



THE ERWIN CHATTER

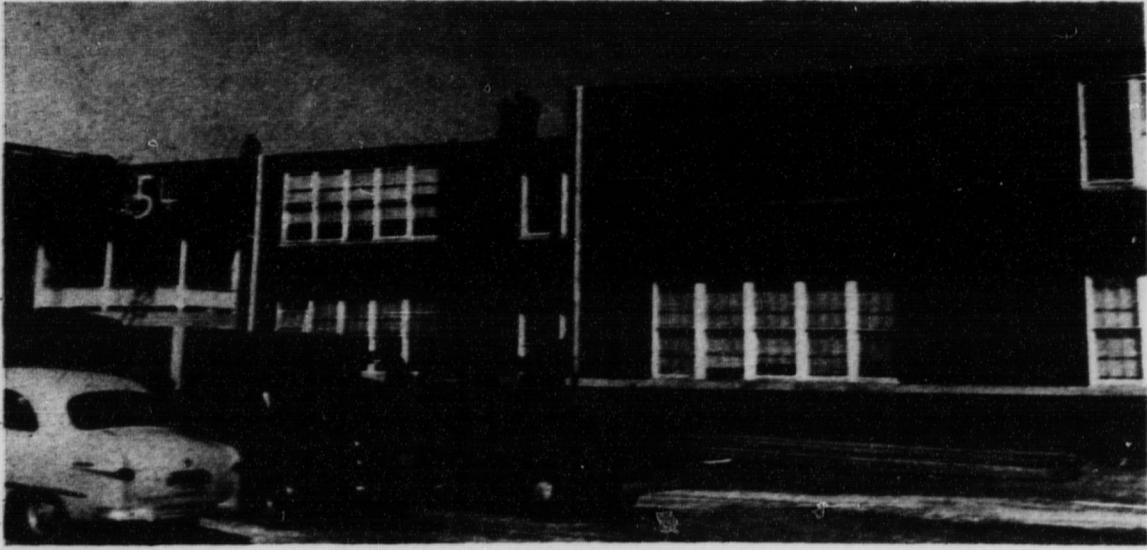


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MARCH CAME IN (TO ERWIN) LIKE A LION

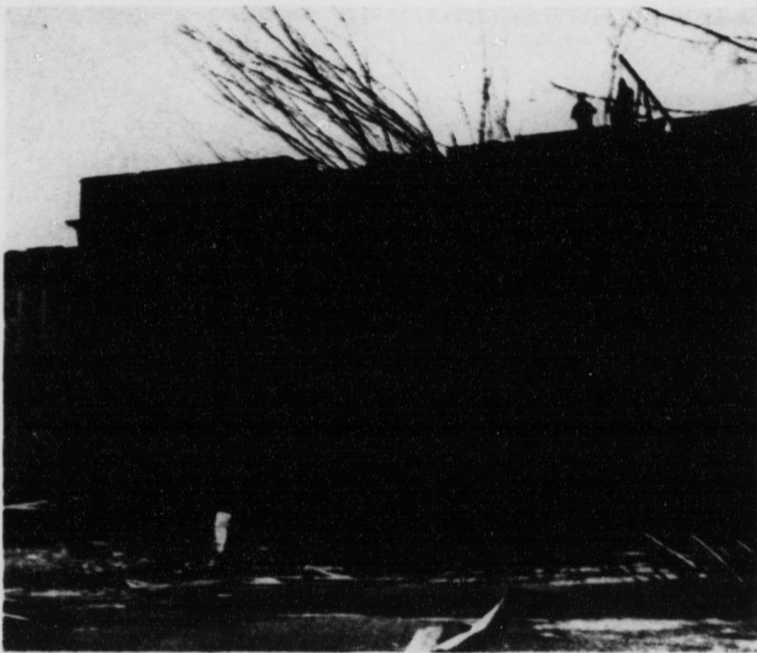


March winds struck the southeastern end of the Erwin High School smashing windows and ripping the roof from over 12 classrooms. Damage was estimated at \$10,000.

"Roofs Blows Off Erwin High School As Town Hit By Severe March Winds

March roared into the town of Erwin and unroofed a section of the Erwin High School. An estimated \$10,000 damage was done to the building as the hurricane-like winds hit at 3:00 A.M., Monday morning, March 1.

No classes were held Monday and Tuesday, March 1 and 2, but were resumed on March 3. Then the classes were held in such places as the Lunch Room, the Library, Gymnasium and Auditorium. Classes ran straight through with no time out for the usual lunch period until the regular schedule began again on March 10.



A section of the roof of the Erwin High School which flew over the side of the building. Damage to furniture and text books was light.

Erwin Methodist Church Has Golden Anniversary

Originally organized as the Duke Methodist Episcopal Church South, Erwin's Methodist Church proudly observed its 50th anniversary last month. The Golden Anniversary celebration lasted a week during which time there was a renewal of family, friendly and spiritual ties.

E. S. Yarbrough of Durham who was one of Erwin's pioneer citizens and a charter member of the church, gave the early history. Former pastors preached in the evening services held during that week. Those who came back to take part in the program were Rev. W. L. Maness, 1916-17; Rev. J. J. Boone, 1926-31; Rev. E. G. Purcell, Jr., the only young man to enter the Methodist Ministry from Erwin; Rev. O. K. Ingram, 1946-50; and Rev. I. S. Richmond, 1937-40. Sunday was the final day of the observance and was a real homecoming. After the morning sermon by the present pastor, the Rev. D. A. Petty, a picnic dinner was served in the basement of the Education Building. Following the dinner a Fellowship Hour climaxed the week's activities.

Early History Links Mill and Church

When the town of Duke was established in 1903, Sunday School and church services were held jointly by all denominations. In 1904 the Methodist Conference recognized the need for an organized church and formed a circuit of five churches, taking Duke in with An-

gier, Benson, Pleasant Plains and Elevation.

The first sermon of the Duke church was preached by Rev. W. A. Forbes in the Picker Room of the No. 2 Mill in February, 1904. In the summer of 1904 actual work was started on the building of the church. Erwin Mills gave the church a lot 100 feet square and \$100. B. N. Duke supplemented this with a gift of \$500.

The first services held in the church building were in September, 1905.

How to Raise \$155

E. S. Yarbrough recalls this story of how B. N. Duke helped paint the inside of the church. It seems that Mr. Duke had contributed a total of \$1,000 towards the church building fund, but when he came to Duke for a visit in 1906, he observed that the inside of the church was not painted. Learning from Mr. Yarbrough that it would cost \$155 to paint, and that the church did not have the money, Mr. Duke turned to his eleven visitors at the dinner table and said, "Put down Buck, \$25.00 (that was his brother, J. B. Duke); put down Bill Erwin, \$10.00; Jim Southgate, \$10.00; Billy O'Brian, \$10.00," and thus he went around the table. When he finished he lacked \$15. "Put Buck down \$40.00 and that will paint your church inside." Next week checks amounting to \$155 were received.

M. J. Wise, Jr. Resigns Post

James L. Williams from Burlington Mills to Join Our Company in May

The resignation of Marion J. Wise, Jr., recently appointed Director of Industrial Relations, was announced on March 14. Mr. Wise came to Erwin Mills in May 1953 as assistant to Dr. Frank T. Devyver, Vice-president in charge of Personnel and Industrial Relations.

With some rearrangement of duties, the position of Director of Industrial Relations will be taken over by James L. Williams. Mr. Williams has been with Burlington Mills for the past 17 years and is a native of Goldsboro. He will assume his new duties with our Company on May 2.

Plans Dropped To Merge Mills 6 & 4

Proposed plans for moving our No. 6 Mill from Trinity Avenue to West Durham have been dropped. According to President Ruffin, "we do not now plan to move No. 6 Mill's machinery to West Durham as once contemplated. Our plans are to continue its operation in its present location."

Over a year ago, Company officials announced the proposed move. No. 6 Mill is the former Pearl Cotton Mill purchased by our Company in 1932. It has been producing percale sheeting since 1950.

A REPORT TO ALL EMPLOYEES

By W. H. Ruffin, President

You saw from copy of our Company's annual report for our fiscal year ended September 30 that we were fortunate enough counting all our mills to make some profit. The profit may have looked good, but when it is compared with the size of our sales, approximately \$70,000,000 for the year, it figures out only 2.3%, which is really thin ice on which to skate.

I feel that I should tell you that since September 30, prices for textile products have become just about as completely demoralized as I have ever seen them, worse in that respect than the depression of the '30's. Fortunately, however, in spite of the bad prices, people have continued to buy textile products and with the exception of Cooleemee, we have been able to run our mills fairly full. This is especially true for our Durham operations in spite of the fact that, frankly, we have lost considerably more than one million dollars in our Durham mills in the past fourteen months. I do not want our Durham people to be discouraged at that statement, however, as we are determined to make a go of our Durham operations.

Today, I am sure that, counting in all of our mills, our Company is operating at a loss. It means that throughout all of our mills we must make the very best quality possible, and at the lowest possible cost. It means that we must save in every way we possibly can. I earnestly ask your cooperation both in your own interest and that of your job, as well as in the interest of our Company.

Short time is very bad, both for you and for our Company. Our costs go up fast when we curtail. Times are very uncertain but we will run our mills just as full as we can.

Sincerely yours,
William H. Ruffin,
President

Chatter Discontinued With This Issue

I am sure that all of us enjoy reading THE ERWIN CHATTER. I regret to tell you that due to the hard times and our need of reducing all possible costs, we have felt it necessary to discontinue THE ERWIN CHATTER at least temporarily.

Wm. H. Ruffin,
President

"If You Were Manager" Question Gets Answers

F. M. McDonald, Superintendent of Plant 7 in Neuse, asked his employees this question:

If you were manager of the plant what would you do to get better material to sell, and higher production, so that the mill might run five days?

Here are the ten best answers he received.

- I think every man should stay on his job and look after it the best he can.—Woodrow Branch, Card Room.
- We think this mill could run three shifts, five days a week if all people who work here would try to observe the Golden Rule.—Ethel Lowery and Eleanor Kelly, Cloth Room.
- Honest teamwork.—Luther Johnson, Card Room.
- If everyone would do their job as if they had to run every job in the mill.—Lavian McReath, Spinning Room.
- For everyone to be more careful and make less mistakes.—Georgia and Maude, Weave Room.
- Train the weavers and get some oom fixers.—Unknown, Weave Room.
- Let every hand do their very best and if they don't do it, get someone that will.—Rufus Woody, Card Room.
- I think we need better cooperation and better material.—Britton Lowery, Weave Room.
- Stop all others, other than weavers, from starting looms. Cleaners and sweepers should not start looms with broken filling. Too many of them don't care about broken picks.—M. E. Cannup, Weave Room.
- Hire some help. Teach them their jobs and keep them on this job so they can learn everything about it.—Ed Brown, Slasher.



Nobody Knows The Trouble I've Seen

Karen Moen and friend

Water Over The Falls Of Neuse

By Carl Greene

Boy Scout Troop 312 held their Father-Son Banquet on February 27. Forty-two fathers and sons were present.

Draw-in Room Moved

When the Cloth Room expanded, the Draw-in Room was taken over by the press that bales the cloth. The old supper house was not being used since we have smokers in the mill so it was fixed up and the Draw-in Room moved in.