Mrs. Lorene Workman recently brought this old photo of Mr. Viehe's General Store to the Palmersville Historical Society. Though the picture is not dated, it appears to have been taken in the late 1920's. Identified in the picture are Barnie Workman holding a horse, and Allen T. Workman (father of J. W. Workman) behind the wheel of the automobile.

Then and Now: a look back at Viehe's Store in the Palmersville community

By June Kemp

The wooden structure was located between Palmersville and Latham in the northeast corner of what is now Hwy. 190 and Boydsville Road. Not only did it house the variety of general merchandise needed by the area residents, but one side also served as home for its proprietor Mr. Charles F. Viehe and his wife Sarah. They are listed in the 1920 and 1930 census record in District 25. Mrs. Viehe died in 1937 and is buried at New Hope Cemetery near Latham. I do not know what happened to Mr. Viehe or when the store closed. I remember passing the rickety shell of the building frequently on our way to visit my grandparents, Eulas and Lella Harris. Daddy would point out that was the old store building where he bought penny candy as a boy. One local citizen remembers that Mr. Viehe owned a Baby Overland automobile and had a little white dog named Frosty, which accompanied him almost everywhere he went. Another remembered the dog's name as Snowball; perhaps there could have been two dogs? The old store building was later used for tobacco stripping and farm storage until it fell into total disrepair.

If you have additional information regarding the old Viehe's Store or any others of the area, please share them with us at the Palmersville Historical Society. It is our goal to preserve as much local history as possible. We are open on Friday afternoon from 1-5. We can be reached at 731-782-3348 or bkemp@wk.net, or by mail at P. O. Box 21, Palmersville, TN 38241.