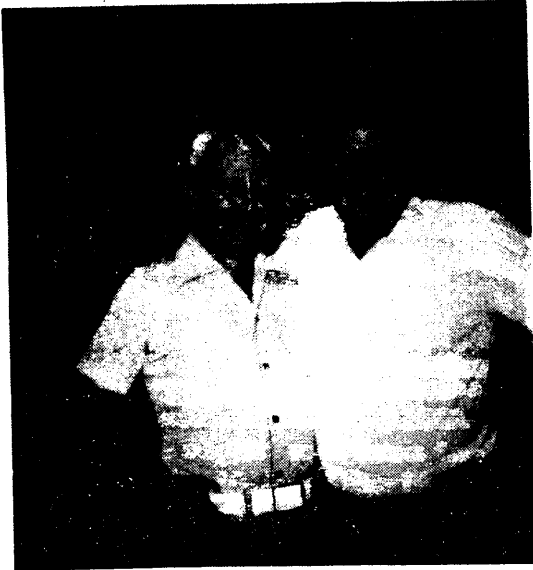
Stella Mae, Laverne
James Shelby & "Jack"



This is the author of this booklet
(in his Forkland School sweater at
about age 15 or 16.



James Shelby Eads as he is
today (Oct. 1979)



Shelby Ward (Uncle of James) the last survivor of the Ward boys.



The James Eads family, Christine his wife (back row on right), Sandy his daughter & son James Jr.

This instrument was prepared from my memory, on events which occurred roughly 37 to 47 years ago. I deliberately did not check into the exact names, dates, places, or facts. Everything stated is only as I "remembered" them.

My name is James Shelby Eads, referred to as "Buck". I am the son of George Talbot Eads and Clovie Lee Ward. I was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, on March 3, 1927, and lived there for 2 years. When my parents split up, I was sent to live on Wards Branch with my Mamaw and Papaw. Jim Henry Ward (Uncle Jimmy or Beechem) and Sarah Elizabeth Ward (Aunt Lizzie) So did my only sister, Stella Mae, (I had no brothers). Stella Mae was born on Ward's Branch on November 18th 1923, was married 28 years and had 4 children. She passed on in 1968.

I started to school when I was six in 1933, at the forkland school. Beatrice Johnson (Lane), (Miss Bea) was my 1st grade teacher (Primer) down by the Coal Bin. She taught me, and many others, to read and write. She wrote on the blackboard left-handed and so did I. I believe to this day that if she had been right-handed, I would have been too.

The next year, the school bus only came to the Scrubgrass bridge. so somehow it was figured that Gravel Switch was closer, so I started to the Gravel Switch school. (I think it was because my Mamaw was awfully fond of Mr. Thomas Whitehouse, who would be my teacher). That lasted a while, but it turned out that I had to go to school in Boyle County. It was always said that the Marion County line ran right through our kitchen, I don't know. Anyway, the next year, I went to Perryville Elwood School and Sis went to the Perryville High School. We caught the bus at Aliceton. I had Miss Abbie Reynolds, and Sis had a Mrs. Armstrong, a large, red-headed lady. Wonder whatever happened to them? We would wait on the bus with the Weatherfords, Nora, Ada, and the twins Ray and Fay.

While Stella Mae and I were going to Perryville School that year, our school bus burned up and we went to school for some time in a stock truck. They must have been short of busses in those days.

I remember we used to pick up Don and Creel Robinson, W. T. Cochran, and some Glasscock girls and the Goodnights. I don't remember their names, but we used to pick up some boys in Brumfield, one of who while hopping a freight train, had a leg cut off.

My sister used to be kind of sweet on T. C. Bugg.

When I was ready for the 4th grade, they changed the bus schedule at the Fork, and it came up Wards Branch and turned around at Bear Ward's. Then it was back to the Forkland school, where I had Mrs. Marvin Roller (Miss Bessie), who I remember had a brown skirt with a zipper that went up the entire back. That was the first zipper that I had seen. She taught me a lot, especially in Geography. We read about and saw pictures of the Alps Mountains in Switzerland, places I later visited, while I was in the Army. I remember Mildred and Myra Hollon in that class. Wonder what ever happened to them? I still have their pictures. Also, I remember George Brooks, Mary Minor, and Clifton Hafley. Wonder where they are now?

The next year, I was in the 5th grade, and had Miss Bea again. That was the room where the bell was. We knew before anyone else when the bell was going to ring. Mr. Owens, had his index finger off, and he always rang the bell with his second finger.

Along about that time the Fork had THE ballteam, with the big boys that I was too little to know. I mean the BIG redhead, Donald Overstreet, Howard Overstreet, Brent Crews, Buck and Carl Roller, Hunter Penn, and J. D. Chambers, just to mention a few - they were tough. That was all before the gym was built.

Later on, I was on the bus the morning after we picked up that pretty girl on the Hagen Hill.....I don't remember her name. She told the bus driver (Alfred Ellis) to stop at the Scrubgrass bridge, because J. D. Chambers was waiting in that pretty Ford for her. Mr. Ellis said that he wouldn't stop, not even open the door, but he slowed down to a crawl and she opened the door and jumped out. I think they ran off and got married that day. Maybe Mr. Ellis was thinking of legal implications.....

I remember our route as we used to pick up Marcus Ferrell and his pretty little sister, at the swinging bridge. Thomas Roller and I used to tell her we would give her a nickel so she could call us up in about 10 years. The only catch to that was that I don't believe that Tom or I even had a nickel. We also used to pick up Title Leflew, who was hair-lipped, and some of us used to laugh.....thought it was funny;I'm glad that more schooling brought some of us out of our ignorance.

Our bus also picked up Miles and Hunter Penn, Marie and Louise Whitlock, Howard Jr., and Madolyn Overstreet, Christine Ellis, and Pea Jim Smith. I remember that Christine and Madolyn were real good

friends. I also remember vaguely that there was another set of Overstreet twins, about my sister's age. That was also the only "Christine" that I ever heard of. Little did I know that later it was to be my wife's name. Last, but not least, was Willard Campbell and my old buddy and neighbor, Calvin Boswell. Calvin and I used to play ball hour after hour, and day after day on his garage basket. I never could beat him, one-on-one, but after all, he was on the first string at Forkland with Frank Gorley (The Play Maker), Tommy Johnson (The Rebounder), and P. B. Leiber. I can see him now, hitting those long ones, two-handed set shots. There was also some fella they called Puss Royalty, I think. Also, was a tallboy named Lee Donaldson, Russell and Woodrow Clark who got hurt. Miles Penn was a "take charge" type guy, he could really pop them, and was real quick. I don't know who was the fastest, but when we used to go to the Creek to smoke, (it was roll your own) Miles and Waldo Cole used to race from the school house to the Creek. Many of those races wound up in a dead heat. They could both really fly.

When they moved that little "pepper pot" Lawton Gorley, and Kenneth Hafley up to the varsity, that left me at one forward spot and Melvin Young at the other. Alvin (Q Ball) Riley at Center, and Alton Daugherty and Jim Edwards at the guard spots on the B team. Johnny Martin Chambers played a lot.

My first trip was to Willisburg. The first time I scored was at Bradfordsville (3 points). We went by bus. Later our schedule included Liberty, Perryville, Parksville, Buena Vista, Salvisa, Cornishville, Fairview, and Macafee. We usually made trips by car. Garland Purdom and his wife would pick up Jim Edwards, Q. Ball Riley, and me. Mr. Purdom had a radio in his car. CAN YOU IMAGINE THAT?!? We used to listen to "Amos 'n Andy", "Lum 'n Abner", and the "Lanny Ross Show". whose theme song was "Moonlight and Roses".

Perryville never could beat us until K. W. Sinkhorn transferred there. He was one of the best ever. They finally stuck it to us good on our floor, the score was 33 to 25. I won't ever forget it.....just couldn't believe it...

My best friend, Harley Lanham Jr., was on that Perryville team. That sure was a bitter pill to swallow. Jr. was my enemy on the floor, but he and his family were dear to me and left a lasting empression on my childhood. His father, Harley Sr., was my idea of a family man, a father, and a husband. Sleeping at his house and eating at his table was something you remembered, I did, and always will look up to him. I don't believe they make 'um like him anymore.

I used to go to the Logan Church with the Lanhams', and also went to the Camp Meeting at Aliceton. I was there when a preacher told everyone to bring old license plates from their cars so they could cover a building, which they did. It sure looked funny. I joined the Hall church when I was twelve (like Jesus did) and was baptized in the North Rolling Fork River at the Kirkland hole.

I used to drop tobacco plants for Kelly Kirkland, and setting them was J. D. Chambers. I remember him saying, in 1940, that even though Germany was at war in Europe, "The Americans should be keeping an eye on Japan....."

.....THINGS I REMEMBER.....

1. Once Martin Chambers took me for a ride, (I don't remember where, how, or why) in that new shiny black '34 Ford. The accelerator looked like a kitchen spoon upside down and the doors opened up backwards, front to rear.Some car....
2. Mr. Leslie Lanham, who worked at the bank in Gravel Switch, bought a new '37 Ford with the headlights built into the fenders. That was something.
3. The haircuts in Gravel Switch were done by Cole Miller and Pete Hayes. Pete sure had a pretty daughter named Tillie.
4. I remember hearing some of the older people talking about who had the most money, Roy Harmon or George Sheheen. I always thought it was Curtis Burns, because he had a real half dollar for a watch fob. I thought if you could tie up a half dollar like that, you must be pretty well set.
5. Right on the furve of the Owen Harmon place is a four-acre tract of land that I thinned of corn once, for 40 cents an acre. It was hard work, but at day's end, Mr. Harmon wrote me a check for \$1.60 on the Gravel Switch Bank. Not bad, for a day's work. I bought a West-clock Pocket Watch at Mr. Roy Harmon's for 95 cents, 5 cents worth of candy, and I saved the rest.

Speaking of Gravel Switch, who could ever forget it on Saturday morning? Sometimes, we walked around the Shipp knob, or hooked-up "Ole Ruth" (our white horse) and the black mare to the wagon and went around the road. We would pass the Uncle Horace Gray's place. He could tell it was Uncle Jimmy's wagon by the sound. I was in Aunt Grace's house only once. You could eat off of her floors, her house was so clean. That wasn't Miss Tabby's doings however, because she wasn't too clean herself. After the Gray's, it was on to the Slick Rocks, up the Weaver Lane, Pass the old Negro school house, and on to the fork in the road. After you passed the Lanham place and the "S" curve, you were getting on the outskirts of the Switch.

I remember a man they called Blind Sam and his wife Agnes. I remember some saying she used to talk on the phone a lot. (And listen too!)

Mr. Shipp's house had a great big 1935 sign painted on top of the roof.

The Two Section houses, in my time, were occupied by Mr. Tom Manuel and another by my Uncle Bear and Aunt Willis Ward, then later by Clay and Maggie Lanham.

I can still see Mr. "Tink" May shoeing those horses with burn marks all over his arms.

The sound of Jim Cox's mill was familiar, but the sound everyone around the depot steps was waiting for, was the whistle of the ole number 23. The passenger trains then were #21, #22, #23, and #24. No one paid much attention to the freights. Tenny Hurrigan and Durham were the depot people.

Tenny, Maggie Lanham, Roy Edwards, and Claude Burger, just to mention a few, were related to my mother. I never did get all that straight.

I know Jim Cox and my Papaw took me with them one night, to go fox hunting. I got cold, and finally fell asleep. I didn't mind the dogs barking, but mostly listening to those two bragging about who had the best hound. My Papaw's hound was named Slip and she had a high-pitched bark and you could always tell her from the rest. I never went fox hunting again, but my Uncle Edgar took me and his son, Donald, snipe hunting one night....never did that again either!

After the ole #23 went by, it was time to head home to Ward's Branch. One of the things that you always bought at the store was a gallon of coal oil, so you could fill up all of the lamps. Mamaw would always have the chimneys clean for the new oil, When that sun went down and there was no moon, it was really dark, pitch dark. Then you listened to the Katy-dids and the Whipperwills;;;;;;;;;;;;..Wonder if they still exist?

In the winter time (school time) and when there were no ball games I read all the Zane Grey (Riders of the Purple Sage) and Perry Mason books in our school library, upstairs by the flue. I had one lamp of oil per night. There were no newspapers, no electricity, no inside plumbing, and no telephones. My Mamaw helped raise me and my sister, plus 7 of her own; Edgar, Dolly, Edward, Willie and John have all passed on now, and Clovie and Shelby are still living.

If my Mamaw isn't in Heaven now, there isn't any.....but then maybe we all feel that way about our grandmothers.

Shelby is living in Florida, and my mother Clovie is living in Clermont, a suburb of Indianapolis. She later married Johnny Smith, some 38 years ago. He is the only father I ever knew, and is pure gold to me, and my mother.

I am putting this together purely by memory, and I remember that they used to say, "If you had a Model A or any kind of car that could make the Hagen Hill in high gear, that you really had a good one" I remember Wood Whitehouse used to pick us up sometimes to go to the Hall church in a Model T. It had 3 pedals where the brakes were. I never did quite understand that, or ever drive one either.

The first car I ever drove, was my Uncle Bear's "Whippet". You started it by turning the horn, no crank.

I remember once when we had a ball game at 7:00 at home, and Kenneth Sinkhorn said he couldn't go because he had to strip tobacco. When we got out of school at 3:00, Mr. Owens went home with Kenneth and helped him for 2 hours so Kenneth could play. I don't remember who we played or what, but Kelly Kirkland was the referee.

I wonder if anyone remembers the night at Parksville, when Mr. Owens took the referee by the arm and led him off the floor. Said he was no good.

I know when it used to rain at school, and the Fork would rise, sometimes they would send our bus around the Mitchellburg knob to go home. That was fun. Walter Clem was the driver once.

Some names I won't ever forget are, Lib and Isabelle Lanham, Laverne Ward, Janet Chambers, Ellen Sinkhorn, Tootsie Lane, Marie Whitlock, Frances and Juanita Hafley, Liz Lane, Beatrice Wilson and Nancy Sinkhorn. Nancy and I used to "spark". The names go on and on. Paul Johnson, Tommy Clarkson, Lewis and Alva Shannon, and wonder what ever happened to Francis Chambers?

I used to wrestle with Henly Crews, but I believe that Alton Daugherty was the strongest that ever went to the Fork. He was a bull!

I remember that on Tuesday, December 9, 1941, Mr. Owens brought over his radio and all of us children gathered around in the room where the old stage was and listened to President Roosevelt declare WAR on the Empire of Japan.

That changed a lot of lives. I was in the 8th grade, and that was to be my last school year on the Fork.

The following fall, I moved to Indianapolis, and I enrolled at Arsenal Technical High School (76 acres and 6000 students). I eventually graduated and got my High School diploma in 1948, after spending 2 years in the Army, and later attended Butler University.

Tech High School was where I met my wife, Christine, and we were married in 1949. We have a daughter, Sandra Sue (29) and a son, James Jr. (24). I am employed by the Indiana Department of Public Instruction as a consultant. We reside in our home at 112 Merrimac Place, Indianapolis, Indiana 46224 and our phone is 1-317-243-0400.

I don't know why in those days they had so many W.T.'s, J. T.'s, J. W.'s, K. W.'s, W.O.'s, T.C.'s, J.D.'s, etc. And who can ever forget names like, Frog Hall, Possum Lane, Jack Andy Bottoms, Humpy Lane, Sugar Bill Shep, Pappy Will, Willy and Johnny, or Wad Devers? People who I remember for being especially nice and kind to me as a little boy were: Vera Lanham, Amelia Shaheen, Nellie Boswell, Claudia Funk and Uncle Bill Cooley.

I remember Mr. Jim Henry Roller's handlebar moustashe. He was one of the really old timers, one of the Fork founders.

When in Gravel Switch, I remember that I always passed the Leslie Lanham place real fast, because across the road was where they kept all those caskets!!!

I had Typhoid Fever during the month of September, when I was 12 years old, and old Dr. Putnam pulled me through.

I remember evenings that I would sit on the porch with my Papaw, and he would get out his railroad watch (which never was more than a "tick" off), If ole 22 didn't blow exactly when he said, then ole 22 was late.....I wish railroads would come back.....

I remember you had a choice of nickel sack tobacco, Dukes, Bull Durham, Golden Grain, or old Northern State. I also remember eating at Gorley's store. I had cheese and crackers or bologna and crackers, only a nickel each.

I remember Lee Mounce's garage, the old one, and the new one. I was in them both.

I remember the Pie Suppers at the Fork with Howard Boswell as the Auctioneer.

I remember our cheerleaders, Helen Roller, and Anna Louise Coyle, with those white boots. My sister sure was fond of those two. Ed Gorley was voted in to join them. He didn't like it at first, but he finally accepted. He could very well have been the first ever. I never heard of a male cheerleader before, but have heard of a lot since then.

Does anyone remember any of these things? Or did I just have a dream? Maybe I just thought these things up...

Like the sulphur well in Mitchellburg, or the Indian that used to bring a medicine show through sometimes. They played a lot of country music.

I always thought that one of the smartest people who ever went to the Fork in my time was Housen Gray. I think he was all A's. For him, it just came natural. Stella Mae always thought that Jim Cherry was the smartest.

In closing, I would like to say again that in no way is this an official document, not even close. I wrote this one afternoon after visiting the 1979 festival and it stirred up a few memories that I wanted to share with anyone who may have been at the same place at the time I was.

If any of this brings memories back to any of you, I would appreciate a word, a call, or better yet, pay us a visit.

.....BUCK

P.S. If anyone would like to sit down sometime and exchange stories or swap tall tales, I would enjoy that, but I must warn everyone that I take after my Papaw.

PARENTS OR GUARDIANS—PLEASE READ

At the close of each school month, this report will be sent to you for inspection. I hope that you will give it your most careful attention and if anything is unsatisfactory, your encouragement of the child for better work will greatly increase his interest. It is well to consult with the teacher on the marks that are unsatisfactory. The influence of the home and school must work toward the same end; that of doing the greatest good for each child. As a teacher, I shall do all in my power for my pupils, and ask you to frequently visit the school, for your presence would be an inspiration and help to both pupils and teacher.

Abbye Reynolds
Teacher

SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN

Month
1st Mrs. Lizzie Ward
2nd Mrs. Lizzie Ward
3rd Mrs. Lizzie Ward
4th Mrs. Lizzie Ward
5th Mrs. Lizzie Ward
6th Mrs. Lizzie Ward
7th Mrs. Lizzie Ward
8th Mrs. Lizzie Ward
9th

"Write it on your heart that every day
is the best day in the year."—Emerson.

TEACHER'S
REPORT
to PARENTS

Boyle County, Kentucky

Name Eads, James
School Perryville Grade 2
School Year Ending 1916
Abbye Reynolds
Teacher

TO THE PUPIL

- 1—Be clean in person, dress, habits, thought and speech.
- 2—Be dutiful, polite and respectful to parents, teachers and all whom you may meet.
- 3—Be earnest in play in the time for play, and equally earnest in work in the time for work.
- 4—Cultivate promptness, energy and patient industry. They are worth more to you than money or influence in securing success in life.
- 5—Please keep this report neat and clean. When you enter school next year, please present it to the teacher for inspection.

H. A. Coranougher

County Superintendent.

Form G-1—Hammond & Stephens Co., Fremont, Neb.

12

TRAITS of PUPIL

Grade										Teacher		
Subjects	MONTHS									Exam. Gr.	Yr. Avg.	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
Number Days in Membership	19	19	20	18	20	20	20	19	20		174	
Number Days Absent	4	1	3	0	10	1	1	5	1		33	
Number Days Attended	15	18	17	18	10	12	19	13	19		141	
Number Times Tardy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	
Effort	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B		B	
Conduct	C	B	C	C	C	C	C	C	C		C	
Civics												
English												
Geography												
History												
Hygiene												
Mathematics	A	A	B	B	C	C	C	B	B		B	
Spelling	C	B	B	B	C	B	B	B	C		B-	
Writing	C	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B		B	
Reading	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C		C	
Drawing	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C		C	
Music	B	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A		A-	
Language			B	B	C	B	B	B	C		B-	
Actual Wt.												
Normal Wt.												
Actual Ht.												
Normal Ht.												
Health Habits												
Promoted to <u>Third</u> Grade	Grades									A—Excellent		95—100
Retained in _____ Grade										B—Good		88—94
										C—Average		81—87
										D—Poor		75—80
										F—Failure		Below 75

ATTITUDE TOWARD SCHOOL WORK	Note—Each month place X mark opposite the trait to which attention is called								
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th
Very Commendable	X	X	X	X					
Shows Improvement									
Gives Up Too Easily					X	X	X	X	X
Copies									
Work Carelessly Done									
Waste Time									
Indolent									

RECITATIONS

Very Satisfactory									
Shows Improvement		X							
Inattentive						X	X	X	X
Work Shows Falling Off					X				
Capable of Doing Better	X		X	X					
Promotion in Danger									
Seldom Does Well									
Appears not to Try									
Comes Poorly Prepared									

CONDUCT

Very Good									
Shows Improvement		X							
Restless									
Whispers Too Much					X	X	X	X	X
Annoys Others	X		X	X			X	X	X
Inclined to Mischief									

13

MARION COUNTY SCHOOLS

JOHN W. CLARKSON, SUPERINTENDENT

PUPIL'S REPORT CARD

Name of Parent or Guardian James Ward Occupation Farmer
 Name of Pupil Stela Eads Post Office Gravel Switch
 Date of Birth 11-18-23 Place of Birth G Switch

TERMS SUMMARY

Date of Admission	Grade	Promoted, Failed or Conditioned	Days Present	Scholarship	Conduct	Health

Suggestions

NAME OF PUPIL		GRADE		SCHOOL NO.															
Stela Eads		7		Hazel Smith 3															
SCHOOL YEAR	Days Absent	No. Times Tardy	Health	Conduct	Effort	Reading and Literature	English	Spelling	Pennmanship	Grammar	Arithmetic	Geography	History	Music	Drawing	Civil Government	Physiology and Hygiene	Agriculture	Physical Training
19																			
19																			
1st Mo.	0	0	A	B	C	C	B	B	B	B	B	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
2nd Mo.	0	0	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
3rd Mo.																			
4th Mo.																			
5th Mo.																			
6th Mo.																			
7th Mo.																			
Total																			
EXAMINED BY																			
Lizzie Warr																			
Lizzie Warr																			

EXAMINED BY

Lizzie Ware
Lizzie Ware

"The Home and the School Should Work Together for the Good of the Child." It is important that the teacher should be fully informed as to the child's physical condition, life outside of school, and previous history. Parents are cordially invited to confer with the teacher or the principal.

Signature of Teacher

PERFECT ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATE

THIS CERTIFIES THAT

James Shelby Eads

has attended school during the month ending Oct. 24, 1941 without loss of time from absence or tardiness and is therefore awarded this Certificate.

H. A. Coranougher
 County Superintendent
 M. H. Board
 Attendance Supervisor

Garland Purdon
 Teacher
Forkland High
 School

117—HARMON & STEPHENS CO., FREMONT, WYOM.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATE

THIS CERTIFIES THAT

James Shelby Eads

has attended school during the month ending Sept. 26, 1941 without loss of time from absence or tardiness and is therefore awarded this Certificate.

H. A. Coranougher
 County Superintendent
 M. H. Board
 Attendance Supervisor

Garland Purdon
 Teacher
Forkland High
 School

117—HARMON & STEPHENS CO., FREMONT, WYOM.

Kentucky Public Schools

Boyle



County

This Certifies That

Stella Mae Eads

of Forkland High School

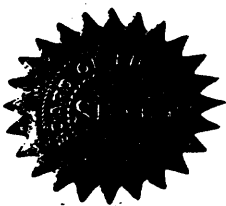
has satisfactorily completed the Course of Study prescribed
by the Board of Education for the Elementary Schools of
Boyle County, Kentucky, and therefore merits this

Diploma

and admission to the High School.

Given at Danville, Kentucky,

this 24 day of May 1938



Garland Pardon
Teacher or Principal of School

D. P. Rankin
Chairman of County Board

H. H. Brannon
County Superintendent

Kentucky Public Schools

Boyle



County

This Certifies That

James Shelby Eads

of Forkland High School

has satisfactorily completed the Course of Study prescribed
by the Board of Education for the Elementary Schools of
Boyle County, Kentucky, and therefore merits this

Diploma

and admission to the High School.

Given at Danville, Kentucky,

this fifteenth day of July 1942



Garland Pardon
Teacher or Principal of School

D. P. Rankin
Chairman of County Board

H. H. Brannon
County Superintendent