

- **Claiborne County (TN) Progress**

Nell Quesenbery Report

March 21, 1984

BOYD MASON, ATTORNEY AT LAW (1902-1984)

By Nell Quesenbery

In 1934, Boyd Mason came to Lone Mountain to teach and coach basketball at our new school. He stayed here for three years. When he left Lone Mountain School to coach basketball at Claiborne County High School, he took some of our boys with him, leaving us with a memory that has never dimmed.

During the three years Boyd coached the Lone Mountain team, they played 60 games, winning 57, losing 3. His Lone Mountain team went on to play the county championship, and an unprecedented game with Claiborne High School.

When approached to play this game with Tazewell, Coach Mason acted quite casual, appearing not to be too interested, but, all the time, his team of “grade-school boys” were getting ready for the high school players.

Giving his players lots of drill, he decided that, in order to win, his team must play a control game, concentrate on unguarded lay-ups, letting Tazewell be the ball handlers, keeping and running with the ball 75-80 percent of the time.

Lone Mountain’s starting lineup was: Walter Phelps, forward; Carl “Cedar Buck” Cabbage, forward; Clarence Overton, center; Paul Bentley, guard; Woodrow Cardwell, guard. Subs were John Bush, Ray Hodges, Paul Janeway, John Robert Mason, Alfred “Ham” Jennings. Wearing yellow and blue, the grade-school boys beat Claiborne County High School.

Fall 1937, Boyd left Lone Mountain to accept the first paid coaching position in Claiborne County. Part of the old Lone Mountain team, Carl Cabbage, Clarence Overton, Paul Bentley,

Woodrow Cardwell, Alfred Jennings and John Robert Mason came to Claiborne High School with Boyd Mason.

Here, he would coach three more seasons and, for three seasons straight running, Claiborne County High School played in the State Conference, playing 91 games, winning 83, losing 8. In Boyd Mason's total career as basketball coach, figures show that he won over 90 percent of his games.

Back in 1937, Claiborne County High School was in the 13th district. In those days, schools both large and small took each other on as they came. Now, it is different. School ratings make schools more evenly matched.

Old District 13 played Lake City, LaFollette, Powell Valley, Jellico, Cotulo, Clinton, Maynardville, Rogersville and Morristown, among others.

The district winners and runner-up would play all the regional district winners in East Tennessee. The region covered anywhere in East Tennessee from Bristol to Chattanooga. The regional winners played in the State Conference.

1937-1938 - Starting lineup for CCHS: Hugh Welch, center; Welch being a little less than 6'6" was one of the two tallest players. Woodrow Cardwell, forward, the other of the two tallest players, could do anything well. Carl "Cedar Buck" Cabbage, forward, could jump like a kangaroo, about the fastest ever; Captain, Jack Richardson, A-1 best backboard ever, good scrapper. Arnold Mountain, guard, like Richardson, this was his last year.

Subs: Ernest Western, Clarence Overton, C.A. Brown, Paul Bentley, Keedial Seals, Frank Jennings.

In the spring of '38 after winning the district and the regional, they went on to the State Conference. At Lenore City, these players met defeat at the hands of Chattanooga City School by three points.

1938-39 - Starting lineup for CCHS: Hugh Welch, center; Woodrow Cardwell, forward; captain, Carl "Cedar Buck" Cabbage, forward; Clarence Overton, guard, good at everything, Paul Bentley, guard, A-1 guard, good backboard man.

Subs: John Robert Mason, C.A. Brooks, Ernest Western, Lloyd Meyers, Gabe Neeley, Lynn Stanifer.

This team won the district and the regional, going to the State Conference. There they were defeated by Knoxville City School.

1939-40 - Starting lineup for CCHS: Hugh Welch, center; Clarence Overton, forward; Woodrow Cardwell, forward; Paul Bentley, guard; C.A. Brooks, guard.

Subs: John Robert Mason, Ernest Western, Roy Welch, Delbert England and Lynn Stanifer.

This team, too, fought their way to the State Conference, once again to be defeated by Knoxville City School.

Most of the players listed went on to serve in World War II. C.A. Brooks was a tail gunner in World War II. His plane was shot down, his body never recovered. C.A. Brooks was the only casualty of the team.

Get well wishes: Greg Bowman, Lou Lambert, Jonathan Paul Claggett, Ben Phelps, Denny Peters and Doshie Lee Caskey. Best wishes to the broken bone department. This made twice our good and kind neighbor and friend, Barney Bargo, has slipped in the bathtub, breaking ribs. Do be more careful, Barney. Our son, Dennis Jackson Quesenbery, has broken one of his long legs. Do be more careful, Jackie.

Happy birthdays to Bill Walker, Ott Walker, Lillian Carr, Teresa Hill, Bular Wallen, Doshie Lee Caskey.

Sympathy to the families of Boyd Mason and Gerard Owsley.

I enjoyed talking with Homer and Margaret Carpenter the other night, but I was sorry to learn that Ed Stansberry had another stroke.

Thanks to Lurene Hurd for her kind statement about me in a Letter to the Editor. Lurene Hurd lives in New York.

At Saturday's Hillbilly CB Club's coffee break, there was some awfully good gospel singing. Ruby Chumley and I thought the Partin girls could really sing. Then Ruby's brother, Hobert Goins, sang with the Goins family. I only could stay about three hours. Nora Goins told me later that they also had some mighty good bluegrass singers. This hard-working club needs new members. If you are interested, see any member or call club secretary Susie Goins (Mrs. David), 626-9339.

I saw both Fred and J.M. Wells. They told me Alice Wells may come home from the nursing home this spring when it is warmer.

Doshie Lee Caskey says there will be a regular gospel singing at Regency Village Community Center every Friday night at 7 p.m.

Doshie said there will be monthly bingo games at the center. The games are free, but donated prizes will be given to the players.

Mountain Creek Homemakers do many good things, such as provide beds, wheelchairs, potty chairs, walkers, etc., to the sick in the community. They also manage to have really good times with each other. While picking up some of the club's "scratch-made" cinnamon rolls, Lena Quesenbery gave Jack a beautiful photo that her daughter Cathy had made of Jack and herself. Cathy, you've always been very beautiful, but I just love that picture of Jack. Jack's brother, Bill, showed him his fresh garden. He planted cabbage, onions, broccoli and cauliflower. As always, Bill's garden is a picture.

It's too wet to plow, but Jack says we still have lots of time. Yet I notice Lonnie and Mary Coffey's buttercups are in full bloom.