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Circumstances didn't permit us to be in Raleigh on Halloween, when our two year old granddaughter took to the trick or treat circuit for the first time. Seeing her dresses as the tiniest Heidi ever would have been a joyful experience.

Fortunately, the night here in New Bern did have a bright spot. Elizabeth Henderson, 18 month old offspring of David and Lullie, showed up at our house as a cat, complete with tail.

She acted like a cat too, barging right in without ceremony the moment we opened the door. The two pieces of candy she accepted from us appeared to be secondary. Obviously, her main mission was to make a full inspection of our home, bathroom included.

After casing the joint, without the slightest hint of a smile on her face, she tried to return the candy to us. What prompted her to make this gesture is probably something we should not explore further.

Anyhow, she left as silently as she had arrived, joining her father and the older Henderson children, who in true trick or treat fashion had elected to remain outside. They tell us little Elizabeth has never seen a stranger. After what happened, count us among the believers.

Yesterday was when Miss Fannie Howerton kept the kids in the reading room at New Bern's Public Library so quiet you could have heard a mouse tiptoe across the carpeted floor. She wan't mean, but tolerated no foolishness.

Yesterday was when Sam Lipman knew every farm family in Craven County, and all of them wanted him to wait on them personally when they came to town on Saturday and traded at his department store on Middle street.

Yesterday was when the low ledge around Basnight's hardware establishment, where McLellan's is now, made a wonderful seat for Sunday afternoon loafers watching automobiles go by. The stories told there weren't pure enough to appear in church publications.

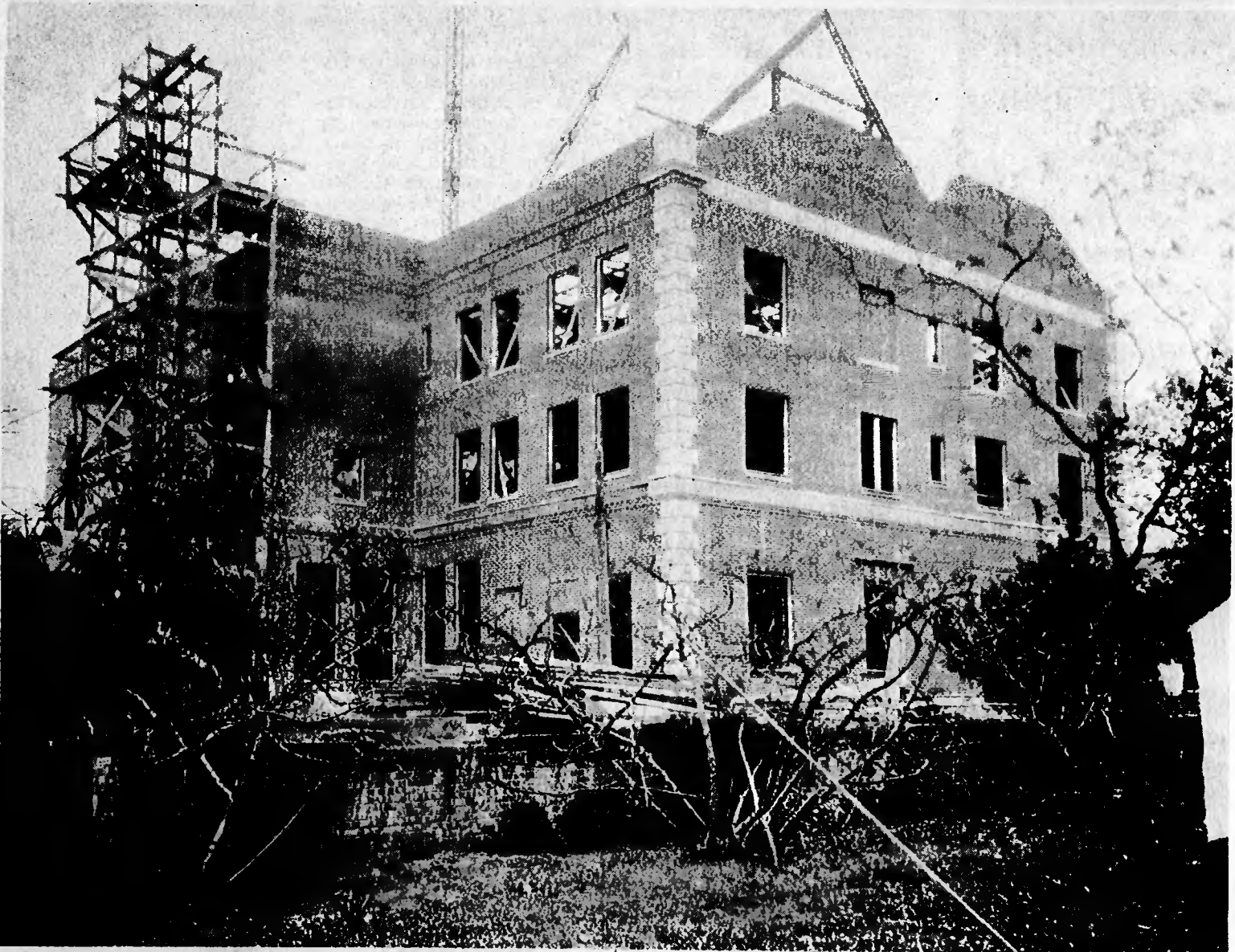
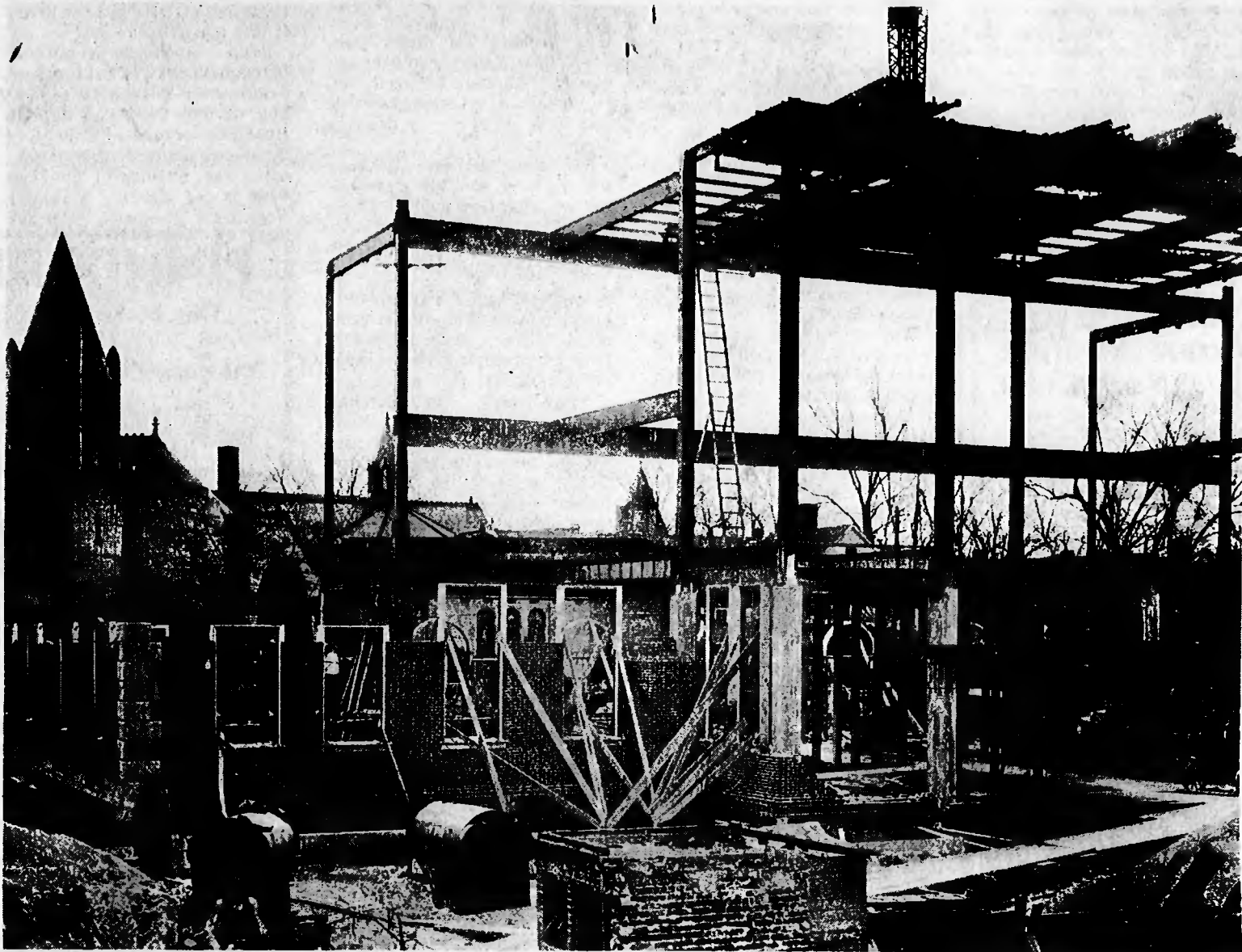
Yesterday was when John Tolson always sang a ballad or two in the annual Elks Minstrel at the Athen Theatre, and Garason Farrow and Jane Holland had the lead roles in locally produced Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde on the Masonic's stage.

Yesterday was when North Carolina didn't have a single commercial radio station, but on a good night you could get KDKA in Pittsburgh and WLW in Cincinnati as clear as a bell. Amos and Andy, Singing Sam, Little Jack Little, and Kate Smith, not to mention the Cremo Singer, Bing Crosby, had New Bernians captivated.

Yesterday was when the busiest player piano in town had to be the one in the Jesse F. Banks residence on upper Pollock street. Young people flocked there to enjoy a wide variety of tunes, including a mournful dirge inspired by an actual tragedy, "The Death of Floyd Collins."

Yesterday was when the best way to get to know a girl was to be her partner at a "candy

(Continued on Page 8)



BACKWARD GLANCE — The spire of Centenary Methodist Church in the top photograph should make identification of this construction scene easy for you. The date was March 1, 1934, and what you see is the early framework of New Bern's Federal (Post Office) building. Below is a view of the incomplete structure on May 1, 1934. In the foreground is a portion of the brick wall that surrounded the historic

John Wright Stanley home, transplanted to make room for the new building, and since moved from New Street to the Tryon Palace area on George Street. Will Rogers kidded New Bern in his nationally syndicated column for landing a post office grant that the humorist considered excessive for the town's size. He didn't live to see the time come when still more space was needed by various Federal agencies.