

## Changes

I have started to scan the old annuals of Pacolet High School to put on this *Pacolet Memories* website. This first one is from 1949 when I was in the sixth grade. I have been struck by the changes that happened since that time. The biggest example is shown on the attached picture from that annual. The photo labeled “Kitchen” shows where the lunches for the school were prepared. Notice, I did not say lunchroom because there was no lunchroom. This kitchen was located in the basement of the school gymnasium. It was in the area originally intended for the locker room. The students went down into the basement, passed through the kitchen, cafeteria style (no choices available) and receive their plates. After being served, we went up the steps in the background of the photo up into the gymnasium. The gymnasium was neither heated nor cooled and had no tables. We went up and sat on the regular benches to eat our lunch. During the wintertime, the prime spot was close to the chimney that came from the kitchen below up through the gym. Can you imagine the reaction of a modern-day health department being asked to come out and inspect a lunch facility such as this? You would probably hear about it on the local TV news. This lunch program was offered at the White school and was the best the district had. The Black students had no lunch – nor buses – nor for that matter even a high school. At that time, they had to provide their own transportation to go to a Black high school in Spartanburg.

The second photo labeled “Canteen” was a place for students to buy snacks. Lots of students did this rather than buy lunch from the school. As you can see from the photo, this was barely more than a large basement closet. There were maybe two or three small tables not shown in the photo. Needless to say, the variety of snacks offered was very limited.

At the time, we thought these things were perfectly normal. I just wonder that if children nowadays will look back on their school pictures in 70 years and be amazed at how primitive things were?!

*(By the time I got to high school, we had a modern school cafeteria. The lady standing at the end of the stove in the kitchen photo was Mrs. Genobles and she was still in charge of the lunchroom when I was in high school. It always seems to be the thing to complain about school lunches, however at Pacolet High School we had incredible lunches.)*



# THE CANTEEN



# KITCHEN