

## Berkeley School, Disgrace To County, To Be Replaced

### And Not A Minute Too Soon; Ramshackle Building Condemned 12 Years Ago; 319 Children In Firetrap

By Valerie Nicholson  
Steps toward fulfillment of a 12-year - old obligation of the county were taken by the board of education meeting at Carthage Monday, when contracts were let for the building of a new Negro school for the Aberdeen district, replacing the old Berkeley School building condemned in 1936.

Work is due to begin on the building Monday, August 16, and it is to be ready for use by September, 1949. Here's hoping that the old building holds up that long.

If disaster occurs at the old firetrap before that time, not only the commissioners but many others should be held responsible: everyone who has pressured the commissioners too much with other demands, and to keep taxes at a minimum.

Dan Farrell, chairman of the board of education, says that each year the request for a new school for Berkeley has been placed before the commissioners. Each year it has been postponed, until now.

Plans have been made to finance it now with proceeds of the \$375,000 bond issue to be voted on by the county August 24; but whether the vote is affirmative or not, all concerned have agreed that the Berkeley school is to be built this year.

However, defeat of the bond issue would delay indefinitely the county's school building program as a whole. We have other firetraps, other obsolete buildings filled with hazards to health and safety of our children, white and colored.

At the Berkeley school, built some years ago with a shed-type addition built later onto the back, 319 children were taught last year in a two-story frame structure which once was painted white.

In the whole building of eight classrooms, auditorium and office there are only two lights—naked bulbs depending on long cords from high ceilings lost in gloom.

The heating system consists of old-fashioned coal stoves, placed generally in the middle of a room with a long rusty stovepipe snaking up and across for what looks like miles. Upstairs, the floors sagged so dangerously under the weight of these stoves that they had to be propped by timbers from beneath. The floors still sag, are full of cracks, worn and splintery.

A dark auditorium upstairs, from which three dismal classrooms open, is no longer used as such as it has no heat at all. However, a class is held there. A stove was formerly used but its pipe had to run through a flue between inside walls, which was considered too hazardous.

Open to Weather  
The heat problem is not helped any by the fact that a great many of the windowlights, in some cases a whole half window, are out, and were, all last winter; the frames of the high old windows and doors do not fit, and around some an inch of space is visible.

Children had to come to this school last year bundled up from head to toe in coats and sweaters, which they kept on all day long. Some rooms are worse than others, and the children must dress accordingly. One elementary classroom is reported impossible to heat at all, by any means.

Old-fashioned desks, many of the double-type long since outmoded, are used, and blackboards are old, faint and scarred, attached without frames to the walls. In one room in the shed annex, according to Principal H. L. Bryant, the ceiling waves in a high wind. "The children told me so but I didn't believe it," he said, "until one day I was teaching in there and looked up and sure enough—it waved."

Rotten Timbers  
The front entrance is a double-door garage or stable arrangement. Outside the clapboards may be pulled from their loose, rusty nails at the lightest touch. Pull out an end of one, and you can pick out the rotten timber beneath with your fingernail.

You may also pull out with ease the bricks of the underpinning, which rest directly on the none-too-even ground. A number of the bricks have fallen out and what holds the old building up is impossible to say.

One Faucet  
One lone outdoor faucet is the school's entire plumbing system, for drinking-water and the washing of small hands and faces. At some distance stand two ancient-looking "Chic Sales," one for boys, the other for girls.

The school has three fire-escapes, one of wood and two metal, and Principal Bryant says the children can clear the place in 45 seconds—and a good thing that is so.

Are there any more like this in Moore county? If so, it should be told.

## Voters Sign Here To Get Dixiecrat Party On Ballot

### But All In Vain: Lists Are Rejected

Thursday's report on the "Dixiecrat" bid for official recognition in North Carolina: It was rejected by the state board of elections on the grounds that procedural regulations had not been complied with.

Co-Chairmen Philip S. Finn, Jr., and David Clark, announcing a total of 18,661 names, said they would file suit. They said there had been no time to check them against registration lists, but they felt sure they had the required 10,000 qualified voters.

More than 300 names were secured on petitions to get the States' Rights party on the presidential ballot, in just a few hours of standing outside the postoffice last Friday and Saturday, said Mrs. Ruth W. Swisher, who had undertaken circulation of the petitions here.

She sent off the petitions in three packages as fast as they were filled, on Saturday, Sunday and again on Monday. The last package, Mrs. Swisher said, she is not sure would reach the "Dixiecrat" state headquarters at Greensboro in time to be checked and counted, and delivered to the state board of elections at Raleigh by Tuesday midnight.

With the state headquarters and skeleton organization set up in haste last week, speed was essential. (Continued on Page 8)

## Low Bids Listed For New Berkeley School Building

Low bids for the Berkeley school, for which contracts were awarded Monday, in the Aberdeen district, totaled \$90,186.72.

General contract was awarded to O. W. Godwin, of Dunn, \$77,790; heating, the William Wiggins company, Wilson, \$9,589; electrical, Piedmont Electric company, High Point, \$2,807.92.

Plans call for a one-story brick building on the same site as the present building, with 15 classrooms, science laboratory, library, home economics room, cloakrooms and office.

Bids were considerably under the \$125,000 estimated for the building. However, it was pointed out by C. E. Savage, of the office of Frank B. Simpson, of Raleigh, school architect, that plumbing (Continued on Page 8)

## No, No, Lady, You're Wrong!

Thanks to Miss Arnetta Crist, of Rexmont, Pa., for saying nice things about our town—but lady, lady, it's in NORTH, not South Carolina!

The Chamber of Commerce and Acting Postmaster A. Garland Pierce have set her right by now, and we'll do our bit with this story.

To "Postmaster, Southern Pines, S. C." last week came a letter from Miss Crist: "Dear sir, Several weeks ago, while driving to Alabama, I visited your beautiful town. Because it is the prettiest town I've seen in a long while I made a mental note to sometime pay a return visit, and, accordingly, thought it was located in South Carolina. Recently, while engaged in conversation with a friend we had quite an

argument, my friend insisting it was located in North Carolina. He has golfed quite frequently at Pinehurst, which probably is in North Carolina. If I am correct that Southern Pines is in South Carolina will you kindly forward the enclosed envelope. Thank you very much!"

Though Southern Pines does not fill her requirement Postmaster Pierce sent on the enclosed letter to her friend, bearing its North Carolina postmark. Miss Crist's letter has been turned over to Tom Wicker, Chamber of Commerce secretary, who is sending her an assortment of literature guaranteed to set her right.

We hope she keeps her word to come back and visit us sometime. We'd like to give her a real southern welcome—down here in NORTH Carolina!

## Moore, Recently Epidemic-Ridden, Sees Full Week Pass Without Polio

### MAIL TIME

A change in the times of evening collections of outgoing mail was announced this week by Acting Postmaster A. Garland Pierce. Effective immediately, closing time for both northbound and southbound mail will be 9 instead of 9:30 p. m.; and for the earlier northbound, 7 instead of 7:30.

### Two Belated Reports Bring Total To 55

For the first time in two and a half months, The Pilot goes to press with a report from the county health office of a whole week free of new polio in Moore.

Two cases were belatedly reported, however, according to Dr. J. W. Wilcox, county health officer, bringing the county's total for the year to 55.

One of these was Donald Kennedy, two-year-old Negro child, the son of Viola Kennedy of Eagle Springs RFD. Donald was taken sick about three weeks ago. His case was called to the attention of a physician only last week and he was taken Thursday, July 29, to the Good Samaritan hospital at Charlotte.

It was also found that Nicky Slack, 20 months old, son of Mr. and Mrs. Newman Slack of Robbins, had contracted polio in June. The case was a light one and by the time it reached attention of the authorities Nicky was said to be well on the way to recovery, with no hospital treatment required. He is, however, being kept under observation at his home.

Though Moore county, rated an epidemic area for three months, seems now to have left the epidemic stage behind, polio incidence is still heavy in the state and Dr. Wilcox says the quarantine will remain in effect here, probably through August.

He said he hoped conditions would justify its lifting in time for school.

### Spraying Will End

DDT-spraying throughout the county is expected to be concluded within a week. Through the work of several handsprayer teams, and "fogging" by truck in several communities, practically all homes in the county are believed to have had the benefit of this great weapon against insect pests.

said Paul C. Butler, chairman of the county chapter of the National Infantile Paralysis Foundation.

Householders who have been missed by accident, and who would like to have their homes and grounds sprayed are asked to notify Edgar Hancock, of Aberdeen, who heads this program in the county. In and around Southern Pines they may notify A. C. Dawson.

### Auction Sale

A highly successful auction sale was held at Carthage last Friday evening, sponsored by the Carthage Jaycees, who as a result sent a check for more than \$1,300 to Greensboro for the building fund of the Central Carolina Polio hospital. An excellent variety of produce and merchandise donated to the cause was auctioned. Auctioneers were the famous Goldston Brothers of Sanford, who contributed their services and truck.

### REGISTRATION

Registration for the \$375,000 school bond issue for the Aberdeen district, to be voted on by the county electorate August 24, will be held at the Community building this Saturday and next. This is not a new registration, but only for qualified voters not now on the books.

## VFW District Convenes Here Saturday; State Officials Expected

### HELP WANTED!

A request that individuals or organizations here submit to him nominations for a tenant group representative for the local rent advisory board, was issued this week by Robert S. Cromartie, area rent director, Fayetteville.

The board now has a landlord representative and three public-interest representatives. It should be a five-man board, he said, with a tenant representative in addition, one who can effectively represent the viewpoints, problems and needs of tenants.

Functions of the board include recommendations concerning any changes in the general rent level, removal of rent control and cooperation with the area office in handling individual adjustment cases in the Southern Pines defense-rental area. Several names are wanted, to be submitted to Washington, D. C., for selection by the housing expediter of a suitable member as required by the Housing and Rent act of 1948.

## Motorcyclists At Lakeview For Weekend Outing

Things are going to be lively around here this weekend, with some 500 motorcycle riders expected to arrive Saturday afternoon and remain through Sunday for their big annual outing, to be held this year at Lakeview.

They are the members of the Motorcycle Dealers of North Carolina, a unit of the American Motorcycle association, and they not only deal in motorcycles, they ride them, too.

They will bring their own food and equipment for outdoor cooking. Plans have been made for a big wiener roast Saturday night and chicken dinner Sunday on the grounds of the Hotel Lakeview, according to E. C. Vaughn, of Winston-Salem, who is co-chairman of the event with W. V. Scott, of Greensboro.

Some will stay at the Hotel Lakeview Saturday night, while others will scatter off to Southern Pines, Vass, Sanford and other places in the vicinity, returning to Lakeview Sunday morning for their big stunt-riding exhibition.

The state's best motorcyclists and trick riders are expected to be present, and will compete for handsome prizes. The contests will begin around 10 a. m. Though they are not planned as a public exhibit, Mr. Vaughn said the members will be glad for anyone interested to come and watch.

After the chicken dinner, some will remain at Lakeview for swimming and fishing in Crystal lake, while others will be out on their machines sightseeing about the area until time to go home late Sunday afternoon.

Many are expected to bring their families. While the affair is designed for pleasure only, a representative of the American Motorcycle association will be present and there may also be some business discussion.

## Softball Tourney August 20-25 Seen As Good Boost For Town

When the opening day for the State Championship tournament of the North Carolina Amateur Softball association rolls around, Southern Pines is due for one of the best exhibitions of softball ever seen in the old North State, according to stories coming from the sports pages of several state papers.

District elimination tournaments are already under way to select the nine participants who will be eligible for the tournament here. These will not only decide the state championship but will provide funds for the winner to advance to the regional tournament which will follow in St. Petersburg, Fla.

### Plans Made For Two-Day Session

Broadcast 2:30 Saturday

The annual meeting of the Eighth district, Veterans of Foreign Wars, will be held here this week end, opening with a business session led by District Commander Jack Reid at the club-room on East Broad street at 2 p. m. Saturday.

The meeting will be keynoted by addresses to be broadcast over WEEB at 2:30 with greetings from Post Commander C. S. Patch, Jr., District Commander Reid and Department Commander Harry Van Der Linden.

Registration of delegates will be held throughout the afternoon, from 1 to 5 p. m., and at 5 o'clock meetings will be held of the various posts represented with the district commander, quartermaster and service officer.

At 8:30 o'clock, a dinner session will be held at Scottie's, with Congressman C. B. Deane as a special guest. A floor show will be presented.

Auxiliary members will convene at the Belvedere hotel, where a special meeting will be held at 7 o'clock, immediately preceding the dinner. This meeting and other events for the ladies attending the event will be in charge of Mrs. Alberta Varner, state auxiliary president, of Greensboro.

(Continued on Page 8)

## Pinebluff School To Be Discussed

A mass meeting of the citizens of Pinebluff and surrounding communities will be held at 8 p. m. Monday at the Pinebluff Methodist church, it was announced by Mayor J. K. Mason following a meeting of the town's board of commissioners last Monday.

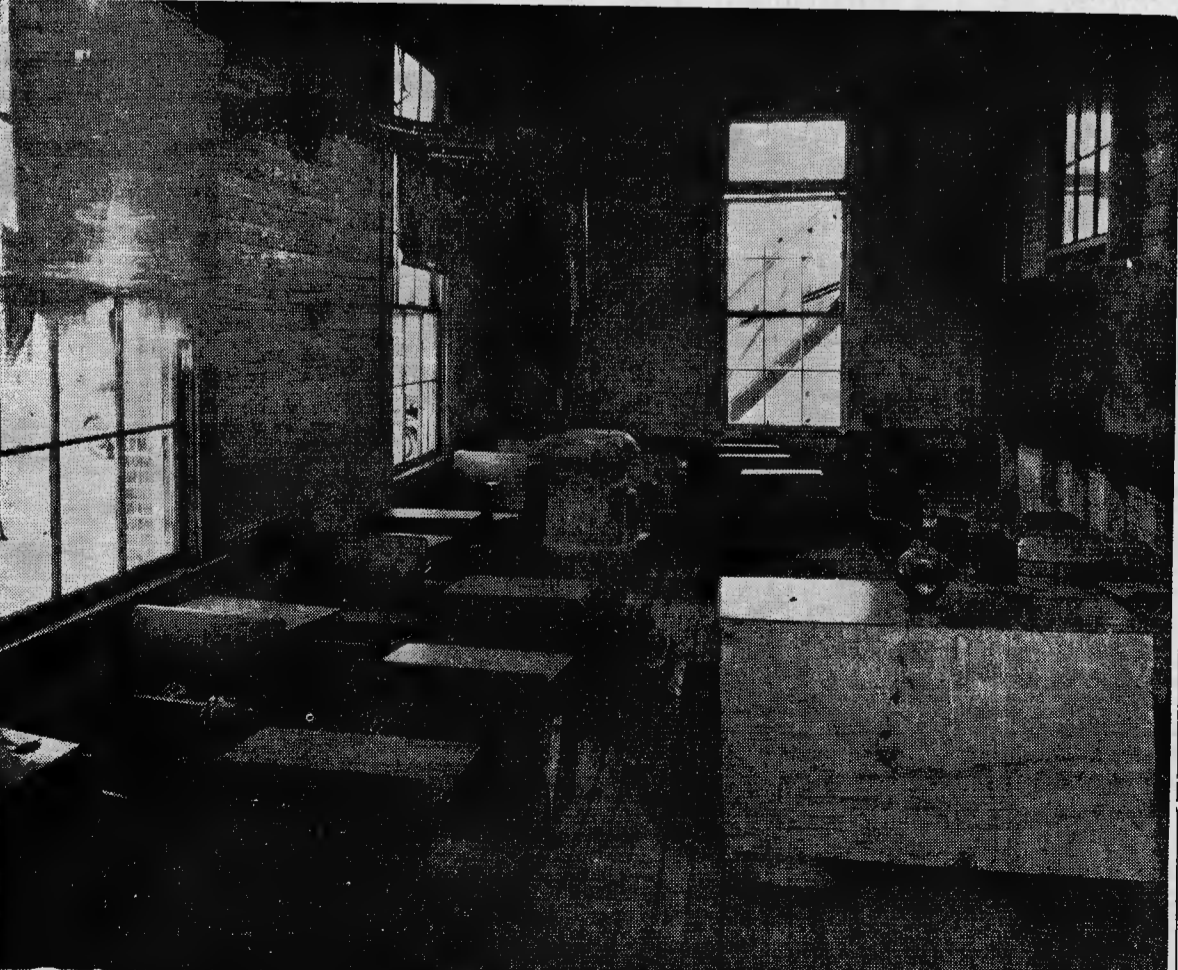
The meeting will be led by Chairman Leon Wylie of the citizens' committee spearheading the movement for the construction of an elementary school at Pinebluff, to serve the south end of the Aberdeen school district.

All voters and citizens of the area concerned, including those of the communities of Addor and Silver Springs, are requested to attend, so that opinions expressed and any decisions made at the meeting may reflect the will of all, Mayor Mason said.

Announcing that "the fight will go on," Chairman Wylie said that there is a good deal of new information to be presented for evaluation by those affected, and also for action if this appears to be called for, in view of the approaching countywide bond election for school improvements in the Aberdeen district.

For some months the citizens' committee has been appealing to the Aberdeen district board, the board of education and the county commissioners for consideration of their desire for educational facilities closer home than those of Aberdeen.

They express themselves as confident of the wholehearted support of their part of the Aberdeen district, and also of many in other districts of the county.



This is one of the classrooms in the Berkeley school for colored children at Aberdeen. It's better than some of the others. Only two windowlights are out. When panes are gone there's little use fixing them, as cold air comes in around the windowframes. Oh, well, some of the children probably keep warm—the ones jammed up right behind the stove. This picture and cut are used through courtesy of the Sandhill Book club of Aberdeen, whose members are aroused concerning the condition of their schools. (Photo by Emerson Humphrey)