

# Old school is just the spot for an original fabric shop

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**FLOYD** — At Jerry Duncan's School House Fabrics, Saturdays can be a haven for the curious. Atop "bedspread hill," a mound of loose bedspreads, customers can be seen doffing their shoes and climbing through the pile.

The converted 1920s school building houses a number of such cloths and curiosities.

It's an old school building. A very old school building. The structure is only 1920s, but the brick that covers it dates from the 1880s, when the original building was renovated.

The original schoolhouse, torn down to make the new one, was built more than 150 years ago.

The brick was handmade in Floyd especially for the school, and its roughness speaks of a time before mechanical mass production. Climbing the brick steps and opening the

squeaking door, one almost expects to hear a teacher's voice droning out a history lesson.

The building was used as a school until 1961, when it was sold. Duncan's parents left their 300-acre dairy farm nearby to start the fabric store in one room of the building, which they rented from the local owner.

The business spread gradually through the rest of the building, and

in 1976 Duncan purchased the building and surrounding land for \$40,000. "It seemed like a lot at the time," said Duncan, "but it turned out to be a great deal."

Soon they outgrew the building and had to build an extension at the back. Duncan also bought a nearby home to use as a warehouse. Another warehouse was built in July behind the main building, on the site of what was Spangler's Blacksmith

Shop, which operated until the turn of the century. Spangler's old barn still stands.

In the main building, the basement holds the garment fabrics. The rest of the building is divided into departments, with each department in a different classroom. The converted classrooms on the first floor hold the quilting and craft supplies and the bridal department.

Walking up the steps to the sec-

ond floor, it is easy to imagine excited students rushing past on their way out at the end of the school day. Duncan tells about a local man who once attended school here. "He says he got most of his whippings for jumping down these steps."

The second floor contains carpets, velvets, nylons and upholstery. Duncan also sells quilts made

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