



Mars Hill College Auditorium Is Destroyed By Fire

1961 Curtain Rises On Raleigh Session

Gov. Sanford To Address Joint Session Today

The curtain rose Wednesday on the 1961 General Assembly session with the issues of congressional redistricting and legislative reapportionment at center stage.

Gov. Terry Sanford left his first floor office in the 120-year-old State Capitol, and came upstairs for the ceremonies convening the Legislature. He joined friends of families of legislators, along with lobbyists and state officials, in the crowd that took in the ceremonies.

The governor, whose bold program for a "new day" will be considered by the lawmakers, sat down in front in the house as Speaker Joseph M. Hunter Jr., called for team work during the session ahead.

"Working together we can do much, but working as individuals the great program of our governor will be a flop," Hunt declared. Turning to Sanford, he added, "We don't want that to happen."

Hunt and other House officers nominated at a Jan. 6 Democratic caucus were elected without a hitch, after the 120-member House was sworn in by Associate Justice R. Hunt Parker of the State Supreme Court. Parker also administered the oath to Hunt.

Across the hall in the Senate, Lt. Gov. H. Cloyd Phlips called the upper house to order. Associate Justice Carlisle Higgins administered the oath to the 60 senators. Sen. W. Lunsford Crew of Halifax was elected president pro tem, and took his oath from Justice Higgins.

Both houses quickly announced joint resolutions notifying the governor that the General Assembly was organized and ready for business, and inviting him to address a joint session at noon, Thursday.

Money Matters

Sanford will deliver his budget message to the joint session, and the lawmakers will receive the budget prepared by former Gov. Luther Hodges and the Advisory Budget Commission.

Gov. Sanford has indicated he will have ideas of his own on the matter of state spending and taxes.

Sen. Robert F. Morgan of Cleveland introduced a joint resolution, quickly passed by the Sen. (Continued To Last Page)

1961 BURLEY FACTOR IS ANNOUNCED

Tar Heel farmers will have about 6 per cent more acres on which they may plant burley tobacco in 1961. This 6 per cent increase was announced by Novile Hawkins, chairman of the ASC county committee, who said that 1960 burley tobacco allotments will be factored "across the boards" to a figure 6 per cent higher than last year. This increase was made possible by an improved supply and demand situation as far as burley tobacco is concerned. The burley tobacco allotment to this state last year was 10,201 acres. Madison County is the largest burley producing county in North Carolina. Her share of the state quota for 1960 was 2572.31 acres.

Tar Heel burley farmers in a referendum held Feb. 24, 1959, voted 92.3 per cent in favor of marketing quotas for the next three crops. Another referendum will be held sometime this fall to determine if farmers favor the continuing of marketing quotas for the period of 1962-64.

Hawkins explained that burley tobacco is grown principally in Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Missouri and West Virginia, as well as in North Carolina. Burley farmers in these states will have their 1961 crop supported at near 90 per cent of parity, but not to exceed the 1959 level of 57.2 cents, provided they plant within their acreage allotment and otherwise comply with the program.

In conclusion, the county chairman said that county ASC personnel were now applying the factor and establishing allotments for individual farms and that farmers could expect to receive official written notice of their 1961 tobacco allotments on or near February 25.

Chandler Now At Citizens Bank

Joyce H. Chandler, of Marshall, has accepted a position with the Citizens Bank here. He began his duties on February 1.

Mrs. Chandler is managing the Chandler Hardware Company in Marshall.

NOW IN RALEIGH



Clyde M. Roberts, (left) Senator from 30th District, and L. B. Ramsey, Madison County Representative, left Tuesday for Raleigh to attend the opening of the Legislature.

CIVIL COURT ENDS ON WEDNESDAY

The February term of superior court for the trial of civil actions, commenced here Monday morning with Judge W. K. McLean, of Asheville, presiding. It adjourned Wednesday at noon.

Several cases were heard and three divorces were granted. Judgments in the cases are expected to be signed by Judge McLean Friday, it was stated.

ACP YET OPEN TO FARMERS

During the initial ACP sign-up period of January 16-31 some 750 farmers within the county filed written request for ACP cost-sharing under the 1961 agricultural Conservation Program, according to Ralph W. Ramsey, county ASC office manager. He pointed out that the severe weather conditions which prevailed through most of the sign-up period prohibited many farmers from filing their request and that those (Continued To Last Page)

Farmers Federation 100 Bushel Corn Banquet Feb. 11

The Farmers Federation will hold its annual 100 Bushel Corn Contest Banquet on Feb. 11 at the George Vanderbilt Hotel, Asheville. The guest speaker at the meeting will be G. C. Dobbins, District Agricultural Agent. All county agents and winners in the contest of the 4-H and FFA members and adult farmers in the (Continued To Last Page)

PROPER CARE OF PINE SEEDLINGS IS IMPORTANT

James M. Stewart, assistant county agent, reports that a number of Madison County farmers have ordered white pine seedlings. These seedlings are now being delivered in the county. In order to get good survival of these seedlings there are several precautions that farmers need to take in handling these trees.

One of the first precautions is to prevent the seedlings from drying out by putting water into the open end of the package containing the seedlings. The package around the ground to wet the most of the roots thoroughly. (Continued To Last Page)

C & D Issues New Facts Digest In North Carolina

North Carolina is the nation's leading manufacturer of textiles and tobacco — and the second largest grower of peanuts. The new Governor, Terry Sanford, won a battlefield promotion in the Battle of the Bulge. The travel industry is now the third largest dollar producer.

These facts and many interesting statistics are contained in the 1961 edition of "Facts About North Carolina," just published by the Dept. of Conservation and Development's Advertising Division, and free on request. The facts are digested in a 4-page pamphlet as a supplement to the full-color pamphlet "The Tar Heel State," also published for free distribution.

CON. WHITENER IS NAMED TO D.C. COMMITTEE

Washington, D. C. — Congressman Basil L. Whitener has been appointed a member of the House District of Columbia Committee. His selection was announced in Washington today by Chairman Wilbur Mills of the House Ways and Means Committee.

Congressman Mills stated that Whitener's appointment was formally approved by the House Ways and Means Committee. The Committee has charge of making assignments of all Members of the House of Representatives to the various standing House committees.

The House District Committee has general jurisdiction over the District of Columbia. The police and fire departments, together with all phases of the government of the City of Washington, come under control of the Committee. It is commonly referred to as the "Washington City Council" due to the fact that it controls all legislation for the benefit of the city.

As a result of Whitener's assignment to the House District Committee he will be serving on two major committees in the 87th Congress. He is a member of the House Judiciary Committee which originates a majority of all legislation reaching the floor of the House of Representatives for action.

E. V. PLEMMONS IS NAMED TO BAPTIST POST

The Rev. Erskine V. Plemmons was named missionary of the Buncombe Baptist Association at a meeting of the executive committee of the Buncombe Baptist Association Monday night in the First Baptist Church of Asheville.

Mr. Plemmons, who resigned as pastor of the Weaverville Baptist Church on Sunday morning, succeeds the Rev. Robert Hughes who left the association last June. He expects to assume his new duties March 1.

Mr. Plemmons is a native of Leicester and his wife is the former Miss Doris Lance of Chandler. He came to Weaverville from the Rankin Baptist Church in Gastonia in 1959. He had served as (Continued on Last Page)

40 Firemen Battle 3 Fires On Sunday Night

RESURFACING, NEW GUARD RAIL LIKELY SOON

As the result of a request by the board of aldermen of Marshall, an encouraging letter was received here this week from W. M. Corkill, Division Engineer, State Highway Commission, with regards to the resurfacing of Main Street. (See editorial).

Mr. Corkill's letter follows: February 2, 1961

Mr. J. H. Davis, Business Agent, Town of Marshall, Marshall, N. C.

Dear Mr. Davis: In reply to your letter of January 18th, this is to advise that we agree with you that Main Street in Marshall does need resurfacing and also that the guard rail on the North end of the street needs replacing.

We hope that we will be able to get both of these projects completed this summer. I appreciate your writing me about this.

Very truly yours, W. M. CORKILL, Division Engineer.

Suspect From Georgia In Madison Jail Charged With Arson

By BOB MATTHEWS, Citizen Staff Writer

Fire broke out in three buildings on the Mars Hill College Campus Sunday night, one completely destroying the old auditorium and authorities said evidence pointed to arson.

The first fire broke out about 9 p. m., in the auditorium and while firemen were battling it, fires started in the basement of nearby Spillman Dormitory and the Owen Building (formerly the Mars Hill Baptist Church).

Put Out Quickly

The latter two, firemen said, had each apparently been intentionally started in piles of rags. Both were rapidly extinguished with a minimum of damage.

The entire central area of the campus was roped off and fire inspectors from Asheville and Raleigh were being called in.

Male students were stationed in every building of this Baptist junior college and equipped with firefighting equipment as a precaution.

The college faculty was called into session even while the arsonism was afoot, but Dr. Hoyt Blackwell, president, did not divulge the details of the discussions.

40 Firemen On Hand

Forty firemen from four towns battled the auditorium blaze, which swept rapidly through the 57-year-old wood and brick structure and left it for a time an uncontrollable inferno.

The fire there was discovered about 9:15 p. m., when flames and smoke began pouring from the southeast corner of the building. Wooden floors and partitions fed the fire into a raging blaze and firemen were able only to keep it from spreading to other units.

The structure is about 100 by 100 feet in dimension and is a single-story building in the center of the campus. Nearly two hours elapsed before volunteer firemen from Mars Hill, Weaverville, Jupiter and Marshall could say they were bringing the fire under control. By then, only parts of exterior brick walls remained.

The building housed a 500-seat auditorium, two photographic studios, movie projection facilities and utility rooms, all of which were destroyed.

It was still in use as an auditorium, although is to be replaced by the Robert Lee Moore Memorial Auditorium under construction.

College boys, many returning to the campus after the weekend, assisted firemen in combating the blaze. One, George Neal Jr., 20, of Graham, N. C., was temporarily overcome by smoke and taken to the college infirmary for treatment.

Shortly after the fire in the auditorium broke out, smoke began flowing from the basement of Spillman Home Dormitory, a large frame building across the college drive from the auditorium.

Firemen dashed that the blaze by, reporting they discovered the origin in a pile of rags in a cabinet. The fire was quickly brought under control.

A blaze set in the basement of Spillman Dormitory at Mars Hill College while firemen battled the auditorium fire, was brought under control, after doing about \$5,000 damage.



Work Of Arsonist

Only the brick walls remained after fire swept through the old auditorium at Mars Hill College Sunday night. Officials estimated the damage at \$65,000.

000 and said the auditorium and two other buildings were set afire by an arsonist.



Hot Spot

A blaze set in the basement of Spillman Dormitory at Mars Hill College while firemen battled the auditorium fire, was brought under control, after doing about \$5,000 damage.