

Recently Burned House Is Recalled As Site Of Early Warrenton School

By J. EDWARD ALLEN
A front-page story in The Warren Record of February tenth, 1977, recited the fact that there had been several fires in the Warrenton area during the early part of the week; and 'early yesterday morning,' the home occupied by Mrs. Emma Yancey at 306 Warren Street had been destroyed by fire. At first glance that would be a fire story which would be of great interest only to those directly interested in the people concerned; and as a matter of history, not claiming attention. But this writer's attention was challenged by some of the facts which will be given in this story. In the paper it did not even have a separate headline.

So here we go. This writer lived on Warren Street from 1889 until 1902, at which time we bought the residence on Halifax Street now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Hoskins. This is no typewritten error; we lived in the residence which faces the burned building, north from 1889 until 1901. The 'we' is no error. Our residence and the building that burned were just a few feet inside the town limit. The stone marker was a few feet from the corner of the building. Our other moves would be a part of another story.

Now we recite some Warrenton history. The building that burned on February ninth, had been in its original condition the Warrenton Public School building. Yes; that is correct. It housed the only public school of which Warrenton could boast. The reader might have doubts, but it is

true. Then, one comes to ask, How could that be? Well, one has to remember several things. First, since the town's earliest days away back in the eighteenth century, Warrenton has had private school — some for boys and some for girls. The Warrenton Male Academy has been in existence since those early days before 1800. Mrs. Montgomery's book, Days in Old Warrenton will tell the interested reader about them — if he can find a copy. The literature of Warren history tells that many were not believers in public and free education. The Rev. Charles Applewhite Hill, principal of the Warrenton Male Academy, went to the legislature a champion of free public education in 1816, but there was no powerful support and there was not enough public demand for it and powerful leaders were opposed to such. Some of the Trustees of the Warrenton Academy are said to have opposed public schools. It is probable that Governor Turner opposed them. Also, in almost every decade, Warrenton had good girls' schools, which are described at length in Mrs. Montgomery's book.

The Graham school came to Warrenton from The Fork and Ridgeway in 1898, and was one of the best college preparatory schools in the state. This writer remembers the highly respected private school of the Misses Hawkins, as well as that of Mrs. Pendleton and Mrs. Twitty. Also there were the Warrenton Female College on the block where the I.G.A. store now is, and the Warrenton Female Collegiate

Institute which faced the west end of Warren Street. The reader is referred to Mrs. Montgomery's book, Sketches of Old Warrenton, North Carolina, a very interesting document which ought to be reprinted with additions. The private school of the Misses Hawkins, in the southern part of the town which was very popular and very efficient, did much for the culture of Warrenton.

Thus, until about 1901, Warrenton had only one public school, that on Warren Street and it was often referred to as the Free School, in a one room building, which with later additions was destroyed by fire on February ninth. The original school building was only one room about twenty by twenty-two feet. You hung your hat and coat on a nail on entering. There were probably outdoor toilets. The school got water from a spring down the hill south (Polk property now) when students carried a bucket down there. The spring still exists.

The school session was four months long; no more. I think of some of the teachers over the years; Miss Maggie Hudgins, aunt of Miss Madge of Warrenton; The Misses McCrow; and the last, Mrs. M. C. Aycock. It is my recollection that after the four months term ended, my mother rented the building and taught privately; Miss Jenkins, whose father was connected with the new Methodist Orphanage in Raleigh; another was D. E. Hudgins, Miss Madge's uncle, who went to Marion, and was General Counsel of the Carolina, Clinchfield and Ohio Railroad; another, John Wilbur Jenkins, who later was an Editor of the Baltimore Sun newspaper and used to come to see us; and I think Miss Mabel Davis, Warrenton Librarian, was taught by her older sister, my mother.

And in addition to our Public School, Warren Street itself was not without interest in those days of the early part of the century. To be sure, as a street it was just a dirt path that led on down to the branch and one past The Ella Cooper House on the other hill; but there was a residence next to us which was renovated for someone, but I do not know the details. Then there was only one residence on the south side of Warren Street, which was associated with some interesting history. When we lived on the street, it was occupied by the McGraw family, who later lived on Main Street, and the later Main Street home is now used by Mrs. Gay the last home toward the railroad station.

There used to be just one residence on the south side of Warren Street, which has some interest for us now. It was originally called the John Wilson place. It was built about 1850 by John Wilson, who later went to Wilson's Mills, Johnson County. Soon after 1880, a Mr. Boyd, from Clarksville, Va., occupied this resident. Mr. Boyd was the editor of a newspaper here, about which we do not have any details. And in the later eighties, Mr. Boyd went to Covington, Tennessee, and made his residence there. And here is an interesting story. Mr. Boyd's eldest daughter was Mrs. Frances Boyd Calhoun. And Mrs. Calhoun was the author of a book which became quite popular and was widely read,

the title being Miss Minerva and William Green Hill. In this writer's boyhood, practically everybody wanted to read about Miss Minerva and Billy Green Hill. It was really very entertaining; her character, Billy Green Hill was enjoyed and laughed at by thousands of readers. But it has to be related that Mrs. Calhoun died before the book became well known.

After Mr. Boyd went to Tennessee, Mary reaped some of the profits from the book. The book is in this writer's library. It has to be related that very soon an author of Richmond, Va., a Mrs. Sampson, wrote some books using the same characters, published by a Chicago publisher, which were profitable to her. But Mrs. Calhoun, the originator of Billy Green Hill, lived on Warren Street, south side. That Warrenton residence still stands.

We must not forget a resident of the north side of Warren Street, John Plummer was for many years the Captain of the Warrenton colored Fire Company; and in many fires did they work valiantly. The Company was organized after the biggest of Warrenton fires, that of June 21, 1881; which totally destroyed the two blocks between Rose's Store and the Record office.

First HP Class Had Local Woman

Mrs. Emma Lewis Whitaker Hoskins of Warrenton, has been named "Golden Panther" by High Point College in recognition of the fiftieth anniversary of her graduation from her alma mater.

She was a member of the first class to graduate from High Point College, founded in 1924. The Class of 1927 has twelve members, most of whom attended the reunion at the College on Feb. 5.

Mrs. Hoskins is a retired teacher.

She was among the 124 students who arrived in High Point on Sept. 14, 1924 to participate in the opening of the new college. High Point College now has over a thousand students and is related to the United Methodist Church.

Junior Project Suggestions Made

The February meeting of the Town 'N Country Garden Club met at "The Flame" with Mrs. Sophese Hawkins, presiding. Members of the newly organized Junior Garden Club, "The Budding Roses," were invited guests.

Following a business session, Mrs. Gertrude Hawkins presented objectives, guidelines, program activities and suggested projects for the Junior Garden Club.

A Valentine motif complemented the decor and added a spirit of warmth to the occasion. Mesdames Annie Mae Alston and Georgia Exum hosted the meeting for Mrs. Edna Harris who was unable to attend due to illness in her family. They served a delicious assortment of Valentine dainties.

Junior members present were Monica Burchette, Deborah Neely, Lisa Baker, Germaine Hawkins, Rosa Robinson, Jean Williams and Esther Williams.

Other Town 'N Country Garden Club members in attendance were Mrs. Cora Hawkins, Mrs. Mary Powell, and Mrs. Sally Brown.

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Hawkins Pupils Named On Lists

The honor rolls for the second nine-week grading period and for the first semester were released this week by Hawkins Junior High School Principal James Wilkerson.

Attaining grades of 90 or better during the second nine weeks were Tony Ayscue, Margaret Foster, Billy Perkinson and David Richardson of the seventh grade and eighth graders Gretchen Aycock, Sylvia Carroll, James T. Fleming, Thomas Fleming, Glenda Hawkins, Mark Lynch, Wallica Howard, Scott O'Neal, Tammy Roberts, Milvett Simms, Sabrina Williams and Zanet Williams.

Named to the first semester honor roll were Tony Ayscue, Davis Collier, Patricia Brannock, Margaret Foster, Billy Perkinson and Jean Williams.

Eighth graders on the first semester list were Gretchen Aycock, Sylvia Carroll, James T. Fleming, Thomas Fleming, Diane Francisco, Glenda Hawkins, Alice Hawkins, Wallica Howard, Jan Jordan, Mark Lynch, Scott O'Neal, Tammy Roberts, Milvett Simms, Faye Stallings, Sabrina Williams and Zanet Williams.

No ninth grade students were included in either list.

Mrs. Neal Fetes Young Students

Mrs. Clinton Neal entertained her kindergarten class and friends at a Valentine party on Monday afternoon with Susie Davis, Jason Pittman and Rudolph Davis as co-hostesses. Mrs. Ethel Hudgins and Mrs. Ann Bolton assisted in serving the punch and valentine cookies.

Attending were Mary Frances Dodd, DeAnn Earp, Lisa Harris, Ann Manning, Jason Pittman, Jamie West, Kristie Crosswhite, Jack Williams, Kristie Robertson, Rudolph Kilian, Rebecca Crouch, Susie Davis, Kristin Young, Sarah Paynter, Brad Jones and Susie Daily.

A thousand peaks rise above 10,000 feet in Colorado.

Happenings At John Graham

By KAREN HILLIARD
On Monday when the morning bulletin was distributed with NO announcements, it was a rare day at John Graham and was attributed to the mid-winter doldrums. Things have gradually picked up since Monday though, with everyone enjoying the warmer weather and anxiously anticipating the arrival of spring.

Mrs. L. G. Hawkins accompanied students from her English classes to the Cardinal Theater in Raleigh, Tuesday morning, to view a Shakespearean play, "Macbeth."

Everyone at John Graham is very proud of the Varsity Basketball Teams which were both ranked first in the Tar River Conference this year. Both teams played with spirit and enthusiasm throughout the entire season.

The Tar River Conference play-offs began Monday night

in Louisburg when the Norlina girls defeated the Louisburg girls and the Bunn boys defeated the Franklinton boys.

Tuesday night the John Graham Lady Jackets played the Norlina Lady Waves and the John Graham boys played the Bunn boys. (Winners were not known at this writing.)

Wednesday night at 7 p. m., it will be the Bunn girls versus the Franklin girls. At 8:30 p. m. the Norlina boys will compete with the Louisburg boys.

No games will be played Thursday night. The FINALS will head the schedule for Friday night at 7 p. m. All games will be at the Louisburg High School Gymnasium and admission is \$2 for adults.

District Play-Offs will begin February 21 (next Monday) at Millbrook High School in

Raleigh. The students and faculty have faith in the Jackets and hope to find them in the District play-offs next week. All the way Jackets!

Thanks goes out to the John Graham Cheerleaders and their sponsor, Mrs. Hall, for the great Pep Rally last Friday. The Cheerleaders have worked very hard this year and deserve much credit for all of the life that they have brought to the JG Spirit. "Thanks!"

There has been much sickness this winter and it has not missed visiting John Graham. Everyone would like to wish cheer and get well greetings to Mrs. Laonipon and Mrs. Virginia Levister who have been ill and in the hospital. We miss them very much and hope that they will soon be back with us.

WA Students Left Off List

The names of six students were omitted from the six-week honor roll at Warren Academy released last week by Headmaster Bennie L. King.

Students who should have been included on the list for the fifth grading period were Jule Banzet, Tracey Fowler and Gina Phillips of the fifth grade, seventh graders Margaret Ross and Sreda Steed and ninth grader John Burgess.

Dr. P. R. Reddy
would like to announce the opening of his office for the practice of internal medicine.

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