



NOT MUCH LEFT — The charred skeleton was about all left standing as firemen continued to fight the blaze of unknown origin which broke out early Saturday in the abandoned Mars Hill School at Trap, described as "one of the better buildings in

the Bertie County School system." Complaint to the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department the same day, brought FBI investigators into the picture.

Proof Of Arson Is Found At Mars Hill School Fire

By LAURA HARRELL

MARS HILL — While the Bertie Board of Education looks for ways to eliminate overcrowding at the C. G. White School, the Federal Bureau of Investigation continues to sift through the ashes of Mars Hill School.

Evidence of arson has been discovered, according to Bertie Sheriff Edward H. Daniels. He said oil or gas of some type had been poured on the floors. The newer section of the building, which included the auditorium, rest rooms, two classrooms and the cafeteria, did not burn but suffered smoke damage.

The Sheriff said the floor in that section was ruined by the heat. There was sign of some type

of inflammable liquid in the hall in the fire-proof portion of the building. A five-gallon oil can was found in the hall but the can had been badly burned.

Some of the materials from the building have been taken to Raleigh to be analyzed to determine the type of fuel used in the destructive blaze.

Investigating the fire are members of the Federal and State Bureaus of Investigation and the Arson Division of the State Insurance Commission.

Deputy Sheriff Dewey Swain was at the scene Saturday morning a short time after the fire was discovered by a route man who went to the home of the Rev. Earl Haynes, who notified the Trap Fire Department.

At the time of the fire, Sheriff Daniels indicated he would call in the State Bureau of Investigation and the Arson Department of the State Insurance Commission. It was learned that the Federal Bureau of Investigation entered the case when a complaint was filed with the civil rights division of the Justice Department by Joseph H. (Buddy) Tieger, Student Nonviolent Coordinating

Committee worker who has been living in the Mars Hill area several months.

Reached at her home by telephone Mrs. Tieger declined earlier this week to comment for "Your Home Newspaper." Mrs. Tieger was asked whether her husband had filed a complaint as a result of the fire. Mrs. Tieger would neither confirm nor deny the question.

Work was to have started this week on getting the abandoned building into shape for use by six grades from the overcrowded C. G. White School at Powellsville.

The Board of Education voted unanimously last week to use the building. County maintenance workers had a load of furniture ready to move in this week in preparation for the opening of the school on October 18.

On Tuesday Superintendent Dupree said the Board of Education is considering ways to relieve the overcrowding at C. G. White. The Board members talked Monday night about the possibility of using insurance money on the burned building to buy mobile units.

He added, however, that the use of insurance money will have to be presented to the Board of Commissioners for their approval.

Two men from the State Insurance Division were here Monday and inspected the building. While a building estimate is being prepared, an equipment list is also being compiled by the Superintendent.

The building was insured for \$97,000 and equipment was insured for \$8,000. It is believed that all the equipment insurance will be collectable but it is not known how much of the building amount will be received. Approximately two-thirds of the insurance was on the fire-proof portion that remains standing.

Sheriff Daniels said late Tuesday no arrests have been made and no leads have been found as to who may have been responsible for the fire.

The burned portion contained the boiler room, library, office

Mrs. Hattie Ward Dies At Age 88

RICH SQUARE — Mrs. Hattie Elliott Ward, 88, died last Thursday in a Wilson hospital.

A native of Northampton County she was daughter of Elias and Mrs. Julia Taylor Elliott and the widow of W. A. Ward, Sr.

She is survived by five sons, William A., Jr., and E. B., of Rich Square, Gilbert S., of the Air Force, Robert C., of Portsmouth and George Taylor, of Hampton; two daughters, Mrs. Marlon W. Beach of Robersonville and Mrs. Esther W. Lassiter of Roxobel; a brother, J. B. Elliott, of Rich Square; four sisters, Mrs. Lottie Elliott and Mrs. India Quinn of Rich Square, Mrs. Helen Lassiter of Conway and Mrs. Evelyn Martin of Jackson; and nine grandchildren.

A funeral service was held Sunday at 2 p.m. in Rich Square Methodist Church by the Rev. O. S. Williams and the Rev. Fred King. Burial was in Cedar Lawn Cemetery.

Say, "I saw it in The Times-News," please

Odom Funeral Held Sunday

WOODLAND — Mrs. Jennie Nelson Odom, 76, died Friday afternoon in a Rich Square nursing home.

A native of Northampton County she was a daughter of John and Mrs. Sallie Bridgers Nelson.

She is survived by a sister, Mrs. Sophie Askew, of Rich Square.

A funeral service was held Saturday at 3 p.m. in Woodland Cemetery by the Rev. W. E. Herbert.

The inside of furniture drawers should be sanded smooth and lacquered to prevent snagging and to make cleaning easier.

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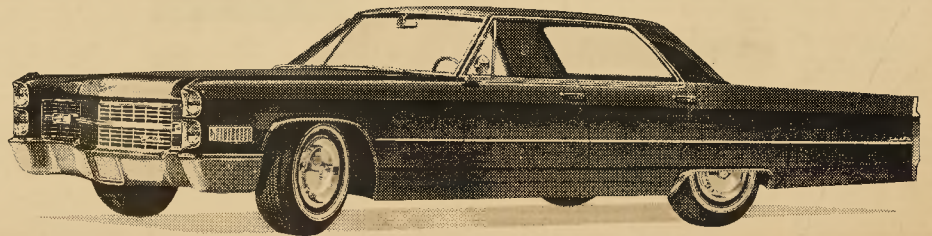
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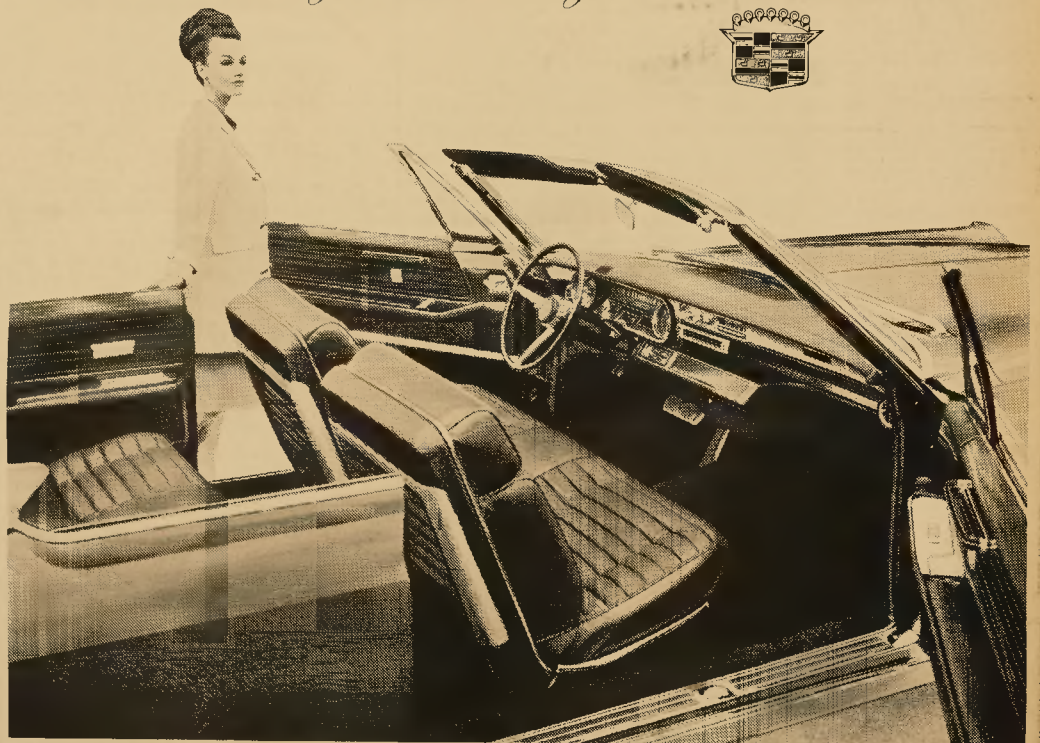
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