

**“FROG HOLLOW” – PLEASANT VIEW SCHOOL,  
DISTRICT #77  
SEPTEMBER 19, 1917**

by Roger Moon



Howard saw Mrs. Scott hanging wash on the line as he ran across their pasture, vaulting a fence. Baby Warren was lying on a blanket and Harriet toddled around the clothes basket. “Good morning!” he yelled, jumping over a prickly pear cactus.

Luetta called a “woo-hoo” and waved. The three Moons usually walked the half mile south to the Tisdale road to meet the three Barker kids. They trudged together the mile west up and over two hills, and then ran down the long slope to Frog Hollow. “Howard must have been late finishing his chores so had to run the short cut,” she reckoned. Oh, well, Harold was 11; he could take care of Myra for half a mile.

Leaping through the tall prairie grass, Howard held high the shiny round peanut butter bucket that he used for a lunch pail, keeping it steady to save the sandwich from being beaten apart by the apple.

As he crossed the crest of the pasture hill he could see almost two miles across the valley, then quickly, as he ran on he could see half way down the slope to the spot where the first school was built in the Liermann pasture. That was in August ‘72, only two years after the first log cabin store had been built in Winfield. Howard liked history.

The first day of school Mrs. Scott had walked to school, kids in tow, and told stories about three generations of Scotts, Barkers, Brothers, and all the neighbors who had gone to that first Cowley County District #77 school. During lunch recess, she led the hike across the road and creek, half a mile west up the hill to the site of the first school. Everyone could see the “Pleasant View” of the long valley to the south that had given the school its first name. \$1000 tax money from the  $7\frac{3}{4}$  sections of taxable land in the district had been given to the first school board, the school was built, and the first session started nine months later in May of ’73. It only ran for 3 months!

In just 45 years the prairie had covered over all signs of the learning that had gone on in that school. In the old days there about were 30 to 35 students. But some families had failed to improve the land and moved on, and others had stuck it out on the rocky prairie long enough to