

DEACONESSES OF  
GUNNISON BAPTIST CHURCH

At one time during the history of the Gunnison Baptist Church, due to a shortage of deacons, Mrs. W. H. Arnold and Mrs. Mable C. Whitaker served as deaconesses.

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R. F. D. SERVICE

The first rural mail route was the result of a petition circulated by Postmaster W. W. Brashears and F. T. Blanchard.

Service was begun December 15, 1915. At first the patrons received mail tri-weekly and the carrier received \$52.00 per month, with no allowance for equipment.

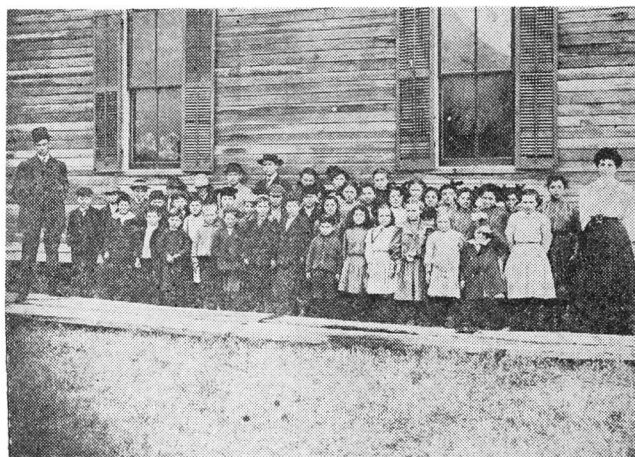
Fincher T. Blanchard was named temporary carrier until an examination could be arranged. There were several applicants in addition to Mr. Blanchard, one of whom was a Negro. Mr. Blanchard, making the highest grade, was appointed as carrier.

The route in the beginning was only 20.7 miles, however, the carrier had to get out before day and work until after dark to complete the circuit. A horse was used as transportation at first, then a horse and buggy, later a horse and mail hack, and finally an automobile.

Mr. Blanchard served as carrier until he volunteered for service in World War I the latter part of 1917.

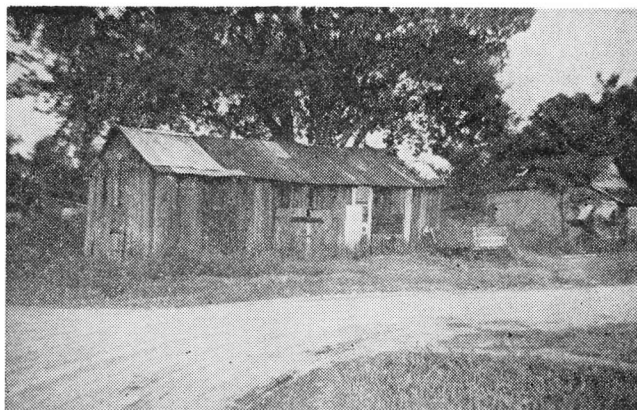
Among those who carried the mail while he was in service and while he was connected with J. B. Scruggs & Co., and also manager of the local telephone office, were H. B. Wilson, a Mr. McCall (father of Rev. D. A. McCall) and John B. Pease, III.

Mr. Blanchard was later reinstated as carrier, in which position he continued until retirement in 1960. His total service covered a period of 39 years and three months.



Picture of teachers and school children at an early school held in Concordia Masonic Lodge building in Gunnison.

E. P. LEFTWICH  
GUNNISON, MISS.



The old Polk Hightower Blacksmith Shop.



A relic of old Concordia. The only building left standing in the once thriving river town until it was recently demolished to make way for a Mississippi levee berm.