

JoAnn Jones Richardson

Introduction to JoAnn Richardson: JoAnn Richardson has lived in the Avon community for many years and has ancestors going back to the really settlement of the area. She was interviewed by Dick and Betty Richmond, JoAnn's neighbors and long-time residents of Avon.

Abner Creek Baptist Church

Dick: Was the church still standing there [on 150 North]?

JoAnn: I remember that church. It was a Baptist church and my family, my grandfather, grandmother, and their kids, went there...When I was a child, not yet school-age, I went with my grandparents to that church. It was falling down, but they would go in and pick up the floor that was decayed and the scrap lumber that was laying around to burn in their wood stove. I remember there was a big blackboard; it was the biggest blackboard I had ever seen – it went all across the front of the church...

Betty: Do you have family buried there?

JoAnn: Oh, yes, Ida Jones is buried back there...There are lots of Joneses back there...

Voting in Earlier Days

JoAnn: ...at one time in the political scheme, [Avon] had one precinct. It was divided, I'm not sure of the year, into the north and south precincts, with US36 being the dividing line. Then it was divided again with Highway 267 as the dividing line...In the beginning, when it was split into two precincts, they had trouble finding a place to hold the polls because there wasn't any commercial site available...When they divided it into four, the only commercial site in what is now Washington Township...was Merritt's Park or Sarkine's Picnic Park [on 200 North]. We voted there until they built the big Methodist Church.

Betty: So there was some sort of a structure at Sarkine's Park?

JoAnn: His house, that big house there, had a recreation room on one side of it. We voted there...