

# The Stony Point Schoolhouse

by Harvey Olander

My grandfather, P.A. Olander, bought a farm on County Road 108. It was in a country school district that had two schools, Gower and Stony Point. When he became a school board trustee with Mr. Seth and Mr. Anderson, they wanted each school to be in separate districts. To make the change, they sent a petition to the county, requesting that each school be in a district of its own. Stony Point became Grandfather's district.

In 1899 the schoolhouse was adjacent to, and south of, County Road 109, four tenths of a mile from the CR108-109 intersection. Channel Creek Spring, 1500 feet away, supplied the water used by the school. In 1902 the school building was moved to the opposite side of Channel Creek, to the top of Stony Point Hill. Most of P.A.'s children attended that school. The picture best describes the Stony Point School's outside appearance. Inside the door was a wooden bench where the drinking water bucket was kept. For "sanitary" reasons each child was required to have his own drinking cup to dip and drink water from the bucket. A tall round coal-burning stove was in the center of the building. Coal was plentiful at Rockdale, and was sold at

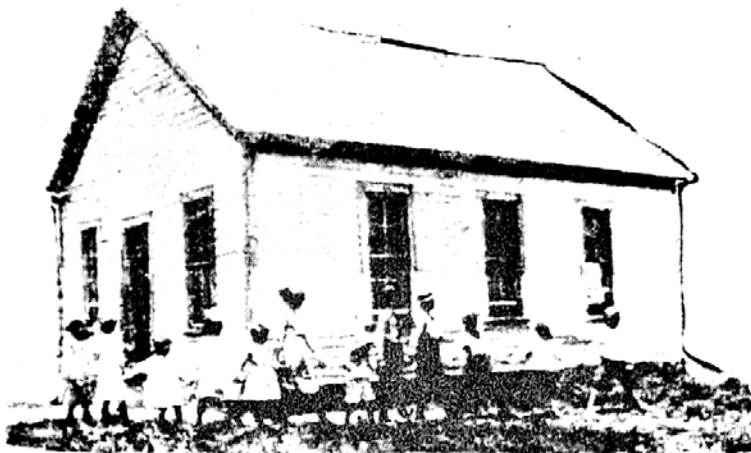
towns near the railroad. Wood was in short supply.

Opposite the door was an elevated platform used for school

by both boys and girls. The girls kept it busy most of the time, so the boys went to the brier patch to get relief. A second was built when

half-mile to and from school. During the summer vacation, school classes were held to teach correct speaking and writing of the Swedish language.

According to Myrtle Westberg, a Stony Point graduate, when the enrollment dropped at the Stony Point hill school, about 1919, it was consolidated with the Palm Valley School. The school on the hill was sold to Mr. Hanisch. He removed and used the lumber to make a "hand" house and storage shed. The Palm Valley School was remodeled and renamed Stony Point. Its location, using present road designations, place it at the intersection of north CR 122 and CR113. In 1943 the Stony Point School closed and was absorbed by Round Rock school district.



programs. The teacher kept her table and chair on the platform. Every student had a desk with a fold up seat, and a shelf for books under the desktop. The boys sat on the north side, the girls on the south side of the room. One boy was assigned to attend the stove, to light the fire in the morning and add coal when needed. Two boys were randomly picked to carry the water bucket to the spring. Each held one end of a stick, with a notch in the middle for the bucket bail. This balanced the load between the boys carrying the water bucket hanging on the stick.

There was one out house, used

girls protested about the boys' intrusions. To entice teachers to Stony Point School, the trustees decided that one family must provide a room in its home where the teacher could stay.

Most bedrooms were without heat. When the weather was cold, families wore more coats and used more blankets on the bed. In an interview, Emil Anderson said that a kerosene stove was later provided to keep teachers happier. Most of the teachers lived at the August Anderson home. They were offered three meals a day, but they seldom made it to the early breakfast table. Teachers walked the