AND THEY PAY THEIR OWN WAY

**Pinney Woods Pupils Too Busy for Trouble**

By JIM NESBITT

How to control today's turbulent, impetuous youths?

Put 'em in school 12 hours a day, 12 months a year, says a famed educator from the Deep South — Dr. Laurence C. Jones.

And let them pay their own way.

That's how he's been running the Pinney Woods Country Life School, Pinney Woods, Miss., for the past 58 of his 82 years. And, he swears, the kids love it.

But then, Pinney Woods is a special place — and Dr. Jones a remarkable man.

He antedated the war on poverty by over half a century when, fresh out of Iowa State University, he traveled south in 1909 as a one-man VISTA corps to see if, with his education, he could be of help to the masses of indigent, illiterate Negro sharecroppers.

**PINNEY WOODS**, in forested southeast Mississippi, is mediocre cropland, but Jones found fertile ground for his ideas there one day when he sat under a cedar tree and ventured a thought: "We teach the boys how to read."

He caajoled friends up North, university acquaintances, bankers. A Pinney Woods sawmill operator donated lumber for a new schoolhouse, and Jones and his pupils built it.

The school began acquiring land, at $10 an acre, for campus and for crops. A herd of Ayrshire cattle was donated.

"Nearby was an abandoned log cabin occupied by a flock of sheeps," Jones said this week in a talk to Long Beach Rotarians. "We drove out the sheep, moved in, and that was the start of Pinney Woods School."

For a while the school survived on eagerness alone. Then Jones revealed a talent for fund-raising.

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More buildings went up and were equipped: a machine shop, a woodworking shop, a dairy barn, dormitories, more classrooms. A newspaper, "The Piney Torch," was established.

And let them pay their own way. How to control today's impoverished masses? Jones has won degrees from three universities and a medal from the Freedoms Foundation.

For the 360 boarding students who are striving for high school and junior college diplomas at Pinney Woods, it's a rigorous regimen: up at 5 a.m. breakfast at 6, work or school at 7 (they spend mornings at one endeavor, afternoons at the other), athletics at 4 p.m. and then study, study, study.

"Desire" is the only qualification for enrollment," says Jones. Does he get any? "Hardly any." Disciplinary problems? "None."

"Everyone's too busy to get into trouble," Jones explained. "Wouldn't it be grand if every school were run this way?"