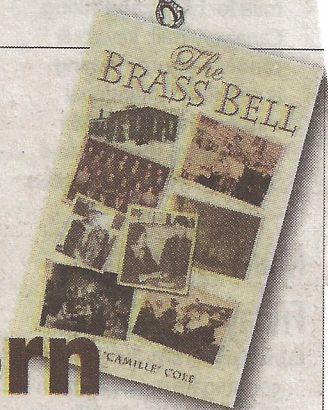




How a school was born



Former area resident returns for book signing

Nancy "Camille" Cole will be signing copies of her book, "The Brass Bell" from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, June 20, in the gymnasium at Cherry Road School in Westvale. The event is being held on the last day of school, which is historically known as Marion Parsons Day. The book, published by Sahalie Publishing Company in Eugene, Ore., was written by former Marcellus resident Cole, who is Parsons' great-niece.

The school replaced the Terry Road School—founded a few blocks away in 1847—and was built in Miss Parsons' father's cherry orchard in 1927. Cherry Road School has grown with as many as seven additions—another this year—and is regarded as one of the finest schools in the state.

When Marion Parsons retired in 1952, one day in June was sanctioned, from that day on, as Marion Parsons Day. Children would spend the day having fun and honoring what it meant to be a good student and neighbor. An award for academic and personal growth was awarded to one student each year in her name, and that tradition continues today. Miss Parsons affected the lives of thousands of people who went on to become lawyers and judges, doctors and philanthropists. Everyone wanted to live up to the standards they learned at Cherry Road School. Many who were students at Cherry Road during the Great Depression and WWII will be on hand on June 20 to help celebrate and share their stories.

"The Brass Bell" is the story of this small country school that became the heart of the Westvale community during The Great Depression and World War II. It is the story of the woman who taught her students in a hen house in 1926 while the red-brick school was being built. As farms became neighborhoods, Cherry Road School grew from 50 students in 1927 to hundreds of students in a few short years. It grew in numbers and in size. New wings and a second floor were added to the new brick building in Willis Parsons' cherry orchard. By the time the last farmer graduated in 1936, Cherry Road had

