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ROCKINGHAM Post-Dispatch

SECTION ONE
14 PAGES TODAY

VOL. 36 No. 24 ROCKINGHAM, N. C., THURSDAY AFTERNOON APRIL 23, 1953 ISAAC S. LONDON, Editor

HISTORY OF ROCKINGHAM SCHOOLS

Dating from 1788 to the Year 1953.

THE L. J. BELL ELEMENTARY NEW BUILDING DEDICATED APRIL 12, 1953. BUILDING OPENED APRIL 10, 1952, COSTING \$475,000.

On April 10, 1952, the new \$475,000 school building was occupied by the 675 children of the first six grades from the old Grammar School. And one year after the occupancy, the building was formally accepted by the School Board, with impressive exercises held in the 684-seating capacity auditorium—this at 2:30 Sunday, April 12, 1953.

The building is named in honor of L. J. Bell who became Principal in 1902, was made Supt. in 1906 and resigned in 1948, succeeded by the present Supt. J. E. Huneycutt. Mr. Bell was present for the ceremonies, and was feted as the guest of honor. Also, honored was Miss Bessie Terry, who resigned as of June 2, 1953, as Principal, after having served as such since 1922 (and a teacher since 1914).

The exercises of dedication April 12, 1953, were attended by an impressive Pageant written by Supt. J. E. Huneycutt, and directed by Miss Geneva Beaver, director of public music in this school. Miss Beaver was ably assisted by the grade teachers and their pupils. Atty. Thomas Leath acted as Narrator, and read Mr. Huneycutt's script, and at certain portions or period, he paused and the pupils enacted or dramatized the proper parts.

More as a matter of timely record, the Post-Dispatch editor has himself compiled a History briefly of the school system of Rockingham, starting with the enabling Act of 1788 which established the Richmond Academy.

Mr. Huneycutt's script told "The Story of Education in Rockingham".

My sketch now revolves more with historical dates in connection therewith; so save this copy; it will prove even more interesting in the years to come.

CITY SCHOOLS-ROCKINGHAM

1788 to 1953

By Isaac S. London
Post-Dispatch
April 23, 1953

No written record exists of the first school taught in the baby town of Rockingham. The tiny town of Rockingham was authorized by the General Assembly on April 19, 1784, though the Act creating Richmond County was passed Feb. 1, 1779. We might digress just here to say that the county was named in honor of Charles Lenox, Duke of Richmond. The town of Rockingham was named in honor of that great and good friend of the Colonies, Charles Watson Wentworth, Marquis of Rockingham, who was Premier of England in 1765-'66, and again in 1781 and who died in 1782 at the age of 52. And while Rockingham was authorized April 19, 1784—and this date might be considered the Birth Date of our town, it was not until April 1, 1785, that the three Commissioners met and bought the fifty acres of land on which to lay out the new town. The original Map of the Lots is on file in the Court-house, dated July 16, 1788. We recently printed this Map—a most interesting document of 166 years ago.

The General Assembly of 1788 in Chapter 35 established the RICHMOND ACADEMY, and in doing so stated that "the establishing of an Academy in Richmond County for the education of Youth will be attended with great advantages to the State in general, and the County of Richmond (and Rockingham) in particular."

And so the foundation for our school system was laid in 1788.

Now for the first school.

The first Methodist congregation seems to have assembled in 1786 by two Circuit Riders Hope Hull and Jeremiah Mastin; and it is of record that in 1790 there was a small house known as "Night's Chapel" on the site where Judge Don Phillips house now stands, on Fayetteville Road. This Chapel evidently was built about 1787, because there was a deed dated October 15, 1788 wherein Benjamin Covington gave to the Richmond Academy one acre of land a certain distance from the southeast corner of the

(Continued on Page Four)

Enrollment 1953

In addition to a Superintendent and a grade Supervisor, the Rockingham schools as of April, 1953, has 57 white teachers and an enrollment of 1548; and 23 colored teachers with 665 enrollment.

In all, the total white and colored enrollment is 2213, with 80 teachers. Broken down, the enrollment for each school, and number of teachers, is:

White Schools:	
Great Falls	(6) — 156
Bell Elementary	(22) — 692
High School	(29) — 700
	57 — 1548
Colored Schools:	
Leak street	(20) — 603
Sandridge	(3) — 62
	23 — 665
Total enrollment	2213
Total teachers	80

On May 6, 1913 the Town voted 144 to 6 for a bond issue of \$20,000 to finish paying for the 1911 enlargement.

In November, 1951, the School Board sold to the Town 145x229 feet, the south side of the grammar school lot, for \$40,117.95. And on May 27, 1952, the Board held an auction for the grammar school lots and sold 92 feet fronting on Washington street by depth of 125 feet—32 feet to Druggist E. B. Bristow for \$525 per front foot totaling \$16,750; and 30x125 to Roy Shepard for \$400 a foot, or \$12,000; and on May 30, 1951, 30x125 to Roy Shepard at \$346 per foot, or \$10,380. This left the Board with a frontage of 122 feet yet to be sold.

(In 1947 the Board had Atty. W. S. Thomas and Thomas H. Leath draw up a Bill which the Legislature passed giving the Board full title to the grammar school land of 229x380.)

In 1940 a Voca-Agric-Gym building was erected on SW corner of high school lot, costing \$50,000 with 55% furnished by WPA funds. This dedicated March 14, 1941.

On Dec. 5, 1924, the high school football team won the State championship over Shelby 7-0 in football—at that time, no distinction as to size of schools or teams—no holds barred. Now in 1953 there are three groups—Class A, AA, AAA.

In 1901 colored school had J. H. Clement and Hattie Hasty as teachers.

In 1914 a Home Ec department was established in the high school, under Miss Sallie Boddie.

In 1921 the Voca-Agric department opened under J. B. (Shorty) Lawrence.

In 1929 the Commercial department got into operation briefly under Miss Grace Williams, and under Miss Edith Ivey until 1946.

OTHER CHANGES OFFICERS PAY

House Bill Changed to Let New Tax Collector Take Over Two Years Later. Sheriff's Salary Starts Dec. 1, 1954.

On April 1st Rep. James Pittman introduced House Bill No. 1054 setting a salary for the Sheriff, and creating the office of Tax Collector. On April 13th this Bill was returned to Mr. Pittman at his request, and on April 15th the following committee substitute was adopted.

The new bill as now to be passed consists of:

(1)—Provides that appointed tax collector shall take office on Sept. 1, 1955 (instead of 1953) and that sheriff shall continue to collect taxes until that time; (2) place sheriff on annual salary as of Dec. 1, 1954, except that tax collection fees and commissions are not to be turned into county except from and after Sept. 1, 1955; (3) authorize county commissioners, after Dec. 1, 1954, to fix number of employees necessary to operate jail and to fix their compensation; sheriff is to appoint employees; jail fees are to be turned into county general fund; and (4) authorize county commissioners to allow sheriff clerical assistants, to be appointed by sheriff and paid as directed by commissioners. April 16, passed House; April 17, received in Senate; sent to Counties, Cities and Towns.

HB 1055 — Introduced by Pittman, April 1 (CSG and register salaries) April 17, passed Senate.

HB 1056 — Introduced by Pittman, April 1 (Commissioners salaries) April 17, passed Senate.

HB 1092 — Introduced by Pittman, April 7 (Rewriting Hoffman charter) April 14, received in Senate; sent to Counties, Cities and Towns.

31 DEGREES

Coldest on Record Here for so Late in April.

The North and mid-west had much snow over the week-end; and at Rockingham the mercury touched the lowest on record for so late in April. The low reading was:

April 17	35
April 20	33
April 21	31
April 22	37
April 23	50

Draft Matters

At the suggestion of the State Board, to all the draft boards throughout North Carolina, the Richmond County Draft Board has adopted the following resolution—this strictly in conformity with the policy of all the other Boards.

RESOLVED, That the members of Local Board No. 78 Will not discuss the classification or selective service status of any registrant with the registrant's family, employer, dependent, or anyone else, except in the course of an official procedural appearance before, or interview with, the local board in regular session at its office located on third floor of the Post Office building.

Of course, the selectee himself can discuss his status with a member, whenever he wishes.

Slaughters' Spent Week-End

Spending last week-end here were Baxter and Bettie Slaughter, and Baxie and Isaac. Baxter is a pilot with the Piedmont Air Lines; they live at 6312 Darnell Drive, RFD 1, Norfolk, Va.

DEATHS

W. L. Capel
Atkinson Infant
Leon P. Reeves
Mrs. Luther Wilson
Mrs. Wm. F. Lampley
John Manning Huske

GIVE A PINT?

Blood Needed Friday. 300 Pints the Quota.

Immediately after the big train wreck near Dillon Monday night, a call came to the Blood Center at Charlotte for 600 pints; and within three hours the full amount had been sped to the victims, scattered in a dozen hospitals.

Such a drain on the blood bank means that it is URGENT that the supply be replenished. And the Center is looking to our people to do their part. No one knows when another crisis or emergency may arise, and even more blood is needed.

The Red Cross bloodmobile will be in Rockingham this Friday, April 24th, from 11 to 5 o'clock, and the quota is 300 pints! The Women's Civic Club is actively pushing the drive.

The bloodmobile was here in March—on March 24th, and 207 pints were given. But last Nov. 24th only 129 pints resulted. It is no pleasant task to ding-dong after folks to give a pint; but the need is great—and after all, one never knows when the giver may have to be the RECEIVER! A wonderful fluid, is blood; can't get along without it. And the Great Mother, the Red Cross, is urging you to give—to give that others might live.

The bloodbank is here this Friday, from 11 to 5. And the Community Building is the place.

Marriages

Marriage licenses issued in Richmond county:

April 18—Len Wood Spencer, 41, Mrs. Lillian Johnson Friend, both of Hamlet.

Addresses

Dorsey Dixon Sr.
530 S. Bond street
Baltimore, Md.

Mrs. Marvin G. Perry
(Louise Corpening)
Box 1347
Rockdale, Texas

Mrs. Douglas Spiers
1123 3rd street, NE
Washington (2), D. C.

Civitan's Breakfast

The Civitan Club has pledged \$1500 for support of the high school band for the ensuing year. That is a man's size pledge—and to help raise that fund, the Civitans put in a breakfast two mornings this week.

The men did the cooking and serving. The Presbyterians kindly loaned the club the facilities of their church basement dining room. The "cooks" were Johnny Patterson, Watt Long and Jim Blount. Head-waiter was O. L. O'Brien, with Ed Hurst as his chief trouble-shooter.

The meals were served Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 7 to 10; and over 600 persons were served—at \$1 per plate.

Lions Selling Brooms

The Lions club are this week in the midst of their annual broom sale—these made by the blind and the funds for the club's blind work. Koy Dawkins is chairman of the program—but then any Lion will be glad to have your order.

School Debates

Rockingham high sends its negative debating team to the University April 30-May 1 for the finals in the annual tri-ang debate. This team consists of Shirley Dixon and Mary Jo Ingalls.

This team had won over Hamlet at Lumberton March 27th, and then on April 16th they won in the district competition at Flora Macdonald college, and thereby won the right to go on to the finals at Chapel Hill.

Our affirmative team of Edward Osteen and Barbara McDonald missed by a narrow margin of winning over Clinton.

Daylight Savings

New York and many cities up North and mid-west go on Daylight Savings Time this Sunday, April 26th, at 12:01 a. m. Radio programs will be affected. DST is simply setting the clock ahead an hour.

MANY EXAMINED

Large Group to Charlotte April 21 for Examination. Another Group April 28.

On April 21st the Draft Board sent 63 selectees to Charlotte for their pre-induction examination. Of this number, 24 were colored, 39 white. Their ages were mostly between Aug. 9, 1933, and Jan. 16, 1934. 6 of the colored selectees passed, and 33 white men passed.

On April 28th another group will be examined, these born between Jan. 16, 1934, and April 1, 1934. It is hoped to get perhaps 25 out of this age group—many who would otherwise be examined April 28th are in school and automatically delayed until June examination.

There is a call for thirty men for examination for May 13th, all born in April, 1934; but most of them are school boys and will not be touched until June. And so the May call very probably will have to be cancelled.

On May 21st ten men will be inducted, these having been examined on March 16th.

63 Examined April 21, 1953

Earl Junior Allen	12-21-33
Roosevelt Armstrong	col 8-31-33
Harvey Donald Auman	9- 5-33
Wm. D. Brewington, col	8-16-33
Donald Herman Benoist	8-21-33
Willie Lee Boyd, col	8-10-33
Manly Brigman Jr.	8-26-33
George Brower, col.	12-12-33
Floyd R. Campbell	11-16-33
James E. Campbell, col	1-11-34
Glenn Edward Carter	10- 2-33
Boyer Legrand Caulder	11- 7-33
William Craven Coleman	9-26-33
Bonnie A. Craven Jr.	1-14-34
William Frank Currie	12-30-33
John R. Davidson	8-23-33
Olra Raverall Griegs	8-18-33
Nathan Kager Grant	11-13-33
Elvin Anerson Greene	10-24-33
James Curtis Green, col.	10-22-33
Edward Bryant Guinn	3- 4-34
Frank David Hardee	11-13-33
Mitchell Glenn Hargett	11-10-33
Robert Hoover	9-12-33
Fred Matthew Hudson	12-31-33
Archie Ingram Jr. col	8-29-33
James Johnson, col.	12-18-33
Charlie Jones, col.	12-24-29
John Bennit Jones, col.	12- 9-33
Lonnie Kiker Jr.	9- 2-33
Billy Garrett Martin	10-31-33
Donald Arnett Martin	12-17-33
Thomas N. McDuffie	1-14-34
Colman McKoy, col.	11-19-33
Melvin Lloyd Monroe Jr	10-11-33
Ira Lewis Nicholson	col 9-10-33
Lorenzo Nicholson, col.	11- 1-33
Bobby Lynwood Parker	11-16-33
Clarence Patterson, col.	12-23-33
Alexander Patterson, col.	1- 6-34
Reuben Jay Pierce Jr.	9-18-33
William S. Ransom	11- 1-33
James Boyce Rainwater	9-25-33
Athos Lee Richardson	11-11-33
Jesse Robinson, col	8-25-33
James Albert Roller	9- 6-33
Johnny T. Shelton	8-11-33
Edward Singletary	12-30-33
William Neal Sledge, col	10-11-33
Hampton Stroman, col	9-28-33
Roosevelt Swinnie, col.	10-14-33
Thomas L. Sweatt	11-25-33
Richard Arnold Tolley	10-22-33
Lynwood Wall, col.	1-16-34
Lester Bee Wall, col.	10-11-33
Edward Warner Jr.	9-29-33
Joncie Watkins col	9- 8-33
Robert Wallace, col.	12- 2-33
Jimmy F. Webster	12-2-33
Allison B. Wiggins	8- 9-33
Thomas Franklin West	11-28-33
George Zimmerman col	9-12-33

Willie Capel

W. L. Capel died at 7:45 this Thursday morning in the Hamlet hospital after a long illness. He had lived in Rowland for a number of years but more recently at the home place with his sisters, Misses Laura and (Continued on Page Two)

University Educa. Foundation

A joint meeting of the University alumni of Richmond and Scotland counties will be held at 7:00 Wednesday night, April 29, for a "dutch" supper at the Shady Rest restaurant on Highway 15-A just south of Laurinburg. The "Foundation" will be discussed. Every alumnus urged to attend. You might notify Hal B. Ingram of Hamlet so he can reserve plate for you.

JUNIOR LEGION BASEBALL WEEK

Mayor Issues Proclamation.

Citizens Urged to Support the Legion Ball Team for its 1953 Season of Summer Play.

WHEREAS the National Organization of the American Legion has for many years initiated American Legion Junior Baseball; and

WHEREAS the purpose of Legion Junior Baseball is to create, stimulate and instill into boys the elements of good citizenship and character; and

WHEREAS Legion Junior Baseball affords to our boys a fine, clean sport in which to participate during the summer months under capable and Christian coaches; and

WHEREAS it is the duty of all citizens to sponsor and support any activity which builds better men for our future citizenship; and

WHEREAS local Post No. 147 of the American Legion will endeavor to sponsor a Legion Junior Baseball team this summer;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Raymond W. Marks, Mayor of the City of Rockingham, do hereby proclaim the week beginning April 27, 1953 as American Legion Junior Baseball week in Rockingham, and request that all citizens support this fine endeavor which gives our boys the opportunity to engage in our National past-time.

Signed in the Mayor's Office in Rockingham, North Carolina, on this April 20, 1953.

Raymond W. Marks
Mayor of the City of Rockingham

A VERY TAME PRIMARY BUT A BITTERLY HOT BOND ELECTION

Wm. H. Entwistle Nominated for Mayor.

Only Ten Candidates Town Commissioners with Five Men to be Selected. Very Little Interest in the Outcome — All Good Men.

BUT MAY 5TH ELECTION ON MATTER OF \$175,000 BONDS TO ENLARGE WATER PLANT PRIMARILY TO FURNISH WATER-OUT-OF-TOWN CONSUMERS IS AROUSING BITTER FIGHT FOR TOWN VOTERS.

745 Voters Registered in Town Limits. Ought to be 1500. 31 Voters Who Were Here in 1950 Have Transferred to Out-of-Town. Is Our Town Shrinking Up? Bond Advocates Say the Issuance of Bonds Will Mean a Stimulus to New Growth. Opponents Say There is No Assurance But That the Town Tax-Payers Will Have to Pay the Bill.

Rockingham is without doubt the biggest business and trading center of any town in this section of the Carolinas. But one would never guess it by the CENSUS figures.

The 1950 census says there were 3356 people living INSIDE the Town; but we all know that within four miles from the center of town, there are over 15,000 people! One can scarcely tell when he leaves the town limits or when he enters—so closely knit are the out-lying areas. Much of it ought to be in Town. And those living outside the Town are charged with trying to enjoy the Town benefits without any of the expense.

And therein is the rub about this bond election. On May 5th the voters INSIDE the Town are to vote on whether they are willing to saddle \$175,000 worth of bonds on themselves when primarily the greater benefit may accrue to those living outside the limits—this the contention of the opponents.

The plan is to enlarge the water plant, the pumping facilities, run a pipe line from Hitchcock Creek to Falling Creek and otherwise expand the water system so that it can adequately furnish water to hundreds, and eventually thousands, living close by who want water and are willing to pay a higher rate to get it.

The proponents of the bond issue say the higher water rates to those OUTSIDE Town (80c per M gallons) will bring in around \$10,000 ADDITIONAL revenue each year, and that this will be applied on the principal and interest of the bond issue and in the 30-year period liquidate the issue. And that the people inside Town will not be taxed one cent to float the issue. And that Rockingham will be the gainer in good-will and in the growth of the outlying areas—vital factors in the business life here.

On the other hand, opponents insist there is no assurance but that some future Board of Commissioners could lower the water rates, or levy a bond tax; because in the final analysis IT IS THE TOWN PROPERTY THAT GUARANTEES AND STANDS BACK OF THE \$175,000 IN (Continued on Page Two)

TOWN PRIMARY

Monday, April 27

COMMISSIONERS: (Vote for five)

- Dewey Coleman
- John W. Covington Jr.
- Carl Cox
- Dr. T. Boyce Henry
- Ed. Kennedy
- Herman Seawell
- Roy Shepard
- W. A. Slaughter
- Scott Thomas
- W. A. Vick

SCHOOL BOARD: (2-yr.-term, vote for one)

- Walter Pope
- Tom Wheeler

Motorcycle Crash

Mickey King, 22, whose father is connected with the Stevens woolen mill, is in Memorial hospital in Charlotte in a critical condition. He was riding his motorcycle about 2:30 p. m. April 17th going west on Washington street. A car driven by Carl Dunn had stopped against the curb almost in front of the old Ford building in Great Falls village. The motorcycle crashed into the rear of the car, throwing Mickey to the street. He was carried to our Memorial hospital and given first aid; it was found his leg was broken in several places. He was then carried by ambulance to Memorial in Charlotte. After the leg was set, it was found that he had suffered a possible clot on the brain, and is now in a critical condition.

Rocks Rock 'Em

Rockingham high won its seventh ball game of the season here Tuesday afternoon by 15-2 behind the 3-hit pitching of Ken Covington. Dick Jones had a homer, double and single; while Bobby Goodman lined a double and two singles.

A.C.L. Train Wreck

Four were killed and 125 injured when the 17-car "Champion" stream-liner of the A.C.L. Ry. wrecked 2 miles south of Dillon a few minutes after midnight Tuesday morning.

Chairman W. G. Pittman reports a total of \$30,094 in Series E and H Savings bonds bought in Richmond county during the month of March.