

CLASS OF '31—This vintage photo shows the Class of 1931 at Lucille Hunter School, located on Davie Street. Third, fourth and fifth grades are combined. Teachers

included Rachal McCauley, Josephine Otey, Clinton Boyer Ligon and Ms. Morton. Julia Amy Williams was the principal. (Photo courtesy John Thompson Moore, Jr.)

Crosby Garfield School Finds Berth In History

By John Thompson Moore Jr.

The old Crosby-Garfield School was located on the same site as the one that was closed recently. Then there were two brick buildings located farther south than the present one. One building was for the primary grades and the other for the grammar school grades. In the photograph, one may see the pupil of the first grade of Miss Addie Gorham in 1926. Miss Gorham was transferred to the Lucille Hunter Elementary School and married twice. She later became Mrs. Logan and Mrs. Stroud. Mrs. Stroud died recently at the age of 102.

The principal of Crosby Elementary School was Mrs. Julia Amy Williams who was the wife of Atty. Charles Williams, who maintained his law practice at their residence on S. Haywood St.

The educational philosophy of Crosby-Garfield then was to train the grandchildren of former slaves in Raleigh. They studied reading, writing and arithmetic in order to enter the local high school or to live happy, wholesome lives.

Principal Williams believed in punctuality. That is to say that all Crosby-Garfield pupils came to school on time and had obedience to the faculty and all elderly people. She was a strict disciplinarian, daily walking from her residence to school and beating a large metal gong with a medal hammer so that all East Raleigh Afro-American students would come to their classes. If a student was late, he or she would have to return home because the large front doors would be closed. There was no electrical alarm system at Crosby Elementary School. Moreover, Crosby-Garfield did not have a cafeteria. Each pupil would bring his or her lunch to school in a large brown paper bag. Miss Gorham would then collect all of the lunches and place them on a shelf until recess time. In these lunches one might find

biscuits, sausage, boiled eggs, sweet potatoes or fat back meat. Sometimes Miss Gorham would discover that a classmate had stolen a student's lunch. What a shame; what a day!

Unlike school-children today, Crosby's boys wore short pants, white shirts, bow ties or long ties and a three piece suit, short hair with a part and sometimes no shoes on their feet. The girls wore bloomers (loose trousers gathered at the knee), but no miniskirts, as the girls today often do. They also wore white blouses with colored ties around their necks and beautiful colored bows in their hair. Sometimes some mischievous boy would pull their hair while the teacher lectured the class about roman numerals or fables such as THE THREE LITTLE PIGS, or LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD. Many times the teacher would send the disruptive student to Principal Williams' office and she would use a strap on that individual. What a day; what a time!

Nevertheless, all of Crosby's students loved Miss Gorham. At times, some would bring her fruit from home for her lunch or flowers to put in the vase on her desk. Miss Gorham loved all of her pupils as well. She would love to sing childhood songs to the class, visit the pupils homes to talk to their parents, and laugh. The philosophy of Crosby was to carry the school home to the parents. Today the theory is different. Wouldn't you agree?

Being a member of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority may have played a part in Miss Gorham's interest in making Crosby's girls interested in being "littie ladies." This sorority believes in achieving "finer womanhood." No Crosby girls used profanity, engaged in affrays with the boys, used cocaine, smoked cigarettes, or walked the streets alone at night. Back then teaching moral character was an important part of school responsibility. Some educators of

today believe it to be the homes responsibility now.

Finally, all of the members of the first year class of 1926 at Crosby-Garfield School under Miss Addie Gorham are now septagenarians. Many are now deceased and others are living happy successful lives, even though they remember having to walk in the rain and snow to get to school. They remember how dedicated the teachers were at

Crosby-Garfield, even though they were paid less money than their white counterparts.

Crosby-Garfield Elementary and Grammar School was the "beacon of light" for the Afro-Americans until

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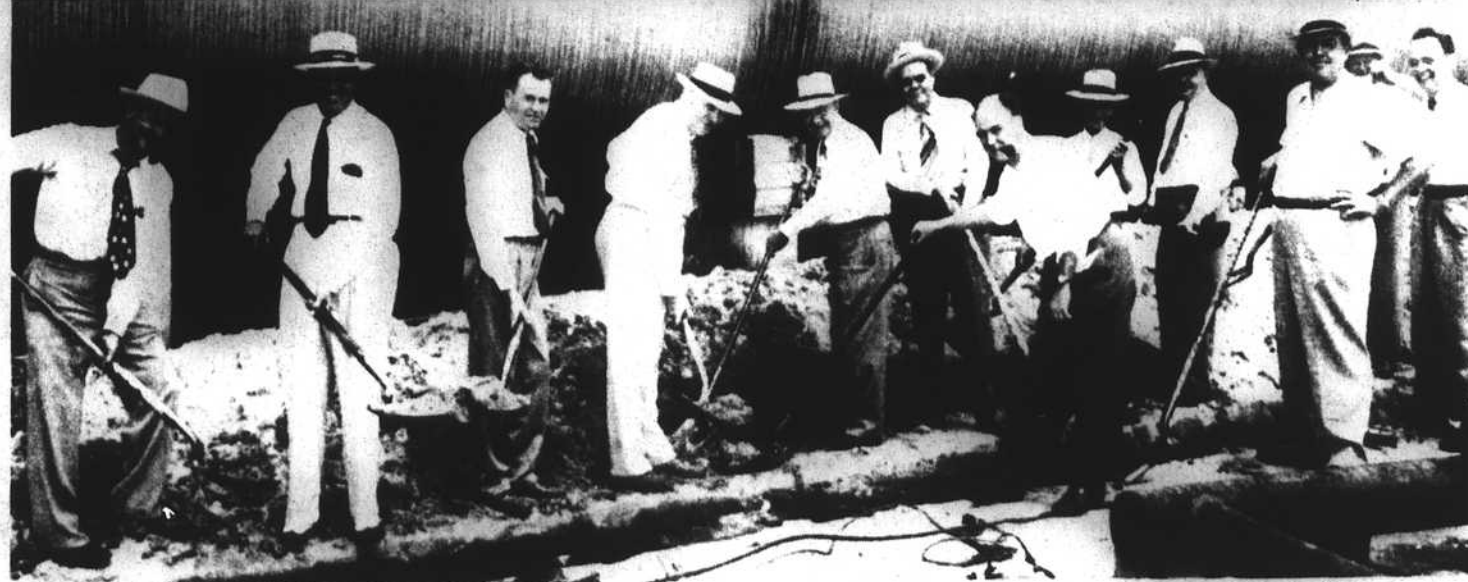
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