

30 Years Ago Today Fire Destroyed Town's First Brick School Building



This shows the town's first brick school, completed in 1921. It burned in 1925. This picture was taken by F. C. Salisbury in 1925.

By F. C. SALISBURY

Thirty years ago passed since the citizens of Morehead City were awakened by the fire alarm at 3 o'clock the morning of Dec. 12, 1928, to learn that the Graded School building of the town was on fire.

Persons first on the scene reported that the fire seemed to have started in the rear of the building where the auditorium and heating plant were located. Having a good head start, the fire was soon beyond control of the local fire department.

The Beaufort fire department and a truck from the New Bern department responded to the call for help. Had the water supply been sufficient, part of the building might have been saved. With three pumps drawing from the standpipe of the town's water system, the pumps at the power house were unable to compete with them.

As a last resort to save part of the building, the pumper from New Bern was placed on the town dock to draw water from the sound and pumped through the water system, filling most of the mains with salt water. This method proved of little use.

To advise water users not to use the water in the mains until they could be thoroughly flushed, the Herald printing plant got out cir-

culars stating the condition of the water. These were distributed to the homes before most persons had occasion to use water for domestic purposes. Fortunately, no contamination resulted from this emergency effort to check the fire.

This building, the first brick structure of the town's public school system, had been in use only seven years. The three wooden structures that constituted the graded schools consisted of the former Atlantic Institute, known as the Baptist school, the Harry North building, known as the Methodist school and the small two-room building that was for several years the only school building owned by the town.

Following the close of World War I, the town had outgrown the three antiquated wooden structures, unsuitable for educational needs of the community. At this time public spirited citizens started a campaign for a modern building.

At a meeting of the school board, May 31, 1919, a committee of two, consisting of E. A. Council and G. P. Hood were appointed to confer with architects as to the best style of school buildings. From the report of this committee, the board at its meeting on June 19, 1919 voted to employ the firm of Benton and Benton, architects of Wilson to prepare plans for a school building at a flat rate of \$2,500.

The plans submitted by this firm were accepted the following September and a contract was awarded Rhodes and Underwood of New Bern for \$89,591, which with plumbing and heating, amounted to \$100,294.

To make way for the new building the Atlantic Institute building was sold to Captain Oscar Kissam, who moved it to 20th and Bridges Streets, converting it into an apartment house. The small building was sold to Major Dudley.

As the Harry North building was the most servicable of the three it was moved back to make way for the new structure in the center of the school grounds, and is still in use as a unit of the school system.

By May 1921 the new building was completed and accepted by the school board, which at that time consisted of C. S. Wallace, chairman, E. A. Council, M. L. Willis, D. M. Webb, J. B. Morton and J. B. Sawyer. Professor E. P. Mendenhall was the first principal to serve in the new building.

He was followed by H. L. Joslyn who came into office with the opening of school, September 1922. He served for 25 years, resigning to accept the office of county superintendent of schools.

At the time of the fire, J. W. Willis was serving as caretaker and truant officer and Major Dudley as janitor.

Many Attend Davis FWB Church Homecoming

By PEARL ALLIGOOD

A multitude of people packed the church and grounds of the Davis Free Will Baptist church Sunday, Nov. 23, when the members of the church observed an all-day homecoming.

At 11 o'clock, the Rev. L. R. Ennis of Goldsboro, former pastor, brought the message.

He related many incidents that transpired during his pastorate at the Davis church, and also recalled that many of his old friends and loved ones who lived and labored so untriflingly with him while he

served the church, had passed on to be with the Lord.

He especially noted that the church, under the leadership of its more recent pastors, has made rapid progress in many ways, the most recent being the renovation of the church auditorium.

Dinner was served on the church grounds, picnic style, with the Rev. D. W. Alexander, a former pastor, asking God's richest blessings upon such a nice display of food. Everyone enjoyed the sweet Christian fellowship during the noon hour.

In the afternoon a special program, A Sermon in Song, entitled

The Threefold Triumph, was sung by the local choir, under the direction of the pastor the Rev. Henry Van Kluyve.

The evening service was conducted by the pastor, with Mr. Ennis bringing the message. Everyone enjoyed the events of the day and the fellowship.

The pastor and members of the church wish to express their gratitude to all who had a part in making this day of homecoming a great success, and to extend an invitation to visit our church and worship here whenever possible.

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First Methodists Plan Pre-Christmas Services

First Methodist Church, Morehead City, will have a carol service Sunday, Dec. 21, at 7:30 p.m., at the time of the regular evening service. The adult choir of the church will be assisted at this service by the Junior Churchgoers Choir, which consists of children between the ages of 3 and 12.

The children will sing two numbers. Mrs. Clifton Lynch will be the soloist for the adult choir. At the morning service on the 21st the Rev. W. N. McDonald, head of the Department of Religion at Louisburg College, will conduct the service. Mr. McDonald last preached at the church on Nov. 23 and the congregation is delighted that he will return.

On Dec. 24 at 7 p.m., the church will hold its regular Christmas party in the Sunday School auditorium. As is customary, Santa Claus will be present to distribute Christmas gift bags. The Junior Churchgoers Choir will sing special songs for the occasion. In charge of the program are Mrs. Fred Lewis, Mrs. Ethan Davis Jr., Mrs. A. B. Cooper and Mrs. Linwood Brinson.

On the coming Sunday, Dec. 14, Chaplain Hughes will conduct the Communion Service. Commander Hughes is at present serving with the Chaplain Corps at Camp Lejeune. He has preached at First

Methodists to Observe Communion Sunday

Communion will be observed Sunday in Camp Glenn Methodist Church, the Rev. Virgil N. Moore, pastor. The morning worship will start at 11 o'clock. The pastor's sermon topic will be Pledge.

Evening worship will begin at 7. The sermon topic will be Pur-

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Lutheran Choir To Sing Sunday

The senior choir of St. Timothy's Evangelical Lutheran Mission, Havelock, will present a program of Christmas music at 7 p.m. Sunday at the church.

They will sing carols from the Service Book and Hymnal, the Magnificat, and He Shall Feed His Flock from the Messiah. Children are asked to bring one or two Christmas ornaments to place on the Christmas tree in the church.

Sunday School in the morning will begin at 9:45, followed by worship at 11. The Rev. Aaron Lippard will speak on the topic, God's Highway.

The sermonette for children will be Mirrors and What They Say.

Scout Executive Writes Upon Leaving Carteret

Retiring as Scout executive, Boy Scouts of America, in the Carteret district, Rudolph Alexander has written an open letter to the people of the county.

His letter follows:
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
East Carolina Council, Inc. (438)
Wilson, North Carolina

Dec. 2, 1958
It has been my privilege to serve as the District Scout Executive for the Boy Scouts of America in Carteret District during the past three years. During that time the Scouting program has grown and of this I am certainly proud. I should like to take this opportunity to ex-

press to those who have made this record growth possible my appreciation for the wonderful cooperation that they have given me.

First I want to thank THE NEWS-TIMES and the Radio Stations for the wonderful coverage that each has given the many Scouting activities that have happened in the district in the last three years. Through your efforts the public has been made aware of the contribution that Scouting is making towards citizenship training and physical fitness training in the lives of the boys in this district.

I want to thank the many people who have contributed finan-

cially to our Boy Scout finance campaigns over the years. Through your support Scouting has been able to grow and to reach more boys with a better program. I sincerely trust that financial support from each who has supported Scouting in the past will be given in the future.

I trust that many more will recognize the place that Scouting has in the development of a boy, and through their contributions help make the program available to more and more boys. Without your support Scouting cannot grow.

Last, but by no means not least, I want to express my appreciation to the Scouters of Carteret County for the wonderful support each has given me and to recognize each man and woman for the efforts being put forth in this program for the boys of Carteret County. I certainly believe that there are no finer Scouters in any district

in any council than are working today in Carteret.

I trust that more and more parents will recognize the value of Scouting and their responsibility in making this program happen in the lives of their boys. With more active participation and support of parents the program will greatly improve.

On Dec. 1 I began my new duties as district executive of Pitt District, also part of the East Carolina Council. My good wishes are extended to all of the Scouts, Cubs, and Explorers in Carteret County and I trust that each will continue to have enjoyable and beneficial experiences in Scouting activities.

Sincerely yours,
Rudolph Alexander

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