

Commerce Records

Early Years Transportation

In the early years of Commerce football, as it was for everyone else who played back in the 1910's and 1920's, getting to an away game site could be a major problem.

Most roads were terrible and automobile speed and reliability were certainly not what we are used to today, although some improvement had been made by the 1920's especially in the areas near larger towns.

Therefore, most teams that Commerce played in northeast Georgia during that period of time, and Commerce as well, needed to have train access into the community that they were playing to enable teams to get to and from the game on the same day.

That is one reason that Commerce played Tech High and Boys High in Atlanta, as well as, Athens, Gainesville, Madison, Monroe A&M, Cornelia and Winder along with others in the area that were located near railroads.

Riding the train to an away game was truly an event for the youngsters back then. The locomotive had an air of romance, mystery and fascination about it that lured many a young person to the railroad.

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In general, when the train stopped in town and new passengers arrived, townspeople were inquisitive as to who they were and why they were in their city. The railroad depot could sometimes be a gathering place as the locomotive and its passengers arrived and then disembarked into the community.

Riding the train to an away game had a feeling of adventure about it similar to going to the Atlanta airport and flying on an airplane in today's society. Getting on the train, finding a seat and watching the country side pass by from your window was an experience that every new passenger, young and old alike would never forget.

Later, in the 1940's for most of the away games for Commerce, parents and coaches took the players in their own automobiles, for highway construction had vastly improved along with the speed and reliability of the more modern car. It usually was a cramped hour or so of confinement to the vehicle, however, it was faster and more convenient than the locomotive of the 1920's.

It was not until the 1950's that buses began to be used for away transportation for football games and other athletic events. One bus in the 1950's could usually carry the entire team, and of course they are still used today.

1/25/08___ Jeff Prickett

Much of this information came by way of Rod Davis who lives in Lavonia.

