

Features

Back in the day...

Boiling Springs and Gardner-Webb share rich history

Amanda Wood
Pilot Staff

It is called the crossroads – the intersection of Main Street and College Avenue in Boiling Springs – and through years of change it has remained the heart of the town.

"It's still the crossroads," said Magretta McKee, Boiling Springs' town clerk and life-long resident, who remembers the crossroads as it was in her childhood days when the intersection's four corners were different than they are today.

The corner now belonging to the Webb Building was occupied by G.T. McSwain's grocery and furniture store until the 1960's. A long, white, rectangular-shaped building, McSwain's Grocery was the only supermarket in Boiling Springs until Ingles moved to the community in the 1990's. McSwain's grocery moved in the 1960's and is still in operation as a furniture and hardware store.

The building now occupied by the Uptown Café was once home to Boiling Springs Drug Co., owned by pharmacist and Boiling Springs resident Bob Beason.

"It had three booths and you could eat there," said Barry

Hambright, professor of history and political science at GWU and a 1961 graduate of Gardner-Webb Jr. College.

Behind the drugstore, employees of Cleveland Sandwich Company made and wrapped sandwiches to be shipped to out of town stores and industries, according to GWU historian Lansford Jolley. The Cleveland Sandwich Company's building is now occupied by Turner Trucking Company.

The post office was located between the drug store and Cleveland Sandwich Company until the 1960's, when it was moved to its present location across from the Webb Building.

The building now occupied by the Italian Garden was once a theater called the Co-ed. According to Shirley Toney, dean of GWU's nursing school and nursing instructor since 1965, the theater's elevated seating remains in today's restaurant.

The Snack Shop, located on Main Street, remains a long-time staple in Boiling Springs for local residents and students. Luci Hamrick, a 1944 graduate of Gardner-Webb Jr. College, remembers going to the Snack Shop with

"We went to the Snack Shop. My roommate and I had little money, and you could get a big Pepsi and a pack of donuts for a nickel."

Luci Hamrick



Photo Courtesy of The Shelby Star

Above, an aerial photograph of Gardner-Webb's campus. Notice the old Huggins-Curtis Building where the present-day Dover Campus Center stands. Also note the construction to Stroup in the top right corner.

her roommate.

"We went to the Snack Shop. My roommate and I had little money, and you could get a big Pepsi and a pack of donuts for a nickel," said Hamrick.

Jolley and his wife, Cothenia, met in the Snack Shop during the fall semester of 1946. They were both sophomores. Jolley had just returned from World War II, and his friend Buddy Sheperd, another Gardner-Webb Jr. College student, introduced them.

According to the Jolleys, the Snack Shop was one of the main date-night attractions in town. "You could only date on Friday night Saturday night and Sunday night," Jolley said, adding that students had to have a certain grade point average to be allowed to date.

When she was not out on a date with Jolley, then Cothenia Jones enjoyed the ping pong tables, piano and bowling alley in the basement of the old Huggins-Curtis Building, which stood near the present site of the Dover Campus Center.

"We didn't have to have all kinds of special things to entertain us," Cothenia Jolley said.

Hamrick agrees. "We managed to entertain ourselves, and we also managed to learn a little," she said.



Photo Courtesy of The Shelby Star

The above photo depicts Main Street, Boiling Springs, as it was in 1986. Uptown Cafe now occupies the Boiling Springs Drug Co. building. Main Street was incorporated in 1911.

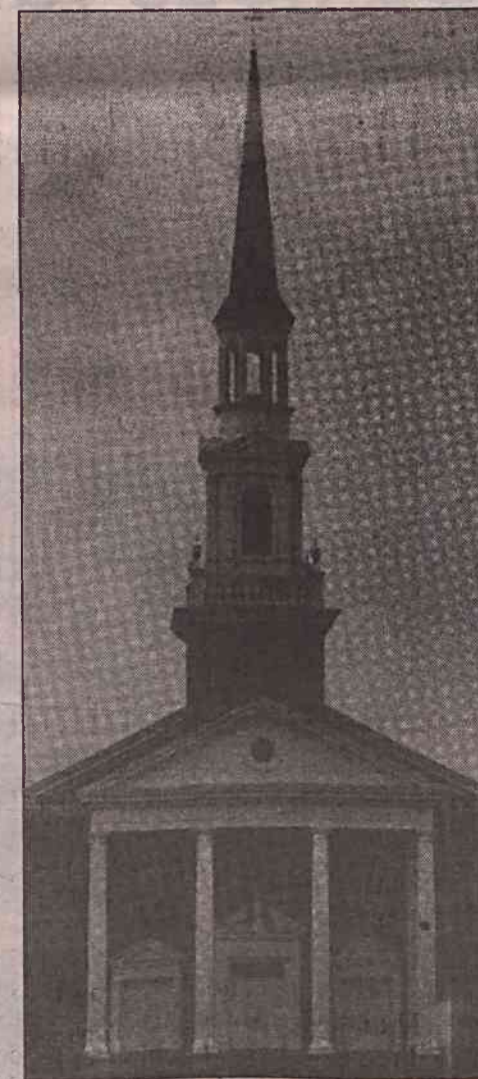


Photo courtesy of the Shelby Star
The front of Boiling Springs Baptist Church, established in 1847.