

NCR

THE CHARLOTTE CITY SCHOOLS

by

HARRY P. HARDING,  
Superintendent  
1913-1949

including

HISTORY OF THE CHARLOTTE CITY SCHOOLS PRIOR TO 1900

by

ALEXANDER GRAHAM,  
Superintendent  
1888-1913

and

"Charlotte, North Carolina"  
Architectural Record,  
October 1956, pp. 235-248

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A PARTIAL REVIEW OF THE EXPANSION AND  
DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHARLOTTE CITY SCHOOLS

TO THE READER:

You are asked to be very patient as you read this report, or parts of it, as my Pick and Punch system of typing is of the worst. I found soon that if I stopped to erase all typing errors I would get nowhere with this review.

I have attempted to give facts with as few educational platitudes as possible.

Many faithful and outstanding teachers have not been mentioned because there was not room to name them all. Their services have been greatly appreciated by this writer just the same.

This review has been written on the suggestion of the Administrative Staff of the City Schools. I feel that it is very inadequate and should be edited and rewritten some day.

The Address of Dr. Alexander Graham delivered on the occasion of the laying of the corner stone of the school building at the corner of North Brevard and East Ninth Streets, gives the history of this school system up to and including the year 1900.

A copy of this address was found in the files of the School Board after my story of Superintendent Graham's administration had been written. There is, therefore, in my review some repetition of parts of his address.

Respectfully,

Harry P. Harding.

A PARTIAL REVIEW OF THE EXPANSION AND DEVELOPMENT OF  
THE CHARLOTTE CITY SCHOOLS. By H. P. Harding.

While on a vacation at Black Mountain during the summer of 1904 I found on the table in the reception room of the Daugherty House an architect's album showing cuts of buildings recently planned by this architect. There was a picture of a school building in Charlotte, N.C., and under the picture was inscribed, "The Finest School Building In North Carolina". "The North School, In Charlotte".

At that time I was Superintendent of Schools in New Bern, N. C. Two months later I was Principal of the school in Charlotte. The date was October 3, 1904.

This is to be a story of the Charlotte City Schools as they were then, and as they became during my connection with the schools, eight years as Teaching Principal, one year as Assistant Superintendent, and thirty six years as Superintendent, in all forty five years, from October 3, 1904 until June 30, 1949.

Superintendent Alexander Graham

I would not attempt to write this story without first paying a tribute to Superintendent Alexander Graham, who was Superintendent in Charlotte from 1888 to June 30, 1913, twenty five years.

He had been prominent in the educational life of the State before coming to Charlotte. He had organized the Fayetteville N. C. graded school about 1878. He was called upon many times by the citizens of other communities to come to their respective towns and tell them how to have a graded school.

He always advised the authorities to <sup>get</sup>~~get~~ a special charter, to vote for a special school tax, and, in that way to have their own schools with the right to control them locally, and to make

them as good as they could afford. Superintendent Graham has often been called the Father Of The Graded Schools in North Carolina.

Great praise has been given Govenor Aycock, Dr. C. D. McIver, Dr. E. A. Alderman and Dr. J. Y. Joyner for awakening the educational interest of the people of the State and they rightfully deserve the greatest praise for their work. I think sometimes we forget the fact that while these educational statesmen were telling the people of the State WHY they should have good schools, men like Dr. Alex. Graham, at Fayetteville and Charlotte, Dr, M. C. S. Noble at Wilmington, Supt. E. P. Moses at Raleigh, Supt Blair at Winston-Salem, Supt. Supt. D. Matt Thompson at Statesville, Supt. J. I. Foust at Goldsboro, Supt. T. R. Foust at New Bern, Supt. C/ L. Coon at Salisbury and Wilson were showing the people of the State HOW to have good schools.

The graded schools they had organized and were operating provided the pattern which made better schools possible and which became the model system followed by the school authorities in most of the school systems, city and county, throughout the State.

#### Charlotte System Organized In 1882

The Charlotte school system had been organized in 1882 by Superintendent J. T. Mitchell of Ohio. He resigned in 1886 to become President of the Alabama State Normal College. He was succeeded by his Principal Mr. J. T. Corlew who served from September 1886 until February 1888. Superintendent Alexander Graham became Superintendent of the Charlotte Schools in February 1888 and served, as stated above, until June 30, 1913. For twenty five years he gave the city a well organized graded school system which formed the foundation on which his successors have built.



SOUTH SCHOOL  
Built in 1858  
Graded School from 1882 to 1937

The South School later known as the D. H. Hill school was the only white school from 1882 until 1900. The South School building was originally a boys' military school conducted by Commandant D. H. Hill who later became General D. H. Hill of the staff of General Robert E. Lee.

After the war between the States the building was used for a short time as a boys' school conducted by a General Johnston. The property extended East from the Southern Rail Road and included twenty seven acres. On this land was the school building and a brick two story residence, the home of the Commandant of the school, and later the home of the Superintendent of schools. This property was idle and the buildings vacant for a number of years.

About 1880 there was considerable agitation by some of the citizens for the City Council to buy this land for a graded school. There was a great deal of opposition by a group of citizens who did not want to increase the city taxes.

From that time until the present day there has always been a certain element in our city who have opposed any progressive expansion of the schools that might increase the taxes on their property. They have made it extremely hard through the years to carry a bond election to provide adequate buildings or to increase the tax rate to meet efficient operational costs. Notwithstanding the fact that the growth of the city has been the chief factor in making their property valuable.

This opposition was very strong in 1880. Mr. Edw. M. Bell who was then an employee of the National Bank has told me this story: The City Aldermen, or Council, bargained with the owners of the property to buy it for about \$15,000.00. The price was accepted and paid in cash one Saturday night. Mr. Bell helped count the



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money, some of it in silver. The City Aldermen were afraid to give the owners a check, lest the opposition would get out an injunction before the opening of the bank on Monday morning and stop the payment of the check.

A special school tax of 10¢ on the \$100.00 property valuation and 30 ¢ on the poll had been voted for school purposes by the citizens in May 1880.

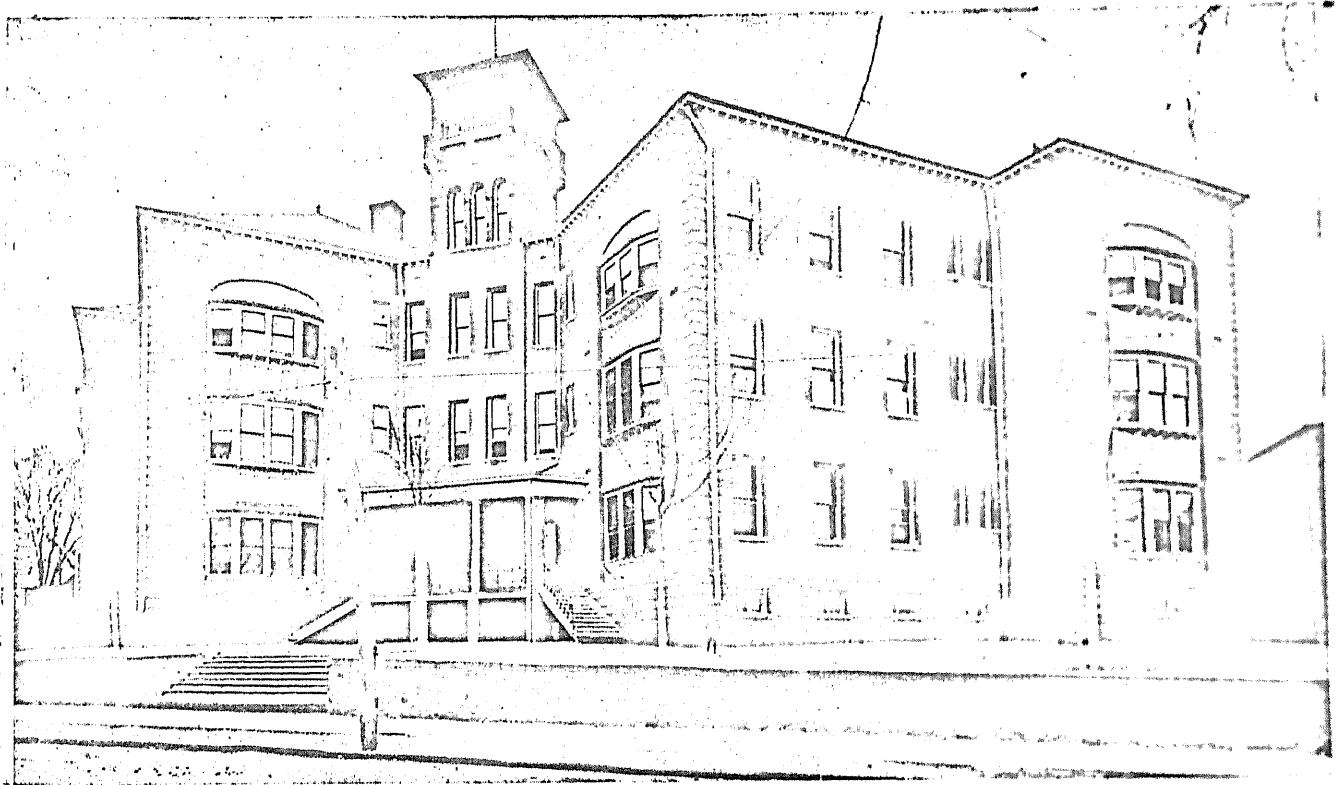
There is a story that a Negro citizen, John Shank, was the most persistent agitator for the city to buy this property for a white school, and land elsewhere for a Negro school. It has been told that he appeared before the Board of Aldermen so many times that the Board finally took notice, and after much urging by the white citizens the Board leased for one year this property and the following year, 1882, purchased it.

It may<sup>be</sup> of interest to note here that the son of this Negro citizen studied law, located in Boston, and eventually became Assistant City Attorney for the city of Boston.

#### THE SECOND WHITE SCHOOL

During the year 1889 the citizens voted for an increase of the school tax rate from 10¢ to 20¢ and the Aldermen issued bonds to finance the purchase of a site and the erection of a school building in the First Ward, on the Corner of N. Brevard and E. Ninth Streets. The Gray property was secured for \$6,000.00, the building was erected at a cost of \$27,000.00, the Architects' fees and furniture made the entire cost about \$35,000.00.

It was opened in 1900 and was known as the North School. It contained eighteen class rooms. The Architect was Frank P. Milburn of Washington, D. C. When the architect submitted a number of plans to the Superintendent and the School Board, he showed them also the plans of a hospital that he had just planned and built at some city in Texas. When Superintendent Graham saw the hospital plans



NORTH SCHOOL  
Built in 1900

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with a large bay window in the rear of each class room and other windows on the side, with space for an office, nurses' rooms and teachers' rest rooms on every floor, wardrobes in every room,

play rooms in the basement and with modern heating and toilet facilities, Superintendent Graham said to the Board, "That is the building we want." And that was the plan accepted.

Mr. J. A. Bivens was transferred from the South School to be Principal of the new school. He served until October 1st, 1904. Miss Laura Orr was made Principal of the South School. She was succeeded later by Mr. Robert Foard. In September 1904 Mr. Bivens resigned to become Head Master of the Trinity Boys' School in Durham.

On October 3rd, I, H. P. Harding, became Principal and teacher of the Tenth Grade, in the North School.

There were then, in 1904, two white schools and one Negro school. In the South School were twenty two teachers, in the North School eighteen teachers, and in the Myers Street School for Negroes sixteen teachers, a total of fifty six teachers. Enrolled in the schools were 1,003 in the South School, 981 in the North School, and 1111 in the Myers St. School, a Total of 3,095 pupils.

#### The Private Schools

It may not be amiss here to refer to the private schools in Charlotte and to the part taken by the private schools, in the educational life of the State at that time.

For a long time the opinion was held that the education of the children was a family responsibility if the head of the family was financially able to educate them. The public free schools were operated for a few months, ranging from two months in some places to four and six months in other places. These schools were free for everybody, but were usually attended by children who were not

able, or inclined, to attend a private school.

Private schools flourished in the towns, and there<sup>were</sup> a number of well known boarding schools in the State. Prominent among these were The Horner School, or Military Academy, at Oxford, The Bingham Military School, first at Mebane then at Asheville, The Grey School at Mebane, The Davis Military School at LaGrange, The Graham School at Warrenton, The Hobgood School for girls at Oxford, and a number of others.

In Charlotte Major J. G. Baird conducted a military school for boys in a small two story building on the corner of North Poplar and West Sixth Streets. He had followed Capt. W. A. Barrier who had a private school here for a number of years. Prof. H. W. Glasgow had a very successful college preparatory school for boys, also Prof. Davidson.

Some time prior to 1904 Miss Harriet Moore had a school for girls on West Seventh Street, about where the Saint Peters Parish House now stands. Elizabeth College and the Presbyterian College, each had a preparatory department for girls.

There were then, or soon after, the church schools, The Catholic O'Donohue school and the Lutheran school.

That the education of the children was the State's responsibility had been forcibly expressed by Archibald D. Murphy as early as 1836, and by Calvin Wiley 1853 to 1865, but during the period of Reconstruction and thereafter not much was done about it for a long time.

#### THE GRADIED SCHOOL MOVEMENT

The Graded School movement was the first acknowledgement, to any great degree, that the education of the children of a community was a community responsibility. It was this policy which resulted in the levying of a special tax by a community for a graded school.

The Graded School plan became very popular. By 1933 almost every town in the State had a special charter and operated its

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own school for all the children of the community. In 1933 the State assumed that responsibility, repealed all special charters, and established the State school system. We shall see later the effect of this change on our schools in Charlotte and in the other cities and towns of the State. In the meantime as the Graded School systems became more efficient and, therefore, more popular, most of the private schools in the State and in Charlotte, with the exception of the church schools, closed their doors. The Country Day School came some years later and still thrives.

#### The Policy of the City School Administration.

The policy of the City School administration has always been to welcome and to cooperate with any person or institution that had a contribution to offer for the improvement of the educational life of the city. While there was no rivalry between the city schools and the private schools, it was always the ambition of the city schools authorities to make the city public schools so good that the richest man, as well as the poorest man in town, would feel that he <sup>had</sup> to send his children to the city schools if they were to get the best to be had in Charlotte. That ambition has been realized for a number of years.

#### The City Schools and the Public Library.

Superintendent Graham's annual report for the year 1900-'01 gives the following account of the part that the city schools played in the history of the libraries in the schools, and later of the City Library. In August 1898 Superintendent Graham recommended that a portion of the income from outside tuition be set aside to add to our Graded Schools' libraries, but no action was taken. I quote from Supt. Graham's report: " In the year following (1899) after a heated discussion, the proposition to buy one

hundred dollars worth of books was carried by one vote. This at last was progress. In the winter of the same year the Directors of the Charlotte Lyceum and Library Association, to wit: Dr. George W. Graham, President, E. D. Latta, Vice President, John Wilkes, Harrison Watts, M. A. Bland, Armstead Burwell, J. L. Chambers, and Frank Wilkes, J. A. Bivens, Secretary, donated several thousand dollars (worth of books) to the children of the Charlotte Public Schools, unconditionally, with the request that the school Commissioners accept the same, provide a suitable home, and allow the children, and the public generally the free use of said books".

Speeches were made by Capt. Wilkes, Capt. Watts, Dr. George Graham and Mr. J. L. Chambers.

I quote again from the report of Supt. Graham: "Mr. John R. Pharr Chairman of the Finance Committee of the School Board promised ample financial support and a splendid home, also a librarian, for the books and thus the Charlotte Free Public Library was born.

"On February 28, 1901 the legislature passed an act to amend Chapter 138 of the private laws of 1874-'75 giving this Board full power to establish and maintain a library which shall be free, for the use of the teachers and students of the public schools and the public generally.

" This law was passed at the suggestion of Dr. George Graham President of the Library Association mentioned above.

"The entire Board of School Commissioners entered heartily into the library movement. Two rooms were cheerfully provided in the city hall by Alderman Ed. Reid. Mr. J. Hirshinger was made Chairman and Mr. Hugh A. Murril was made Secretary and the library was opened at once".

I quote again from Superintendent Graham's report, " The Commissioners signed a joint letter to Mr. D. A. Tompkins, requesting him to visit Mr. Carnegie and solicit a donation sufficient to construct a building for our new library. Mr. Tompkins acting for the Commissioners addressed a note to Mr. Carnegie who informed him that he was already in communication with Mr. Thos. J. Franklin, one of the city Fathers. In a very short time Mr. Thos. J. Franklin announced that Mr. Carnegie had donated \$20,000.00 to the city of Charlotte for a public library, provided said City would give \$2,500. annually toward its support .

"The legislature promptly passed the necessary laws, and at the ~~17~~ election in May a majority of the votes were cast in favor of the Public Free Library. A splendid lot on N. Tryon St. at a cost of \$11,000.00 was immediately purchased and the beautiful plans submitted by Michael, Wheeler and Company have been unanimously adopted and work on the building to cost \$19,300.00 will begin at once.

" A more remarkable history of any movement will probably never be written ". So wrote Superintendent Graham in 1901.

The building on that site served the city until 1955. On that same site and adjoining land recently acquired the new library building to cost more than a million dollars is now being constructed.

Superintendent Graham paid a lovely tribute to the late Mrs. Bessie Lacey Dewey who had been the inspiration and moving spirit of the Charlotte Lyceum and Library Association.

#### CITY LIMITS OF CHARLOTTE IN 1904

The City limits of Charlotte in 1904, on the South extended one block beyond the South School, to Templeton Avenue. All of the territory beyond the Pritchard Memorial Church was out of the city. Mr. E. D. Latta was then developing the Dilworth residential section.

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"Buy a home in Dilworth with rent money", met your eye on all sides.

Dilworth school with eight class rooms, the original section of the present building, was a Mecklenburg County school. Mr. A. T. Allen was the Principal. He was later State Superintendent of Schools for many years.

On the North the Seaboard Rail Road was the city boundary. Children living beyond that line attended a County school in Belmont, on the corner of Seigle Ave. and Belmont Street, where the Salvation Army building now stands. There was also a one teacher school in Groveton West of Statesville Ave. On the East, the city limits extended to Sugaw Creek. Where Central High School now stands was then just outside of the city. Elizabeth Avenue was becoming a popular residential section. Elizabeth College, now the Presbyterian Hospital, was at the end of the street. All of this section was in the County school district. In the second block of Providence Road was a one teacher County school.

On the West, Irvin Creek was the city limit. What is now Wesley Heights and Seversville was then in the County. There was a one teacher County school for white Children in Seversville and a one teacher County school for Negro children in Biddleville.

#### South School and North School Territories

In the city, Trade Street was the dividing line between the North School and the South School's territories. There was room enough in the North School building for only pupils in Grades One through Five, and the Tenth Grade for the whole city. The South School had Grades One through Nine, including pupils in Grades Six through Nine from the North School territory. Mr. Robert Foard was Principal of the South School and teacher of the Ninth



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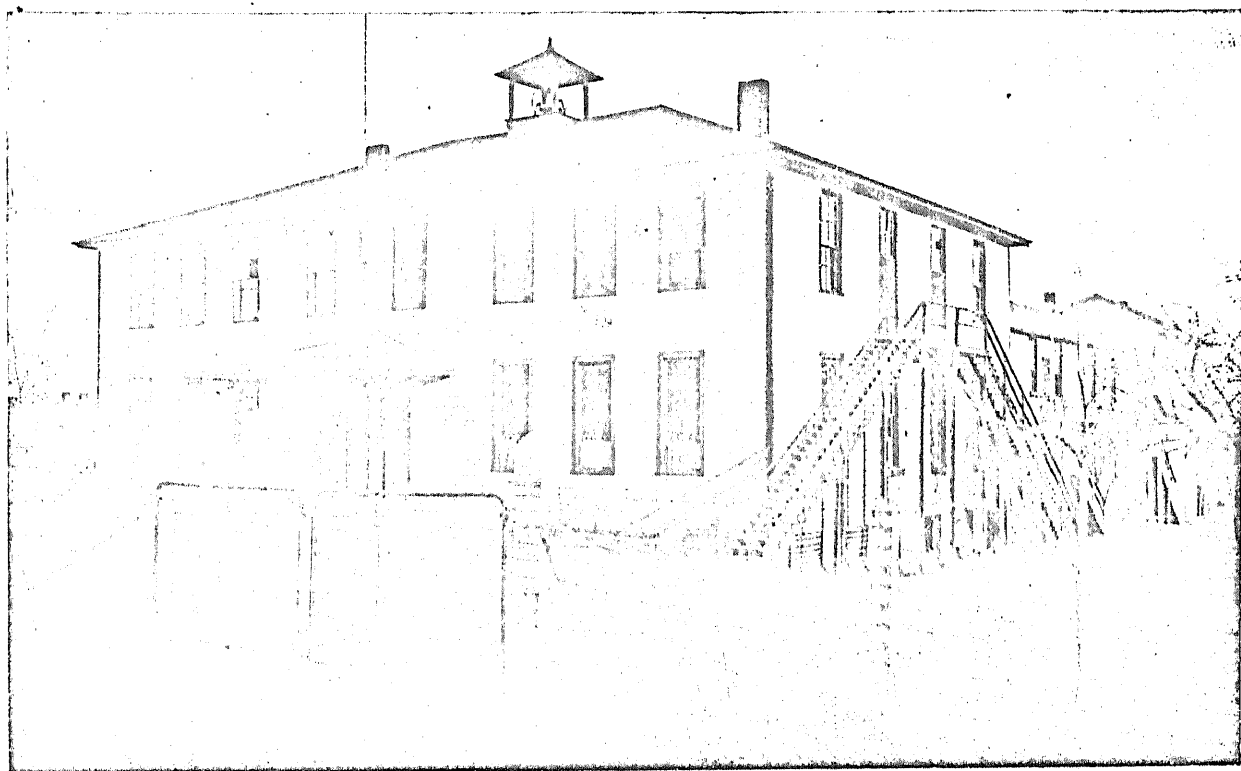
Grade.

The Principal of the North School taught the Tenth Grade which was the Highest grade of the school system at that time. He might be at the most important point in the demonstration of a theorem or problem in Geometry, or at the climax of a lesson in history or literature when a knock on the door would be heard, and a boy would say "Miss So and So wants you to come to her room, Johnnie Smith is giving her some trouble". The Principal would leave his class, go to the relief of the teacher, give Johnnie what was coming to him and then go back to the Geometry lesson until another call would come from some one of the other seventeen teachers in his building.

He has often wondered if the students in the Tenth Grade during those years really learned anything. Then he remembers that most of them went on to be successful men and women; five of them later to be Principals and more than that number to be teachers in our Charlotte schools; five or more to be prominent ministers in their respective denominations; one to be Professor of law in our State University; one to be Professor of Education in Duke University; Two went into the diplomatic service, one of them became U. S. Ambassador to Brazil; one to be head of one of the largest construction companies in the world; one to be Executive Secretary of The National Association for Childhood Education with offices in Washington, D. C.; and many others to be highly successful business and professional men and women, and most important of all to be good substantial citizens.

So they must have had something in them that enabled them to overcome the handicaps of the Tenth Grade.

At any rate they had a wonderful time together when the teaching Principal was out of the room helping a teacher correct her problem



MYERS STREET COLORED SCHOOL

1886-----1928

pupil. This learning to live together may have been the best lesson they learned

### THE NEGRO SCHOOL

When the Graded Schools were organized in 1882 the Negro school occupied an old building in the First Ward, between Caldwell and Davidson Streets. On June 8th 1886, the Board of Aldermen purchased from Colonel W. R. Myers a lot in the Second Ward, on Myers St., with 200 foot frontage at \$200.00 per acre. On this site was built a wooden building with two stories and eight rooms at a cost of \$2,800.00. J. E. Ratley was Principal, and the school was known as the Myers Street School.

In 1904 this school had sixteen teachers and Mrs. Isabella Wyche was the teaching Principal. The expansion of this Myers Street building with extensions added from time to time, with out-door stairways from the ground to the second and third floors of the two wings in the rear of the main building gave the whole structure a striking appearance. The children called it the school with the Jacob's Ladder. This was the only school for the Negro children until the extension of the city limits in 1907.

In the Negro school were Grades one through eight, and the course of study was on a par with the white schools.

Dr. Graham took much pride in the work of the Negro school. He liked to visit the class rooms and ask the pupils questions. On one occasion in the Sixth Grade of the Myers Street school he asked the class, "Who are the three greatest Americans?" One boy on the back seat raised his hand and answered, "Fessor Graham, Teddy Roosevelt, and Mister Sears-Roebuck". Possibly his Mister Sears-Roebuck grew out of his respect for the catalogue, but more probably he had heard a great deal about the Rosenwald Fund, which had given

great help to the education of Negroes in the South. Mr Rosenwald had been head of the Sears-Roebuck Company. Some schools in North Carolina had been aided by this fund.

#### The School Day

The school hours in the Myers St. School were from 9 a.m. until 3 p. m. they were dismissed one half hour later than the children of the South School to avoid the fights that might occur if the children of both schools were on the street at the same time. The white schools closed at 2,30 p. m.

#### INSTRUCTION

Superintendent Graham stressed thorough teaching. Drill on Spelling, and Arithmetical tables received much attention in the lower grades and consumed more time than in later years. Multiplication tables through the fifth table were taught in the First Grade. Smith's Grammar with parsing and some diagraming was begun in the Fifth Grade. The book list included Webster's Blue Back Speller, Stoddard's Mental Arithmetic, Spencerian penmanship copy books, Augsburg Drawing Books, Milne' Standard Arithmetic, Ward's Rational Method in Reading, Barnes' Geography Series, White's History of U. S. in the Fifth Grade, Bruce's U. S. History in the Sixth Grade, Spencer's North Carolina History in the Seventh Grade, Thompson's U. S. History in Grades 8-10. Latin was begun in the Seventh Grade and was required of all pupils. Caesar was begun in the Ninth Grade and continued through the first half of the Tenth, Virgil's Aeneid was begun in the second half year of the Tenth Grade. Milne's Algebra and Geometry were taught in the Tenth Grade.

#### PRIMARY GRADES

The First Grade class rooms were very attractive and the class work appealed to beginners. In the North School Miss Sallie Bethune,

Miss Mary O. Graham, Miss Mary Wiley, Miss Fannie Henderson, and Miss Allie Nooe were the primary teachers, and in the South School Miss Lelia Young and Miss Alice Holland.

Much has been written about the class room work of those days. It is often stated that the emphasis then was on teaching subject matter while today the emphasis is on teaching the whole child. The implication here is wrong. It is true that our programs today take into greater consideration the interest of the child and are planned for more pupil participation than in the earlier days. But during my fifty years of experience in the schools of the State there has been no time when the great majority of teachers were not dedicated to the development of character and of all round personality in their pupils. Hundreds of our Charlotte citizens today revere the memories of their teachers of those days for the inspiration they gave them toward living the full life.

#### SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

Dr. Graham believed in strict discipline. Corporal punishment was administered for certain offenses. Many of our prominent citizens today tell with great glee of their trips to the coal, or well, house with the Principal or Dr. Graham, but the trips in those days were not so gleeful. Obedience and respect for teachers and those in authority was required of all pupils. Child guidance as we understand it today did not enter so much into the program of that day.

#### Selection of Teachers.

Applicants to teach in the white and colored schools were required to take an examination prepared and given by the Superintendent. A report was made to the Teachers' Committee of the Board and the teachers were elected on the recommendation of the Committee, by the whole Board.

This plan continued until about 1920 when the State Teachers' Certification plan went into effect.

For the most part teachers in the Charlotte city schools have always been selected on a basis of their qualifications. For that reason the teaching staff in Charlotte through the years have been far above the average.

#### THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS

In 1904 the School Board had nine members. They were elected by wards from the four wards of the city, and served two years. The Mayor of the city was ex-officio Chairman of the Board, but a Vice Chairman elected by the members from their own number actually performed the duties of the Chairman most of the time.

In 1904 Mr. Peter Marshal Brown was Mayor. The other members were as follows: From Ward One, Mr. Arthur Henderson, Mr. J. A. Fore and Mr. S. A. Asbury; from Ward Two: Mr. John Van Landingham, and Mr. W. C. Wilson; from Ward Three Mr. J. Hirshinger and Mr. A. C. Hutchison; from Ward Four, Mr John Pharr and Mr. T. W. Dixon. Mr. C. M. Etheridge was Secretary and Treasurer.

In 1905 Mr. S. S. McNinch was elected Mayor and Mr. D. B. Smith succeeded Mr. Asbury and Capt. T. T. Smith succeeded Mr. VanLandingham. Capt Smith had served several years prior to 1903.

#### THE CITY ELECTIONS

The city elections held every two years for the Mayor and other city officials were more exciting than the State or County elections. Democratic and Republican party politics did not enter into the campaign, but <sup>the</sup> Weddington Faction versus the Brevard faction created the interest.

Every two years the membership of the whole Board might change. However a number of former members of the School Board were usually

re-elected. The key man among the Board members was the Chairman of the Finance Committee. At that time and at almost all times in later years, the Chairman of the Finance Committee considered it his chief function to keep down expense, to make the schools cost as little as possible, and to have a substantial surplus at the end of the school year. He has considered <sup>himself</sup> the "Loyal Opposition" to all proposals that called for an extra appropriation of funds.

There were a few exceptions to this rule, I shall refer to them ~~later~~ later, who believed the efficient management of the school funds ~~mean~~ meant putting the money to work for the benefit of the school children, since their parents had voted the school tax for that purpose. These few believed the test of efficiency was not to have a big surplus but to show the wise expenditure of all funds during the year.

Mr. J. Hirshinger served several years as Chairman of the Finance Committee, when the funds of the schools were low, and while he liked to have a good surplus at the end of the year, he gave unstintingly of his time and business experience to the watchful care of the school finances. From his report of 1904-'05 we get some idea of the budget of that year, I quote ,

Income 1904-'05, Total revenue	\$42,040.80
Disbursements:	
Salary of Superintendent	\$1,800.00 and Residence
Salary of Treasurer	200.00
Salaries of Teachers and Principals	22,888.00
Salaries of Janitors	2,634.00
Loans and Renewals	12,300.00
Interest Account	281.00
Night School	100.00

Fuel Acct.	\$1,092.91
Expense Acct.	880.73
Balance on Hand	463.17
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Total	\$42,040.80

Nearly always there were two factions of the Board, the new members, some of whom had run for the Board because they wanted to change some of the current policies, made up one faction, and the old members of the Board made up the other. By the time for another ~~city~~ city election the members of the Board were together, and the incoming new members made up the second faction. At the Board meetings, after the reports from the Finance, and Building and Grounds committees, <sup>had been made</sup> and New Business was the order, there was never a dull moment.

#### PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

It was tremendously hard to plan for the years ahead in anticipation of the growth of the city and therefore of the increased enrollment in the schools, for two reasons. First, the whole board was subject to change every two years; and second, Only the rapid increase of population, and therefore, of pupils, would convince the voters of the need for increasing the revenue for the schools. Therefore over crowded class rooms and heavy teacher's loads have prevailed too much of the time.

#### COMMENCEMENTS

At the end of the school year commencement exercises were held in the old Academy of Music on South Tryon Street.

It was the big event of the school year. The Tenth Grade graduates, usually about thirty five in number, were awarded diplomas. A prominent man from the State was the speaker of the occasion. The



class day exercises were as elaborate as today.

Mr. Robert Keesler had been Supervisor of Music for the City schools since about 1900. At each commencement he arranged an ascending series of seats on the rear of the stage and filled them with children. This large chorus of singing children dressed in their Sunday best, gave the stage a very spectacular appearance.

Parents from all sections of the city came to hear Johnny and his sister sing. The auditorium was always crowded to capacity.

After the Academy of Music was burned the commencement exercises were held in the city auditorium which stood at the corner of North College and E. Fifth Streets. This too was always filled at commencement.

The large attendance at commencements in Charlotte, from that day until this time, is indicative of the interest of our people in the education of their children.

#### THE EXTENSION OF THE CITY LIMITS, ~~1907~~, 1907

The year 1907 was a year of expansion. The city limits were extended to include Dilworth, on the South, Seversville and Biddleville on the West, Belmont, Villa Heights, and North Charlotte on the North and Elizabeth Heights and Myers Park to Dartmouth Place on the East.

#### EXPANSION OF THE SCHOOL SYSTEM

This brought into the city school system, the Dilworth school with eight teachers, The Belmont School with seven teachers, the Seversville school with one teacher, the Myers Park school with one teacher, The Elizabeth Mills school with one teacher, the Grove-ton school with one teacher, and the Biddleville school with one teacher.

## ORGANIZATION FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 1907-'8

So many of the teachers of that year remained in the school system so long and contributed so much to the school life of the city that I give the organization of the year in full, together with the enrollment by grades.

Superintendent, Alexander Graham.

Supervisor of Music, Robert L. Keesler.

Assistant Supervisor of Music , Miss Martha Mae Carr.

Grade	Teacher	Enrollment
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## South School

One	Miss Alice Holland	51
	Miss Lelia Young	52
Two	Miss Jennie L. <del>Beatty</del> <sup>Beatty</sup>	56
	Miss Mary Graham	54
Three	Miss Jennie Patterson	48
	Miss Mary Moody	49
Four	Miss Leonore W. Seay	43
	Miss Edith Ward	35
Five	Miss Lena Smith	47
	Miss Margaret Wallace	38
Six	Miss Nina Howell	42
	Miss Josie Henderson	39
	Miss Madeline Orr	42
<del>Six</del>	Miss Mary Jamison	45
	Miss Ethel Spelman	38
Seven	Miss Bertha Donnelly	42
	Miss Fannie L. Harris	41
	Miss Ursula Blankenship	45
	Miss Josephine Osborne	46
	Miss Julia Roberts	42
Eight	Miss Sara Kelley	33
	Miss Charlee Hutchison	28
	Miss Fannie Moore	26
Nine	Mr. A. G. Randolph, Principal,	48

## North School

One	<del>Miss Sallie Bethuna</del>	<del>56</del>
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## North School

Grade	Teacher	Enrollment
One	Miss Sallie Bethune	56
	Miss Mary O. Graham	56
	Miss Mary Wiley	45
	Miss Fannie Henderson	45
	Miss Allie Nooe (Ad'v 1st)	40
Two	Miss Elizabeth Conrad	36
	Miss Flora Rutledge	44
	Miss Bettie Nash	46
Three	Miss Sara Hargrave	40
	Miss Mary Irwin	40
Miss Cora Orr	Miss Ida Hand	42
		39
Four	Miss Hattie Alexander	35
	Miss Norma VanLandingham	45
	Miss Eunice Anderson	35
	Miss Mary Darsey	35
	Miss Sadie Grier	35
Ten	H. P. Harding, Principal,	39

## Dilworth School

<del>Miss</del>		
Mrs. Chalmers Moore		55
Mrs. Essie Blankenship		40
Miss E Black		63
Miss Mary Maxwell		48
Miss Fannie Porter		44
Miss Ola Herron		27
Miss Louise Martin		24
Mr. F. P. Wyche, Principal,		29

## Myers Park School

Miss Mabel Trotter

## Seversville School

Miss Addie Brown

## Elizabeth Mill

Miss Anna B. Carr

BELMONT SCHOOL

TEACHERS

Miss Daisy Cuthbertson  
Miss Eunice Sadler  
Miss Annie Cashion  
Miss Evelyn Nisbet  
Miss Nan Sadler  
Miss Elizabeth Crowell  
Mr. G. P. Heilig, Principal.

Biddleville

Miss Hattie Neal

THIRD WARD

Miss Lena Cardwell (Colored)

Myers Street School

S. B. Pride, Principal

Grade One, Miss Annie McKnight, Miss Blanche Tyson, and Miss M. L. Cardwell. Grade 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ , Miss Luaca Jackson.

Grade Two, Miss Willie Massey, Miss Estelle Grigg, and Miss Leanna Cardwell

Grade Three, Miss Bessie Hoover, Miss Mary Speings and Miss Emma Wyche.

Grade Four, Miss Margaret Tate and H. G. Stewart.

Grade Five, Mrs. N. L. Leary and Miss N. D. Johnston.

Grade Six, Miss Zella Alston,

Grade Seven, Mrs. Jessie Pride.

Grade Eight, Mr. S. B. Pride, Principal.

The Superintendent's report failed to give the Teacher's load in the schools above where this information is omitted.



DILWORTH SCHOOL

1968

SALARIES IN 1907

Superintendent \$1,800.00 and Residence.

Principal North School \$1,500.00

Principal South School \$1,000.00

Principal Dilworth School \$1,000.00

Principal Belmont School \$800.00

Teachers of Grades 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 \$40.00 per month for nine months, during the first and second years of service.

Teachers of 2,3,4,5, and 6 \$42.50 per month during third and fourth years of service, and \$45.00 per month for the fifth and subsequent years of service.

Teachers of the First and Seventh Grades \$50.00 per month during the first four years of service, \$52.50 for the fifth and subsequent years

Teachers of Eighth Grade \$60.00 per month.

Colored Schools

Principal \$65.00 per month.

Teachers, Grades 1-6 \$35.00 per month.

Teachers of the Seventh Grade, \$40.00 per month.

The Principal taught the Eighth Grade.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERSHIP INCREASED TO SEVENTEEN

The Wards of the city were increased from four to eleven by the legislature of 1907. The School Board members were increased from Nine to Seventeen, elected by Wards, and all elected for a term of two years. City elections became more exciting. Every two years a complete change of city officials and school Board members was possible.

School Commissioners of 1907

Ward One, W. H. Belk, W. A. Neal, and M. M. Wallace.

Ward Two, T. T. Smith, J. G. Baird.

Ward Three, E. B. Littlefield and J. Hirshinger.

Ward Four, D. B. Smith and R. K. Blair.

Ward Five, J. L. Smith.

Ward Six, Dr. J. T. Hyatt.

Ward Seven, M. F. Trotter.

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Ward Eight, J. L. Sexton , and B. L. Davis  
Ward Nine, G. L. Dooley.  
Ward Ten, D. L. Keesler.  
Ward Eleven, L. C. Herndon.

Chairman, ex officio, Mayor S. S. McNinch.

Vice Chairman, D. B. Smith.

#### ELEVENTH GRADE ADDED

The Eleventh Grade was added in the fall of 1908. The members of the class who were graduated in the Tenth Grade in May 1908 had been invited to come back to form the Eleventh Grade in the fall. Seven responded, they were Leland Craig, George Brice, Rosamond Lucas, Kate Stratton, Annie Mae Bilbie, Pearl Wilkinson, and Leola Hannon. These seven received at the end of the school year a second-diploma, and were accorded the honor of being the first to graduate in the Eleventh Grade. The next year the Senior Class numbered about forty. Mr John Giles was employed to assist the Principal as teachers of the Tenth and Eleventh Grades. At the South School Mr. A. G. Randolph, the Principal, taught the Ninth Grade, Miss Sara Kelley, Miss Charlee Hutchison, and Miss Fannie Moore taught the Eighth Grades.

#### "SNIPS AND CUTS"

This year, 1908-'09, the first High School Annual, Snips and Cuts, was published. It has been published continuously as the High School Annual of Central High School until this time, 1949.

The Editors of this first edition of "SNIPS AND CUTS" were:

Editors in Chief, Miss Lillian Shaw and James McCallum  
Associate Editors, Miss Anna Wehner and Derr Mayberry,  
Comic Editors, Miss Annie Mae Bilbie and Leland Craig.  
Athletic Editor, Ward Evans.  
Business Managers, Chalmers Jamison and Carey Dowd,

## FIRST ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

As this is, to a great degree, a story of ORIGINS and BEGINNINGS of school activities, I think it is appropriate to quote from this first High School Annual, the report of one of the students, Cy. Long, on the development of Foot Ball in Charlotte, and the organization of the first Athletic Association.

I quote, "One evening on a lawn in Dilworth a party of boys between the ages of ten and fourteen, were engaged in a game of the sort mentioned; the game was at its fiercest, each tugging, pushing, and shoving toward his goal; a few passers by stopped for a moment to watch the contest; among them was the Rev. Francis Osborne, a new resident of Dilworth. (And Rector of the Episcopal Church). After watching the game for a short time he became interested, and when after a few minutes the players stopped for a rest, he asked if they would not like to organize a team, offering his services as a coach. Although none of the boys knew enough to appreciate the value of a Coach who had been the Captain of the University Eleven, they had good enough judgement to know that the help of any one in teaching them the game was not to be thrown away, accordingly they agreed and practice appointments were made.

"Rev. Osborne coached and trained the boys into a thoroughly organized team, besides organizing them into the Dilworth Athletic Club". (From the Class History of H. C. Long, Jr. Class of '10.)

A number of these boys in 1908 went on to the Charlotte High School Grades 10 and 11 at the North School, and organized the boys there and gave them valuable aid in coaching.

This was the beginning of an organized High School Athletic Association, although the boys of the Tenth Grade in prior years had played some foot ball.

~~The Athletic Association this year included a Foot Ball Team, a~~



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The Athletic Association this year included a Foot Ball Team, a Base ball Team, a Girls' Basket Ball Team and a Boys' ~~Base Ball~~ Basket Ball Team.

The foot ball team this year included Right End, Cyrus Long; Right Tackle, Carey Dowd; Right Guard, Roy McKnight; Center, Callie Little; Left Guard, Otto Austin; Left Tackle, Fred Bitgood; Left End, Leland Craig; Quarter Back, Locke White; Right Half, Russell Henderson, Left Half, James McCallum; Full Back, Chalmers Jamison .

In later years about 1913-'14, Mr. Marvin L. Ritch, as Coach gave foot ball ~~as~~ a great boost. This first edition of Snips and Cuts gives the names of all the teams and the pictures.

#### INTER HIGH SCHOOL DEBATES

The Annual Report of Superintendent Graham for 1910-'11 includes the following item: "The boys of the Junior and Senior Classes of the City Graded Schools are taking a great interest in a debating contest to be held at the school March 17. The contest is to decide who shall represent the school in the Triangular Debate with Raleigh and Greensboro on the 14th of April. The subject to be debated is:- "Resolved, That the Federal Government should levy a graduated income tax, barring all constitutional objection."

"Charlotte boys are to debate the affirmative here against Raleigh, and the Negative at Greensboro against the Greensboro High School. Greensboro sends two boys to Raleigh to debate the Negative side of the question with the Raleigh High School. All the debates are to be held the same night.

" The High School pupils at the North School organized a debating society six years ago, (1904-1905), and the debating feature has been popular with the boys and girls."

### FIRST GLEE CLUB

During 1910 the first Glee Club was organized under the direction of Mr. Robert Keesler, who had been Supervisor of Music in all the schools since 1900. The first performance was given at the debate between the High Schools of Raleigh and Charlotte, in Hanna Hall of the Y. M. C. A. building.

" It was truly said that though Charlotte lost the debate the Glee Club scored a decided success."

During 1909-1910 Mr. E.L. Flanagan succeeded Mr. John Giles as a teacher in the Junior and Senior classes. Mr Flanagan served one year and resigned to enter the ministry.

The enrollment in the Tenth and Eleventh Grades had increased so much that for the year 1911-12 an extra teacher was needed. Mr. W. B. Davis was elected to take Mr. Flanagan's place and Mr Pierce Wyche was elected as an extra teacher.

### FOURTH WARD SCHOOL

In the Spring of 1908 the Board of School Commissioners purchased from Mr. D. H. Anderson the house and lot in the grove on the corner of West Ninth and North Graham Streets. The building was a two story wooden residence, formerly the home of a Mr. Barringer. The lot was 394.4 feet on Ninth Street, and 99.1 on North Graham St. Some years later an adjoining lot 150 feet on N. Graham and ~~208~~ 393 feet on Ninth Street was purchased from Mr N. J. Sherrill.

The house was remodelled to provide six class rooms. In the fall of 1908 Miss Sallie Bethune was made principal of a school in this building. The other teachers were First Grade Miss Mary Wiley with Miss Bethune, Second Grade, Miss Flora Rutledge and Miss Mary Maxwell, Third Grade, Miss Zoe Hackett and Miss Mary Irwin.

SCHOOL BOARD 1911-1912

In the May Election of 1911 the following persons were elected to membership on the School Board:

- Ward One, W.H. Belk, W. L. Nicholson, and ~~E. F. Creswell~~ D. R. Yarboro  
" Two, T. T. Smith, and T. C. Toomey  
" Three, J. Hirshinger , and E. F. Creswell  
" Four, S. F. Tomlinson, and J. D. McCall  
" Five, J. J. Williams  
" Six, W. J. Cook  
" Seven, F. R. Cates  
" Eight, Rev. F. M. Osborne, and C. F. Alexander  
" Nine, J. L. Phillips  
" ~~W~~ Ten, R. O. Robinson,  
" Eleven, W. J. Gray.

Chairman, ex officio, Mayor C. A. Bland

Vice Chairman, J. D. McCall

Secretary and Treasurer, A. H. Wearn.

Mr. F. R. Cates, first elected in 1909, was Chairman of the Finance Committee.

Major S. F. Tomlinson, elected first in 1909, had served as a member of the School Board of the City of Durham before coming to Charlotte.

Major Tomlinson strongly recommended that a course in Domestic Science and Art for girls and a department in Manual Training for boys be organized for our schools. He brought up the subject at every meeting of the Board and was so persistent that eventually he succeeded in convincing the Board that he was right.

Mr. F. R. Cates who had been taught book-keeping and office

practice in the Night Schools of the Y. M. C. A. and was at this time a very successful Book-keeper and Accountant for one of the leading business firms of the city was equally as emphatic in advocating a business department; book-keeping, short hand, and office practice for boys and girls who were not going to college.

Captain T. T. Smith with the same degree of persistency urged the Board to do something to improve the teaching of penmanship.

There were not funds enough to undertake all of these activities the same year. An agreement was reached that Domestic Science and Art should be undertaken in 1912 The Business course in 1913, and Manual Training in 1914. The Palmer method of Penmanship had been adopted sometime before this.

#### FIRST DOMESTIC SCIENCE AND ART

Major Tomlinson planned and supervised the construction of the first Domestic Science laboratory on the third floor of the North School, then the High School. Through his efforts Miss Frances Ray from the Mechanics Institute of Rochester was secured to have charge of the department. She was well trained and had a very pleasing personality. As a result of this the Domestic Science Department was popular from the beginning

#### First Business Department

On the recommendation of Mr. Cates, Mr. Orville Hughes was employed as the teacher of business subjects. Mr Hughes was very successful, and bookkeeping, typing, and short hand classes were full the first year, 1913-'14.

#### First Industrial Arts

Mr C. E. Lacey through Major Tomlinson's efforts was employed <sup>in 1914</sup> to

head the department of Manual Training. Mr. Lacey was trained at the Mechanics Institute of Rochester. He was a very attractive young man who knew his job and the boys liked him very much. The Manual Training course was immediately popular with the boys. A well equipped shop with lathes, band saws, and other equipment was opened in a room of the Presbyterian College building.

We were very fortunate to have high class teachers for all of these new departments. They gave their respective departments a boost from the first. Their classes have always been full.

From these beginnings have come the Home Economics and Art, the Industrial Arts, and the Business Departments, which now thrive in the Junior and Senior High Schools of the city.

#### PENMANSHIP

Through the efforts of Captain T. T. Smith the Palmer Method of penmanship had been adopted in the schools. To give this greater emphasis Miss Josephine Henderson was promoted to the position of Supervisor of Penmanship, for the Elementary schools. She served until 1917 and was succeeded by Miss Florine Carothers. Both of these Supervisors did excellent work.

#### BOND ELECTION FOR \$100,000.00

Since the extension of the City Limits in 1907 the enrollment in the City Schools had increased very much, so there was a demand from various sections of the city for a school building in their respective communities. An election to authorize the issuing of bonds to the amount of \$100,000.00 was held in 1911. The vote was favorable.

#### FIVE NEW BUILDINGS

It was decided to build five elementary schools. There was considerable agitation in some sections as to the site to be selected.

The greatest controversy arose as to the location of the school for the Northen section. North Charlotte people wanted it located in the North Charlotte residential section. The Belmont people were equally as vociferous for it to be on the site of the old Belmont school which had been a county school.

#### IMPORTANT DECISION OF THE SUPREME COURT

The question arose as to the legal right of the School Board to select the school building sites. The City Aldermen held that the City Charter required that the title to all city property be vested in the City of Charlotte. Therefore, they claimed, the Board of Aldermen had the right to select the sites and locate the schools.

The matter was taken to the Supreme Court of the State. The Supreme Court made a very significant decision, which settled this matter for all times.

The Supreme Court ruled, first, that the Board of School Commissioners had exclusive right to select sites and build school houses; and second, the Board of School Commissioners had ~~had~~ exclusive control over money voted for school purposes.

#### Villa Heights Compromise

The School Board then attempted to satisfy both North Charlotte and the Belmont section by locating the school between the two sections at Villa Heights. One acre of land had been donated for this purpose by the Wadsworth Real Estate Company. This did not satisfy either section and considerable feeling was manifested for a long time.

A brick building, ordinary construction, with fourteen class rooms, was erected at a cost of approximately \$20,000.00.

A building of the same size and type was built on the grounds of the First Ward School, and is now known as the First Ward Primary School.

## WESLEY HEIGHTS SCHOOL

There was considerable discussion as to the location of the Elementary school in the Western section of the city. The Wadsworth Brothers Real Estate Company offered to donate a one acre lot at Wesley Heights if the Board would locate the building at that place. The Wadsworth Company were developing the old Wadsworth farm into a residential community, which they called Wesley Heights.

The School Board accepted the offer and a six room building was erected at a cost of about \$10,000.00

## FAIRVIEW SCHOOL

The old wooden building in the Fourth Ward, on the corner of North Graham and West Ninth Streets, was moved to to a lot on Oliver Street and became the first Fairview school for Negro children.

## FOURTH WARD SCHOOL

To replace the old wooden building on North Graham Street a fourteen room, brick building was erected. It was the same type of building as the Villa Heights and the First Ward Primary buildings.

Each of these buildings, the Villa Heights, First Ward, and Fourth Ward, cost approximately \$20,000.00. They were of ordinary construction and, therefore, not fire resistive.

## ELIZABETH SCHOOL

The fifth building was located on Travis Avenue and adjoining Independence Park. This building had ~~eight~~ eight class rooms and cost approximately \$13,000.00. This school was called the Elizabeth School.

All of these buildings had toilet rooms in the basements and Nurses rooms on the second floors, but no offices for the Principals. Superintendent Graham believed all Principals should teach and the class rooms would serve as their offices.

The Chairman of the Buildings and Grounds Committee was Mr. J. Lee Phillips who gave much time and very careful attention to the con-

struction of these buildings. His loyalty and devotion to the city of Charlotte and to the schools in particular is indicated by the rather unique inscription he had engraved on the corner stone of the Villa Heights building:-

"ERECTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND  
GREATER CHARLOTTE."

Dr. Graham in his final report pays a tribute to Mr. Phillips for his splendid services as Chairman of the Building Committee.

On July 1st, 1912, H. P. Harding was elected Assistant Superintendent of Schools. His first job was to provide the new buildings with desks and other equipment. There was not sufficient money from the bond issue to buy new desks for all of the new schools, so a greater part of the equipment had to be hauled from the old South School to the new buildings. He has very vivid recollections of riding with Mr. John L. Wilkinson on a two horse transfer belonging to the Cochrane Company, as they hauled old desks to the various schools. Mr. Wilkinson later became the head of the Carolina Transfer Company, and a prominent citizen in the civic and church affairs of the City.

#### PRINCIPALS OF THE NEW SCHOOLS

Miss Sallie Bethune who had been Principal of the Fourth Ward School in the old building, was continued as Principal of the new Fourth Ward School. She was recognized as one of the most successful primary teachers in the State. In 1882 she took part in the organization of the present system of Charlotte Public Schools. In 1912 she outranked in point of service every other teacher or officer in the city school system. She was greatly beloved by all of the citizens of Charlotte.

In later years, on the petition of her patrons, the Fourth Ward School was named the Sallie Bethune School, and is so called today.

In the summer of 1918 Miss Bethune was relieved of her duties



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as Principal and was made Supervisor of Primary Grades in the Bethune school. She held this position the remainder of her life. She died June 10, 1928.

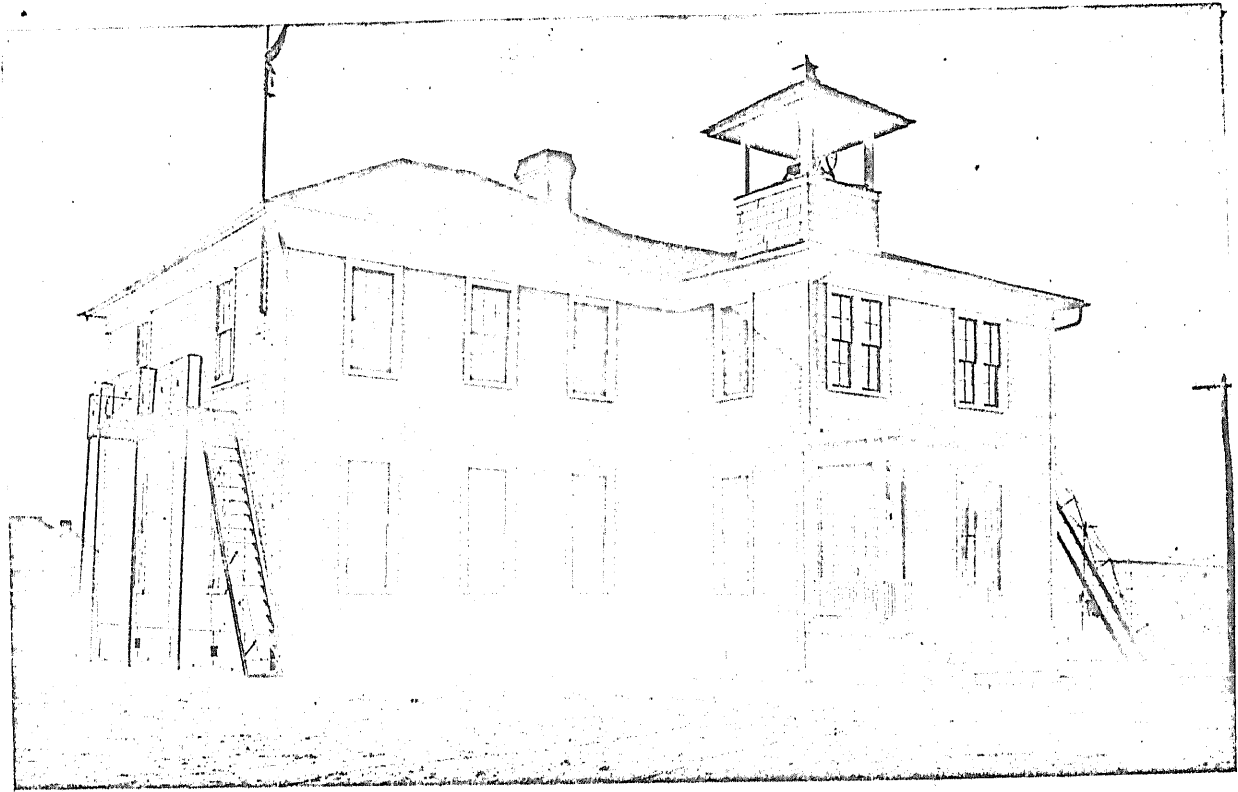
Miss Allie Nooe was made Principal of the new First Ward Primary school and served in this capacity until 1921, when she asked to be relieved of the principalship, but continued as a primary teacher in the school until she retired some years later. She had long been recognized as an outstanding primary teacher and she was an excellent Principal.

Mr. G. P. Heilig who had been Principal in the old Belmont building was made Principal of the Villa Heights School and served until 1921.

Miss Mary Wiley who had long been a most successful teacher in the Charlotte Schools was made Principal of the Elizabeth School. During her administration additional rooms were added to the Elizabeth school. She served two years and resigned to be married.

Miss Hattie Alexander was made Principal of the Wesley Heights School. She had served four years as principal of the Highland Park School in North Charlotte, prior to that she had taught a fourth grade in the North School from 1900 to 1908.

When Miss Wiley resigned the principalship of the Elizabeth School Miss Alexander was transferred to the Elizabeth school. As Principal she directed the affairs of her school most successfully through the years 1914-1948. She saw her school grow from an eight teacher school to a thirty teacher school. Miss Alexander voluntarily retired at the end of the school year 1948, having served forty eight years in the Charlotte City schools. She was an able administrator, a wise counselor of teachers, and a leader in the educational affairs of her community.



FIRST FAIRVIEW COLORED SCHOOL

1913-----1925

Mrs. Mary Gaston Davis was made Principal of the Fairview school. This wooden building transferred from the Fourth Ward was full from the beginning. Three additional rooms were built in 1918. The school continued in this old wooden building on Oliver Street until 1925. At that time The School Board purchased from Solomon Price a lot of four and nine tenths (4.9) acres on Burton Street. On this lot was built a modern brick building, fire resistive, with twenty five class rooms. Mrs. Davis continued as Principal until her death

She was an outstanding leader of her people, and her influence was felt in all of the Negro schools. The school Board has recently named one of the new buildings The Mary Gaston Davis School, in recognition of the contribution she made to the educational life of our city.

#### CONSOLIDATION OF THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADES

In the Summer of 1912, with the approval of Superintendent Graham and the School Board, the Assistant Superintendent planned for the transfer of the Eighth and Ninth Grades from the South School to the North School. The First Ward Primary building, just completed, made ~~made~~ room in the larger building for the Eighth and Ninth Grades, also for the Sixth and Seventh Grade children of the First Ward.

In the South School these grades had been organized with one teacher for all subjects in each room.

The transfer of the Eighth and Ninth Grades made it possible to organize the four highest grades on the departmental plan for the first time.

The teachers who were <sup>not</sup> accustomed to the departmental plan thought there would be confusion confounded when school opened in September. Schedules were carefully made for every teacher, so that every teacher would have a class, and every pupil would have a teacher.

The program went off like clock work on the first day of school. The teachers were surprised and the Assistant Superintendent was very happy. He had made the schedules, and that duty fell to him every year thereafter, until the coming of Dr. Garinger in 1921.

The High School Grades for the first time were together and organized as a High School in the fall of 1912.

#### THE HIGH SCHOOL FACULTY

Mr F. P. Wyche had been transferred to be Principal of the North School, including the High School Grades.

The faculty was as follows:

Mr. F. P. Wyche, Principal and Teacher of Mathematics,  
Mr. W. B. Davis, Latin and German ,  
Mr. C. F. Cowell, Physics, Chemistry, and Physical Geography,  
Mr. C. R. Wharton, English and French,  
Miss Fannie Moore, History  
Miss Charlee Hutchison, Latin and Mathematics,  
Miss Bertha Donnelly, Mathematics, Drawing, and Writing,  
Miss Josephine Osborne, English and History,  
Miss Sara Kelley, Algebra,  
Miss Frances Ray, Domestic Science and Art,  
Mr. Robert Keesler, Music,  
Asst. Supt. H. P. Harding, Mathematics.

It is proper to state here that Miss Fannie Moore, Miss Charlee Hutchison, Miss Bertha Donnelly, and Miss Sara Kelley remained on the High School faculty for many years and rendered invaluable service both as teachers and as promoters of a splendid High School spirit.

Each year thereafter an effort was made to add at least one ~~new~~/ new subject, or department, to the High School course of study.

Mr. Fred Cates was one chairman of the Finance Committee who believed in a progressive program for the city schools.

As an experienced business man he planned his budget carefully and always lived within it. However, He carried out the progressive recommendations of the school authorities so far as the school funds would permit.

### CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATION

At the annual meeting of the Board of School Commissioners in the summer of 1913, H. P. Harding was elected Superintendent.

Dr. Alexander Graham after twenty five years as Superintendent, remained as Assistant Superintendent until the State took over the city schools in 1933 when he was made Superintendent Emeritus.

The final report of Superintendent Graham for the year 1912-13, gives the following statistics:-

Number of Schools, White 8, Colored 2, Total Number of Schools 10.

Number of Teachers, White 92, Colored 30, Total 122.

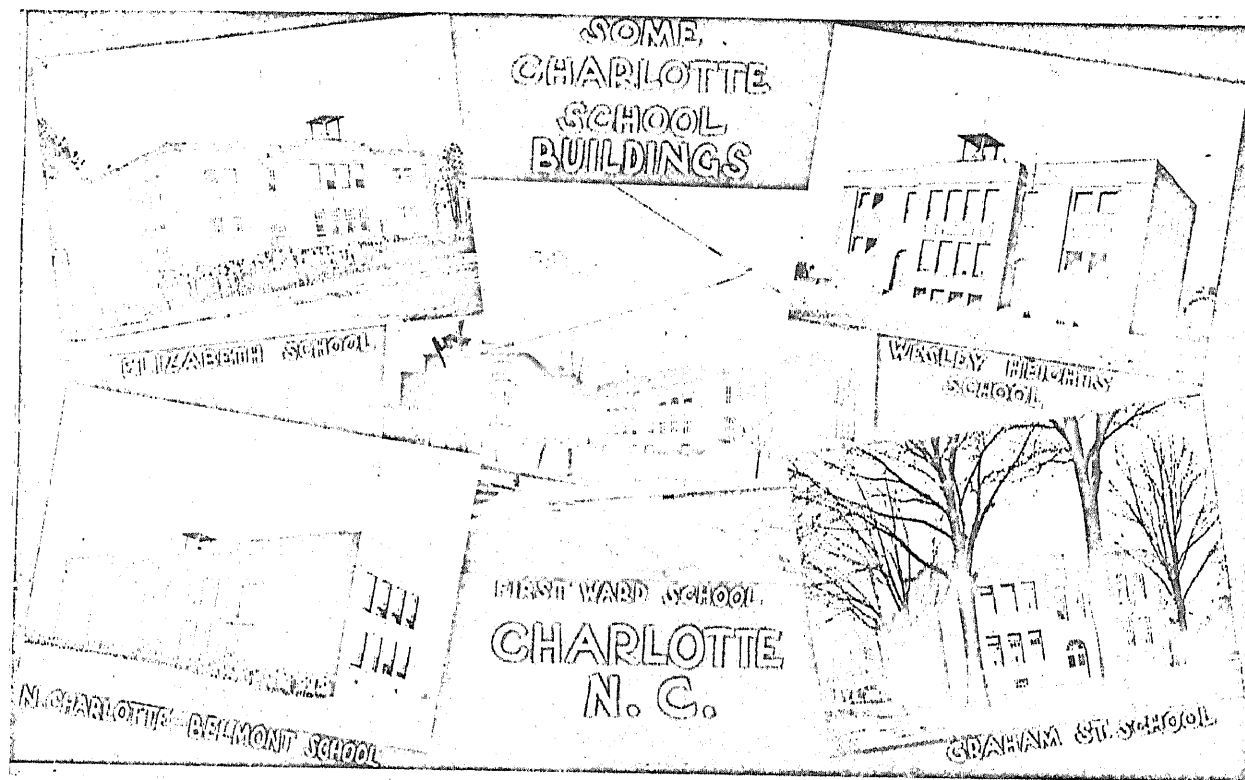
Number of Pupils Enrolled, White 4,022, Colored 1,993, Total 6,015.

This story began with a tribute to Superintendent Graham. Additional remarks are not necessary here.

His friends were greatly pleased when his Alma Mater, the University of North Carolina, conferred upon him the Honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.

### HISTORY OF THE CHARLOTTE SCHOOLS PRIOR TO 1900.

A history of the Charlotte Schools prior to 1900 is given in detail in an address delivered by Superintendent Graham on March 13, 1900 on the occasion of the laying of the corner stone of the North School on the corner of North Brevard and East Ninth Streets. A copy of that address will be filed with this report.



SOME CHARLOTTE SCHOOL BUILDINGS

1912--1913

THE CHARLOTTE CITY SCHOOLS

PART II.

The development of the Charlotte City School system during the administration of H. P. Harding as Superintendent, 1913----1949.

## ADMINISTRATION OF H. P. HARDING AS SUPERINTENDENT

1913-- 1949

In administering the affairs of the City Schools Superintendent Harding, for the first two years had the help and support of a school Board composed of the following members, seventeen in all, elected by wards for a term of two years:

First Ward, W. H. Belk, W.L.Nicholson, and D. R. Yarboro.

Second Ward, T. T. Smith, H. G. Link.

Third Ward, J. W. Weddington, J. Landrum Brown.

Fourth Ward, S. F. Tomlinson, J. D. McCall.

Fifth Ward, B. L. Kissiah.

Sixth Ward, H. A. Stilwell.

Seventh Ward, F. R. Cates.

Eighth Ward, J. H. Wilson, T. L. Black.

Ninth Ward, J. Lee Phillips, W. L. Gryder.

Tenth Ward, J. A. Bechtler.

Eleventh Ward, W. J. Gray.

Chairman, exofficio, Mayor C. A. Bland.

Vice Chairman, J. D. McCall.

Secretary and Treasurer, Arthur H. Wearn,

Chairman of the Finance Committee, Fred R. Cates.

## OBJECTIVES 1913-1915

The new administration set for itself a four fold task:

First, To revise the book list and improve the course of study.

Second, To provide more class rooms to relieve the crowded conditions then prevailing, and to provide more class rooms for the anticipated increase in enrollment.

Third, To improve the physical conditions in the old school buildings.

Fourth, To increase the revenue for schools in order to increase teachers' salaries, to secure more teachers, and to meet other current



expense.

The rapidly increasing population of Charlotte presented over and over to succeeding School Boards the challenge that confronted this Board . To a great degree, therefore, the same objectives year after year had to be adopted.

#### The Course of Study

The old Blue Back Speller which had been compiled by Noah Webster , nearly a hundred years prior to this time, for the one teacher schools of his day, did not classify and grade the list of words to meet the needs of a graded school system. This book was dropped and the new World Book series of spellers was adopted. This series gave a more modern arrangement of words for graded schools.

The old Smith's grammar was dropped and a language series of books was adopted. Technical grammar with parsing and diagramming in the Fifth Grade was postponed in part for a more advanced grade.

A more modern series of geography was adopted in the place of the Maury series.

The Palmer <sup>method</sup> ~~series~~ of penmanship had been in use some time. Capt. T. T. Smith, Chairman of the Committee on Course of Study, sent each week specimens of the children's writing to the home office of the Palmer Company for criticism. This year a Supervisor of Penmanship was requested by the Superintendent and Miss Josephine Henderson was elected for the ensuing year. Miss Henderson served most faithfully until 1917. On her resignation Miss Florine Carothers was elected to succeed Miss Henderson.

#### The High School Course of Study

In the High School the Commercial Course was begun as had been planned. This department included Stenography, Typewriting, Book-keeping and business methods.

Mr. Orville Hughes was the teacher and a short time later he was assisted by Mrs. Myrtle Asbury who continued with this department many years until she reached the year of retirement.

The Remington Company furnished the department with twenty typewriters free of charge, and the Burroughs Company loaned an adding machine. It may be stated here that at the end of three years the Remington Company took up the typewriters and replaced them with new machines, at no expense to the School Board. The Department was equipped with banking fixtures, and with commercial desks made especially for this department.

Mr. C. F. Cowell who had been teacher of Science was succeeded by Mr. E. R. Campbell, a graduate of Davidson College, for the next year. Mr Campbell remained in the school until our country entered World War I. He was a commissioned officer of Artillery and served overseas until shell shocked, when he was sent to Denver, Colorado. There he studied law and practiced with great success. He is now Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Denver Post.

Mr Campbell was recommended by the Superintendent for the principalship when Mr. Wyche resigned, but Mr. W. B. Davis was a better politician and received nine votes to Mr. Campbell's eight, and was therefore elected.

Each of these men contributed to the development of the course of study in his respective field during the years they were in the faculty of the High School.

## TEACHERS' MEETINGS

This year a teachers' training class composed of supernumerary teachers of the city, twenty young ladies, was organized by the Superintendent in the fall and met once a week during the year, for study and round table talks about school methods.

On one Saturday in each month all teachers, principals, and supervisors met from 9 o'clock a. m. to 12 m. They met with the Superintendent in a general meeting the first period; they assembled by schools with their respective principals the second period; and they met by grades or departments during the third period. Class room plans and methods for the following month were discussed.

This meeting of all the teachers together made possible a unity of spirit and purpose for the whole school system.

## TO ACQUIRE MORE CLASS ROOMS

During the first four months of the school year 1913-'14 the enrollment in the schools was increased by 640 pupils over the corresponding time of the preceding year. The Board of Aldermen was very cooperative and built six new rooms at the Elizabeth school.

The Littlejohn property adjoining the school yard of the South School on the corner of South Boulevard and Oak Streets, was purchased.

The Board of Aldermen in cooperation with the School Board bargained with the George Stevens Land Company to buy the old Presbyterian College building and grounds on the corner of North College and E. Ninth Streets.

The Board planned to move the High School to this building as soon as a clear title to the property could be obtained. A bond election for \$50,000.00 was contemplated.

## IMPROVEMENT of OLD BUILDINGS

To replace the old coal stoves in the Dilworth School a central Heating plant was installed. To do the same for the South School was

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planned but was postponed until funds were available.

The interior walls of the High School and of the Dilworth school were painted and many repairs made. The Board of Aldermen appropriated funds for the maintenance of the old buildings.

#### TAX RATE INCREASED

By a vote of the citizens on March 10, 1914, the school tax rate was increased from 20¢ to 30¢ on the \$100.00 property valuation.

The election at this time for a bond issue amounting to \$50,000.00 for a new building was lost.

The increase in the tax rate was expected to add about \$21,000.00 to the revenue for the schools the following year, and as the property valuation in the city increased through the years ~~would be~~ the school income would be more.

#### Purchase of the College Property Invalid

As the bond election failed to carry there was some doubt as to the legality of the transaction for the purchase of the Presbyterian College property. The Supreme Court finally ruled that the Board of Alderman could not give long time notes for the purchase price unless a majority of the registered <sup>voters</sup> ~~voters~~ had voted favorably.

While the case was pending in the Supreme Court, the School Board decided to use the College building for the Grammar Grades until the title had been cleared.

#### COLLEGE STREET SCHOOL

Mr. Wade Williams was made Principal of this school. The teachers were as follows:

Grade Five, Miss Annabel Lambeth, Miss Cornie Fore, and Mrs. W. F. Rucker.  
Grade Six, Mrs. Lois Ardrey, Miss Ellen Jamison, Miss Bertha Wohlford, and Miss Loma Squires.  
Grade Seven, Prin. Wade H. Williams, Miss Evelyn Rucker, Miss Fannie Porter, and Miss J<sup>l</sup>ia Roberts.

The first Manual Training shop in charge of Mr. C. E. Lacey was equip-  
ped in this building, but was later moved to the basement of the High

School on the corner of N. Bravard and E. Ninth Streets.

SCHOOL STATISTICS 1913-'14.

For the sake of comparison with later years , the statistics for the first year of this administration are given here, as of May 31, 1914.

VALUATION OF SCHOOL PROPERTY

Value of Buildings and Grounds	\$232,940.25
Value of Furniture and Apparatus	34,167.00
Total Valuation of School Property	\$267,107.00

ENROLLMENT

Total Enrollment, White	4,345
" " Colored	2,090
" " White and Colored	6,435

NUMBER OF TEACHERS

Number of Teachers ,White	94
" " " Colored	32
Total Number of Teachers and Principals	126

Total Operating Expense, 1913+14 \$82,260.55

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS

Number of Schools, White	8
" " " Colored	2
Total Number of Schools, White and Colored	10

SALARIES OF TEACHERS

Teachers of Grades 2,3,4,and 5 \$40.00 per month for nine months, for the first year, \$45.00 for the Second year, and \$50.00 for the third and subsequent years.

Teachers of the Sixth Grades \$55.00 per month for nine months.

Teachers of the Seventh and First Grades \$60.00 per month for nine months.

Teachers in the Eighth and Ninth Grades \$65.00 " " " " "

Teachers of Science, English, French, German, and Latin \$111.11 per month.

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Teacher of Domestic Science	\$122.22
Teacher of Commercial Subjects	100.00

SALARIES IN THE COLORED SCHOOLS

Teachers in Grades	2, 3, 4,	\$33.00
" " "	1, 5, 6,	32.50
" " "	7	45.00
" " "	8	50.00

Principal of Myers Street School \$100.00 per month for nine months.

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION, MAY 1915

In the city election of 1915 the following changes were made in the membership of the Board of School Commissioners:

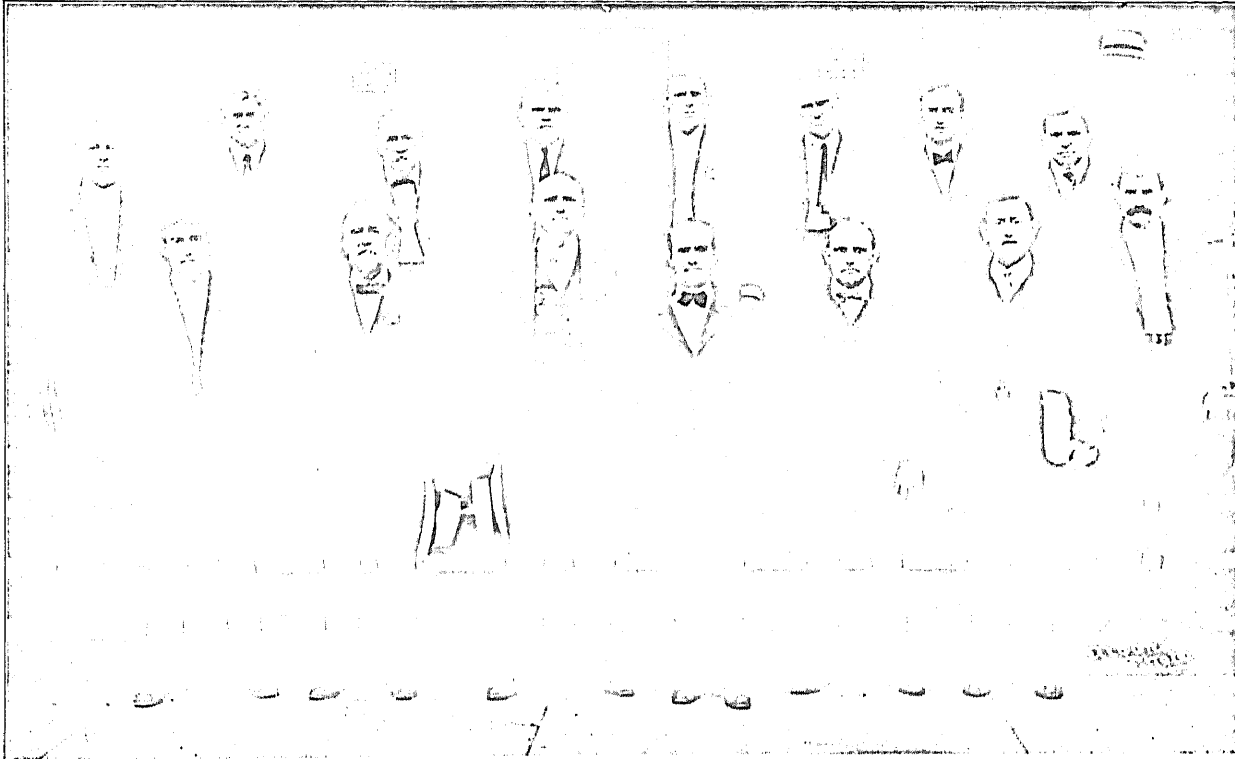
From Ward One,	J. B. Ross	succeeded	W. L. Nicholson <del>H. G. Link</del>
" "	Two, Plummer Stewart	"	H. G. Link
" "	Three, Thos. Stewart	"	J. W. Weddington
" "	Four, T. W. Dixon	"	S. F. Tomlinson
" "	Five, R. T. Martin	"	B. L. Kissiah
" "	Six, M. J. Green	"	H. A. Stilwell
" "	Seven, D. M. Abernethy	"	F. R. Cates
" "	Eight, S. F. Tomlinson	"	T. L. Black
" "	Nine, No change		
" "	Ten, G. M. Beaty	"	J. B. Bechtler
" "	Eleven, J. H. Kimbrell	"	W. J. Gray

Chairman, ex officio, Mayor T. L. Kirkpatrick,

Vice Chairman, J. D. McCall

Treasurer, A. H. Wearn.

Major S. F. Tomlinson had moved from the Fourth Ward to Dilworth and was elected this time from the Eighth Ward.



CHARLOTTE SCHOOL BOARD, 1915

Top Row, left to right: Thos. Stewart, M. J. Green, Maj. S. F. Tomlinson, J. H. Wilson, J. L. Brown, R. T. Martin, H. P. Harding, Superintendent, D. M. Abernethy.

BOTTOM ROW: G. M. Beaty, Capt. T. T. Smith, J. D. McCall, Vice Chairman, Col. T. L. Kirkpatrick, Mayor and Chairman ex officio, A. H. Wearn, Secretary and Treasurer, Plummer Stewart, D. R. Yarboro.

## COMPULSOTY ATTENDANCE

The State legislature of 1913 passed a compulsory attendance law to become effective September 2nd. This law required school attendance for children ages eight to twelve inclusive, for a period of four months.

The legislature of 1917 amended the law so as to require attendance of children ages eight to fourteen.

A special act of the legislature in 1919 enabled the Charlotte Board of School Commissioners to enforce a compulsory attendance of children ages eight to fourteen, for the full school term of the Charlotte schools.

Mr. M. F. Kirby was employed as full time Attendance Officer in 1914 and he served most faithfully until his death in 1918.

Mr J. H. Blanton served as Attendance Officer for many years most efficiently. Mr. Cook served one year and was succeeded by Mr. Lloyd Ranson in 1935. Mr. Ranson served until he reached the age for retirement in 1954. Mr. Ranson was a very faithful officer and a very generous dispenser of charitable aid to many of the needy children of the city schools.

## CHANGES IN PRINCIPALSHIPS

In 1912 when H. P. Harding was made Assistant Superintendent, Mr. F. P. Wyche who had served as Principal of the Dilworth School from 1907 until 1911 and then as Principal of the South School during the year 1911-1912, was transferred to the principalship of the High School in the First Ward building.

Mr. Pierce Wyche who had been a teacher in the High school had succeeded his father as Principal of the Dilworth School. He was made Principal of the South School in 1912 and served until 1913.

Miss Mary Belle Miller succeeded Mr. Pierce Wyche as Principal of the Dilworth School and succeeded him again as Principal of the South School the next year.



Mr. Wade H. Williams was made Principal of the South School in September 1917, when the College Street school was closed. Miss Mary Belle Miller was made Assistant Principal.

The next year Miss Sallie Bethune was relieved of her duties as Principal of the Bethune School and was made Supervisor of Primary Grades in the Bethune School. She filled this position until her death ~~in~~ June 10, 1928.

Miss Mary Belle Miller was transferred from the Assistant Principalship of the South School to the Principalship of the Bethune School in 1918, which she held until her resignation in 1921.

Miss Ursula Blankenship succeeded Miss Miller as Principal of the Dilworth School in September 1913. Miss Blankenship had been a teacher one year in South Carolina and two years in one of the County schools, ~~in~~ a suburb of Charlotte, and a teacher in the city schools since 1904.

Miss Blankenship was a graduate of Queens College and later attended the Summer schools of this State and of Teachers' College of Columbia University.

Miss Blankenship served in this position until her resignation on reaching the age of retirement in 1950.

Miss Blankenship was a student of education and modern methods of teaching. She liked to <sup>experiment</sup> in new educational procedures. ~~She assisted/~~ She was assisted<sup>^</sup> in this work by a group of able teachers. Among them were Miss Mary Graham, Miss Hattie Graham, Miss Kate Graham and Miss Anne Graham, daughters of Dr. Alexander Graham. Miss Mary Graham was later transferred to the Myers Park School, Miss Kate Graham and Miss Anne Graham left to teach at Chapel Hill and Rocky Mount respectively.

Miss Blankenship served also as Principal and teacher of the Summer School for many years.

In 1920 she and Miss Cornie Fore of Central High School had a year's

leave of absence to serve with the Red Cross in war torn France.

#### EDUCATIONAL POLICY OF THE ADMINISTRATION

The educational policy of the Superintendent at this time and in future years is expressed in his Annual Report of July, 1916.

I quote: " Our policy has been to adapt the school system, so far as it seemed practicable to the individual needs of our pupils and to give to every child, so far as the teaching force was able, a chance to develop to the fullest extent his powers and capabilities. The modern idea of the function of the school is not simply to give to every child the knowledge of how to read and write, but in every case to develop the all round character, to discover the child's strong points that he may cultivate them; in short, to help the child to find himself."

" It is here that such subjects as manual training, drawing, cooking, sewing, business courses, music, chemistry, debating, and other such subjects, or activities, in which the child finds self expression have great value.

" To my mind one of the saddest tragedies of this world is that of the man who awakes late in life to the fact that he has missed his calling and has wasted his talents. To enable the child to find himself while he is in the formative stage is one of the purposes of the modern school".

To apply this policy in the city schools the Superintendent had the help of a number of agencies. Prominent among these were the Parent-Teachers Associations, the Junior Red Cross, the State Department of Health, the National Association of Visiting Teachers, the State Department of Vocational Education, and others. In some instances these agencies provided the funds for the initial expense in getting certain activities started in our schools.

OVER-CROWDED CLASS ROOMS

The closing of the College Street School and the transfer of these children to other schools so over crowded the class rooms in all of the schools that the city authorities realized that some relief must be ~~found~~ found very soon.

This was the problem that faced the new School Board in 1917. In ~~the~~ the city election of May 1917 the following members of the School Board ~~were~~ were elected:

SCHOOL BOARD OF ~~1917~~ 1917

Ward 1, W. H. Belk, J. B. Ross, Chas. W. Ramsey,

Ward 2, T. T. Smith, Plummer Stewart;

Ward 3, Thos. Stewart, N. V. Porter,

Ward ~~4~~, T. W. Dixon, Paul H. Brown,

Ward 5, S. C. McCall,

Ward 6, M. J. Green,

Ward 7, D. M. Abernethy,

Ward 8, George M. Rose, W. B. Reid,

Ward 9, W. L. Gryder,

Ward 10, G. M. Beaty,

Ward 11, R. L. Hilton.

Chairman, ex officio, Mayor Frank R. ~~McNinch~~ McNinch,

Vice Chairman, Plummer Stewart,

Treasurer, A. H. Wearn.

Chairman of the Finance Committee, N. V. Porter.

BOND ELECTION FOR \$250,000.00

On April 26th, 1917 just prior to the city election a bond issue of \$250,000.00 had been carried.

The sentiment in Charlotte at that time as in the years that followed was very much against bond issues

## CHARLOTTE OBSERVER SUPPORT

The success of this election was the result, to a large degree, of the support given by the Charlotte Observer. Mr. Walter B. Sullivan who had recently come to Charlotte as publisher of the Observer made this campaign a special project of the Observer.

A school edition of the Observer giving pictures of class rooms over crowded and with pupils using boxes for desks, and at the South School the need for re-modeling, was issued.

On election day Mr. Sullivan with Mr. C. <sup>O.</sup> Kuester, Manager of the Chamber of Commerce, and other citizens at Mr. Sullivan's request went to the different sections of the city and worked to get out the vote.

At that time the Courts held that Schools were not a necessity and, therefore, a majority of the registered voters must cast their ballots for the bonds. To register and not vote was a vote against the bonds,

The election for the bonds was carried by a good majority. From that time through the years of my administration the Charlotte Observer was our able supporter in any movement for the improvement of the schools. The consciousness of this support was to us a source of strength in our planning for the expansion of the school system.

The Charlotte News, while always especially kind to this Superintendent and to the administration, was sometimes with us and sometimes against us. It was very conservative in matters calling for extra taxes.

The \$250,000.00 authorized by the election of April 26, 1917 was to be used to provide a High School building, an Elementary school building in the Third Ward, to remodel the South School, and to add class rooms to Myers Street and Fairview schools.

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#1/19/

### ZEB VANCE SCHOOL

Plans and specifications for the Third Ward school were prepared by J. F. Leitner of Atlanta. The Contractors were Blythe and Isenhour. This was the first fire resistive school building, of reinforced concrete, erected in Charlotte.

There were in this first unit eight class rooms, an office, and a nurse's room. The auditorium and additional class rooms were added a few years later.

This building was completed in December 1918. Miss Florence Jamison was elected Principal.

Miss Jamison was a graduate of our city schools, and of Queens College. She had been a very efficient teacher in the city schools and was promoted to this principalship. In 1929 she was made Principal of the Myers Park Elementary school and has served as Principal of the school since that time. She has a Master of Arts degree from Teachers' College, Columbia University. She has been a very wise counselor and leader in the educational life of Charlotte.

### ALEXANDER GRAHAM HIGH SCHOOL

The United States became involved in World War I. in 1917 before the contracts for building the High School had been let.

On account of the exigencies of the times Mayor F. R. McNinch urged the Board of School Commissioners to postpone the building of the High School until after the end of the war.

The plans and specifications of J. F. Leitner of Atlanta had been accepted.

The building was finally constructed the following year. The J. A. Jones Construction Company were awarded the contract. Mr Jones' son Raymond Jones superintended the construction, and for the first time in his career, he told me, mixed and poured the concrete used in the

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in the construction. Afterwards he supervised construction work for the J. A. Jones Co. extensively in North and South America.

In this building there were class rooms, Home Economics and Science laboratories, Industrial shops, an auditorium and offices. This was the first unit built. Other units including more class rooms, a music room and a cafeteria were added later.

#### THE SOUTH SCHOOL ALTERED

The ceilings in some sections of the South School building were very low. To correct this two sections which were three stories high, were changed to two stories. All rooms in the building <sup>opened</sup> on ~~an~~ outside corridors as they were in the old military barracks. The parents complained to the Board about the exposure of the children to the weather in Winter. At their request these corridors were enclosed by erecting brick walls on the outside of the corridors. Brick fire towers as required by the North Carolina law were built. A central heating plant was installed and the old stoves discarded.

#### BIDDLEVILLE SCHOOL

A four room primary building for Negro children was built in Biddleville. Mrs. E. R. Anderson was the teaching Principal. She was assisted by Miss Hattie Anderson. A modern brick building took the place of this building in later years.

#### FIRST SUMMER SCHOOL

The first summer school for children who had failed, was opened during the summer of 1915, in the building on the Corner of Ninth and Brevard Streets. Mr. Wade H. Williams was the Principal. The school operated for two months.

The report for the first session in 1915 was as follows:

Number of pupils enrolled in the Summer School	298
" " " promoted " " " "	198

Amount saved by the School Board in promotion of pupils who would otherwise have repeated a year ~~\$4,3663.50~~ \$3,663.50

The 198 pupils promoted had saved a year.

When Mr. Williams resigned in 1921 Mr. Aubrey Elliot was principal one year. He was succeeded by Miss Ursula Blankenship who served until 1948. When the State repealed our charter in 1933 and there was no local fund to finance the Summer School, Miss Blankenship and the teachers continued the school by charging a tuition. This had the approval of the School Board. When a supplementary tax was voted in 1935 the School Board again assumed the responsibility of conducting the school .

#### SCHOOL GARDEN CLUBS

During the World War years and later when our country was involved, the Government strongly advocated garden clubs in the schools of the country <sup>to</sup> aid the food situation here and abroad. Miss Ethel Gowans from the National Education Association spent a month in Charlotte to boost the garden activity. Later Mr. Frank Harper, former Superintendent of Schools in Raleigh, and at this time employed by a National agency spent some time in Charlotte to aid in the organization of the school clubs. The Womans' Club actively endorsed the the work, and The Charlotte Observer issued a special garden edition of the Observer.

There were very creditable results realized as the pictures in the Supeintendent's Annual Report of 1916-1917 indicate.

This was probably the first influence of World War I. on our city schools. The coming of Camp Green here in 1917 made a decided impact on the health program. The contributions of the Junior Red Cross, and the campaigns for the sale of Liberty Bonds are reported under the proper headings later in this report.

## HEALTH

As early as 1910 vaccination to prevent Small Pox had been required of all pupils. There was then some opposition on the part of parents and a great deal of fear and trembling on the part of the pupils.

Dr. Hawley, the City Superintendent of Health, visited the schools to do the vaccinating, He did a very thorough job of it. His reputation for hurting some <sup>was</sup> known throughout the system. When his vehicle entered the school yard there was often consternation in the school. This was especially true in the Negro schools, where the children would jump out the windows and run home when they saw the Doctor coming.

On one occasion when I was Superintendent, I visited the two teacher school in the Elizabeth Mill village. In a few minutes parents from the Village homes came running to inquire if I was the doctor. They in no uncertain terms objected to the vaccination of their children. They insisted their religion was opposed to it; that if God intended for their children to have Small Pox that it was a sin to try to prevent it. I tried to persuade them that God helps those who help themselves.

The change in attitude towards inoculations of all kinds as we have them today is one of the interesting facts in the life of our schools. Children accept it as part of the regular routine today.

## Medical Inspection, 1910-1911

During the year of 1910-1911 Superintendent Graham and Mrs. C. B. Bryant representing one of the community clubs, had persuaded some of the doctors of the city to make a medical inspection of all school children free of charge.

The Doctors participating were Dr. J. P. Munroe, Dr. A. M. Whisnant, Dr. Wakefield, Dr. I. W. Faison, Dr. Peeler, Dr. Turvey, Dr. Lafferty, and Dr. Clifford. Dr. Ferrell and Dr. Pridgen examined the children of Belmont, Dilworth, and Highland Park schools for hook worm.



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There was considerable agitation each year for a compulsory medical inspection, but nothing was done about it until 1917. The legislature of that year passed a compulsory medical inspection law.

#### THE INFLUENCE OF CAMP GREEN

When the Army Camp was located here in 1917, the United States Health Service and the City Health Department gave the schools almost the full time of two physicians and two nurses.

A very thorough medical inspection of the children was made, and the nurses followed up urgent cases by visiting the homes.

Dr. Treadway, U. S. Inspector of School Buildings, spent some time here and made an intensive survey of school buildings and grounds in order that such readjustment of furniture and equipment and other arrangements should be made as would be conducive to good health conditions. All of this was done with little expense to the School Board.

Major Brown from the Army and Nurses from the camp aided in the school inspections.

For the year 1918-1919 the schools had the services of Dr. C. C. Hudson, City Health Officer, and Dr. Annie Alexander, school physician, and two nurses, and for the following year two white nurses and one colored.

For the School year 1921-1922 the School Board employed Grace Gibson and Edna M. Hill, white Nurses, and Blanche Hayes, Colored Nurse.

~~During 1922-24 and 1924-1925~~

During 1922-1923 the Nurses were Hughey Medlock and Marion Edwards, white Nurses and Blanche Hayes, Colored Nurse.

For 1925-1926 Marion Edwards was Supervising Nurse and Martha Thorpe and Iva Rudisill White Nurses, and Blanche Hayes ~~Colored Nurse~~ and Manilla Shoffner Colored Nurses.

## HEALTH COURSE OF STUDY

During 1925-'26 a Course of Study in Health for Grades One through Eight was prepared under the direction of Miss Marion Edwards, Supervising Nurse for the schools, and with the approval of Dr. W. A. McPhaul who was the City Superintendent of Health at that time.

Miss Edwards had the help of a Committee composed of the following persons: The Supervisors, Miss Carter and Miss Rawl, the teachers Misses Maybelle Mary Graham, Maybelle Johnston, Edith Shepherd, Miss Frazier, Annie McGee, Frances Boyd, Julia McCrae, and Marguerite Sherrill, and Mr. J. A. Knox.

Some of the activities listed this year included Nurses' inspection of children; Observation of Anti-Cold Week; The Better Food Campaign and the Safety Campaign.

Literature, charts and samples of materials on Cleanliness and Care of the teeth were distributed by the Nurses for each child.

A Home Nursing Class was conducted in the Vocational School. Cooperating with the Negro National Health Week, special stress was laid upon every phase of health as it was related to the Negro's welfare

## PARENT--TEACHERS' ASSOCIATIONS ORGANIZED

During the school year 1916-1917 one of the most significant activities and possibly the farthest reaching in its influence was the movement for the organization of a Parent-Teacher Association at each of the city schools.

Prior to 1916 there had been almost no parent participation in planning the school life of the child. I was a Principal in Charlotte for eight years. The only parents who ever visited the school or came for a conference with me, were those who had <sup>e</sup>grievances, usually they were angry because the child had been punished or had not been promoted.

Early in the 20th century emphasis in this State began to be placed more on the proposition that education has to do with the growth and development of the whole child, mind, soul, and body. This required not just a six hour a day program but a twenty four hour program.

This called for a partnership of parent and teacher. The Parent-Teacher Associations in this city is an outgrowth of this philosophy of education. The programs of our city schools since that time have been profoundly affected by this philosophy and this partnership.

Too much cannot be said in praise of the efforts of Mrs. Edith Will Yates (Mrs. David Yates), Mrs. R. G. Spratt, Mrs. Joseph Garibaldi, Mrs. A. B. Justice, Mrs. J. H. Shuford and others who took the initiative in Charlotte in promoting this project on the part of parents.

Prior to this the Education Committee of the Woman's Club had taken some interest in the schools, especially during the time when Mrs. Elizabeth Hoyle Rucker was Chairman of that Committee. Before she became Chairman this Committee had been more or less critical of the schools. However thanks to the good offices of Mrs. C. C. Hook who was a prominent member of the Club they had been very kind to my administration.

## ORGANIZATION OF P. T. A. COUNCIL

The Presidents and officials of the several P. T. Associations of the city schools planned a meeting for April 1st, 1917 to form a city Parent-Teacher Council. The meeting was to be held in the assembly room of the Chamber of Commerce on the corner of S. Tryon and Second Streets, the second floor. Dr. P. P. Claxton, U. S. Commissioner of Education, who had a speaking engagement at Winthrop College, agreed to stop over in Charlotte for this initial meeting of the P. T. A. Council.

On the morning of April 1st, I was asked to go with Mrs Elizabeth Hoyle Rucker, Chairman of the Reception Committee, to meet Dr. Claxton at the Rail Road station. When the train arrived and Dr. Claxton stepped down from the Pullman car, immediately behind him came the former President of the U. S., the Honorable William Howard Taft and Mrs. Taft. They were stopping for the day with Dr. Claxton. Mrs. Rucker, the Chairman, and I were greatly surprised and somewhat awe stricken at the sight of our distinguished guests, but she hastily telephoned Mr. David Ovens, the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, who caught a taxi cab and joined us.

President and Mrs. Taft took the rear seat of my new Studebaker car, Mrs. Rucker and Mr. Ovens took the "pull out" seats, and Dr. Claxton joined me on the front seat, and away we went to the Selwyn Hotel.

At eleven o'clock Dr. Claxton and ex-President Taft addressed the first P. T. A. Council, assembled that morning to perfect an organization.

Mr. John Morehead entertained our distinguished <sup>guests</sup> for luncheon and took them to the train in the afternoon. As we waited at the station for the arrival of the train, Dr. Alexander Graham and President Taft vied with each other in telling funny anecdotes. Mrs Taft in the mean time was

walking back and forth on the platform as if she was bored with it all. Never before since he had been President, I imagine, had Mr. Taft been so informally welcomed and entertained, and he seemed to enjoy it all.

At this auspicious beginning, the P. T. A. Council received quite a boost from the addresses of these prominent statesmen.

Mrs. Edith Will Yates was elected the first President of the Council. She had been President of the Fourth Ward school P. T. A., and had been active in calling together the Presidents of <sup>the</sup> other Associations.

#### THE STATE P. T. A. CONGRESS ORGANIZED IN CHARLOTTE

In April of 1919, Mrs Yates sent out a call to key people in other towns and cities in North Carolina to meet in Charlotte the following fall to create a State Federation, or Congress, of P. T. Associations. Men and women from eleven communities of the State met in Charlotte with Mrs. Yates and Mrs. Frederick Schoff of Philadelphia who was the President of the National P. T. A. Congress. The opening session was held November 4th, 1919. Mrs. R. G. Spratt at that time Chairman of the Charlotte P. T. A. Council, presided. About 350 persons attended.

#### THE FIRST P. T. A. OFFICERS FOR THE STATE

The first State officers elected were Mrs. Joseph Garibaldi, President, Mrs. J. Shuford, Corresponding Secretary, both from Charlotte, Mrs. E. G. Finley of North Wilkesboro, Recording Secretary, and Mrs. Francis B. Kemp of Reidsville, Treasurer.

Mrs. Garibaldi served most efficiently as State President. She is now Honorary State President. All through the years she has given wise counsel in the administration of the State Congress.

The membership in 1949, of the State organization numbered approximately 189,192. It had its beginning in Charlotte on the initiative of Charlotte parents.

## AN EVALUATION OF THE P. T. A. IN CHARLOTTE

In evaluating the worth of the Parent-Teacher Associations in Charlotte much can be written of the material aid that the Associations have given to the needy and under-privileged children of our schools, such as providing hot lunches, free text books, first aid supplies, dental services, pre-school clinics and clothing.

Much praise is due the Associations for securing library books, playground equipment, victrolas, and records, radio sets and the like for the schools, all of this at times when school board funds were too low to provide such things.

In almost every campaign that has been undertaken in Charlotte for the improvement of educational conditions, the leadership and the greatest support have come from the Parent-Teacher Associations, whether the campaign has been to vote bonds for better school buildings, or to increase the tax rate for more operating revenue, or whether it has been for better organization, better health conditions, the schools have always had the strongest cooperation and support of the Parent-Teacher Associations.

But to my mind, the greatest contribution of the P. T. A. has not been in material things and cannot be measured in terms of material values. The greatest value of the Associations should be expressed in terms of cooperation, support, understanding and sympathy.

This is not limited to the intermittent campaigns, but is evidenced in the continuous day by day habit of keeping in touch with the school, knowing the objectives of the school programs, and watching with sympathy and encouragement the daily progress of the child, and then in giving to the public a wise interpretation of the school's purposes and methods. And thus gain for the school the loyalty of all citizens and have them working for the good of the child.

This is what the Parent-Teacher Associations have been trying to do in Charlotte for a long time and they have succeeded to a remarkable degree.

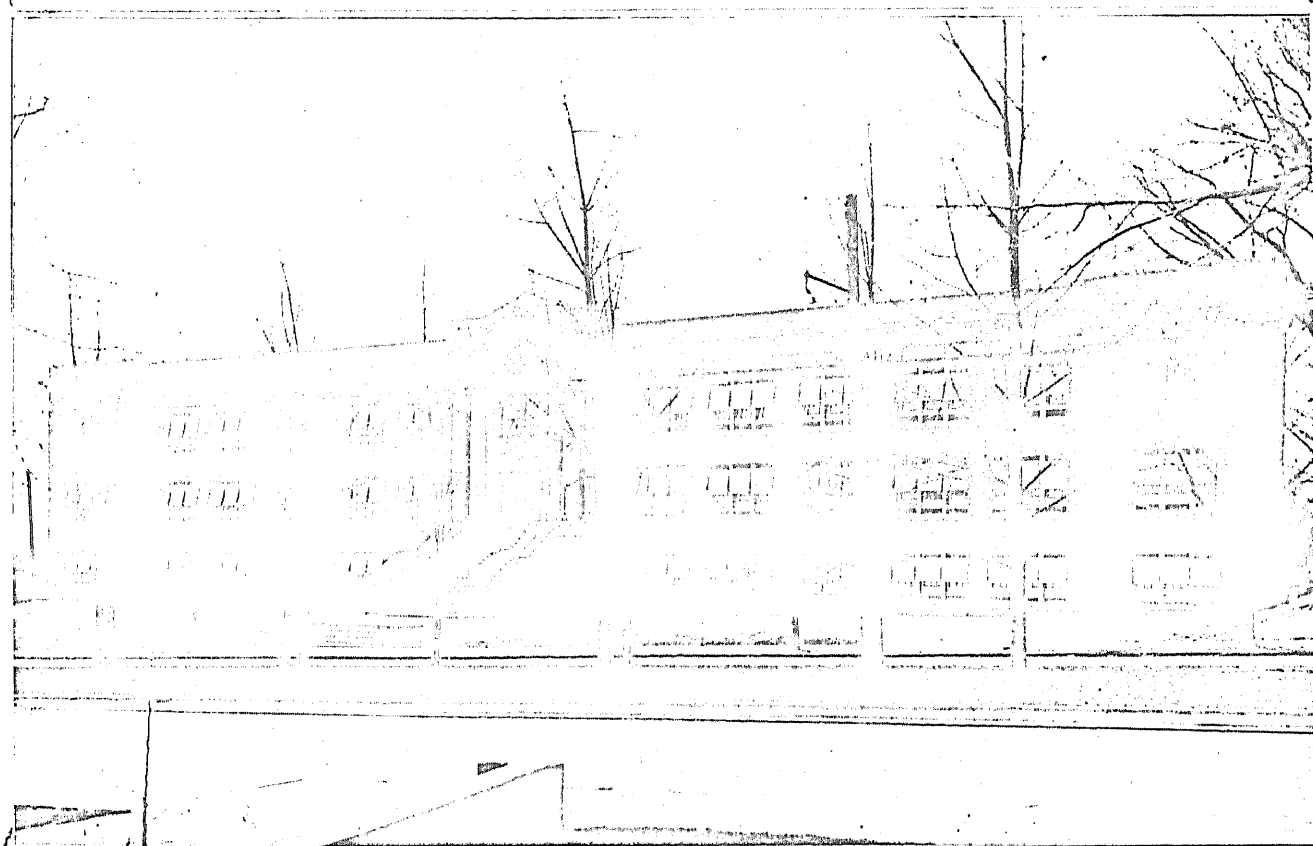
This writer has been most appreciative and grateful for the support and help they ~~have~~ gave him at all times during his administration as Superintendent.

At the beginning of each year this Superintendent was greatly encouraged when the President of the P. T. A. Council came to inquire what the P. T. A. could do for him during the ensuing school year.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE SCHOOL BOARD  
REDUCED FROM SEVENTEEN TO SEVEN  
MEMBERS, ELECTED AT LARGE.

The legislature of 1919 amended the city charter so as reduce the membership of the Board of School Commissioners from seventeen members to seven, to be elected at large.

The new members elected under this provision in May 1919 were:  
Plummer Stewart, D. H. Johnston, J. B. Ivey, J. Lester Wolfe, N. V. Porter, C. W. Tillett, Jr. and W. H. Belk.  
Mr. Plummer Stewart was elected Vice Chairman,  
Mr. N. V. Porter, Chairman of the Finance Committee.



Alexander Graham High School, 1920--1923

Alexander Graham Junior High School, 1923-----



## OPENING OF ALEXANDER GRAHAM HIGH SCHOOL

The new High School on Morehead Street was opened with appropriate exercises on April 5th, 1920, and The Chairman of the School Board, Mr. Plummer Stewart, announced that the school would be named in honor of Dr. Alexander Graham, The Alexander Graham High School.

The High School grades were transferred there from the First Ward School. Mr. Fred McCall who had succeeded Mr. W. B. Davis as Principal of the High School in 1919, now became Principal of the High School in the new building.

Mr. Aubrey<sup>M.</sup> Elliot was made Principal of the First Ward Grammar School which included the Seventh, Eighth, and Ninth Grades of the territory North of Trade Street. These grades constituted a Junior High School and were so called.

Mr. Elliott was a graduate of the Charlotte schools and had been one of the debaters in the State High School Triangular Debate. Superintendent Graham in his Annual Report of 1913 writes:

I quote, " I have on my desk at this time a statement showing the record of the Charlotte High School Freshmen (at U. N. C.) in their examination this year which contains the information that Aubrey Elliott of Charlotte took first rank in Latin, English and Mathematics, second in Greek; Clyde Fore first in Mathematics, third in English, Drawing, and Chemistry; Barney Pitts first in English and Latin, second in Mathematics, and fourth in History; Herschel Johnson first in Latin, second in English, third in Mathematics, and fourth in History."

Mr. Elliot was graduated at the University of North Carolina, took his Masters Degree at Teachers' College Columbia University. He served over seas in World War I. and after the war taught in our High School department.

Miss Allie Nooe was still Principal of the First Ward Primary School.

During the spring of 1921 twelve class rooms were added to the Alexander Graham High School and the following year the cafeteria was built in the basement of this twelve room wing. The West wing with extra class rooms, a music room, and a gymnasium were built about 1928.

#### Addition of Twelfth Grade

In the spring of 1921 the Superintendent announced to the Ninth and Tenth Grades that the Course of Study for the eighth, Ninth, and Tenth Grades would be changed so as to permit more elective courses in the lower grades, and the Twelfth Grade would be added by 1924. This was not to add more courses at the top but to expand and enrich the lower grades beginning with the Eighth Grade. The Eleventh Grade that would graduate in 1923 under the prevailing regime, would go on to the Twelfth Grade and graduate in 1924.

#### THE JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL PLAN

When the Twelfth Grade was finally added in 1923-1924 our city system ~~was~~ of schools was organized on a SIX-THREE-THREE plan, six years of Elementary schools, three years of Junior High schools, and three years of Senior High Schools.

#### COURSE OF STUDY POLICY

The policy of the administration as to the course of study at this time and in later years is stated in the Superintendent's report of 1920-21. I quote: "The Course of Study of a system of schools should be the product of a process of selection and elimination, that continues throughout the life of the schools. It should grow out of the needs of the community. We try to make such a development here. We are constantly adding and taking from it, with the idea always of holding fast to that which is good. "

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The addition of the Twelfth Grade with the expansion of the Course of Study in Grades Seven, Eight, and Nine, was an application of this policy.

MR. A. M. ELLIOTT, PRINCIPAL OF ALEX. GRAHAM JR. HIGH.

On the completion of Central High School in the spring of 1923 the Junior High School, Grades 7, 8, and 9, with pupils living in the Southern section of the city, were transferred from the First Ward School to the new Central High building for the remainder of the semester. Mr. A. M. Elliott who had been Principal at the First Ward School was transferred to the Principalship of the new school.

In September the Senior High School was transferred to the Central High building, and the Junior High was sent to the Alexander Graham Jr. school building. Dr. Garvinger became Principal of Central High school and Mr. Elliott Principal of the Alexander Graham Jr. High school.

This was the first strictly Junior High school in the city and probably the first in the State. The Seventh, Eighth, and Ninth Grades had been organized as Junior High School Grades, <sup>in the First Ward School</sup> but in the same building were the other Grammar Grades of the First Ward section.

The Alexander <sup>Graham</sup> Junior High School under the supervision of Mr. Elliott has always been well organized and well administered. The West wing with additional class rooms, a Music Room, and a Gymnasium ~~were~~ was built during the school year 1928-'29.

The Piedmont Junior High school with strictly Junior High School grades from the Northern section of the city was built about 1926. Mr. Uhlman Alexander was the first Principal. He was followed by Mr. John M. Dunlap as has been stated before. Mr. Dunlap served until July 1st, 1944 when he became Business Manager of the city school system.

Mr. James D. Gault succeeded Mr. Dunlap as Principal of the <sup>Piedmont</sup> Junior High School.

### LADIES ON THE SCHOOL BOARD

In the city election of 1921 the following members were elected to the Board of School Commissioners:

Mrs. Gordon Finger, Mrs. J. Renwyck Wilkes, Mrs. J. R. Purser, Mr. Brent Drane, Mr. J. L. Wolfe, Mr. D. H. Johnston and Mr. C. W. Tillett, Jr.

Mr. Brent Drane was made Vice Chairman.

For the first time ladies were elected to the membership of the Board. Our schools made great progress under the administration of this Board.

### THE JUNIOR RED CROSS

President Woodrow Wilson announced in 1917 the expansion of the Red Cross to include a junior membership to be known as the American Junior Red Cross. His proclamation was addressed to the School children of the United States.

The Charlotte schools responded 100 per cent. Mr. J. H. <sup>McAden</sup>~~McAden~~ of the First National Bank was the first Treasurer, Mr. Esley O. Anderson, of the Independence Trust Company, succeeded Mr. McAden, and later Mr. E. E. Jones followed Mr. Anderson. All of these men gave a great deal of time and skill to the handling <sup>of</sup> the finances of the organization.

Large boxes of clothing and other articles of interest to the children abroad, were shipped from time to time to the war torn countries.

After the war the organization in Charlotte was continued and the funds raised contributed in many ways to the improvement of our schools.

In the development of the school system of the city, we found that with outside financial help we could begin a much needed project. If the project was a success and had the support of the <sup>community</sup>~~community~~ <sup>community</sup> for the first or second year the School Commissioners would take over the project and finance it in the years that followed.

## DENTAL CLINIC FOR THE SCHOOLS

The funds provided by the Junior Red Cross enabled us to begin the dental clinic in September 1922. The Junior Red Cross provided \$2,250.00 to equip the dental office and pay part of the dentist's salary. Dr. G. M. Cooper, Director of the State Health Department, and his Assistant Dr. Johnston approved the clinic and paid the remainder of the salary during the first year.

The office was in the First Ward Grammar school building. All instruments and office furniture were furnished from Junior Red Cross funds.

Dr. T. P. Williamson was elected school dentist and with Mrs. Williamson as an assistant the school clinic was begun without any expense to the School Board. The Board eventually took over the project and financed it. This clinic served well and efficiently for eleven years, until 1933 when the State took over our schools and discontinued this with the other agencies that we had striven hard to get for our children through the years.

## OPEN AIR SCHOOL

During the year 1921-22 there was considerable agitation for a special school for anemic children who might become victims of tuberculosis.

The small dwelling house on the property purchased for the Central High School was remodeled to provide a great deal of window space for an open air school.

Miss Harriet Matthews of Brooklyn, N. Y. was employed as the teacher. She had been trained at Sarenac Lake New York for this kind of work.

A kitchen and dining room were equipped so as to furnish hot and nourishing meals for anemic children. Two rooms were furnished with cots for periods of rest and suitable robes for the open air rooms

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were provided.

Very soon the City Attorney ruled that the School Board could not legally pay for the food and the preparation of it, and for certain other necessary expense.

The Junior League first and later the Charity League came to the rescue, and provided funds for this extra expense which amounted to \$200.00 or \$300.00 per month for nine months. Children from distant sections of the city were furnished car tickets by the Junior Red Cross.

After two years Miss Harriet Matthews resigned and Miss Janie Matthews succeeded her. Other teachers who came after Miss Matthews were Miss Virginia Barret, Mrs. Penelope Dick, Mrs. Julia Harris O'Brian and Miss Nettie Wearn Jr.

When the State repealed our charter in 1933 our Board had no funds from a tax supplement, and the teacher allotment was greatly reduced, so not even a teacher could be spared, and the school closed.

About 1928 the building was moved to Cecil Street, on a site opposite the Armory Auditorium. It was used in later years as a Nature Museum which was organized and conducted by Miss Laura Owens.

#### SCHOOL BOND ELECTION OF 1920

An election held July 6th, 1920, had authorized the city to issue bonds to the amount of \$750,000.00 for school building purposes. Mrs. A. B. Justice, President of the P. T. A., was the campaign manager. The election was carried after a strenuous campaign.

The funds were to be used to build a Central High School, a Vocational School, and a High School for Negroes.

#### CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL SITE

The selection of the site for Central High School was a matter of considerable controversy. Two sites were proposed, one on Elizabeth Avenue on the property of Mr. W. R. Wearn with additional land extending into Independence Park. This was on high ground and gave the school the use of the Park as was the case at Elizabeth School.

Mr. Tillett, Mr. Wolfe, and Mr. Johnston favored this location,

The other site was a low swampy acreage over grown with bushes and unsightly brush, bordering Sugaw Creek. This place at that time was an eyesore in the center of the city.

At the meeting of the School Board when a motion to buy the second site was made, Mr. Wolfe and Mr. Johnston were not present. Mr. Tillett asked that the matter be postponed until there should be a full meeting of the Board, with all members present. He was over ruled and the motion to purchase the site on Sugaw Creek was carried, Mr. Drane, Mrs. Finger, Mrs. Wilkes, and Mrs. Purser voting in favor of the motion. Mr. Tillett asked to be recorded as voting against the motion.

On this land ~~off~~ five and three tenths ~~of~~ acres was built Central High school. The Architects were Lockwood, Green and Company, represented in Charlotte by Mr. Norman Pease.

It was reported that the Contractors spent \$11,000.00 in driving piling for a foundation for the building.

#### TECH. HIGH SCHOOL SITE

For the Vocational High School, later called Tech. High School, five and one third acres off Pegram Street in the Belmont-Villa Heights section was purchased from the Chadwick-Hoskins Company, owners of the Louise Mill.

1920

#### SECOND WARD HIGH SCHOOL SITE

For the Negro High School site land was purchased, after condemnation proceedings, from the Harty heirs. This site was on Stonewall St. between Alexander Street and Myers Street. On this land was built what has since been known as the Second Ward High School. Additional lots on Myers Street were purchased later when the Gymnasium was built.

On the land purchased for Central High School was a small dwelling house with four rooms and a basement dining room and kitchen. This

is the house that was remodelled and made into an Open Air school building. A few years later when the athletic field for Central High School was extended this open air school house was moved to a site on Cecil Street just across the street from the Armory Auditorium.

#### TECH. HIGH SCHOOL

About 1920 there was considerable agitation for a Vocational School.

The late Justice Heriot Clarkson, then an attorney at law of much prominence in Charlotte, had convinced the members of the Junior Order of American Mechanics that industrial education was the great need of the time, especially for children of working men.

Committees from the local lodges appeared at a number of school Board meetings. Prominent among these members were Messrs. Calvin Grier, N. C. Burns, J. H. McCall, and Ham. Stillwel.

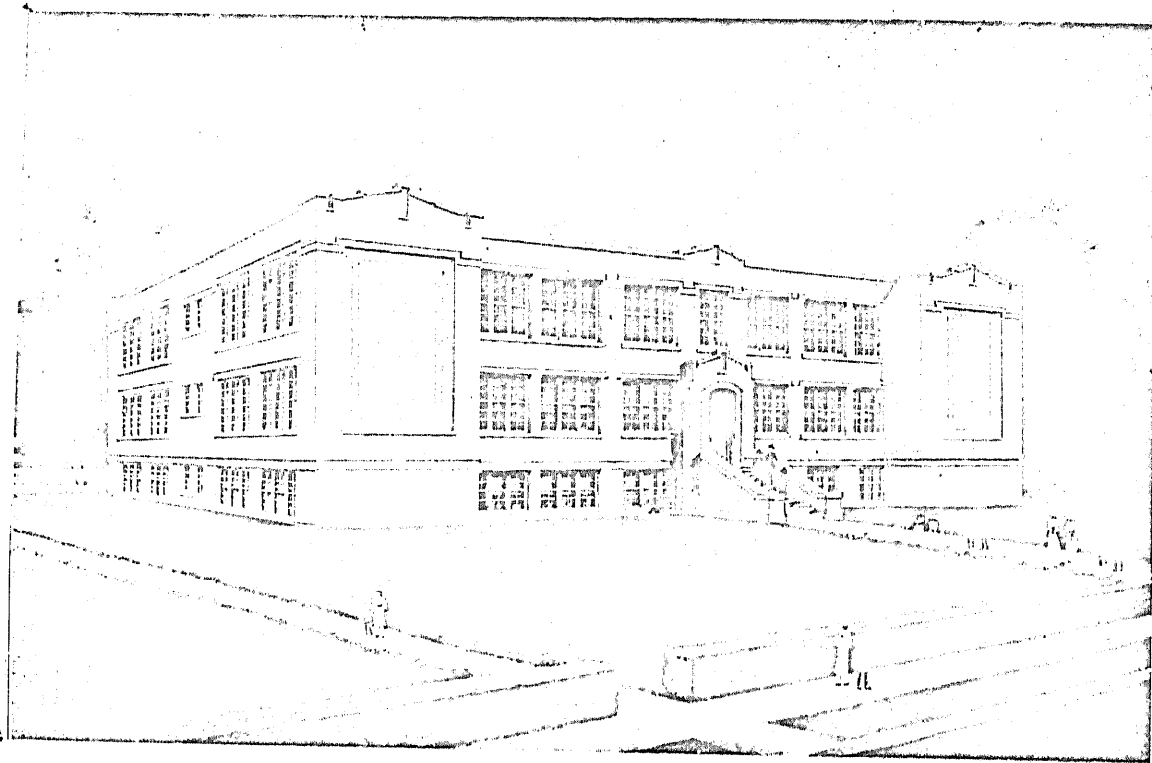
A tentative promise was made that the Board would build a Vocational school house if the pending election to authorize the issuing of bonds to the amount of \$750,000 was carried.

After the election five and one third acres of land were purchased from the owners of the Louise Mill, The Chadwick Hoskins Company, the building was completed in time for the opening of school in September 1922.

The first Principal was Mr. Harry K. Moore of Middleton, Ohio. He had come to Charlotte one year prior to this time to be Industrial Arts teacher in the High School.

The teachers were, Miss Daphne Ransom, English, Miss Stella Kittles, Mathematics, Miss Lula Faye Clegg History, Miss Willie John Medlock, Home Economics, Miss Mattie E. Riggins Home Economics, Mr. Quincey Crater, ~~Math~~ Mechanics, Miss Ethel Johnson, Commercial Subjects,





The Vocational School 1922--1927  
Charlotte Tech. High School, 1927----

Miss Martha Akers, English. Other teachers who had a part in the first years of the school under the administration of Mr. Moore were Mr. R. F. Watkins Wood Working Mechanics, Mr. Sigurd L. Gunderson, Metal Working, Miss Helen Dodds, Home Economics, Miss Ruth Kohn, Home Economics, Miss Mary Sossman, Home Economics, Miss Annie Mae Eaves, Adult Classes in Home Economics in night classes.

When the building was opened in September 1922 the High School classes did not use all of the class rooms. To relieve the over crowded classes at Villa Heights school primary grades occupied the spare rooms.

The High School included, this first year, the Seventh Eighth and Ninth Grades. The first graduating class was in June 1926.

In a few years the Junior and Senior High School classes occupied the whole building, and a wood working shop was built in the rear of the main building during the first year.

The growth of the school and the type of instruction is indicated in the Annual report of the Principal, Mr. Moore, in 1925.

Enrolled in Wood Working classes 106, Mechanical Drawing 76, Machine Shop and Auto-Mechanics 26, Cooking 55, Dress Making and Millinery 92, Commercial Subjects 50, Mathematics 198, English 200, History and Civics, 207. Part Time Class 20. The Part Time Class was for working boys and was in charge of Miss Mae Myers.

The night school for adults conducted by the teachers of the Vocational school for men, and by Miss Annie Mae Eaves for women, included courses in sheet metal mechanics, Drafting, Mathematics, Auto-Mechanics for men, and Foods and Cooking, Millinery, Dress Making, Home Nursing and Interior Decorating for women.

Night Schools for Negroes were conducted at the Second Ward and Alexander Streets schools. Courses were offered in brick-laying, Carpentry, Dress Making, and Millinery, also Reading, Writing and

Spelling, The Night Classes for Negroes were conducted under the joint auspices of the School Board and the Y. M. C. A. staff.

The High School located at this point, in the Belmont, Villa Heights and North Charlotte sections, brought into the High School for four more years of education a large number of boys and girls who never would have attended Central or Piedmont High Schools. Prior to 1922 very few students from these sections of the city attended the down town schools for High School instruction.

Mr. Harry K. Moore, the Principal resigned in June 1926. He had done an excellent job in organizing this school and in developing a fine school spirit from the Beginning.

#### MR. F. T. SELBY BECOMES PRINCIPAL

In the fall of 1926 Mr. F. T. Selby succeeded Mr. Moore as principal of the Vocational School. Mr Selby was a graduate of Miami University of Oxford, Ohio. He had served as Instructor and Counselor at N. C. State College and as Teacher of Industrial Arts in the Durham Schools .

Mr. Selby directed the expansion of Tech. High School as the school was named after 1927. He was head of the Adult Education work in our city, under the administration of our School Board and the State Vocational Board during the years of World War II. which will be reported later in this review.

## UNGRADED CLASSES

Following our policy that a public school system should provide the kind of instruction and environment that would give every child his best chance to learn and grow, we gave special attention to the slow child and to the disciplinary problem child.

Almost every teacher had in her class one or more of these problem children. They took a great deal of the time and nervous energy of the teacher that should have been given to the other thirty or more pupils in her class. These exceptional children, we believed were not getting the kind of school life they should have and the other children in the class were not getting the full opportunity that the teacher should give them.

MRS. W. E. TAYLOR

We had in our Zeb Vance School a teacher who had been remarkably successful in teaching these problem children of her class and of other classes in her school.

About 1920 we proposed to the School Board that she be sent to the Summer School of the University of Pennsylvania where she could get special training in this kind of work. The Board approved and paid her expenses for several summers spent at this University.

The teacher was Mrs. W. E. Taylor. She organized several ungraded classes in the system during the next few years and instructed the teachers of such classes. The enrollment in each class was limited to eighteen pupils.

## THREE TYPES OF CLASSES

There were three types of these ungraded classes:

(1) The Restorative classes composed of children who had lost time or for some reason were behind in their classes and needed individual attention.

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(2) The class of slow learners who needed a great deal of individual help.

(3) The class of disciplinary pupils.

Removing these pupils from the regular classes was a great relief to the teacher, therefore she could do much better class work.

The greatest advantage, however, was for these ungraded pupils who received now in these classes the kind of instruction that enabled them to participate in the class program, and, therefore, learn and grow.

Mrs. Taylor was very successful in her supervision and eventually about eighteen of these classes were organized in our Elementary schools  
sch/001/s/

It was necessary to change the names from time to time. First they were Ungraded Classes, then Opportunity Classes, then Classes for Exceptional Children.

Eventually the sentiment over the country grew that these segregated children were missing a part of their educational life by not living with normal groups of all degrees of intelligence.

When the State took over our city schools the classes were discontinued.

#### NEGRO SCHOOLS

At the beginning of this administration the Myers Street School had twenty three teachers including the teaching Principal Mr. S. B. Pride. This was a wooden building which originally had eight classrooms, had now by expansion <sup>had</sup> twenty three rooms. It has been described in the report of Superintendent Graham's administration.

Mr. Pride died during the school year 1917-1918, and Mrs. Pride succeeded <sup>him</sup> him as Principal.

During this year a Domestic Science Department and dining room

were provided in this school. Mrs. Florence Pethel was the teacher in charge.

The Fairview school was at this time in a five room wooden building on Oliver Street. Three additional rooms were added during the school year 1917-1918, and a well equipped cooking room was included. Mrs. Della McLaughlin was the teacher of cooking and sewing,

During the spring of 1917 an eight room wooden building was erected on Alexander Street in the First Ward. The building cost approximately \$8,190.00. Mrs. S. B. Pride was transferred from the Myers St. school to be principal of this school. Mr. J. N. Brown succeeded Mrs. Pride as Principal of the Myers St. School.

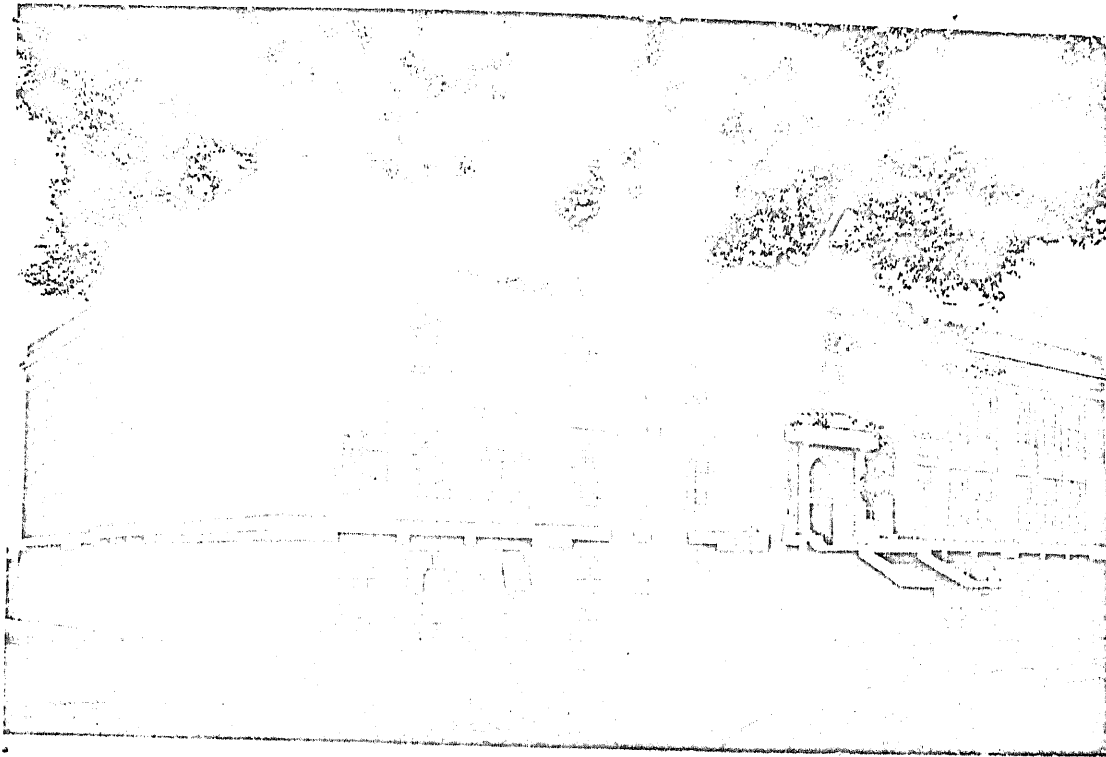
During this year a four room building was constructed in Biddleville and Mrs. E. R. Anderson was made Principal and teacher of the first grade. This school with four teachers was open for the session of 1917-1918.

All of this building program had been very carefully supervised by Mr. John B. Ross, Chairman of the Building Committee of the School Board.

It was a source of great satisfaction to this Superintendent that in a short time these old wooden buildings were discarded and modern brick buildings took their places.

During the year 1919-1920 Prof. W. H. Stinson succeeded J. N. Brown as Principal of the Myers St. school.

During 1921-22 the Tenth Grade was added to the Negro School. In 1923 the new High School building was completed. This building included class rooms laboratories, a library, Domestic Science and Domestic Art departments a well equipped Manual Training shop and an auditorium. The building at that time was modern in every respect. Prof. W. H. Stinson who had at one time been a member of the faculty



Second Ward Negro High School, 1923

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C.  
of Johnson-Smith University but now was Principal of the Myers Street School was made Principal of the new High School, known as the Second Ward High School. The course of study now included the Eleventh Grade and the Twelfth Grade was added later. It was on the State Accredited list of High Schools.

Miss Mary Wyche succeeded Mr. Stinson as Principal of the Myers Street school.

In 1928-29 a tenroom brick building was built in Biddleville. Miss S. Ogechee Perrin was made Principal when Mrs. Anderson was transferred to the Morgan School on South Torrence Street. Some time later an addition to this building included additional class rooms, a Domestic Science Department and cafeteria, and an auditorium.

After the bond election of 1924 a lot was purchased from Mr. John Myers in Cherrytown. The lot was <sup>180</sup>180 by 200 feet and cost \$2,000.00. A <sup>ten</sup>~~eight~~ room brick building was constructed at a cost of \$36,309.00. There were ten class rooms a Principal's office and a Nurses' room. It was named the Morgan School and Mrs E. R. Anderson was Principal. This building was enlarged in later years.

The new Fairview School building was erected on a lot of 4.91 acres on Burton Street. The lot was purchased from Solomon Price at a cost of \$1,000.00. The building was of brick and modern in every way. It included twenty five rooms, Principals' Office, Domestic Science Department, and Nurse's rooms. The building cost approximately \$125,000.00 and was the finest Elementary school building in the city system. Additional rooms and an auditorium were added later. Mrs. Mary Gaston Davis who had been Principal of the old wooden building remained as Principal of this school.



## FIVE PRINCIPALS RESIGN

In the spring of 1921 the School Board announced a raise in salary of about ten per cent. for the Principals and teachers, to go into effect for the year of 1921-1922.

The Principals sent a letter to the Board asking for an increase of twenty five per cent. This the Board felt unable to allow. As a result of this decision of the Board five Principals resigned. They were Mr. Fred McCall, Principal of the High School, Mr. Wade H. Williams, Principal of the South School, Mr. G. P. Heilig, Principal of the Villa Heights School, Miss Mary Belle Miller, Principal of the Fourth Ward school, and Miss Allie Nooe who asked to be transferred to a teaching position.

## Five New Principals

To fill the vacancies caused by these resignations it was necessary to secure five new principals during the summer of 1921.

To fill the vacancy in the principalship of the High School Mr. C. W. Tillet, Jr., Chairman of the Teacher's Committee asked the Board to send the Superintendent to Peabody College in Nashville, Tenn. to interview Dr. E. H. Garinger who had been recommended and was teaching<sup>in</sup> the Summer School, also to interview applicants in Atlanta and Chattanooga. This the Superintendent did and on his return he advised the election of Dr. E. H. Garinger to the principalship of the High School.

Dr. Garinger was a graduate of the University of Missouri and had done graduate work at Teachers' College, Columbia University, New York, from which he holds a degree of Doctor of Philosophy. He had been successful as a teacher and principal in the schools of Missouri.

Dr. Garinger became Principal of the Alexander Graham High School September 1st, 1921. He was transferred to the Central High School

building ~~on its completion in 1923.~~ *in September*

Dr. Faringer began a reorganization of the High School program and provided for a larger participation of the students in the school life. The expansion of the High School and its development has been his job. He has been so successful and so efficient that he was made Associate Superintendent in charge of High Schools in 1945 and he became Superintendent of the City Schools on July 1st, 1949.

Mr. W. R. Garrison of Mecklenburg County, a graduate of Maryville College, Tenn., was elected Principal of the South School, now named D. H. Hill School. He served in this capacity until 1933 when he was transferred to the principalship of the Villa Heights school. He served here until his death Oct. 18, 1950

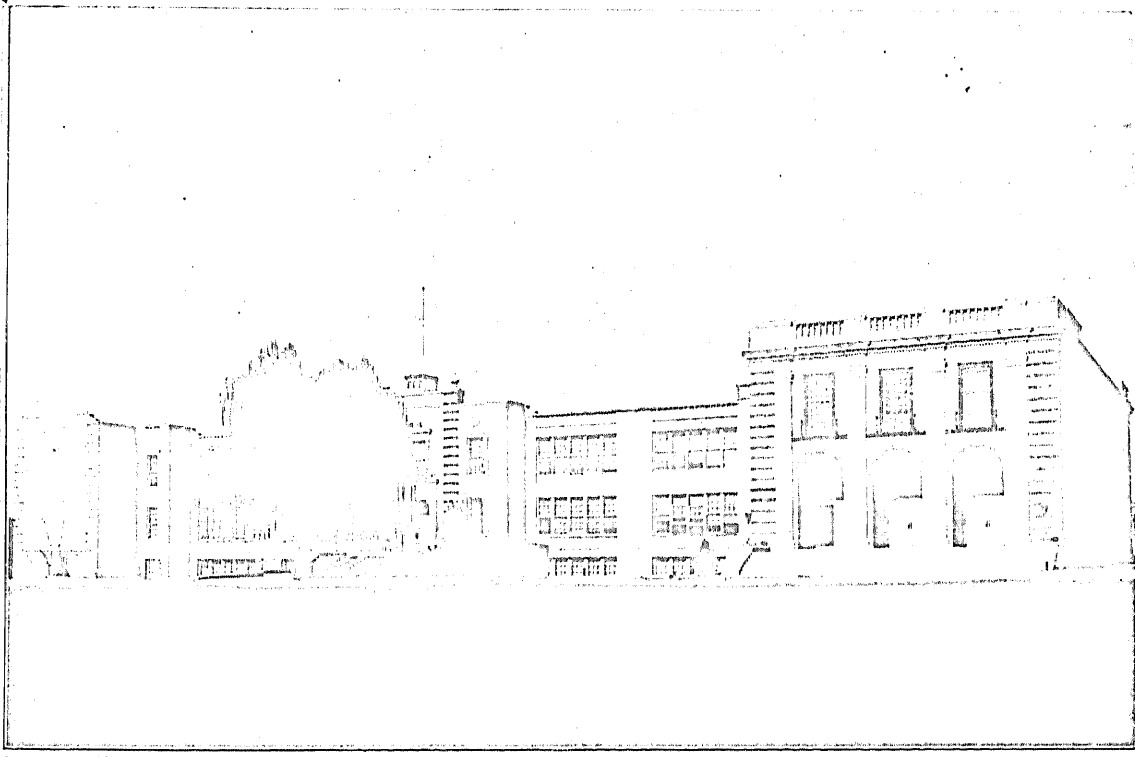
Mr. Garrison was a good administrator and was a very popular man, with parents and pupils, and with his teachers.

Mr. P. S. Carmichael was elected Principal of the Villa Heights school and served until his death May 22, 1933.

Mr. Carmichael was from Georgia. He had a Masters degree from Teachers College, Columbia ~~College~~ <sup>University,</sup> New York. He was very successful as Principal of the Villa Heights school.

Miss Addie Hinson was elected Principal of the First Ward Primary school. Miss Hinson had been very efficient as a teacher in the Villa Heights school. She served as Principal of the Primary school until there was a vacancy in the principalship of the First Ward Grammar school ~~in~~ in 1927 when she was made Principal of both the Primary and the Grammar schools. She is still, in 1949, serving in that capacity. She has had one of the most difficult principalships in the city system and has filled her place with wonderful skill and ability.

Miss Marjorie Washburn was elected Principal of the Bethune school. Miss Washburn had been a very successful Grammar Grade teacher in our



Central High School, 1923

city schools. She served as Principal of Bethune school very successfully until January 1st 1923, when she asked to be transferred to a teaching position. She was a very popular Principal and has been a very popular teacher in the Elizabeth school since that time.

Miss Gay Willis was elected to succeed Miss Washburn as Principal of Bethune school, January 1st 1923. Miss Willis had taught the Second Grade in Elizabeth School during 1916-'18 and the first grade in the Dilworth School during the years 1918-'23. She served as Principal of Bethune school until September 1948 when she was transferred to the principalship of the Elizabeth school to succeed Miss Hattie Alexander who retired. In both positions Miss Willis has been very efficient and very popular. She has been very progressive in her work in both schools.

#### MISS CORNELIA CARTER, SUPERVISOR

During the year 1921 there was a strong feeling among teachers and school authorities that a specially trained Supervisor to guide and help teachers, was needed.

Miss Cornelia Carter was elected Supervisor of the Elementary grades, in the White and Negro schools. She began her services in September 1921.

Miss Carter was a graduate of the Virginia Normal College in Radford, Va., and later received her Masters degree from Teachers' College, Columbia University, New York.

Miss Carter had served first as teacher and then as Principal in the city schools of Morganton.

Miss Carter was especially fitted by training and by temperament for the work of a Supervisor of teachers.

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Miss Carter was relieved of the supervision of the Grammar Grades in 1923 when Mr. B. A. Stevens was elected Director of Research and Supervisor of the Grammar Grades. Miss Carter served as Supervisor of Primary Grades until her retirement in 1951, with the exception of <sup>4</sup> ~~two~~ years when she served as Principal of the South School, the D. H. Hill School, during 1933-'35. (1937)

Miss Carter spent her summers either in teaching in the Summer schools of the State Teachers' Colleges or in attending the Summer School of Teachers' College, Columbia University, New York. She thus kept in touch with new trends in education and in teaching methods.

She was greatly interested in the progressive development of the Primary Department of the Charlotte city schools. Much of the fine spirit that prevails in the class rooms here today may be attributed to her fine influence and example.

It was largely through her initiative and effort that the Charlotte Branch of the American Childhood Education Association was organized.

She gradually changed class room procedures and methods of teaching. Child guidance, pupil participation, in the class room program, self expression, learning by doing were some of the things that she emphasized.

In 1928 and following few years she had the help of Mrs. Helen Adele Whiting in the Negro schools. Mrs. Whiting had the teacher training course at Tuskegee Institute and gave very able supervision of the Elementary schools.

## BUREAU OF RESEARCH ORGANIZED

A Bureau of Research was organized at the beginning of the school year 1923-'24. The use of educational tests had been employed to a large degree by Miss Carter in the Elementary schools and by Dr. Garinger in the High School and <sup>by</sup> some of the other Principals.

There was a need for an expert in the field of testing and of interpreting the results of the testing programs.

Mr. B. A. Stevens who held a Masters degree from Teachers' College, Columbia University, was engaged for this work. He filled this position one year, and was succeeded by Miss Estelle Rawl.

Miss Rawl was elected Director of Research and Supervisor of Grammar Grades, 1924-'25. She was a graduate of Smith College and had served as Supervisor of the Roanoke Rapids schools before coming to Charlotte.

She visited classes and gave assistance to teachers where needed. Outside of school hours she held frequent conferences with individuals and small groups of teachers.

The Bureau of Research was organized to obtain through educational tests, information to aid in the promotion and classification of children, to determine more accurately the progress and achievement being made from year to year, and to aid in more efficiently carrying out plans already in use.

The following tests were used: The Thorndike- McCall Reading scale; the Buckingham-Ayers Scale, twenty five word list in Spelling; Woody Arithmetic Scales, Series B; Buckingham Scale of Reasoning Problems in Arithmetic; Hudelson's English Composition Scale; and the Thorndike Handwriting Scale.

The same program was used in the White and Negro schools, and the results were recorded in such a way that it would be possible for the teacher to note improvement in each child from year to year in the Elementary School.

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An educational achievement chart by Dr, M. R. Trabue of the University of N. C. was made for every child, and would go with him each year to his new class.

Graphic Charts with sixteen tables are given in the Annual Reports of 1925 on file in the Superintendent's office. Additional tests were included during the next few years.

Experimental work in reading was done by Miss Alice Moore in Bethune school under the supervision of Miss Carter and the Principal.

Miss U. Blankenship in Dilworth school was trying new methods of teaching and made a valuable contribution to the experimental work that was in process in all of the schools.

This service was discontinued in 1933 when the State took over the City schools.

Miss Rawl, now Mrs. Porter, was transferred to a teaching position in the Myers Park Elementary school. Later she resigned and became a member of the staff of Queens College, in the Elementary teacher training department.

#### VISITING TEACHERS

During the year of 1923-'24 we were included in an experiment being tried in a few cities by the National Association of Visiting Teachers.

Dr Howard Nudd of New York was the Director. He agreed to provide our schools with a trained Visiting Teacher if we would pay one fourth of the cost. The experiment was to be for three years.

The Junior Red Cross agreed to pay the one fourth of the cost for us for the first year.

Miss Roberta Tarpley was sent to Charlotte and spent three years here. The Visiting Teacher made a special study of the problem child selected by the Class room teacher, She made close contact with the home and worked for a closer relationship between the parent and the teacher.

She was so successful the first year that the School Board employed a second teacher for the following year. Miss Mary E. Walker was secured and served until the State took us over in 1933.

#### SCHOOL BOND ELECTION

In the fall of ~~1922~~ of 1923, on December 11, the School Board and the City Council submitted a proposal for a bond issue of \$2,000,000.00 for school building purposes. This election failed to carry.

The next year, on May 6th, 1924, the authorities again called an election to authorize a bond issue of \$1,000,000.00. This election was ~~not~~ carried.

#### DR. STRAYER AND DR. ENGELHARDT EMPLOYED

Dr. Strayer and Dr. Engelhardt of Columbia University, New York, were engaged to make a survey and recommend sites for the new school buildings. As a result of this survey the following buildings were erected during the year 1925-'26, Dr. Strayer and Dr. Engelhardt were consulting Architects in the planning of these buildings:

The Wilmore school on the corner of W. Boulevard and South Mint Streets, on a lot 400' x 394' x <sup>350'</sup> 350 x 400', bought from the F. C. Abbot Co.

The building had thirteen class rooms, a library, a Principals' office and a Nurse's room. The cost was approximately \$100,044.00 and the lot cost <sup>\$10,084.00</sup> \$10,084.00. Mr Louis Asbury was the Architect.

The Seversville school was built from the same plans and cost \$100,040.00. Strayer and Engelhardt had recommended that this building be located on the Tuckaseegee Road just beyond the creek. The School Board decided to place the building in Seversville on the old home site of Mr. L. A. Severs, on the corner of State and Sevona Streets. The lot was 310.93' x 294.5' x 396.14', and cost approximately \$7,584.00



The decision of the School Board was the wise one as the section on the Tuckaseegee Road has since been developed into a business and Industrial community.

The Piedmont Junior High School on E. Tenth Street, on a lot of seven acres, which cost about \$34,886.00. The building then had twenty three rooms, a library, an auditorium, laboratories, shops, and offices.

The building cost was approximately \$244,421.00.

The Parks Hutchison Elementary school on a lot of four acres purchased from the Estate of Mr. Parks Hutchison, represented by Mr. Charles Dalton.

The Auditorium and additional rooms at Elizabeth School. The Auditorium and additional rooms at Dilworth School.

The Fairview School on a lot of 4.91 acres purchased from Solomon Price at a cost of \$1,000.00. The building had twenty five class rooms a Domestic Science Laboratory, Nurse's room, an offices. The building cost approximately \$125,000.00 and at the time was the most modern Elementary school in the city.

Morgan School in Cherrytown on a lot 180' x 200' purchased from Mr. John Myers at a cost of \$2,000.00. The building cost about \$36,309.00. There were ten class rooms, Principal's office and Nurse's room.

#### FOURTH WARD SCHOOL CONTROVERSY

There was a great demand for a Junior and Senior High School to be located in the Fourth Ward.. In their survey the Strayer and Engelhardt staff recommended the the school be located on a lot on the corner of Hutchison Ave. and Liddell St.

The Ford plant had not been built at that time and the Hutchison-Dalton Company were developing a residential section just beyond the property recommended. The other real estate companies that were developing residential sections in other parts of the city, protested the loca-

tion that would be favorable to the Dalton development. Some of the Fourth Ward citizens joined in the protest and insisted it be located on the grounds adjoining the Fourth Ward (Bethune) school lot.

The school authorities rightfully insisted this lot was entirely too small. There was considerable feeling manifested, as a result the Board decided to postpone the location of this school until a more satisfactory site could be found.

#### PRINCIPALS FOR THE NEW SCHOOLS

Mr. U. S. Alexander who had been Principal of the First Ward Grammar School was transferred to the Principalship of the new Piedmont Junior High School. Mr. Alexander had been a very popular teacher of Modern languages before he became Principal of the ~~Fourth Ward~~ First Ward Grammar School.

Mr. John M. Dunlap was made Principal of the First Ward Grammar School. Mr. Dunlap had been teaching Mathematics in the High School. He was a very proficient teacher and was now promoted to a principalship.

Mrs. Essie Blankenship became Principal of the Wilmore school. She had been Principal of the Wesley Heights School. She had been a very progressive First Grade teacher in the Dilworth school before becoming Principal at Wesley Heights. After serving one year as Principal of the Wilmore<sup>school</sup> she transferred to a teaching position.

Miss Ellen Brice succeeded Mrs. Blankenship as Principal of the Wilmore school. Miss Brice was a graduate of Queens College, and had been a very successful Grammar grade teacher in the Dilworth school.

Miss Brice has been Principal continuously from the second year of the opening of the school until the present time. She has supervised the growth of her school and the enlargement of her building. An Auditorium, cafeteria, and additional class rooms were built in 1935.

Miss Lucille Boylan succeeded Mrs. Blankenship as Principal of the Wesley Heights school. She had been an outstanding teacher in the Elizabeth school.

Mrs. Nettie E. Wearn was made Principal of the new Seversville school. She had been a very successful teacher in our city schools and had taught in other schools in the State before coming to Charlotte. She was a very efficient and popular Principal. She exerted a fine influence in this community. She served as Principal of this school until her death in 1944.

Mrs. E. R. Anderson became Principal of the Morgan school. She had been the teaching Principal of the Biddleville school, as has been stated.

S.  
Miss Ogeeche Perrin, now Mrs. Sasso, became principal of the Biddleville school. She has continued in this position until this time and has supervised the enlargement of her building through the years. The Auditorium, Cafeteria and additional class rooms came later.

#### NORTH CHARLOTTE PRIMARY SCHOOL

During the year 1921 Mr. C. W. Johnston offered to donate two acres of land as a site for a four room school building in North Charlotte, with the provision that the title to the property would revert to Mr. Johnston if the school should be closed at any time for a period of three years, unless a waiver to this provision was granted by Mr. Johnston.

The School Board accepted the offer and built a four room Primary school on this land, at a cost of approximately \$11,000.00.

Mr. C. C. Hook was the Architect. Mr. C. W. Tillet, Jr., Mr. J. B. Ivey, and Mr. J. L. Wolfe were appointed a special Committee to supervise this project.

In 1920-'21 Miss Arnette Henderson and Miss Louise Grady had taught a primary school in the basement of the Methodist church, and Miss Mattie McNinch and Miss Thelma Suttle had taught in the same place in 1921-'22. Miss McNinch the next year accepted welfare work in another

community and did not accept the Principalship of the new North Charlotte Primary school. Miss Maud Utley was elected Principal and First Grade teacher, Miss Louise Grady, First Grade teacher, Miss Lillian Smith, Second Grade teacher and Miss Pearl Holloway, Third Grade teacher.

In 1923-'24 Miss Pearl Holloway became Principal and served until the school was closed in 1928.

Rev. J. H. Armbrust, Pastor of the Methodist Church in North Charlotte, had been very active and influential in getting the donation of the land and in interesting the people and the School Board in this project.

The school was closed in 1928 after the Plaza Road School became a city school, on motion of Mr. W. R. Foreman, Chairman of the Finance Committee of the School Board. Although the school was closed over three years, Mr. Johnston waved the reverter clause, or right, and the Board retained the title to the school property. In 1932 the school was reopened. Miss Mattie McNinch was made Principal and teacher of the First Grade, Miss Minerva McClung, teacher of the Second Grade, Miss Clara Andrews, teacher of the Third Grade. Miss Virginia Moore succeeded Miss Andrews the next year. Miss McNinch and Miss McClung have remained with the school until this time, 1949.

#### SCHOOL LIBRARIES

During the school year 1925-'26, in order to organize our school libraries in line with modern public libraries and to teach our pupils <sup>use</sup> how to <sup>use</sup> a public library wherever they might be, all school libraries in the city were made branch libraries of the Charlotte Library.

This was done through the cooperation and very valuable assistance of Miss Anne Pierce, City Librarian, and the Library Board. The City School Superintendent had been made a member of the Library Board on the recommendation of Miss Palmer, city Librarian, about 1917. Later

through an amendment to the City Charter the City Superintendent of Schools was made a member of the Library Board, ex officio.

Miss Pierce gave the city schools the services of her staff in cataloguing and classifying the school library books. This service was continued for several years and the library books increased in numbers. Our pupils in this way became familiar with the book classification technique used in other public libraries.

In 1929 the city ~~schools~~<sup>schools</sup> received from the General Library Fund, provided by the city and the county and the Rosenwald Fund a considerable number of library books. The report for the year 1929 shows the total number of books in the libraries of the schools to be 23,651 volumes. Of this number 15,618 were in the Elementary schools and 8,033 in the High Schools.

#### THE FIRST TEACHER OF SALESMANSHIP

During the summer of 1922 the Charlotte Merchants Association sent the Superintendent of schools to Boston to secure a teacher of Salesmanship. Mrs. Prince had a very successful school for training teachers of salesmanship. Her school was at 66 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass. The Superintendent visited the school and on his return to Charlotte recommended Miss Fredrika McGee for the position in our schools. She was employed jointly by the School Board, the Merchants Association and the State Board of Vocational Education.

Miss McGee taught classes at Central High School, and taught the sales employees in some of the down town stores.

This was the beginning of the Distributive Education program which has continued until this day. Miss Dorothy Boone now heads the program in Charlotte. Other teachers prominent in the development of this work were Mrs. Madolyn Flynn who was also District Supervisor, Mr. William Slattery, and Miss Miriam Blair.

### THE SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The School Board in 1913 had seventeen members elected by wards every two years. This number was <sup>reduced</sup> by the Legislature in 1919 to seven members elected at large. The whole Board had to be elected every two years.

In 1923 the charter of the city was amended again so that the members were not all elected every two years. In the years that followed two members were elected at each city election to serve six years, except at the third election three members would be elected. Members appointed by the Board to fill vacancies <sup>that</sup> ~~the~~ might occur, were required to stand for election at the next city election, for the unexpired term.

The members elected the first year under this new plan in 1923, were J. L. Wolfe, Mrs. Gordon Finger, Mrs J. R. Purser, Mr. Frank H. Kennedy, Mr. J. Paul Lucas, Sr. Mr. D. H. Johnston, and Dr. A. G. Brenizer. Mr. J. L. Wolfe was elected Vice Chairman. Mr. J. O. Walker, Mayor, was Chairman, ex officio. Miss Willie Faye Rudisell, Treasurer. H. P. Harding, Secretary, ex officio.

### REVIEW OF CHANGES IN THE BOARD MEMBERSHIP

1907, Seventeen Members, elected by wards, every two years.  
 1919, Seven Members, elected at large, every two years.  
 1923, Seven Members, elected at large, with staggered terms for six years.

The members of the Board of School Commissioners have received no financial compensation for their services.

All through the years these members of the several Boards of School Commissioners have given much time and a great deal of thought to the efficient administration of the city schools. They deserve a great deal of praise and gratitude from our citizens for their unselfish and

and patriotic service.

After the city election of 1925 the School Board was composed of the following members:

Mr. J. L. Wolfe, Mr. Frank H. Kennedy, Mr. Ernest Ellison, Mr. J. Paul Lucas, Sr., Mr. W. R. Foreman, Mr. A. M. Gray, Mr. D. H. Johnston.  
Chairman, ex officio, Mayor Harvey W. Moore.

Vice Chairman, J. L. Wolfe.

Treasurer, Miss Emma Belle Cheek,

Chairman Finance Committee, Mr. Frank H. Kennedy.

#### THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

During most of his administration Superintendent Alexander Graham had used his ~~office~~ home as his office for conferences with parents and other interested persons. About 1908 the School Board ruled that he should have an office hour in the City Hall.

He used the office of the Mayor from four to five o'clock in the afternoon, as the Mayor had left before that time.

For the new administration in 1913 the City Council equipped rooms in the North section of the basement of the city hall, on the corner of N. Tryon and E. Fifth Streets. An entrance from the side walk on Tryon Street, into the main office was arranged. The office of the Superintendent and storage rooms were here until 1927 when the new Municipal building on the Liddell property, 600 E. Trade Street, was opened. Offices for the school administration were provided on the third floor of the new building.

#### THE OFFICE STAFF

secretary

A Superintendent was allowed the Superintendent a short time during the school year 1914-'15. A Miss Cotton served until the end of the year. The new Board of 1915 on the recommendation of the Chairman

of the Finance Committee refused to provide funds for her salary and her services were discontinued,

One year later Miss Willie Faye Rudisill was elected Secretary for the Superintendent.

#### ADMINISTRATION OF THE BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Prior to 1920 the Secretary and Treasurer of the Board of Aldermen served also as Secretary and Treasurer of the School Board.

All business affairs of the School Commissioners were transacted in the office of the Board of Aldermen.

On October 22, 1920, the business administration of the schools was ~~was~~ transferred from the office of the City Council to the office of the Superintendent of the City Schools, and the Superintendent was made Secretary of the Board, ex officio. Miss Willie Faye Rudisill was made Treasurer and BookKeeper.

Miss Rudisill served until February 1924 when she resigned, she was very efficient and served well in every capacity.

She was succeeded by Miss Emma Belle Cheek. Later in the year October 18, 1924 Miss Lillie Robertson was elected Secretary to the Superintendent and Miss Cheek gave her~~her~~ her full time to the duties of Bookkeeper and Treasurer.

From 1920 the financial affairs and the general administration of the schools were carried on in the office of the Superintendent, with a staff composed of the Secretary, the Bookkeeper and the Superintendent, three in all.

This included in addition to the regular school business, the disbursement<sup>z</sup> of all funds~~from~~ from three bond issues, amounting to \$2,000,000. and the building of twelve new school houses and additions to the old ones.

The system of bookkeeping had been used in the office of the



Board of Aldermen, a ledger made especially for school accounting was used.

The Chairman of the Finance Committee of the School Board, all through the years, kept a close supervision of school expenditures. He signed all checks in the disbursement of funds.

Some of the outstanding Chairmen were Mr. J. Hirshinger, Mr. Fred Cates, Mr. Plummer Stewart, Mr. J. Lester Wolfe, Mr. Frank H. Kennedy, Mr. N. <sup>R. E. Thigpen</sup> Vernon Porter, Mr. H. B. Benoit, Mr. W. R. Foreman, and Mr. H. B. Benoit.

#### MR. CHARLES BLACKBURN, BUSINESS MANAGER

On May 27, 1927 Mr. Charles Blackburn was elected Business Manager, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Board of School Commissioners. He was made directly responsible to the School Board. This dual type of administration relieved the Superintendent entirely of the business affairs of the schools. This dual type of administration continued until 1933. On June 2nd, 1933, the Board adopted a resolution offered by Mr. H. B. Benoit, Chairman of the Finance Committee, that the administration be changed from a dual plan to a Unified administration with the Superintendent as head of the administration.

Mr. Blackburn installed the machine type of Bookkeeping which was more elaborate and more modern.

Miss Cheek continued with him a short time, Mr Clyde Neeley succeeded her as bookkeeper.

Miss Lily ~~is~~ Robertson, now Mrs. Ransom McMahon, continued as the Superintendent's Secretary, and still serves the administration.

Her services to this writer and to the City schools have been invaluable. She has always been very efficient in her duties, and well posted on all of the details of the school system, and a source of information about all school matters. She was most tactful in meeting the

public and most helpful to new teachers entering the school system.

Mr. Blackburn was an indefatigable worker and most conscientious as to the details of his office. He attempted to carry too much of the burden on his own shoulders. He served during the prosperous years of 1927-1929 and the years of depression 1930-1935, and during a period when there was much building partly with Federal and State funds and partly with local funds. All of which required much book-keeping, and accounting to the various agencies. Mr. Cy. Hood served under Mr. Blackburn as Supervisor of Building and Maintenance, but Mr. Blackburn did not have sufficient help in the office to give him the relief he needed.

Mr. Blackburn resigned July 1st, 1944 and Mr. John M. Dunlap who was then Principal of the Piedmont Junior High School, succeeded him as Business Manager.

#### MR. JOHN M. DUNLAP, BUSINESS MANAGER

Mr. Dunlap had served as teacher of Mathematics in the High School, and had been promoted to the principalship of the First Ward Grammar School, and from that position he was promoted to the principalship of the Piedmont Junior High School. In all of these positions he had served most efficiently. He had shown an aptitude for compiling school statistics and for school accounting.

When Mr. Blackburn resigned Mr. Dunlap was unanimously elected to succeed him as Business Manager. He has been especially successful in this position.

Miss Douglas Kendall who had been for sometime Secretary to Mr. Elliot, Principal of the Alexander Graham Junior High School, was transferred to the City Hall to be BookKeeper under the supervision of Mr. Dunlap.

Miss Fannie Carr who had been Secretary to Miss Hattie Alexander,

Principal of Elizabeth School, was transferred to be Clerical Assistant in the offices at the City Hall.

A few years later Mr. Cy. Hood resigned and Mr. Howard Duval was elected Construction Engineer, and Mr. C. E. Barber, Jr. was made Superintendent of Buildings.

#### CITY ELECTION OF 1927

After the city election in May of 1927 the School Board was composed of the following members:

Mr. Frank H. Kennedy, Mr. J. P. Lucas, Sr., Mr. Harvey W. Moore, Mr. W. R. Foreman, Mr. A. M. Gray, Dr. Harvey W. Barret, and Mr. John W. Cole. Mr. A. M. Gray resigned very soon after the election and Mr. James A. Houston filled out the unexpired term.

Chairman, ex officio, Mayor F. M. Redd.

Vice Chairman, Mr. Frank H. Kennedy.

Chairman of the Finance Committee, Mr. W. R. Foreman.

Mr. Blackburn was elected Business Manager by this Board on May 27.

#### EXTENSION OF CITY LIMITS 1928

The extension of the City limits in January 1928 brought into the city system the Plaza Road School which had been a County High School. The city school Board made an adjustment in the furniture and conducted an Elementary School, known as the Plaza Road School. Mrs. Eunice Sadler Brown was made Principal. *\$67,381.92*

A bonded indebtedness of approximately ~~\$40,000.00~~ on this building was assumed by the City authorities.

The city limits which had been Dartmouth Place was extended to take in the Myers Park section of the city.

On the North the Midwood section was taken into the city and on the South and West the Glenwood section was made a part of the city.

The Myers Park Elementary School was built and opened for pupils

in 1928. This building was planned by Mr. C. C. Hook, Architect. It had in this first unit sixteen class rooms and offices for the Principal and the Nurses. The building cost approximately \$110,000.00 and was located on a ten acre tract of land, purchased from the College Heights Company, Mr. George Stephens, Manager. The ten acres cost approximately \$45,000.00 with a discount of \$900.00 for cash.

The source of revenue for financing this purchase and the construction of the building will be explained in the next paragraph.

#### SALARIES OF TEACHERS IN TWELVE PAYMENTS

On the petition of the teachers their salaries were ordered paid in twelve payments by the Board. This plan began with the September salary in 1923.

At the end of the nine months school term, funds were accumulated in the school Board Treasury from the withholdings from teachers' salaries to meet the payments of the three summer months.

During the Summer of 1927 the Finance Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. W. R. Foreman, found the funds for the teachers' summer salaries were sufficient to purchase the lot in Myers Park and to build the Myers Park Elementary school.

The Committee decided to declare these funds to be surplus and to make the teachers' school year begin with June 1st instead of September first. In this way the salaries for the summer would be charged to the budget for the coming school year. The Board would then borrow on anticipated school income for the next year, sufficient funds to pay the teachers' summer salaries.

In this way the Board would use the accumulated funds for the Myers Park land and building without a bond issue to be voted on by the citizens.

This building was located on Ratcliffe Avenue. The first Principal was Miss Willie Choat who was promoted from a teaching position in the

in the Piedmont Junior High School. Miss Choate resigned at the end of the first year in order to marry Mr. W. D. Hampton. She returned about 1935 to teach a sixth grade in our Eastover school and has been a very popular and successful teacher in that school until this time.

This plan of financing the building of the Myers Park school and the building program of 1928 and 1929 worked very well until 1933. The teachers received their summer pay as usual. The only difference being noted in the office of the Treasurer of the Board where these salaries for the preceding nine months were charged to the budget for the next school year.

In 1933 when the State School Commission took over the City schools their auditor ruled that the funds accumulated were for the salaries of the teachers for the term of school that had already been taught, and the Board could not charge this to the next year's account.

As a result when the summer of 1933 came the Board could not borrow on next year's account, and the whole amount was declared to be a deficit. The teachers were without the pay that had been withheld from their salaries during the preceding year.

The teachers were without this pay for a long time but the matter was eventually adjusted and they received the back salaries in full.

Miss Florence Jamison, Principal of Myers Park School. When Miss Choate resigned Miss Florence Jamison was transferred from the Zeb Vance school to be Principal of the Myers Park Elementary School. She has directed the growth of her school, the enlargement of her building with additional rooms and an auditorium, the improvement of her playgrounds, and of her course of study until this time. As has been stated she has taken an active part in the educational life of her community and of the city.

At the request of the School Board the Superintendent prepared the following report on June 25, 1928;

GROWTH OF CHARLOTTE SCHOOLS DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS

1918--1928

You ask me to tell you something of the growth of the City Schools during the past ten years. Well, in 1918, the High School, Grades 8-11, was in the First Ward building on the corner of Ninth and Brevard Streets. From that beginning we have today, 1928, the Senior High School, Grades 10-12, on Elizabeth Avenue, the Alexander Graham Junior High school, Grades 7-9, on Morehead Street, the Piedmont Junior High School, Grades 7-9, on East Tenth Street, and the Technical High School, Grades, 7-11, on Pegram Street. The enrollment in the White High Schools ten years ago was 566, the enrollment to day in all of these High Schools, Grades 8-12, omitting the Seventh Grades for the sake of comparison, is 2,278. For the Negro students we have the Second Ward High School.

The only instruction in Industrial Education ten years ago was given by one manual training teacher and two home economic teachers. Now we have thirteen teachers in Tech. High, ten other teachers employed in the industrial education departments of the other Junior and Senior High Schools, and two full time teachers of Home Economics Classes of adults. In the Colored High Schools we have three full time teachers in these departments. The growth of the Industrial Education work with allied subjects is indicated by the staff of three teachers ten years ago as compared with the staff of twenty eight teachers today, 1928.

Ten years ago two teachers gave all the courses in Commercial Education, today, 1928, six teachers give full time to commercial subjects.

In 1918, the health work was just beginning, with the nurses

Government  
 from Camp Green in charge, and the government paying the bill. Today the School Board employs five school nurses, an all time dentist, and next term will have a full time physician, and will, also, conduct a two teacher Open Air School for undernourished children.

Ten years ago no effort had been made to classify children according to their ability to learn. No provision had been made for special instruction for sub-normal and otherwise handicapped children.

Today, classifications have been made and careful study is given to the matter of adapting the work of the school to the ability and needs of individual children.

Our organization includes sixteen Ungraded Classes in different sections of the city, with an enrollment of 311 children who do not fit in the regular organization, but who are getting, in these classes, just the kind of work that each child needs for his own growth and progress.

Ten years ago, 1918, the only night school was conducted by the Y.M.C.A. and the School Board jointly, for Negro men and women.. This past year, 1928, classes at night in subjects related to the trades and home making enrolled 493 white men and women, and the Colored night school conducted by the Y.M.C.A. and the School Board enrolled 200 Negro men and women.

Ten years ago, 1918, classrooms were greatly crowded. Little individual work could be done. There was almost no instructional equipment for the teachers to use. The teaching was necessarily formal, with large groups it could hardly be anything else. It was to relieve this condition that the people of the city about that time voted to increase the local tax rate from 20¢ to 30¢ and to issue bonds for building purposes.

Prior to that time, 1918, \$160,000.00 represented the total investment the city had made in school buildings, grounds, and equipment. During the past ten years, 1918-1928, the city has invested \$2,100,000.00 in school buildings and sites.

The income for operating expenses in 1918 was \$140,573.00, the income for operating expenses for 1928 was \$742,494.00

In 1918 teachers' salaries in grades 1-6 ~~was~~ ranged from \$427.50 to \$562.60 per year, in 1928 the salaries in grades 1-6 range from \$900.00 to \$1,560.00 per year. In the High Schools the salaries of teachers in most academic subjects was \$765 per year, in foreign languages and science, \$1000.00 per year. Today, 1928, High School salaries range from \$1,693.50 to \$2100.00.

In 1918, the School Board employed 165 teachers. In 1928 the Board employed 425 teachers for the various schools.

The enrollment in 1918 was 7,645 with an average attendance of 5,367. The enrollment for the year ending June 1st, 1928 was 14,464 with an Average Attendance of 11,766. The increased attendance caused by the extension of the city limits together with the usual normal increase will give us an enrollment in 1928-'29 of approximately 17,000.

In 1918 there were nine white schools and three colored. In September 1928, we shall have seventeen white schools and six colored. Every building in use prior to 1918, excepting the First Ward, has been enlarged or remodelled. The number of class rooms in 1918 was 165. The number of class rooms in 1928 is 448. Most of the building construction during that time has been fire resistive.

Committees of Teachers and Supervisors are studying and revising the Course of Study constantly in order that our instruction may more nearly meet the needs of the children of this city.

These are a few comparisons given to indicate the growth of the school system during the past ten years, 1918-1928.

One of the most gratifying facts is that a much larger percent of older boys and girls, Grades 7-12, are remaining in school. This is a natural result of the enlarged program for adolescent boys and girls



in our Junior/ High Schools, and of the enriched course of elective studies in our Senior and Tech. High Schools.

In all of our campaigns during the past ten years, 1918-1928, for better schools and school conditions, the newspapers of the City have always given us splendid support and we are very grateful.

Respectfully submitted,

June 25, 1928.

H. P. Harding, Superintendent.

Dr. T. J. SASSER, SCHOOL PHYSICIAN

In September 1928 the School Board employed Dr. T. J. Sasser as full time school physician. He had a staff of six nurses in the Elementary schools. They were, Miss Martha Thorpe, Miss Vivian Agnew, and Miss Nannie Moseley; in the Colored schools were, Miss Blanche Hayes, and Miss M. Shoffner.

In the spring of 1930 Dr. Sasser gave up the school position in order to enter private practice.

The Charlotte Health Department was most cooperative, and after the great depression took over the health work in the schools. Nurses from the Health Department under the supervision, first of Miss Clara Ross, and later under the supervision of Miss Ann Barentine have had regular schedules in the city schools. Dr. Bethel, Director of Public Health, has always been most helpful.

Mrs. Martha Thorpe Wright, Supervisor of the School Nurses, under Miss Clara Ross, Supervisor of All City Nurses, for many years gave the City Schools very careful and very efficient service.

## PUBLIC SCHOOL MUSIC

Mr. Robert L. Keesler was teacher of Public School Music in the city schools during the years 1900-1924. He visited all classes and had a regular schedule for teaching singing. His chorus at commencement each year attracted a great deal of attention. About 1914-'15 Miss Martha Mae Carr was elected to assist him. She was succeeded the next year by Miss Eloise Dooley.

Miss Parke Morris was elected an Assistant for the Elementary schools and served during the years 1921-'23. In September 1923 Miss Marcella Barnes followed Miss Morris.

When Mr. Keesler resigned in 1924, Miss Marcella Barnes and Miss Kathleen White became the Supervisors of Music in the Elementary Schools.

In 1925-'26 the Elementary Music Supervisors were Miss Kathleen White, Miss Rachel E. Anthony, and Miss Golda McHenry.

A very decided improvement in teaching singing began with the coming of Miss Parke Morris. During his twenty four years of service Mr. Keesler put special emphasis on volume. Miss Morris, Miss Barnes, Miss White, Miss Anthony and the Supervisors that have followed them have placed the emphasis on tone qualities rather than volume.

## Dr. HERBERT SPAUGH'S BOYS BAND AND ORCHESTRA

Soon after Dr. Herbert Spaugh came to Charlotte as Pastor of the Moravian Church, "The Little Church on the Lane", he awakened an interest in band and orchestral music among the boys of Myers Park and neighboring communities. By 1926 he had a well trained boys band that attracted the attention of many of our citizens. The school authorities were among the admirers of Dr. Spaugh's bands and decided that the Public High Schools should give the boys and girls an opportunity to be instructed in instrumental music.

Mr. C. O. BROWN, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

For the school year of 1928-'29 the School Board employed Mr. C. O. Brown of Winfield, Kansas to be Director of Music for the city schools. Mr. Brown proceeded to organize a band and orchestra at Central High School. Many of his boys had been trained as members of Dr. Spaugh's band. Mr. Brown was here just one year.

MR. L. R. SIDES, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Mr. L. R. Sides was elected to succeed Mr. Brown and entered the city system in September 1929. He was very successful in organizing a band and orchestra at Central High School.

Mr. Robert Smith under Mr. Sides supervision organized and conducted the bands and orchestras at Alexander Graham Junior High School, and assisted Mr. Sides at Central High School.

About 1928 or 1929 a music room well <sup>equipped</sup> equipped for band <sup>and</sup> and orchestra practice classes had been built in the new wing of Alexander Graham Junior High School.

Under Mr. Sides and Dr. Garinger's direction the music building at Central High School was built about 1937.

Mr. Michael Wise, at Piedmont Junior High School, was in charge of the instrumental work.

In 1932 Mr. Jack Berger under Mr. Sides' supervision taught instrumental music, and organized bands and orchestras of select groups in the Elementary schools. Mr. Wise also gave some time to this work in some of the Elementary schools.

To train pupils for his bands and orchestras in the High Schools Mr. Sides arranged to have a few of the teachers of private classes in instrumental music, teach their pupils in the High Schools for a fee.

Mr. Sides made a very real contribution to the instrumental music program in our schools during his term of service.

## MUSIC REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1931-'32

In his annual report to the Superintendent for the year 1931-'32, Mr. Sides reports a total of 983 white pupils in the instrumental music classes, and 25 in the orchestra of the Colored High School, making a total of 1008 boys and girls receiving instrumental music instruction in the city schools.

### VOCAL MUSIC IN THE SCHOOLS

About 1928 or 1929 Miss Josephine Wolverton was elected teacher of Vocal Music at Central High School. She organized the ~~A~~'Cappella choir at Central which appeared frequently in public programs and received considerable praise.

Miss Lela Tomlinson was in charge of the vocal music at Alexander Graham Junior High School and has remained in that position until this time.

Miss Isabel Reid at the same time was in charge of the vocal music at Piedmont Junior High School.

In the Elementary schools Miss Rachel Anthony, Miss Mary A. Jefferson and Mrs. H. E. Alexander were Supervisors of Public School Music.

In this Report of 1931-'32 Mr. Sides also reports that 1,482 pupils have participated in Chorus, Glee Clubs and Choirs.

This number together with the 1,008 boys and girls receiving instrumental music instruction made a total of 2,490 boys and girls who had participated in some kind of special music instruction, other than the regular instruction in public school singing which was required of all pupils.

This indicates the growth in instrumental music interest and music appreciation during the three preceding years.

## THE CITIZEN'S CIVIC LEAGUE, TO THE RESCUE

In 1933 after the State repealed the section of the city charter permitting a supplementary tax, there were no funds for special teachers.

The Citizens Civic League sent a committee composed of Mr. James R. Bryant, Mrs. John Watson, Mr. Herbert Baxter, Mr. John Vickers, Mr. D. E. Henderson, and Mr. L. R. Sides to a meeting of the School Board, to propose to raise funds from private sources in order to keep the music instructors in the system. Miss Jefferson and Miss Anthony were paid from these funds until 1935. Mr. Sides, Mr. Berger and Mr. Smith had been retained.

Mr. Sides resigned in 1942 and Mr. Guy Hutchens was elected to succeed him. Mr. Hutchens served until January 1944, and was followed by Mr. Robert Smith, who had been at Alexander Graham Junior High School and at Central as Instructor of Instrumental Music since 1929. Mr. Smith was serving as Director at the close of my administration in 1949.

## Mr. Oliver Cook at Harding High School

Mr. Oliver Cook was elected Director of Music at Harding High School and began his services in September 1937. Mr. Cook's band, orchestral, and choral work has been excellent and has attracted much favorable attention in the city.

DR. BARNETT RESIGNS

Dr. Harvey Barrett who had been elected to membership of the School Board in 1927, resigned January 12, 1928 and Mr. Chase Brenizer was chosen by the Board to fill his place.

During the administration of this Board the auditorium and four class rooms at Bethune School were built. Mr. C. C. Hook was the Architect.

At the April 12, meeting of this Board the purchase of three lots, each 56' x 200' adjoining the Villa Heights School yard, to cost not to exceed \$1,800.00 for the three lots, was authorized. The cafeteria in the basement of the Villa Heights School was built at this time.

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF 1929

After the May 1929 city election the School Board was composed of the following members: Mr. W. R. Foreman, Mr. J. A. Houston, Mr. John W. Cole, Mr. Chase Brenizer, Mr. J. Lester Wolfe, Mr. Harvey W. Moore and Mr. J. Paul Lucas.

Mr. W. R. Foreman was Chairman of the Finance Committee.

Mr. Chase Brenizer was Vice Chairman.

On February 12, 1930, Mr. T. T. Allison succeeded Mr. J. L. Wolfe, and Mrs. John A. McRae succeeded Mr. Harvey W. Moore.

On March 13, 1930 Mr. J. P. Lucas resigned and Mr. Paul Whitlock was elected to fill his place.

CHARTER AMENDED, FEBRUARY 12, 1931

On February 12, 1931, on petition of the School Board, the State Legislature amended Chapter 342, Private Laws of N. C. of 1907 in order to clarify a doubtful clause relative to the staggered terms of the members of the Charlotte School Board. Under this Act the staggered terms would continue as was intended in the Amendment of Chapter 78, Private Laws of N. C. of 1923.

## BIBLE IN THE CITY SCHOOLS

At the meeting of the Board of School Commissioners on January 8, 1925 a communication was received from Dr. A. A. McGeachy, Pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church, and another from Mrs. Arch Taylor, Secretary of an assembly of representatives from ~~the~~ some of the Protestant churches in the city, petitioning the Board to offer a course in Bible instruction at Central High School.

The matter was ~~referred~~ <sup>referred</sup> to the Course of Study Committee of the Board. The Committee later recommended the following plan which was approved by the Board:

The Missionary Union of the Protestant Churches would provide the funds to pay the teacher; the funds were to be paid to the Treasurer of the School Board; The teacher's salary check would be issued to her in the same way as checks are issued to other teachers; the teacher should be elected by the Board on the recommendation of the Interdenominational Union.

She was to be subject to the rules and regulations of the School Board, and to be under the supervision of the Principal of the school, and to bear the same relation to him and the school authorities as do the other teachers in the school.

The Bible Course was to be elective, and to be offered five periods a week for one year.

A credit of one unit toward graduation was to be allowed for the course.

It was to be considered a Tenth or Eleventh grade course.

The plan was submitted to the committee of the churches and on February 2, 1925 a letter from Dr. McGeachy accepted for the committee the proposed plan.

On May 14th the School Board was notified that funds would be

available for one teacher at the opening of school in September 1925.

I am indebted to Mrs. W. C. Link, now Secretary of the Interdenominational Missionary Union, for the following facts:

On May 13th, 1925 the representatives of the churches who had been meeting from time to time to discuss this matter, formally organized, with the name mentioned above, The Interdenominational Missionary Union. The churches participating, with the names of the persons representing their respective denominations, were as follows:

The Presbyterian Church, represented by Dr. A. A. McGeachy, Mr. J. W. McClung, Mr. and Mrs. Harry J. Spencer, Mr. F. H. Bierman, Mr. A. R. Shaw, Mr. J. B. Ramsey, and Mr. E. C. Todd;

The Episcopal Church, represented by Mr. Louis C. Burwell, Mr. F. R. Jackson and Mr. T. L. Black;

The Methodist Episcopal, represented by Mr. J. B. Ivey, Mr. Chas. E. Wakefield, Mr. E. L. Mayhew, and Miss Maud McKinnon;

The Methodist Protestant, represented by Miss Enola Presnell;

The Associated Reform Presbyterian, represented by Miss Louise Erwin, Mr. E. L. Barkley, and Mr. J. B. Willis;

Mr. J. B. Ivey was made Temporary Chairman of the Bible In The Schools Committee and later was made permanent Chairman.

Mr. Ivey filled this position for twenty three years and gave to the cause great moral and financial support.

When Mr. Ivey decided to retire he persuaded Mr. Thos. McPheeters Glasgow to take the Chairmanship. Mr. Glasgow still fills this position and gives the program very valuable time and attention, as he had done for a long time as a member of the Committee.

#### MRS. W. J. BRYAN, THE FIRST TEACHER

The first teacher nominated by the Churches and elected by the School Board was Mrs. W. J. Bryan who began her services in Septem-



ber at Central High School.

Mrs Bryan was a magnetic teacher and her classes were full from the beginning.

The next year the Missionary Union asked that a second teacher be elected to work with Mrs. Bryan on the same terms as had been accepted the year before. They recommended Mrs. W. L. Walker and the Board elected her. She began in September 1926.

Mrs. Walker was the widow of a Baptist Minister. She had been well trained and had been a Bible teacher before coming to our schools. She was a popular teacher and her classes too were filled.

Mrs. Walker served eight years until 1934 and Mrs, Bryan served eleven years until 1936.

Miss Louise Tucker succeeded Mrs Walker in 1934, and Miss Janet Robinson succeeded Mrs. Bryan in 1936.

At Tech. High School Miss Mildred White, now Mrs. T. S. Irwin, was the Bible teacher during the years 1937- 1939.

The Harding High School was opened in September 1935, and during the years 1939-1941 Mrs. Irwin was transferred from Tech. High School to Harding High School.

During 1945-47 Miss Janet Robinson and Miss Pearl Eichelberger divided time between Central and Tech. High schools.

Miss Cornelia Bramlett divided time between Alexander Graham Junior High School and Piedmont Junior High School during the years 1941-1945.

In September 1942 Miss Mary B. MacKorell was elected Bible teacher for the Harding High School. Miss MacKorell had an A. B. degree from Randolph-Macon College, and an A. M. degree from Duke University. She had taught in the High School at Asheville, N. C. before coming to Charlotte. Her teaching skill and her personal influence has made the Bible course at this school attractive and popular.

### BIBLE INSTRUCTION IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

In 1947 the Missionary Union offered to provide funds for two teachers in the Elementary Schools. The School Board approved and Miss Isabel Reid was elected she was assisted by Miss Eichelberger. In 1948-49 Miss Isabel Reid and Miss Nell Morgan were elected. They are both very efficient and very popular teachers. They have been able to spend about one day a week, each, in some of the White Elementary Schools.

### BIBLE INSTRUCTION IN THE NEGRO HIGH SCHOOL

The Missionary Union provided one teacher for the Negro High Schools Mrs. Julia W. Boulding was the first teacher and served well for a number of years and was succeeded by Miss Mildred E. Baxter.

### THE PRESENT ORGANIZATION OF THE MISSIONARY UNION

The organization of the Inter-denominational Missionary Union at this time has the following officers:

Mr. J. B. Ivey, Chairman Emeritus,

Mr. Thos. McP. Glasgow, Chairman,

Mrs. W. C. Link, Secretary,

Mr. Algie M. Lawing, Treasurer,

Executive Committee:

Mr. Zeb. C. Strawn, Chm. Finance Committee,

Mr. Torrence W. Aldred, Chm. Public Relations,

Mrs. Frank Stanton, Chm. Teachers' Committee,

Mr. J. Pressley Alexander, Mr. Francis Fairley, Mr. T. M. Glasgow,

Mrs. Thos. Hawthorne, Mr. J. B. Ivey, Mrs. Herman Kissiah, Mr.

Stanhope Lineberry, Mrs. W. C. Link, Mr. Al B. Mackey, Mr. Frank W. Orr.

Ministerial Adviser, Dr. Herbert Spaugh.

Dr. Spaugh has been very helpful in selecting materials and in planning the instruction all through the years.

In the beginning it was feared that the Bible instruction might receive some criticism from persons who were watching for some denominational bias on the part of the teacher. The course is taught as a factual subject, and no criticism of this kind ever came to me during my superintendency. The facts of the Old and the New Testament were taught in an interesting way to hundreds of children who would have gotten these facts in no other way.

#### DRAWING AND THE FINE ARTS

Drawing was part of the Course of Study and the Augsburg Drawing Book Series was on the book lists prior to 1904.

Prof. Bentheim, a teacher of Art at Elizabeth College had private students of Art in the city. Superintendent Graham was interested and studied with him at times. Dr. Graham became quite proficient in drawing, and created an interest in the subject in the schools.

Many of our prominent citizens often refer to Dr. Graham's visits to their class rooms and the drawings he did on the black-board, of the old man with a pipe, and others.

When the drawing period came in the daily schedule, some teachers, at least this one, could only say, "Get out your drawing books and draw."

#### DRAWING AND ART IN THE HIGH SCHOOL

In 1915 Miss Mary Armand Nash who had been a teacher in the Elementary Schools and in the High School was assigned to teach Art in the High School. She was a very efficient teacher and she made a very definite contribution to the Art work in the city. Many of her students have done well in this field because of the inspiration and instruction received in her classes at Central High School.

Miss Nash taught Art at Central High until her retirement in 1943.

She had served thirty four years as a teacher in the city schools.

Miss Katherine Sledge is the teacher of Art at Central at this time, 1949.

### Special Art Teachers in the Elementary Schools

In 1921 Miss Anne Carolyn Robertson of Menlo, Ga. was elected Supervisor of Drawing for the Elementary Schools. She had been trained at George Peabody College of Nashville, Tenn.

She began in our city <sup>Elementary</sup> schools the method of teaching creative art and color appreciation, clay modeling and the like that gave the child a chance to express himself in some form of art.

Miss Robertson remained as supervisor of Art in the Elementary schools until 1924.

She was succeeded by Miss Ada Kunz, with Miss Alice Cain and Miss Myrtle Holdgraf as assistants.

In 1925 Miss Alma Sparger succeeded Miss Kunz and continued as Head Supervisor until 1932. Miss Ruth Battilena came in 1928 and with Miss Cain and Miss Holdgraf served until 1931 when nine of our special teachers were dropped on account of the depression which began about that time.

In the Junior High Schools Miss Shirley Ross at the Alexander Graham Junior High and Miss Elizabeth Scruggs at Piedmont Junior High were among the first Art teachers.

Others that followed at Alexander Graham Junior High were Miss Suzan Creech, Miss Margaret Pittman, Miss Ruth Lemons, Mrs. Alice Steadman, and Miss Margaret Griffin.

In Piedmont Junior High School other teachers of Art who followed Miss Scruggs were Miss Julia Howard, Miss Virginia Kelley, and Miss Caroline G. Blanton

Mechanical Drawing was taught in all of the Industrial Arts Depart-

ments of the Junior and Senior High Schools.

#### AFTER SIXTEEN YEARS

For sixteen years after the great Depression there was no Special Art Supervisor or Consultant in the Elementary schools. The class room teachers who had been educated in Teacher Training Schools depended on the instruction they had received there and on their own resources in teaching art as a part of the coordination in class room instruction.

In 1948 Mrs. Elizabeth H. Mack was elected Special Art Teacher and Consultant for the Elementary Schools.

Her work in creative art, ceramics, color design and appreciation has influenced the art work through<sup>-out</sup> the school system.

#### HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS

After the opening of the Junior High Schools, in order to coordinate the work in the Junior and Senior High Schools of the city system, Heads of Departments were appointed as follows:

English, Miss Minnia Downs,  
History, Miss Cornie Fore,  
Mathematics, Miss Sara Kelly,  
Home Economics, Miss Florence Thomas.

All of these teachers were outstanding as leaders in their respective departments.

These Heads of Departments did much to unify and coordinate the work in the Junior and <sup>Senior</sup> High Schools of the city.

An economically minded Finance Committee in 1927 discontinued this service. The teachers who had given only part time to this supervision, continued as teachers until their retirement.

Miss Florence Thomas who was Head of the Home Economics Department had done much to improve instruction in her department. She remained

in our schools until her death a few years later.

Miss Minnie Downs had been a leader in the English Department and had done much to develop the English course of study. She had been a very valuable teacher in the Summer School.

Miss Cornie Fore had been very successful in interesting her students in research and in current history.

Miss Sara Kelly had been most successful in the Mathematics department and was a very popular teacher of Algebra.

All of these teachers have had an important part in the development of our High School spirit and have been greatly beloved by a host of Charlotte Boys and girls.

#### The Course in Journalism

Early in the history of Central High School, Dr. Garringer, the Principal, had asked Miss Jessie Henderson to supervise and assist the work of publishing the school paper, "The Rambler". Through the years the course in Journalism that grew out of this activity and out of the effort of Miss Jessie Henderson has had wonderful results.

Some of the students instructed and inspired by her have filled important positions in the field of Journalism. Among them are Marion Hargrove, reporter and author; Peter Madison, associated with the "VOICE of AMERICA" in Europe; Earl Hoffner, Columnist; Bob Page, formerly city editor of the Observer; Dick Young, on the Editorial Staff of the News; Walter Spearman, on the faculty of the University of North Carolina; Jack Clayborne, Miss Margaret Watkins, Charles Kuralt, Eddie Allen, Ronald Greene, T.J. Norman, Jack Pentes and many others.

Miss Louisa Duls of the English Department cooperated and assisted in this work while she was on the staff at Central High School.

Miss Jessie Henderson retired a few years ago, but she still has a place in the hearts of the students at Central. Recently the

Rambler issued a special edition in honor of Miss Henderson. In it were many communications from her old students paying tribute to her worth, and expressing their appreciation of her help and of her effort. (This is written in 1957).

#### PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND ATHLETICS

prior to 1926 organized Physical Education in the Charlotte schools was limited almost to the Athletic program of the Junior and Senior High Schools.

In the Elementary schools the children were all together on the school yard during the recess periods and were under the general supervision of the Principal and a committee of teachers.

As reported earlier in this review the first Athletic Association was organized in 1909. The male members of the School faculty served as coaches.

During the years 1912-1914 Mr. C. F. Cowell, teacher of Science was the foot ball and boys' basket ball coach; Mr. C. R. Wharton, English and Modern Language teacher, was the girls' basket ball coach.

In 1916-17 Mr. E. R. Campbell, teacher of the Social Sciences, coached the base ball and Mr. C. E. Lacey, Manual Training teacher, at one time coached the girls' basket ball.

Mr. A. B. Faul, Physical Education Director of the Y. M. C. A., beginning in 1917 and for several years thereafter coached the basket ball teams.

From 1914 to 1918, four years, Mr. Marvin L. Ritch of his own initiative and without compensation, coached the foot ball squads.

Mr. Ritch had starred as a foot ball player on the Varsity team at the University of North Carolina.

The first year, 1914, he organized a select number of boys from the Baird's school and from our own school to form the foot ball squad into a winning team.

The teams after the first year were from the Charlotte High School. In the Annual of 1918 the boys express great appreciation of the very unselfish and sportsman like help they had received from Mr. Ritch.

During 1918- 1920 Mr. Joe Crayton coached the foot ball teams, Mr. Hutto coached the Base ball boys, and Mr. Elliot the girls' basket ball.

In 1920 and until 1922 Mr. Hugh Murrill Jr., a former West Point athlete, coached foot ball and base ball, and Miss Rutledge Dudley coached the girls' basket ball teams.

During the years 1923-'25 Mr C. D. Kirkpatrick was employed as Director of Physical Education and coach of all High school athletics.

#### Dr. Harvey Barrett

This year, 1923, Dr. Harvey Barrett organized and coached the track team at Central High School. For seven years Dr. Barrett gave his time and skill, without pay, as his contribution to the boys of the High School. He awakened great interest in this sport and was very successful with his teams.

In 1925-'26 Mr. C. W. Rawson was the head coach at Central and Miss Betty Haile, former star athlete at Winthrop College, was the girls' coach and teacher of Physical Education.

#### Physical Education in the Elementary Schools

During these years the interest of the fathers was centered in foot ball, base ball, basket ball, and track, but the mothers about this time became very much interested in the play programs and the physical welfare of their children in the Elementary schools.

As a result of their interest and of their effort the School Board began a search for a man who had been professionally trained to teach Physical Education.

In 1926 Mr Otto Gulickson was elected Director of Physical Education



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for the City Schools.

Mr. Gulickson had been trained at N. Dakota College, Springfield College, and Teachers' College of Columbia University.

He was from the Middle West and was of Scandinavian descent. He put a great deal of emphasis on setting up exercises, calisthenics, and the like, as well as on play ground games.

To serve with him in the Elementary schools the Board elected three teachers who had been trained especially as teachers of physical Education, in the Teacher Training Schools. They were Miss Effie Lively, Miss Martha W. Holder and Miss Annie C. Haselden.

They taught good health, physique development, and coordination, initiative and team work through play on the school yards and in the classrooms. This has been the policy in the Elementary schools since that time.

At Central High School in 1927-28 Mr. Jack Caldwell was Head Coach Mr. Walter Skidmore was Mathematics teacher and foot ball coach. Miss Margery Bonitz was teacher of Physical Education and coach of girls' athletics.

About this time through the efforts of Mr. J. A. Houston a number of citizens became interested in athletics in the High Schools and an organization was formed to assist the athletic program financially and otherwise. Mr. Houston was Chairman of the Athletics Committee of the School Board. This group of citizens rendered very substantial aid a few years later when the Great Depression came.

#### GYMNASIUM AT CENTRAL

On June 8th, 1927 Dr. Garinger and others appeared before the Board to urge the building of a gymnasium at Central High School. On that date the Board authorized the building of the gymnasium, contracts were let later and the building was ready for the opening of school in September. This was the first gymnasium in the city schools.

This gymnasium and the others built during the years that followed enabled the Physical Education teachers and the coaches to give well planned programs in Physical Education for boys and girls.

Mr. Gulickson served three years until the end of the school year in 1929. Mr. Walter D. Skidmore then became Head coach of boys' athletics at Central. Mr. Sutton Alexander was Assistant Coach.

Miss Lilian Arhelger was coach of girls' sports and teacher of Physical Education. She was well trained and was very popular with her students. In the summer of 1931 Miss Arhelger lost her life in an heroic effort to save the life of a girl, in the Mountains of North Carolina. She saved the girl's life but lost her own.

In the fall of 1931 Miss Effie Lively was transferred to Central High School to succeed Miss Arhelger. The other Physical Education teachers in the Elementary schools were dropped because of the depression in the economic affairs of the city at that time.

After seven years of splendid service as Coach of the Track Team Dr. Harvey Barrett retired. Mr. Galen Elliot succeeded him assisted by Mr. Francis Byrd. The next year Mr. Wm. Hicks was Track Coach and Mr. Francis Byrd was Assistant.

In 1933 the State took over the City schools. The effect of this on the Physical Education program will be related in the story of Reconstruction that followed after 1933.

STATISTICAL COMPARISON  
1913-1914 WITH 1929-1930

The school year 1929-1930 was the last year of our school expansion prior to the Great Depression.

The growth of the school system during the administration that began in 1913-1914 is shown in the tabulation of statistics that follows:

	1913-1914	1929-1930
Population of the City	34,014	82,675
Number of School Commissioners	17	7
Special School Tax	20¢	30¢
Invested in School Property	\$267, 107.25	\$3,611,349.09
Income for Operating Expense	78,360.51	890,449.09
Teachers' Salaries, Elem., White,	\$405. to \$585.	\$900. to \$1,560.
"          "          High Sch., "	\$720. to \$1,200.	\$1,693 to \$2,100..
Number of Teachers, Prin. & Superv.	128	468
Number of Class Rooms	126	448
"    " Ungraded Classes	0	16
"    " Open Air Schools	0	1
"    " Elementary Schools, White,	8	13
"    "          "          "          Negro	2	5
"    " Combination Elem. & High Schools	1	0
"    " High Schools, White,	0	1
"    "          "          "          Negro	0	1
"    " Junior High Schools	0	2
"    " Vocational High Schools	0	1
Total Number of Schools, White and Negro	10	24
Number of Ind. Arts & Home Econ. Teachers	2	25
"    " Commercial Teachers	2	6

Number-of-Visiting-Teachers	1913-1914	1929-1930
Number of Visiting Teachers	0	2
" " School Nurses	0	5
" " " Full Time Dentists	0	1
" " " " Physicians	0	1
" " Elementary Supervisors	0	2
" " Physical Education Teachers, Elem.,	0	3
" " " " " H. S.,	0	5
Enrollment, White,	4,345	11,492
" Negro	2,090	4,895
Total Enrollment, White & Negro,	6,435	16,387

#### NEW BUILDINGS ERECTED 1914 to 1930

Alexander Graham Junior High, Piedmont Junior High, Central High, Belmont Vocational High, (TECH.HIGH), Zeb. Vance Elementary, North Charlotte Elementary, Wilmore Elementary, Seversville Elementary, Parks Hutchison Elem., Myers Park Elementary, Gymnasium at Central, Two wings to the Alexander Graham School including Cafeteria, Gymnasium, Music Room and Class rooms, Auditorium and class rooms at Bethune. Second Ward High School, New Fairview Elementary, Morgan Elementary, Biddleville Elementary. New sections to Elizabeth and Dilworth including auditorium and cafeteria in each. Plaza Road Elementary School taken into the city from the county system.

MR. W. R. FOREMAN

The six year term on the School Board of Mr. W. R. Foreman came to an end with the city election of 1931. Mr. Foreman and his faction had been in a minority during 1925-1927. After 1927 Mr. Foreman and his faction had control of school affairs for the remaining part of his term.

During the first two years there was considerable controversy among the members as to school policies, and there has been much criticism of some of the methods of financing certain projects that were used by his faction during the last four years of his term.

We must give his administration credit for considerable constructive activity during this time. The following projects were undertaken and completed: A new sixteen room Elementary school located on ten acres of land in Myers Park, an auditorium and four new class rooms at Bethune Elementary school, the gymnasium at Central High School, the West wing of Alexander Graham Junior High School, including a gymnasium, music room, and class rooms, and the improvement of the Athletic field at Central. All of this was done without a bond issue.

no bldg

Mr. Charles Blackburn was made Business Manager on Mr. Foreman's advice and recommendation.

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF 1931

After the city election of 1931 the the School Board members were :  
Mr. John W. Cole, Mrs. W. C. Mitcham, Mrs. James Boyce Hunter, Mr. J. E. Steere, Mr. H. Connor Sherrill, Mr. E. S. DeLaney and Rev. John Long Jackson.

Chairman, Mr. A. H. Wearn, Mayor and Chairman ex officio.

Rev. John Long Jackson, Vice Chairman,

Mr. H. Connor Sherrill, Chairman of the Finance Committee.

## THE GREAT DEPRESSION, 1930--1935

The effects of the great depression beginning in 1929-1930 began to be felt in our schools during the school session of 1931-1932.

The budget for operating expenses for the year 1931-1932 was reduced from \$882,912.00 of the preceding year, to \$644,038.36, a difference of \$238,873.64, about 27 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

All salaries were cut about 15 per cent. The number of class room teachers was reduced by 18 white and one Negro, a total of nineteen.

The number of Special Teachers was reduced by seven white and one Negro, a total of eight.

The enrollment however increased by 301 pupils and the Average Attendance by 589 pupils. With more pupils and fewer teachers the class rooms were crowded and the teacher's load heavier.

The worst was to come in 1933.

### The Legislature of 1933

The sentiment throughout the State in 1933 was strong for a reduction of taxes. The tax on real estate and corporation property at this time was the greatest source of revenue.

In the cities and towns of the State special school taxes ranging from 20¢ to 50¢, in Charlotte 30¢, were levied for the support of the local schools. This was a supplement to the amount received from the County tax.

The Legislature of 1933 was composed of men determined to take the tax off real property, and to pass a sales tax which would put the burden on the consumer.

In the Senate among the leaders were some rail road and corporation lawyers and a number of their sympathetic friends.

To draw attention away from the shift of the taxation burden, they advocated an eight months school for the State. This pleased the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Mr. A. T. Allen, who for a long time had been pleading for an eight months school term. He gave the program his support and great publicity.

The leaders in the Senate posed as great friends of the public schools, as they were giving the whole State an eight months school instead of the six months school that had prevailed. Many of us thought that in reality they were great friends of the rail roads and other corporations whom they were relieving of the tax burden. This burden they were passing on to the consumer with a sales tax.

The State-wide eight months school term would have been a great accomplishment if the cost had been adequately financed without the city and town graded schools losing what they had struggled for years to build.

To accomplish this change in the system of taxation all special charter districts in the State were declared non-existent until re-established by the State School Commission. The right to levy a special school tax for the operation of city schools systems was annulled.

#### THE STATUS OF THE CHARLOTTE CITY SCHOOLS

The budget of the Charlotte school system was reduced again. In 1931-1932 the budget was \$882,912.00 as has been stated% this was reduced in 1932-1933 to \$644,038.36 or 27½%, now it was reduced to \$336,813.53. The State apportioned \$312,813.53, and from local fines, forfeitures, and poll tax the Board received \$26,000.00. This was a cut of 61% of the 1931-1932 operating budget.

For the first time since 1882 the school term in Charlotte was for just eight months.

The Twelfth Grade was discontinued. For ten years the Charlotte schools had been organized with six years of Elementary schools, three years of Junior High Schools, and three years of Senior High Schools. Now in order to conform to the rural school system it was necessary to reorganize our system with seven years of Elementary schools and four years of High Schools.

The number of teachers had been reduced the year 1932-1933 by fifteen class room teachers, the number was again reduced by thirty nine teachers, making a total loss in the two years of fifty four class room teachers.

The Primary Supervisor, the Grammar Grade Supervisor, and all Special Supervisors were dropped.

The School Dentist who had been employed by the Board for the preceding eleven years was dropped and the dental office in the First Ward school was closed.

Six school Nurses were dropped, the special attendance officer for the city, one secretary, one truck driver and a number of Janitor's helpers also were dropped.

The salaries of all school employees were about 60% below the salaries of 1930-1931.

The maximum salary for a teacher with an "A" certificate was fixed at \$720.00 a year. Eight years of previous experience was the requisite for obtaining this maximum salary of \$720.00 a year.

The salary range was from \$560.00 to \$720.00 a year.

The Ungraded classes were cut from seventeen to seven, with the number of pupils per teacher in these classes doubled.



The Summer School for children who had failed or had lost time, which had been conducted by the School Board for the preceding twenty years was conducted privately by the teachers who charged a tuition fee.

The testing program for discovering in an objective way the weak places in the schools and for enabling teachers to provide remedial work, was discontinued.

The music program, as stated before, was sponsored by the Civic Council, a local citizens' organization. The program included instrumental music, band and orchestral instruction. Funds were raised by contributions made by interested persons.

Two Supervisors whose salaries were financed by the Civic Council, kept up the chorus work in the Elementary schools by visiting each school once a week.

The Athletic activities were sponsored by the Citizens' organization. The gate receipts at the games about covered the expense. Special Physical Education teachers in the Elementary schools had been dropped the preceding year.

The hardest task that faced this Superintendent was to select the thirty nine class room teachers to be dropped. This very unhappy task had been his the year before when he had to drop nineteen teachers, and eight Supervisors, now thirty nine more had to go.

I quote from the Superintendent's Annual Report of July 1, 1934:

" I cannot commend too highly the very loyal spirit which the teachers and principals have shown this year. While they were still due the equivalent of nearly two months salary from 1932-1933, and had received nearly a 60% cut in salary at the beginning of the past year, with their teaching load made heavier and the school day longer, they have

put forth their best efforts to help us meet the readjustments that have been made necessary".

Again I quote from the same report:

"When the history of Charlotte for the past decade is written, I hope it will be noted that when the people of the City provided the funds we developed a system of schools that would compare favorably with that of any other city of this size, a system in which, I think, our people took considerable pride".

Every supplementary activity of our schools, which, with the help of the Parent-Teacher Associations, the Junior Red Cross, and a number of other organizations, our Board had developed over a period of twenty years, was discontinued by this Act of the Legislature of 1933.

We had the status of a very poorly financed rural school with a term of eight months.

#### THE TASK OF REBUILDING

Our task was to start again and rebuild our school system.

On June 5th, 1933, the Board of School Commissioners of the City of Charlotte and the Board of Education of Mecklenburg County, in joint session assembled, petitioned the State School Commission to reestablish the school district of the City of Charlotte, the district lines to be coterminus with the boundary lines of the city, as an Administrative Unit of the State system, for the operation of the city schools.

On June 26, 1933 the Executive Secretary of the State School Commission notified the Charlotte Board that the Charlotte Administrative Unit, as a unit of the State School system had been created by the State School Commission. The Charlotte Unit would be directly responsible to the State School Commission according to the laws enacted by the legisla-

ture of 1933.

#### THE ELECTION OF AUGUST 1933

The School Board immediately took steps to have an election called to give the voters of Charlotte an opportunity to authorize the levy of a special school tax of a rate not to exceed 20¢ on the 100.00 property valuation.

The election was held on August 15, 1933. 12,500 voters registered. A majority of the registered voters were required to vote favorably, in order to carry the election. The election was lost by 251 votes.

The next year the School Board again took steps to have an election held on the 19th of May 1934, to give the citizens an opportunity to vote for a special tax rate of 10¢ on the 100 dollars valuation of property, the income to be used exclusively for supplementing teachers' salaries.

This action was stopped by an injunction, which <sup>was</sup> held by the courts. For two years our schools operated with this very limited budget and with the same program as the rural schools

#### THE ELECTION OF APRIL 16, 1935

On April 16, 1935 another election was held and the citizens of the city voted for a special school tax rate of 25¢ on the \$100.00 property valuation. This election was carried by a good majority.

#### THE RESTORATION BEGINS

The teachers salaries were increased from the maximum of \$720.00 to a maximum of \$1200.00.

The Twelfth Grade was restored and the schools organized again on a six-three-three plan with six years of Elementary schools, three years of Junior High schools, and three years of Senior High Schools.

The Ninth month was restored to the school term,

#### BUILDING PROGRAM WITH P W A, Federal Aid

In the mean time the School Board had taken steps to get a building program started. At the September 1933, meeting of the Board the Finance Committee was directed to take such steps as were necessary to obtain funds through the Public Works Administration of the Federal Government to erect school buildings to meet the needs of the city.

The Finance Committee estimated the cost of construction of these buildings, together with the cost of school sites, to be \$690,000.00. This amount would provide modern fire resistive buildings.

The State Department advised the Board that it would be necessary to obtain the loan through the County Board of Education and the County Commissioners.

A joint meeting of the three Boards was held in the Council Chamber of the City Hall at a later date.

The City Superintendent insisted that these first units of the new buildings be of the best construction and of the fire proof type, for the children of the city, where fire risks were greater than in the country. The County Superintendent however stated that the cheap ordinary type of construction, instead of the fire resistive type, was good enough and could be built at a cost of only \$400,000.00.

This amount was approved by the County Boards. This accounts for the very cheap type of buildings erected at that time.

#### NEW SCHOOL BUILDINGS

The approved program included the following new buildings:  
The Lawyers Road School (Midwood), an eight room school on a site purchased for this purpose. The architect was Mr. M. R. Marsh.

The Eastover School with eight rooms, on a site facing Cherokee Road, purchased from Mr. E. C. Griffith, at \$1,000.00 an acre for the three acres in this first lot. The Architect was Mr. Louis H. Asbury, Sr.

The Glenwood School, with eight rooms, on Clay Street, the site being a part of the old home place of Col. S. B. Alexander.

The High School in Irwin Park, on land previously purchased by the Board, which will be referred to later. The Architects were Boyer and Dail.

Four rooms were added to the Wilmore School building and additional shops were built at Tech. High School.

#### FOR THE NEGRO SCHOOLS

A new sixteen room building to replace the old wooden school house was built on Alexander Street, Mr. George Rhodes was the Architect.

In 1932 the School Board had built a modern brick building to replace the old Myers Street School, now twelve additional rooms were added.

In 1931 the School Board had rented from the Episcopal Church their parish school house and had opened a public school here with Miss Beulah Moore as Principal. There were grades 1--6.

Now in 1935 a modern fire proof building with sixteen rooms was built on a vacant lot owned by the City. On this lot had formerly been the city barn and stables, before the coming of the automobile. Mr. Wm. Peeps was the Architect and the building was one of the best that were built at this time. The Board purchased two additional lots on the South side of the school yard.

This school was named The Isabella Wyche School in honor of a former Principal of the Myers Street School, who had been a recognized leader in the Negro schools. This school was located on the corner of West Hill and South Poplar Streets.

Four rooms were added to the Biddleville School.

This Superintendent was very happy that now every Negro school building in the city was a modern brick building.

#### OTHER SERVICES DURING THE DEPRESSION

The School Board took advantage of every opportunity offered by the Federal Government and by the State Agencies, to give to the community the benefit of the educational services available.

Through the financial aid of the C W A we had the services of the school nurses three month, and through this same fund the janitorial services were supplemented for a part of the year 1933-1934.

#### ADULT CLASSES

A number of classes for adult illiterates were organized and the teachers were paid by the Government agencies. The classes were conducted under the supervision of the city School Board.

Mr. F. T. Selby, Principal of Tech. High School, was Director of the Vocational programs. This included 123 students in day classes who were given courses in Machine Shop, Electricity, and wood working, textiles, and Interior Decorating.

These classes met the requirements of the Smith-Hughes Act and all the expense was met by the State and Federal Vocational Education fund, with the exception of \$300.00 which was required to be raised locally.

This \$300.00 was raised by the ladies of the American Legion Auxiliary. The total expense amounted to \$1,280.00

Mr. Selby supervised also ten adult classe in four mill centers one hundred and ten persons were enrolled.

Seven classes in dietetics and food chemistry for student nurses were given in the Hospitals.

While most of the expense was met from State and Federal Vocational funds,

the program was under the direction of the Charlotte School Board.

### THE SCHOOL BOARD OF 1933

No school board during the history of the school organization here had been confronted with as many problems of readjustment as was the Board of 1933. The common sense point of view and the loyal spirit of the members of the Board helped to make the best of a deplorable situation.

This Board of 1933 was composed of the following members:

Mr. Frank H. Kennedy, Mrs. W. C. Mitcham, Mrs. James Boyce Hunter, Mr. S. A. Van Every, Mr. H. B. Benoit, Rev. John Long Jackson and Dr. John S. Gaul.

Mr. Frank H. Kennedy was Chairman, and

Mr. H. B. Benoit was Chairman of the Finance Committee.

### PRINCIPALS OF THE NEW SCHOOLS

The new buildings were ready for the opening of school in September 1935.

For the Eastover School Miss Daphne Ransom was made Principal.

Miss Ransom came to Charlotte in September 1922, and was on the teaching staff of Tech. High School when it was opened in September 1922.

She taught English and was Student Advisor for the Senior Class for thirteen years. She helped to build the fine <sup>spirit</sup> of the Vocational School as it was called then, from the beginning.

The High regard the students had for her is indicated in the dedication of the first volume of the School Annual, "THE TECHNIQUE", issued in 1929.

### "DEDICATED TO MISS DAPHNE RANSOM"

"It is to you and what you have stood for and what you have meant to us and to Tech. High School, that we in love, adoration, and high respect dedicate this the first volume of the Technique".

"May it ever keep strong the ties of love and comradship. that binds us".

(Signed)

"THE SENIOR CLASS OF 1929".

As principal of the Eastover School, Miss Ransom, now Mrs. Daphne Ransom Long, during the fourteen years of my administration, won and kept the very loyal support of the parents of that community.

Her patrons have responded in a wonderful way to her leadership. Her Parent-Teacher Association has always been very active, and has contributed much to the improvement of facilities and to the enlargement of Eastover School.

The Principal of Midwood School

Mrs. Eva H. Burch was transferred from the principalship of Parks Hutchison school to be Principal of the new Midwood school.

When the Parks Hutchison school was completed in 1924 Miss Fannie Eaton was made Principal of the school and served until May 29, 1931, when she resigned to be married.

Mrs. Burch who was then teaching a Sixth Grade in the Dilworth school was made Principal of the Parks Hutchison school to succeed Miss Eaton, beginning with the school term 1931-1932. She served until 1935 and was then transferred to Midwood school,

She has successfully guided the growth of her school from an eight teacher school to a school at this time of twenty three teachers. She has had the very strong support of her Parent-Teacher Association.

To succeed Mrs. Burch at Parks Hutchison school in 1935, Miss Pattie Lee Biggers was promoted from a Sixth grade at Elizabeth School.

Miss Biggers was a graduate of Randolph-Macon College and had been a very efficient and popular teacher. She served most successfully



at Parks Hutchison. She developed a school spirit in her community and directed the efforts of her P. T. A. to improve her school. When Miss Willis was transferred from Bethune School in 1948 to the principalship of the Elizabeth school, Miss Biggers, now Mrs. Frank McGee, was promoted to the principalship of the Bethune school.

She has served in all of these capacities with efficiency. She has always been very popular with her patrons and her co-workers.

To succeed Mrs. McGee at Parks Hutchison school Mrs. Cornelia Wearn Henderson was made Principal. Mrs. Henderson was a graduate of the University of North Carolina. She had done outstanding work with Nursery schools conducted by the Government during the war years. After the war she became a teacher of Social Studies at Central High School. She served as Principal of the Summer School in 1949. She has been very successful as Principal of the Parks Hutchison school.

#### The Principal Of Glenwood School

To be Principal of the new Glenwood school Mrs. Edith Croom Werts was promoted from a teaching position in the Elementary schools. Mrs. Werts did a good job in organizing the new school and served until 1938, when she resigned.

Miss Lois Bell was promoted from a teaching position in the Dilworth school to succeed Mrs. Werts as Principal of the Glenwood school. Miss Bell has been active and efficient in directing the growth of her school and in developing a very loyal community school spirit.

#### Principal of Isabella Wyche School

Miss Beulah Moore who had been Principal of the Hill Street school was continued as Principal of the new Isabella Wyche school. She has served well all through the years, both as teacher and as Principal.

## IRWIN PARK PURCHASED

While walking from Fairview School to Zeb. Vance School, through Irwin Park one day in 1926, I found in Irwin Park between the creek and the cemetery, a level plot of ground, part of the Park, which was large enough to be the site of a school building.

Here, I thought, is the solution, of the much discussed problem of locating a High School to serve the Fourth Ward and the Western section of the city.

Miss Florence Jamison, Principal of the Zeb. Vance School, after seeing the lot, agreed with me.

Dr. N. L. Engelhardt enroute to Atlanta, stopped in Charlotte. I took him to see Irwin Park. He said "This is one of the prettiest High School sites in the South".

After the School Board members saw the grounds, it was decided to locate the High School here, if the property could be bought.

In order to get a clear title to the Park land it was necessary to get a quit claim release from all of the residents who had bought or built homes on Irwin Avenue or on streets adjacent to or in the vicinity of the Park, since Irwin Park had been declared Irwin Park on the city map.

Mr. Walter Pratt, President, and Mr. R. C. McManus, Vice President of Irwin Place Inc. and other citizens of the community obtained the required signatures.

On September 14, 1926 the School Board received from Irwin Place Inc. Mr. R. C. McManus, Vice President, an agreement to sell the park land of approximately fifteen acres for \$45,000.00. On January 31, 1926 the Board received a confirmation of the sale from Irwin Place Inc.

by Mr. Walter Pratt, President.

Sometime later The P.&N. Rail Road Co. purchased from the School Board 1.16 acres next to the creek for the sum of \$3,392.00.

At that time funds were not available to build the School house. The building of the High School here was part of the building program of 1934-1935 mentioned before.

The first unit of the building was ready for the opening of school in September 1935, with a Principal and sixteen teachers.

#### Mr. J. R. Hawkins Made Principal

Mr. J. R. Hawkins was made Principal. He had been a teacher and an Assistant to Dr. Garinger, Principal of Central High School, since 1932.

Mr. Hawkins has made a very efficient Principal and has won the strong support and cooperation of his patrons in the development of his school.

He has been active in city-wide campaigns for bond issues and other progressive movements in the school life of the city.

Under his wise administration the school has grown continuously. The building has been enlarged to more than double its original size. He has now a faculty of more than forty teachers. The school is a Junior-Senior High school, with Grades Seven through Twelve.

#### SCHOOL NAMED HARRY P. HARDING HIGH SCHOOL

Soon after the school was organized the Presidents of the Parent-Teacher-Associations of all of the Elementary schools that were sending children to this school, under the leadership of Miss James Boyce Hunter, President of P. T. A. of the new school, presented a petition to the School Board asking that the new school be named "The Harry P.

## Harding High School".

The Superintendent advised the Board that it was a dangerous thing to name a school for a living school Superintendent for many reasons.

The Board after taking the matter under consideration granted the request in their petition; and the school was so named.

## BUILDING PROGRAM OF 1937

On the first Tuesday in November 1936 the citizens of the city authorized a bond issue of \$584,860.00.

The allotment for the extension program for each school was as follows:

Harding High School, Additional class rooms and gymnasium	\$121,000.00
Equipment	10,615.00
Piedmont Junior High School, Additional class rooms and	
Gymnasium	\$73,750.00
Equipment	5,285.00
Central High School, Music Building, Field House and	
Additional Class rooms	\$68,750.00
Equipment	4,415.00
Dilworth Elementary School, Additional class rooms, and	
Change in Auditorium	\$60,750.00
Equipment	5,480.00
Villa Heights School, Additional Class rooms and Auditorium	\$32,500.00
Equipment	5,150.00
	<del>8,480.00</del>
Tech. High School, Gymnasium	\$25,000.00
Equipment	4,875.00
Fence	1,600.00

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Midwood Elementary School	Addition to Building	\$18,000.00
	Equipment	1,780.00
Isabella Wyche School,	Additions to Building and Cafeteria	\$75,000.00
	Equipment	5,000.00
	Additional Land	5,140.00
Biddleville Elementary School,	Additional Rooms <del>and</del>	\$15,750.00
	<del>Additional Rooms/</del> Equipment	1,305.00
	Additional Land	2,000.00
Fairview Elementary School,	Annex and Auditorium	<del>\$27,750.00</del> \$37,750.00
	Equipment	5,075.00
		-----
	TOTAL	\$584,860.00

#### THE SCHOOL BOARD OF 1935

The School Board of 1935 was the same as in 1933 with one exception. Mr. H. J. Allison took the place of Rev. John Long Jackson who did not run for election. Mr Jackson had served five and one half years.

#### D. H. HILL SCHOOL CLOSED, 1937

The additional rooms at the Dilworth school made possible the closing of the D. H. Hill school (The Old South School). The attendance had been growing smaller as the business section of the city encroached on the residential section. At the end of the school year in 1937 the school was discontinued.

So ended as a School building the first home of Charlotte Graded School, organized here in 1882.

The building was built in 1858.

## WEST CHARLOTTE NEGRO HIGH SCHOOL

To relieve the crowded conditions in the Second Ward High School and to relieve Fairview and Biddleville Schools of the Seventh Grades, it was decided to build a High School in the Western section of the city.

The Board in 1938 purchased ten acres of land on the Beatties Ford Road, just beyond, but adjacent to ,the city limits for a site for a new Negro High School.

The land was bought from Thad Tate for the sum of \$5,000.00. On this lot was built the first unit of a modern, fire resistive, brick building, for a High School. It was known as the West Charlotte High School. In the building program of 1936-'37 \$75,000.00 for the building, \$5,000.00 for the site, and \$1,305.00 for equipment, had been allotted. The Architect was Mr. Charles Connelly.

When the Board was negotiating for the purchase of the site, the Superintendent was directed to approach Thad Tate, for whom all of the citizens of the city had great respect, with a proposal to name the new High School "The Thad Tate High School" in his honor if he would donate the ten acres for the site. He asked for a night to think it over. The next morning he said "Mr. Harding, I will take the \$5,000.00."

Thad Tate was not only a good business man and a good citizen, but he wanted no honors that he had to buy.

Mr. Clinton L. Blake who had long been a teacher in the Second Ward High School and was prominent in the community, was made Principal. He has served most efficiently since that time. An auditorium and a cafeteria were added in 1947.

### Twelfth Grade Added

In September 1937 the Twelfth Grade was added to the Negro High Schools and they then had three years of Junior High and three of Senior. ✓

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND ATHLETICS, (Continued)

1933----1949

During the depression years the citizens of the city, the Parent-Teacher Associations, and other citizen organizations, the Principals, Teachers and pupils tried in many and wonderful ways to make up for the activities that our School Board was unable to finance.

Reference has been made of the financial help of the Citizens' League in keeping the music program going.

A citizens' organization as early as 1927 had helped finance the Athletic programs in the High schools. With this help the Athletic and Physical Education programs were continued in the Junior and Senior High Schools, during these depression years.

Mr. Walter Skidmore continued as coach of foot ball at Central during 1933-'34. Members of the faculty coached the other sports.

During 1934-'35 Mr. James Wirt DeArmon was teacher of Mathematics and foot ball coach at Central. Mr. John Purser coached the base ball, and Mr. Francis Boyd was Track coach.

The special school supplement voted in 1935 made it possible to begin the Physical Education Program again.

## MR. ROBERT ALLEN, DIRECTOR OF PHYSICAL ED. AND ATHLETICS

Mr. Robert Allen was elected Director of Physical Education and Athletics for the school system in 1935. Mr. Allen directed the program for seven years, until 1942.

During 1935-'38 Miss Margaret Moore was Phys. Ed. Teacher and coach for girls' sports at Central High School. She was succeeded by Miss Mavis Mitchel in 1938-'39. Mr. Allen was assisted in 1936-'37 by Mr. Thomas I. Brown and Miss Lucille Ward.

At Central High School Mr. Vincent Bradford assisted as foot ball coach, and remained as foot ball coach until 1944.

He also served as coach of the Track team.

During 1938-'39 Mr. James Boylston was line coach, and base ball, and foot ball coach.

#### GYMNASIUMS AT TECH., At PIEDMONT JR. HIGH and At HARDING HIGH SCHOOLS

During 1936-'37 gymnasiums were built at Piedmont Junior High School, at Tech. High School and at Harding High Schools.

Beginning with 1937 special Physical Education teachers and Athletic coaches were employed for these schools.

#### HARDING HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Marvin Ray and Miss Annie Mae Smith were at Harding High school during 1937-'38. Miss Smith continued as Physical Education teacher in this school until 1941. Mr. Marvin Ray resigned to become Park and Play Grounds Director for the City.

For the years 1939-'42 Mr. Allen Powers coached the foot ball teams and Mr. Paul Edwards, Soc. Science teacher, coached the boys' basket ball.

In 1941-42 Mr. Eugene Brickleyer was Phys. Ed. teacher and coach for boys and Miss Edna Gibson for the girls.

In 1943-'44 Mr. Howard Baker was Phys. Ed. teacher and coach for boys and Miss Margaret Hardee for Girls, at Harding High school.

In 1945 Mr. E. P. Faulkner was elected Director of Phys. Ed. and Athletics, and coached basket ball. Mr. Pasco Gettle coached foot ball and Miss Marilyn Craig was Phys. Ed. and coach for the girls.

In 1948-'49, with Mr. E. P. Faulkner as Director, Mr. David Harris Jr. was Phys. Ed teacher and coach for foot ball, and Mrs. Marilyn C. Hendrix was Phys. Ed. teacher and coach for girls.

#### ALEXANDER GRAHAM JR. HIGH SCHOOL



PHYSICAL ED. AND ATHLETICS AT  
ALEXANDER GRAHAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

During 1929 a gymnasium, part of the West wing, had been built at Alexander Graham Junior High School. For the year 29-'30 Mr. William Craver and Miss Suzan Creech were the Physical Education teachers and coaches of Athletics.

For the school year 1936-'37 Mr. W. K. Davis and Miss Ruth Moore were Physical Education teachers and Athletic coaches at this school.

Mr. Vernon Bridges succeeded Mr. Davis and Miss Phyllis Tisdale followed Miss Moore.

In 1944 Mr. John S. Staton was Phys Ed. teacher and coach, and Miss Hilda Scott Phys. Ed. teacher and coach for girls. Miss Scott has continued in this position until this time, 1949.

Mr. George P. Powell followed Mr. Staton and is now in that position.

TECH. HIGH SCHOOL AND PIEDMONT JUNIOR HIGH

At Tech. High and Piedmont Junior High Schools Miss Mildred Barger and Mr. Henry Madden were the Phys. Ed. teachers and Athletic coaches. They divided time between the two schools, in 1944-'45.

The next year 1945-'46 Mr. Ralph McMillan and Miss Dorothy Godbold were Phys. Ed. teachers and coaches at these schools.

In 1946-'47 Mr. Carroll Hambright succeeded Mr. McMillan, and Miss Patricia Seabrook followed Miss Godbold.

In 1948-'49 Mr. Hambright and Miss Mary H. McIntyre were the Phys. Ed. teachers at Tech. High School.

At Piedmont Junior High this year 1948-'49 Mr. Irving J. Edelman was Phys. Ed. teacher and coach for boys, and Miss Prince Nufer, teacher of History, was Phys. Ed. teacher and coach for girls.

AT CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Robert Allen who had been Director of Physical Education for the

for the school system and coach at Central since 1935, resigned, in 1942.

Mr. Wm. D. Brannin was elected Director of Phys.Ed. and coach for Central High School to succeed Mr. Allen. Mr. Vincent Bradford and Miss Mabel D. Smith remained in their positions at Central.

In 1946-'47 Mr. Brannin had Mr. Stanley Cropley as line foot ball coach and basket ball coach for boys. Mr. Art Diremer was Assistant coach. Miss Marjorie Gabriel was Phys. Ed. teacher and coach for girls. Mr. Heman W. Faulkner was track coach.

In 1947 Miss Frances Whitmire succeeded Miss Gabriel. The other members of the staff were still at Central at the end of 1948-'49.

#### PHYSICAL EDUCATION IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

In 1939 under the leadership of Mr, Charles <sup>W.</sup> Stone private funds were raised to supplement funds of the City Park and Recreation Board so as to provide fifteen play centers including nine school centers for children who were not able to go to a Camp. Mr. Stone was Chairman of the Board. Mr. Marvin Ray who had been Director of Physical Education at Harding High School, was elected Director of Parks and Play @grounds for the city.

After the depression of 1931-'35 no Physical Education teachers were employed for the Elementary schools until 1947.

Mr. Robert Allen gave some direction to the school play programs but the teachers and Principals for the most part worked out their own Physical Education and play programs.

In the Dilworth School Miss Sara Southerland who had been a teacher in the school gave a great deal of her time during the fall of 1944 and spring of 1945 with out pay most of the time. The Parent-Teacher Association came to the rescue when Miss Southerland was offered a position elsewhere and paid her a salary for part of the year, and the next year 194<sup>5</sup> -'46 the P. T. Associations of Dilworth and Wilmore

Elementary schools employed her to divide time between the two schools.

In 1947 the School Board provided funds for three Physical Education teachers for the white Elementary schools and one for the Negro schools.

Miss Sara Southerland was made Director of Physical Education for the city Elementary schools. Miss Lou Helen Cook and Miss Gladys E. Wood for the white schools, and Miss Grace L. Coley for the Negro schools were employed.

For next year 1949-'50 The P. T. Association ~~has~~ of Myers Park School and the P. T. Association of Eastover school have made plans to employ full time teachers of Phys. Education and Play Ground Directors for their respective schools.

Miss Jané Fitch has been engaged for Myers Park school and Miss Kathryn McKay for Eastover.

Miss Sara Southerland, Director of Phys. Education in the Elementary schools, began as a regular teacher in the Dilworth in September 1929, and served until 1938. She was out during the years 1943-'47, but was employed part of the time, as was stated, at Dilworth and Wilmore schools. Miss Southerland has an A. B. Degree from Agnes Scott College and an A. M. Degree from the University of North Carolina.

In the Negro High Schools the physical Education teachers and the Athletic coaches have come from the faculty.

At Second Ward Mr. Oscar W. Clarke was athletic coach during 1943-'44. A gymnasium was built at Second Ward School in 1948. Mr. Donald <sup>Farmer</sup> ~~Clark~~ and Miss Alice Godley have been the teachers of Phys. Education and athletic coaches during the year 1948-'49.

At West Charlotte High Mr. T. M. Martin and Mr. J. E. Colston, teachers in the High School have assisted with the coaching and Physical Ed. programs. Mr. Simon J. DeVane and Miss M. A. Blake have been part time Physical Ed. teachers and coaches,

## SCHOOL BOARD OF 1937

After the city election of 1937 the School Board was composed of the following persons:

Dr. John S. Gaul, Rev. Herbert Spaugh, Mr. S. A. Van Every, Mr. H. B. Benoit, Mr. Frank ~~Wetherington~~<sup>Worthington</sup>, Mrs. G. S. Horne, and Mrs. W. C. Mitcham.

Dr. John S. Gaul was Chairman.

Mr. Frank ~~Wetherington~~<sup>Worthington</sup> was Chairman of the Finance Committee.

Under the administration of this Board the building program<sup>of 1937</sup> recorded above, was ordered and supervised.

## W. A. RICHARD ATHLETIC PARK

High

In 1938 the athletic field at Harding<sup>High</sup> was graded and a beginning made to make it usable for games. Mr. Worthington of the School Board used his influence to make this possible, At the same time a culver was built over the stream flowing through the school grounds.

Ten years later in 1948 the School Board offered to duplicate any funds that might be raised by the citizens and students, not to exceed \$10,000.00, in order to make it a first class athletic field.

Mr. W. A. Richard undertook the task of raising the funds. Through his efforts about \$15,000.00 was realized, and the Board appropriated the promised \$10,000.00. With this total amount of \$25,000.00 the present athletic field was built. The School Board named it "THE W.A. RICHARD ATHLETIC PARK", in honor of Mr. Richard who for a long time had been a very active friend of the schools.

## SCHOOL BOARD OF 1939

The School Board of 1939, after the city election, was composed of the following members:

Mr. Frank S. Worthington, Chairman, Dr. L. Dale Arthur, Mrs. G. S. Horne, Mrs. W. C. Mitcham, Rev. Herbert Spaugh, Mr. Richard Thigpen, and Mr. John Fletcher, Chairman of the Finance Committee.

Mr. Worthington, who held an official position with the Southern Railroad, was transferred by his Company to another city, and resigned his membership on the School Board on October 16, 1940. Dr. L. Dale Arthur was elected Chairman of the Board to succeed him.

#### THE SCHOOLS' DEFENSE EFFORT, 'WORLD WAR II.

The National Defense Administration began using the shops at Tech. High School during the summer of 1940, to train mechanics for National Defense.

During 1941-'42 and for more than three years thereafter, the shops at Tech. High were in operation continuously from 2 A. M. Monday until 9 P. M. Saturdays. Adult classes began immediately after the close of ~~ea~~ each school day.

Mr. F. T. Selby, Principal of Tech. High was Supervisor of the work and of the adult training classes. He was under the general supervision of the City School Board and the National Defense Administration.

A Cadet Corps was organized at Central High School by Captain Charles J. Turpie and members of the American Legion.

A Victory corps was organized and drilled by the teacher of Physical Education and Athletic Coach at Tech. High School.

#### Trade Extension Night Schools

In order to replace the men who were called to arms, Trade Extension Night Schools were organized to train adults in bookkeeping, short hand, and Office Practice. Fifty four classes with 609 adults enrolled were organized the first year.

#### Nursery Schools

Many Nursery schools to care for children of working mothers were organized in the school buildings and in other vacant rooms in the city.

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Mrs. Cornelia Wearn Henderson supervised both of these projects, under the direction of Miss Mabel Bacon, District Supervisor.

Mrs. Henderson was later promoted to the position of District Supervisor to succeed Miss Bacon who, too had been promoted.

These projects were financed largely by the Federal WPA Agency, but for certain projects the funds were matched by the local School Board, and the whole program was under the supervision of the School Board.

#### The National Youth Association

In 1939-'40 the National Youth Association, (NYA) gave financial aid to seventy five boys and girls that they might continue in school. The sum of \$2,700.40 was contributed this year.

#### PARENTS COOPERATIVE

Let me repeat that all through the depression and war years the parents were wonderfully helpful in giving the schools a great deal of their time and effort in order to keep the schools as nearly up to standard as possible. In some of the Elementary schools parents served in the libraries, performing all the duties of a regular librarian, without expense to the School Board.

Waste paper drives were held in most of the schools to provide funds for certain school materials.

Such funds were used to provide phonegraphs and records for use in the music appreciation courses, and to provide projectors and Visual Education materials.

At Eastover school funds were cleared from the paper drives to employ a specialist in speech, Art, Phys. Education, including games, <sup>rhythm</sup> ~~rhythm~~ dancing and music, one day in each week during 1945-'46.

After the city election in May, 1941, the School Board was composed of the following members:

Dr. L. Dale Arthur, Mr. M. E. Lake, Mr. R. E. Thigpen, Mr. Roy L. Smart, Rev. Herbert Spaugh, Rev. Leslie Frerking, and Mr Charles Lambeth.

Dr. L. Dale Arthur was Chairman.

Mr. R. E. Thigpen was Chairman of the Finance Committee.

### THE BUILDING PROGRAM OF 1941

On August 1st, 1941 a fire at Midwood school damaged the class rooms in the North wing of the building.

During the school year 1941-'42 an auditorium and additional class rooms were built at Midwood school and new rooms replaced the section that had been burned.

During this same year an auditorium and additional class rooms were built at Eastover school, and additional land was purchased.

During the Christmas holidays of 1942 a fire at Villa Heights school destroyed a large section of the main building. This was replaced during the year 1943.

### THE SCHOOL BOARD OF 1943-'45

After the May election of 1943 the following persons composed the School Board: Dr. L. Dale Arthur, Mr. Marshal E. Lake, Rev. Herbert Spaugh, Mr. Roy L. Smart, Rev. Leslie F. Frerking, Mr. R. E. Thigpen, and Mr. Charles Lambeth.

Chairman of the Board, Dr. L. Dale Arthur.

Chairman of the Finance Committee, Mr. R. E. Thigpen.

Soon after the election Mr. Lambeth, an officer in the Naval Reserves, was called into service, and was granted leave of absence ~~by the School~~ by the School Board. Later, in February, Mr. Lambeth resigned as a member of the Board. Mr. J. E. Burnside was elected to succeed him.

### MR. DUNLAP SUCCEEDS MR. BLACKBURN

In 1944 Mr. John M. Dunlap was appointed Business Manager of the Board



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to succeed Mr. Charles Blackburn who had resigned.

Mr. Otto Dahlem, a teacher in the Piedmont Junior High School, succeeded Mr. Dunlap as Principal of that school. Mr. Dahlem served only one year and was followed by Mr. James D. Gault, beginning with the year 1945-'46. He was serving in this position at the close of this administration in 1949.

In the spring of 1945 two Committees of the Board were appointed by the Board to study the needs of the schools of Charlotte.

One Committee to study instructional service was composed of Dr. L. Dale Arthur, Mr. R. E. Thigpen, Dr. Herbert Spaugh, and Mr. J. E. Burnside.

The other Committee to study building needs was composed of the following members, Mr. Marshal E. Lake, Mr. Roy L. Smart, and Rev. Leslie F. Frerking.

The first committee secured Dr. Holland Holton of the Department of Education of Duke University, to spend a week in the Charlotte schools and make recommendations to the Board.

The second Committee provided the data which was used in planning the building, and the bond election, of 1946.

#### THE SCHOOL BOARD OF 1945

The School Board after the May election in 1945 was composed of the following members:

Rev. Herbert Spaugh, Rev. Leslie F. Frerking, Mr. J. E. Burnside, ~~Rev.~~  
~~Leslie F. Frerking~~, Mr. M. E. Lake, Mr. Brock Barkley, Mrs. Francis O. Clarkson, and Mr. R. M. Mauldin.

Mr. M. E. Lake was elected Chairman.

Mr. R. M. Mauldin was Chairman of the Finance Committee.

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Mr. Lake resigned his chairmanship on May 14, 1946. and Mr. Brock Barkley was elected Chairman of the Board.

At the Annual meeting in 1945 Dr. E. H. Garinger was elected Associated Superintendent, and assigned to give special attention to the Junior and Senior High Schools.

Dr. Garinger had been principal of Central High School since 1921, as has been stated.

Mr. John Otts who had been Supervisor of Instruction in the Spartanburg, S. C. schools, was elected Principal of Central High School.

#### SPECIAL TAX INCREASED FROM 25¢ to 50¢.

On April 15, 1946 an election was held to increase the tax rate for schools. The election was carried and the School Board authorized to levy a tax not to exceed 50¢ on the \$100.00 property valuation.

This made it possible for the School Board to double the amount of the local supplement and therefore to greatly enriched the school program.

#### SCHOOL BOND ELECTION OF 1946

On April 23, 1946 a bond election was carried in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County to authorize the issuance of bonds to the amount of \$3,980,000.00 for the purchasing of school sites and the building of school houses.

Mr. Brock Barkley, Chairman of the City School Board was made Campaign Manager or Director. His well organized plans and efforts resulted in the victory.

At the School Board meeting of April 29, 1946, Mr. Barkley introduced a resolution extending the thanks of the Board to Mrs. LeRoy Dulin, President of the P. T. A. Council, and to Mrs. Hoke Bullard and Mrs. J. Z. Watkins, Members of the Council; and to Mr. Hal Tribble of the

Charlotte Observer, Mr. Dick Young of the Charlotte News, and practically to every civic club in the city, for the help given during the campaign.

This indicated how well Mr. Barkley had organized his forces prior to the election.

A resolution of the Board expressed the thanks of the Board to Mr. Barkley for his own personal effort and for his well organized campaign.

#### BUILDING PROGRAM OF 1946-1949

The funds made available by the Bond election of April 23, 1946 provided for an extensive building program.

Dr. N. L. Engelhardt of New York was engaged as Architect and Building Consultant, and Mr. Howard Duval was employed as Supervising Construction Engineer.

The program included the following projects:

Alexander Graham Junior High School,- Modernization with reference to roof, floors, and plumbing and heating facilities.

Bethune School,- A new cafeteria.

Central High School,-New field house.

Eastover School,- Five class rooms, storage room and toilet rooms.

Glenwood School,-Four class rooms, cafeteria, library, storage room, and toilet rooms.

Harding High School,- New Library and a cafeteria.

Midwvood School,- Three class rooms, Visual Education room and improvement of the heating plant.

Myers Park Elementary School,- Auditorium and cafeteria.

Charlotte Tech. High School,- Cafeteria, an enlarged auditorium, an improved gymnasium, and music building,

Wilmore School,- Auditorium, cafeteria, one class room, and Nurses' room.

Isabella Wyche School,- Cafeteria, enlarged library, and four class rooms.

Second Ward High School,-Library and gymnasium.

W. Charlotte High School,- Auditorium and cafeteria.

Biddleville Elementary School,- Auditorium, cafeteria, and three class rooms.

#### CITY LIMITS EXTENDED

On April 28, 1947, by a vote of the people, the city limits were extended. This brought into the city considerable new territory and a large number of children to attend the city schools.

The extent of this expansion of the city territory is shown on the map prepared by Mrs. Lillian Hoffman, and with her permission <sup>it</sup> is filed with this report.

Engelhardt, Engelhardt and Leggett, School Consultants of New York, were employed to make a survey and recommend school sites in the new territory.

The State School Commission had approved the extension of the limits of the Charlotte School Administrative Unit to be coterminus with the boundaries of the city, to be effective January 1st, 1948.

#### THE SCHOOL BOARD OF 1947.

After the city election of May 1947 the School Board was composed of the following members: Mr. Brock Barkley, Mrs. F. O. Clarkson, Mr. R. M. Mauldin, Dr. Herbert Spaugh, Mr. Murry Atkins, Mr. J. H. Glenn, and Mr.

F. O. Roberts.

Mr. J. Murrey Atkins was elected Chairman of the Board.

Mr. R. M. Mauldin was Chairman of the Finance Committee.

#### ADDITIONAL LAND FOR SCHOOL YARDS

Eastover School,- Additional lots on Perrin Place, in the rear of the school yard, were purchased.

Villa Heights School,- The Board authorized the purchase of two lots adjacent to Villa Heights school yard at a cost of \$250.00 each.

Myers Street Elem. School,- The School Board authorized the purchase of two lots adjoining the Myers Street School yard, one with frontage of 44.5 ft. on Myers Street and with a depth of 193 ft.; the other in the rear with approximately 86.3 ft. X 101 ft. For which the Board agreed to pay Mrs. Caroline F. Marshall the sum of \$7,500.00

Second Ward High School,- In order to make room for a gymnasium at the Second Ward High School, the Board at the meeting on April 9th, 1948, authorized the purchase of the lot at 510 S. Myers Street, the price to be \$5,000.00.

Chantilly Elementary School,- A tract of land in the N. E, section of the city, between Briar Creek and Briar Creek road, containing seventeen acres, more or less, was purchased from Mr. Dwight Phillips for approximately \$16,500.00. Also one parcel of land 62½ ft. on Commonwealth Ave., extending back to creek or to the school property; and one

Chantilly School, (Continued) ,- one parcel of land with 50 ft. fronting Commonwealth Ave. and extending back to creek or the property line, the two parcels of land to cost approximately \$1,750.00.

On this property a modern Elementary school building was erected in 1949. Mr. M. R. Marsh was the Architect.

Park Road School,- A tract of land containing approximately twenty four acres of land, on or near Park Road, in the Southern section of the city, was purchased from Mr. H. G. Ashcraft. On this land was planned a modern Elementary school. Mr. Charles Connelly was the Architect. Plans for this building had been approved at the end of the school year 1949.

MYERS PARK HIGH SCHOOL,- Approximately seventy five acres of land near the Myers Park Club property, in the southern section of the city was purchased from Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Tate, for approximately \$90,000.00. In order to adjust the boundary lines the Board exchanged 2.39 acres of this land, with the Myers Park Club, for 3.15 acres of land owned by the Club.

On this land a modern High School was planned. Norman Pease & Co. were the Architects. Plans for the first unit had been approved at the end of the school year, 1948-'49.

EASTWAY HIGH AND JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS,- Approximately 24 acres, at a cost \$24,000.00 was purchased from Mr. Mason Wallace, as a site for a High School in the Northern section

of the city , to be built some time in the future.

Another large tract was purchased from Mr. LeRoy Dulin on which would be built a Junior High School for this section in the future.

The following projects were in process of construction at the close of the school year, 1949:

Fairview School,- A cafeteria.

Alexander Street School,- A cafeteria.

Morgan School,- Cafeteria and fire tower.

Myers Street School,- A Cafeteria.

#### IMPROVED LIGHTING FOR OLD SCHOOLS

The sum of \$50,000.00 was appropriated by the School Board for the purpose of installing new and better lighting systems in the old schools. Mr. Duval was in charge of this project, and was given two years in which to complete the work. A very decided improvement had been made at the end of the first year.

#### CAFETERIAS AN LUNCH ROOMS

In 1912 when the Domestic <sup>Science</sup> Laboratory on the third floor of the High School building, on the corner of E. Ninth and Brevard Streets, was built, an adjacent class room was made into a dining room.

The purpose was to give the girls in Miss Frances Ray's cooking classes experience in serving meals.

The food served was cooked by the class, and some members of the faculty and some students were the guests to be served. The price was 25¢ for each person served.

This was the beginning of the practice to serve hot lunches to pupils at school.

The Parent- Teacher Associations later became interested and were

strong advocates for a well balanced meal, as well as a warm lunch for the pupils as a matter of good health.

When the West wing of the Alexander Graham High School was built the Superintendent asked the Board to finish the basement and make it into a cafeteria or lunch room. He was not able to impress the Board, but a few weeks later the Parent-Teacher Association asked for a special hearing to consider this matter and took a committee to view the situation.

The School Board heard the voice of the people, and as a result the first cafeteria or lunch room was built in the basement of the Alexander Graham High School.

Miss Margaret Rogers, Assistant Teacher of Home Economics, was made manager in September 1921.

When Central High School was opened in February 1922 Mrs. Placide Kramer Hall, now Mrs. Weaborn Colquit, was made manager of the cafeteria in that school.

The cafeteria at Alexander Graham School during the first two years showed a considerable deficit.

At Central High School the cafeteria was paying expenses and showing some profit with which to buy equipment. The School Board asked Mrs. Hall to take over the management of Central High School cafeteria and of the Alexander Graham Junior High School cafeteria. Mrs. Hall succeeded Miss Rogers in September 1923.

When Piedmont Junior High School was opened in 1925, the cafeteria was placed under the general management of Mrs. Hall.

Mrs. Marion Hinson was her very able Assistant at Piedmont and Mrs. Ross Tingley at Central. They were both good managers.



Under Mrs. Hall's good supervision there was never a deficit, on the contrary enough surplus was realized to provide steam tables and other equipment at Central High and at Alexander Graham Junior High schools.

The cafeteria at Alexander Graham Junior High School had been enlarged and improved in the mean time.

Mrs. Hall, who had married Mr. Welborn Colquit, served as General Manager of the cafeterias until September 1944. During all this time Mrs. Colquit served under, and was responsible to, the Business Manager of the School Board.

At Tech. High School the cafeteria was under the general control of the Principal. Mrs. Selby had the supervision. The cafeteria was very successful in every way.

At Harding High School the cafeteria was managed by the Principal and he assumed the full responsibility.

In the Negro schools lunch rooms had been operated in connection with the Domestic Science Departments in the Elementary and High Schools. They were under the control of the teacher and the Principal of each school. The School Board assumed no responsibility for the finances for the service.

In the White Elementary Schools the Parent-Teacher Associations of most of the schools had charge of the lunch rooms or cafeterias, with the advice and cooperation of the Principals in their respective schools. The School Board provided the room and part of the equipment.

All through the years the Parent-Teacher Associations had provided food for a number of needy and underprivileged children. The State Welfare and the Federal Government sent farm products from the surplus

commodities which the Government had in storage. This reduced a few cents the cost of each pupil's lunch.

As the parents were in charge they saw to it that the food was good and was well served.

#### THE SCHOOL BOARD TAKES OVER THE MANAGEMENT

In 1948 the School Board took over all cafeterias and lunch rooms in the schools. Miss Rosa Spearman, who had been in charge of the school cafeterias in Dallas, Texas, was employed as Director of the school cafeterias and lunch rooms in the school system. Mrs. A. H. Ahearn was engaged as her Assistant.

During the year 1948-'49 all school cafeterias in the city have been under this one management. Modern equipment has been purchased for some of the schools, and much progress has been made in the general operation of them all.

#### AIDS TO INSTRUCTION

In September 1947, with the financial help and general supervision of the North Carolina League for Crippled Children, an orthopedic class with crippled children <sup>from different</sup> ~~from different~~ sections of the city was organized at Elizabeth School.

Miss Wanda Yerkes from Lapeer, Mich. was employed as teacher. She had served as a special teacher in the schools of Flint, Mich. before coming to Charlotte.

Three Special teachers of Physical Education for the Elementary Schools were employed as has been stated above.

Two additional Librarians for the white Elementary schools and one for the Colored schools were engaged.

Miss Gertrude O. Coward was made Director of all school libraries.

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One additional shop man and four additional teachers were employed for the Fairview school.

In 1946 the Board appropriated \$3,000.00 for the purchase of projectors and Visual Education materials. Practically every school in the city had a projector.

In 1947 the City and the County Boards jointly employed Mr. Harold Dotson as Director of Visual Education for the City and the County schools.

As was stated before Mrs. Elizabeth H. Mack was made Director of Art instruction in 1948.

In 1949 the State Board allotted two special teachers for children convalescing in Memorial Hospital.

The Junior Chamber of Commerce financed a class in Alexander Graham Junior High School for children of low mentality.

Seven ungraded classes, five white and two Colored, for slow learning pupils were operated in the Elementary schools as before.

In 1946 the Community College was organized at Central High School with Miss Bonnie Cone as Director. The college session began at 4 p.m. and ended at 9 p. m. It was operated at one time as an Extension Department of the University of North Carolina. The Legislature of 1949 made it a permanent part of the educational system of Charlotte, but with a separate <sup>Advisory</sup> Board of Directors.

By an agreement with the Pilot Insurance Company an accident insurance coverage at 50¢ per pupil was made, September 27, 1948.

The Community College; the Unification of the school cafeteria and lunch service, under one management; and the Accident Insurance coverage for students had been special projects of Dr. Garringer, Associate Superintendent, for which he deserves much credit.

MUSIC IN THE SCHOOLS, (Continued from Page 104)

As stated before, during the depression years 1933-'35 the Citizens' Civic League provided funds for retaining the Special Music teachers for the Elementary schools.

Miss Rachel Anthony and Miss Mary A. Jefferson were the teachers during the year 1933-'34.

In the fall of 1934 Miss Anthony left our schools to teach in the Durham City Schools. She returned in September 1935.

Miss Jefferson withdrew in June 1935. In the years that followed Miss Anthony as Director had the assistance of the following Special Music Teachers: Miss Juanita Hunneycut 1936-'38; Miss Harriet Scranton 1938-'42; Miss Jean Saylor 1939-'41; Miss Muriel Brietz 1942-1945.

Mrs. Rachel Anthony Sharpe who had been in our schools since 1925 with the exception of the year 1934-'35, retired in 1945.

Mrs. Sharpe had a degree of B. S. in Music from New York University. During her long term of service as Director and Special Teacher of Music in the Elementary schools of Charlotte she made a very great contribution in the quality of instruction in the Music Department of the Elementary schools.

Miss Bettie Jane Nalley succeeded ~~Miss Anthony~~ Mrs. Sharpe as Director. She was a graduate of Salem College. She had attended the University of Cincinnati and the Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati.

Two additional Special Teachers of Music, one white and one Negro, were added to the staff and were under the direction of Miss Nalley, during the year 1948-'49.

The Staff at the end of the year 1948-'49 was, Miss Bettie Jane Nalley, Director, Miss Elenor Corriher, Mrs. Doris L. Butcher, Miss Elizabeth Williamson for the white schools, and Miss Carrie R. Quandt and Miss Clara J. Hawkins for the Negro schools.

#### BANDS AND ORCHESTRAS IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

In 1947 Miss Christine Dunn was elected Director of Bands and Orchestras in our Elementary schools. Miss Dunn was a graduate of Salem College and had studied at Teachers' College, Columbia <sup>University</sup> ~~College~~, New York. She had attended Summer Schools at Peabody College and at Yale University.

She was enthusiastic about her work and was successful in reorganizing instrumental music in the Elementary schools, which had been started by Mr. Jack Berger under Mr. Sides supervision.

Mrs. Elizabeth C. Clark assisted her part time and Mr. Cook in the High School part time, during the school year 1948-'49.

In the Colored Schools Mr. O. N. Freeman was employed in 1948 as teacher of bands and orchestras in the Colored Elementary schools.

In the Colored High Schools Miss C. E. Robinson had charge of the choral work in Second Ward High School during the years 1936-'43. She transferred to the West Charlotte High School in 1943. She was followed at Second Ward High School by Miss L. Estelle Ward. Miss Frances L. Drye served in the Music department at West Charlotte High School during 1944-'45.

In 1944-'45 Mr. Roger Louis Bell was employed as Director of Instrumental Music at Second ward High School.

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In the spring of 1949 Mr. Guy Hutchens was engaged to teach the Band and Orchestras at Second Ward High School.

It should have been stated above that, in 1936-'37 Miss Mildred L. Brockwell was the teacher of choral work at Tech. High School, and Miss Mary Brockwell at Harding High School.

In 1937-'38 Miss Mary Brockwell was transferred to Piedmont Junior High School and served there until 1944; in 1944 Miss Suzanne Carroll was employed as teacher of Choral music at Piedmont Jr. High School.

In 1930-'32 Mr. W. T. Sinclair was on Mr. Sidés' staff of Instrumental Music Teachers.

On the Music staff in the Colored High Schools for 1948-'49 were , at Second Ward High School Mrs. L. E. Hart; at West Charlotte High School Miss J. C. Jackson.

As was reported on page 100, Mr. Robert Smith was serving as Director of Music at the end of the year 1948-'49.

Mr. Oliver Cook, Director of bands, orchestras and choral music at Harding High School, was receiving considerable recognition for the work of his students.

NEW PRINCIPALS

In September 1948-'49, Mrs. Lucille Boylston became Principal of the Seversville Elementary school. She succeeded Mrs. Wirtz who had resigned.

Mrs. Boylston for a number of years had been prominent as a Principal of a County school before coming in to the city system as a Grammar Grade teacher. She taught one year at Zeb. Vance School, and had served four years as a sixth grade teacher<sup>h</sup> in the Seversville School before she became Principal.

When Mrs. Eunice Sadler Brown, Principal of the Plaza Road School, retired in 1946 after a long and successful term in our city and county schools, Miss Lucille Boylan who was then Principal of the Wesley Heights School was appointed Principal of the Plaza Road School.

Mrs Rachel B. Mason was made Principal of the Wesley Heights school. Mrs. Mason had been an excellent teacher in the Wilmore Elementary school and has served most efficiently as Principal of the Wesley Heights school.

In the Negro schools Mr. Howard Moreland was made Assistant Principal of Second Ward High School.

Mr. C. E. Moreland was made Principal of the Billingsville Elementary school, which had been received into the city system by the extension of the city limits.

YORK ROAD SCHOOL SITE

On September 14, 1948, the School Board authorized the purchase of forty and fifty four one hundredths (40 and 54/100) acres of land from Mrs. Sanders, ~~xxx~~ to cost \$400.00 per acre. This land on York Road was to be used later as the sites of an Elementary School and of a High School, for Negroes,

### SALARIES

In the spring of 1949 the School Board adopted a salary schedule for 1949-'50.

This schedule provides a salary of \$2,400.00 for the beginning teacher who holds an "A" certificate; and \$3,600.00 for the teacher with the same kind of certificate and with an experience rating of twelve years; and \$4,000.00 for a teacher holding a Graduate certificate and with an experience rating of thirteen years.

This was the highest salary schedule ever adopted for the Charlotte teachers, and probably the highest ever offered by any public school in the State.

This salary schedule is indicative of the "Come back" of our school system since the day of the maximum salary of \$720.00 in the depression years, and the maximum of \$1,200.00 of 1935-'36 when we started back.

The increase of the school special tax rate to 50¢ from 25¢ made this schedule possible.

This too is indicative of the growing interest of our citizens in their public schools.

### THE SCHOOL BOARD, 1945-1949

Great credit is due the School Board of 1945-'49, listed by names above, for the very valuable service they have given to the business affairs of the schools during these past four years.

During their administration, the school business includes the following: The direction and leadership to carry three elections; the first, to authorize the bond issue for building purposes; the second, to increase the special school tax rate; and the third, to



extend the school boundaries.

It also includes the planning for and authorizing the expenditure of \$4,000,000.00 for new school buildings and sites.

All of this in addition to the usual business involved in operating a school system with a budget of more than \$2,500,000.00.

They have given a great deal of valuable time to the details involved in all of these matters.

It must be remembered that the members of the city school board receive no salary or financial compensation. They serve from a sense of civic duty and because of an interest in the education of our Charlotte children.

All through the years of my administration I have been blessed greatly by having school boards composed, for the most part, of high class citizens, men and women, who have served for no other purpose than the improvement of the educational life of our city.

I am most grateful to all of them.

#### THE TEACHERS IN THE CLASS ROOMS

I cannot begin to express my feeling of great gratitude to the host of class room teachers of our schools for the magnificent service they have given to the school children of Charlotte, and for the most loyal support and the sustaining friendship which they have given me at all times. I regret very much that I cannot list by name some of them who have been most faithful in their long time experience in the Charlotte City Schools.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

1904----1913----1949

	1904 -----	1913 -----	1949 -----
City Population	18,091	34,014	134,042
Number of Schools			
White	2	8	21
Negro	1	2	9
	-----	-----	-----
Total Number of Schools	3	10	30
SCHOOL Enrollment			
White	1,984	4,345	13,797
Negro	1,111	2,090	6,221
	-----	-----	-----
Total Enrollment	3,095	6,435	20,018
Number of Teachers, Principals and Supervisors	56	128	672
Value of School Property	\$100,000.00	\$267,107.25	\$6,345,528.37
Income for Operating Expenses	\$42,048.80	\$78,360.51	\$2,438,346.79
Special School tax	20¢	30¢	50¢
TEACHER'S Salaries			
Elementary, White, Annual	\$360. to \$473.	\$405. to \$585.	\$2400. to \$4000.
"  Negro  "	315. to 360. 360.	315. to 450.	
High School, White,	\$540.60	\$720. to \$1200.	

The Salary schedule adopted in the spring of 1949 provides for the salaries listed under 1949.

Number of Members of the School Board	9	17	7
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THE CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATION

On June 30th 1949, H. P. Harding retired from the Superintendency of the Charlotte City Schools.

Dr. E. H. Garinger succeeded him. Dr. Garinger had been Principal of Alexander Graham High School the years 1921-1923, and was Principal of Central High School the years 1923-1945.

He became Associate Superintendent in 1945, and became Superintendent on July 1st 1949

A RECOMMENDATION

It is the hope of this writer that the Board of School Commissioners designate some space in a steel file or in the vault as the ARCHIVES of the Charlotte City Schools.

In this space should go the Annual Reports of the Superintendents and such other papers as would preserve the history of our Charlotte Schools in a more concise way than the voluminous records of the MINUTES of the Board meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

H. P. Harding,

Superintendent Emeritus.

## THE CHARLOTTE CITY SCHOOLS

## PART I.

(A), The History of the City School System Prior to 1900.

From an address delivered on the occasion of the laying of the Corner Stone of the North School building on the corner of North Brevard and East Ninth Streets, by Superintendent Alexander Graham.

(B), A review of the Growth and Expansion of the Charlotte City Schools during the remainder of Superintendent Alexander Graham's administration, ending June 30th, 1913.

## PART II.

The Development of the City Schools during the administration of H. P. Harding as Superintendent, 1913---1949.

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## HISTORY OF THE CHARLOTTE CITY SCHOOLS PRIOR TO 1900

(From an address delivered by Superintendent Alexander Graham on the occasion of the laying of the cornerstone of the school building on the corner of Ninth and Brevard Streets on March 13, 1900.)

After the conclusion of Dr. Stagg's address Superintendent A. Graham gave the history of the Charlotte graded schools, 1875-1900, as follows:

"Mr. Chairman and Fellow-Citizens: "Some writer has wisely said our chief duty is to look ahead. The golden age is in the future. The standing command of God through Paul to humanity is 'forgetting the things that are behind, press forward to those which are before and seize the prize.' We are here today, notwithstanding, to perform a duty we owe the past, to appreciate it, exalt its virtues, prize its conquests, garner its fruitage, incorporate its wealth of thought and experience, transmit its good to posterity and thus give it an earthly immortality. In searching the past we find graded schools were discussed by the teachers in the North Carolina Educational Association as early as 1859. A bill for the creation of graded schools was introduced in the Legislature of North Carolina, in 1863, by William S. Harris of Cabarrus County. This bill passed the House, was favorably reported by the committee of the Senate and failed to pass that body through lack of time.

Governor Vance, in his message in November, 1864, said, 'I earnestly recommend the whole system, especially the system of graded schools advocated by Superintendent Calvin H. Wiley. Here we have the first and last reference to graded schools until ten years after grim visaged war had smoothed his wrinkled front.' In 1876 the city of Raleigh and the towns of Greensboro and Salisbury established a system of graded schools - in 1878 the town of Fayetteville put in operation a complete system of ten grades and furnished the children with books, free of charge. In 1881 Goldsboro and Wilson followed Fayetteville's example. In 1882 Charlotte, Durham, and Newbern fell in with the procession followed in 1883 by Wilmington and Winston. Finally Rocky Mount and Kinston, in 1884, in the East - Reidsville, in the centre in 1885, and Asheville, in the extreme West, in 1886, completed the conquest of the State for the system. In the spring of 1875, Capt. R. P. Waring, Senator from Mecklenburg, introduced in the Legislature of North Carolina a bill which passed, levying a tax of 25 cents on the \$100 worth of property and 75 cents on the poll, the amount levied to be submitted to a vote of the people of the city of Charlotte. On account of legal complications there is a blank in the history of these schools of about five years. In May, 1880, a levy of ten cents on the hundred dollars worth of property and 30

cents on the poll was ratified by a majority of the registered voters of the city. The first meeting was held on June 14th, 1880, and Capt. Fred Nash was elected clerk and treasurer, and committees on finance and by-laws were appointed. Capt. Nash has been the clerk and treasurer by annual elections from that meeting until today, making him the oldest official connected with the schools. After another lapse of 18 months the commissioners met again on December, 1881.

Committees were again appointed to look after available funds, to sell the city's interest in the male academy and in the female institute, and to obtain information on organizing a system of schools. The commissioners then adjourned the meeting after solemnly pledging themselves not to use individual influence for or to extend aid to, any applicant for a position in these schools. In March and April joint meetings were held by the first board of school commissioners and the board of school committeemen of the city of Charlotte, in which meetings they ordered the common school to continue as then constituted until the county and State fund was exhausted. The white schools were taught by M. J. I. McCain, J. S. Bell, Miss Sarah Miller, Mrs. A. Davidson, Mrs. M. E. Watson and Mrs. Allen. The Negroes were taught by J. B. Ratley, J. T. Williams, Mary Lynch, Mary Hayes and Sarah Johnson. This closes out the old era and ushers in the new.

"The minutes show that at two separate meetings a long and interesting communication on organizing a system of schools for Charlotte from the superintendent of the Fayetteville Schools was read and a vote of thanks passed unanimously. In March, 1882, the name of Francis A. Baskett, was presented to the commissioners by B. G. Northrop, secretary of the board of education of the State of Connecticut. In April and May the additional names of John E. Dugger of Raleigh; R. P. Capfoard and A. A. Campbell of Pennsylvania; T. J. Mitchell of Ohio, and W. G. Howell of Delaware, were presented as applicants for the position of superintendent. T. J. Mitchell was unanimously elected on June 5th, 1882, the first superintendent of the Charlotte graded schools, Mr. J. S. Bell was elected principal and Misses Sallie Bethune, Grace Dewey, Annie Davidson and Hattie Moore were elected teachers. Misses Nola Alexander and Carrie Clarkson were elected supernumeraries. On August 14th, Mr. Lucian H. Walker of Statesville, N. C. and Mrs. Mary Allen were elected teachers in place of Mr. Bell and Miss Moore who resigned. Miss Lucy Alexander, Miss Fannie Brady, Mrs. R. P. Waring, Miss Carrie Clarkson and Mr. John W. Walker, Jr., all came in as teachers by the beginning of the second month. The white school was



opened for the reception of pupils on September 11th, 1882, and thus was organized the school for whites in the barracks of the Carolina Military Institute, which was leased for the use of the whites. The colored school opened on September 25, with J. E. Railey as Principal, and Misses Mary Lynch, Victoria Richardson, Dr. J. T. Williams, Misses Sallie Hall and Mary Hayes as teachers, thus completing the organization of the colored school, which was first conducted in an old tobacco barn in Ward 1, on Fifth Street, between C. and D.

BEGAN WITH ENROLLMENT OF 400.

"Mr. Chairman, I submit here the names of all the mayors who have ex-officio served as chairman of the various boards of school commissioners, the pamphlets containing the superintendent's report for last year, the names of the standing committees, the by-laws and course of study, also the names of all the white teachers who at any time have been connected with these schools during the past 18 years, that they be placed in your archives and printed in our dailey papers with this historical sketch. The school under Superintendent Mitchell started with an enrollment of 400 whites and less than 300 Negroes. The whites soon increased to 550 and the Negroes to over 300. There is no record to be found of the attendance during

Mitchell's four years incumbency as superintendent. The above figures were approximated from the number of single and double desks purchased. The series of books published by Van Antwerp, Bragg & Co., was adopted by DeWolfe's board and was continued until 1892. The school flourished under Mr. Mitchell, during the first two years a new grade was added and the study of bookkeeping and physiology were added to the common school branches. This advance was made on a motion of Judge Armistead Burwell, who was at that time a school commissioner. The school continued to prosper, and during the last two years under Mitchell an entire new board was elected. On motion of commissioner George W. Graham, a training school for teachers, was established with Miss Eva D. Kellogg, of Boston, Mass. as teacher. This was probably the first institution of the kind established in North Carolina under the direction of a city superintendent. Mrs. Kellogg's training school has been continued by the principals who have succeeded her, to-wit: Mr. J. T. Corlew, Mr. M. S. Solterman, Mr. John M. Walker, Jr., and Mr. J. A. Bivens, the present efficient principal of the Charlotte Public Schools.

Towards the close of Prof. Mitchell's term of office three new rooms were added and charts; globes and other necessary apparatus were purchased. Superintendent Mitchell having been elected president of the Alabama State Normal on August 9th, 1886, Prof. J. T. Corlew was on the same day elected as the second superintendent of these schools, no other applicant being reported. The schools continued to flourish. The library for teacher's use was increased and the boys and girls were separated; the boys occupying the south side and the girls the north side of the building. Miss Lily W. Long, was principal of the girls' high school, in which modern languages were taught, and M. S. Solterman was principal of the boys' high school, in which a small class of 15 were taught Latin by the Superintendent. Miss Long was succeeded as principal of the girls' high school by Miss Kate C. Shipp, and Miss Laura E. Orr, the present excellent teacher of the ninth grade of the school, as now constituted. Under Prof. Corlew the white school increased to fourteen teachers in the white school and eight teachers for the Negroes. At the end of Col. Johnston's term, he reported an enrollment of 703 whites and 503 Negroes, a total of 1,206. He served acceptably as superintendent until January 27th, 1888, when he

resigned. On February 7th, 1888, Mr. M. C. Mayer, chairman of the teachers' committee, reported the following applicants for the position of superintendent, to wit: Mr. W. A. Blair, Winston; E. O. Alderman, Goldsboro; Alexander Graham, Fayetteville; Rev. E. A. Osborne, Charlotte; Rev. P. R. Law, Charlotte; Capt. W. A. Barrier, Charlotte; R. B. Hunter, Mecklenburg County; H. K. Reid, Mecklenburg County; M. S. Solterman, Chicago, Ill.; E. E. Britton, South Carolina; George T. Stone, Pennsylvania; William Carroll, Rockingham; A. N. Rankin, South Carolina; H. A. Thompson, Oberlin, O; W. J. White, Springfield, O.; D. Matt Thompson, Lincoln; E. W. Wright, Indiana; L. C. Cole, New York City; D. C. Dommick, New Jersey; W. C. Earnhardt, South Carolina; D. R. Boyd, Ohio; R. P. Skeen, Concord; W. S. Morrison, Greenville, S. C.; Dr. Kleinmer, Germany.

The teachers' committee recommended Messrs. Blair, Alderman and Graham, but submitted the entire list of 25 to be voted on. Mr. Alexander Graham received five votes, Rev. P. R. Law two votes, and Capt. W. A. Barrier one vote.

#### MANUAL TRAINING AND DRAWING INTRODUCED

"The chairman, Hon. F. B. McDowell, then serving his first term, announced Mr. Graham as elected, making him the third and

last superintendent of the Charlotte graded school. Mr. Graham took charge on February 20th, 1888, resigning a similar position on February 14th, 1888, in Fayetteville, where he had served as superintendent continuously from September 15th, 1878. Mr. Graham has been elected unanimously every year since 1888, except 1889 and 1890. In 1889 Mr. John N. Walker, Jr., received three votes and Mr. Graham four, and in 1890 two blank votes were cast. Mr. Graham received six. On September 12th, 1890, a motion was made to abolish the study of Latin, Greek and all modern languages, except English. The ballot resulted in a tie vote and these studies were cut from the course of study by the vote of the chairman. On motion of Commissioner Samuel E. Linton, a committee consisting of himself as chairman, with Commissioners Walter Brem and Alexander Graham, were appointed by the chair to report on the advisability of introducing manual training and mechanical drawing. The mayor stated that he greatly favored the new departure and assured that committee that he thought the board of Aldermen would be exceedingly liberal. On October 17th, 1890, Mr. Linton's committee reported favorably and Mr. W. C. Maxwell, commissioner from Ward 1, moved that manual training and mechanical drawing and free hand drawing be introduced in the

Charlotte schools and that the same committee be appointed to go before the alderman to solicit an appropriation. The same committee appealed to the aldermen, and on motion of Dr. Joseph Graham, alderman from Ward 4, seconded by J. H. Wednington, of Ward 3, the sum of \$1,000 was voted for an instructor, and \$6,000 to purchase tools and other apparatus. Superintendent Graham, in January, 1891, reports the manual training and mechanical drawing as progressing with great satisfaction, with Mr. C. C. Hook, of West Virginia, a graduate of St. Louis Manual Training School, as instructor. Splendid exhibits of the work in all departments of the Charlotte school were made for three successive summers at the Teachers' Assembly at Morehead City, and the Inter-State, Exposition in Raleigh, at the Atlanta Exposition, in Georgia, and at the Educational Museum, in Philadelphia. In the spring of 1891 there was a complete history of all the departments of these schools, especially the manual training feature of the correspondents of the Raleigh News, Charlotte Observer, Columbia State, Charleston News and Courier, Savannah News, Atlanta Constitution and Journal, Augusta Chronicle, New Orlean Picayune and Galveston News. No money ever spent resulted in a more profitable outcome or income than the \$1,000 invested for three years in the manual and industrial training school. It was discontinued in the very hey-days of its success

on account of a want of room and a scarcity of funds. The superintendent recommended its restoration in his report for 1899. The enrollment for 1888 was 1,288 pupils; for 1889 was 1,368 pupils and for 1890 was 1,500 pupils. In 1891 Dr. R. J. Brevard was elected mayor and almost a new board of school commissioners. The schools already on a boom were greatly uplifted by this new board.

"Charlotte owes the teachers' committee of the board, consisting of Capt. W. S. Mallory, chairman, and T. T. Smith and J. Hirshinger, a debt of gratitude. The high school was extended by the addition of the tenth grades. Latin was restored in the seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth grades. A uniform system of textbooks was adopted. A special teacher of music was employed and a string band of eight instruments was organized, under the supervision of Mrs. George E. Bason, the musical director. The grades were again made co-educational. The salaries of the first, seventh, eighth and ninth grade teachers were increased. Improvements on the streets and sidewalks leading to both schools were recommended to the aldermen, most of which have since been substantially complied with. Graduating exercises were held for three successive years in the auditorium and were each year attended by at least 7,500 people. Up to the present time 192 diplomas in the white school have been awarded to the young

men and young ladies completing the tenth year work in eight successive graduating classes and 100 certificates have been awarded to the pupils completing the eighth grade in the Negro schools.

"In 1893 a new board was selected for Dr. Brevard's second term, not a whit less progressive than its predecessor. Mr. T. T. Smith was chairman of the teacher's committee and served with J. G. Baskerville, J. Hirshinger, William Anderson, and John R. Pharr. On June 6th, 1893, Mr. John M. Walker resigned and Mr. J. A. Bivins was elected to succeed him and has served acceptably up to the present time. The tendency in scholarship in these schools has been upward since 1892. This upward tendency increases as the years go by. The first scholarship was awarded to these schools as early as June 2nd, 1883, by Rev. William R. Atkinson, one of North Carolina's most successful educators and principal of Charlotte Female Institute. Ten years later, in May, 1893, the second scholarship was awarded to Miss Fannie B. Moore, the valedictorian of her class, by Miss Lily W. Long, principal of the Charlotte Female Seminary, a worthy successor of Mr. Atkinson and until quite recently the efficient principal of the Presbyterian College. Scholarships are now awarded to the graduates from these schools by the Presbyterian



College, Converse College, Erskine College, Peace Institute and Agricultural Mechanical College, Guilford College, Wake Forest and the University of North Carolina. Our teachers are selected by competitive examinations open to all. Our record shows that fourteen of the present corps of thirty-two academic teachers are honor graduates of this school. The instructor in mathematics and the instructor in English at the University of North Carolina are both graduates of this school. In the past eight years the honors in scholarship at Trinity College, Wake Forest, Davidson, the University of North Carolina, the Normal and Industrial College at Greensboro, Agnes Scott, and Wesleyan College, Georgia, Women's College, South Carolina; Converse College, Peace Institute, the Elizabeth College and Presbyterian College in Charlotte, were won by the boys and girls graduated from these schools. For the four years of Dr. Brevard's administration the superintendent reported for 1891, 1,579 pupils; for 1892, 1523 pupils; for 1893, 1,758, and for 1894, 2,017 pupils; Over 1,500 citizens petitioned to aldermen to supplement the school fund, and it was cheerfully done.

#### INCREASE OF SCHOOL TAX

In 1895 Mr. J. H. Weddington was elected mayor and the same school board was continued, with Mr. J. H. Ross and Mr. J. D. McCall as new members. The most important event at this election

was the increase of the tax from 10 to 20 cents on the hundred dollars worth of property, and the increase of the poll from 30 to 60 cents. Many improvements were made in the course of study, and drawing and music were introduced and are now valued features in our curriculum. A new primary grade was added with Miss M. E. Wiley as teacher, and Miss Jennie Freeman was chosen as special teacher of music. A memorable event at this time was the march of 1,200 children to the Southern depot to shake hands with President Cleveland, and who was on his way to Atlanta, and who, no doubt, will go down in history as one of America's greatest statesmen. The enrollment of Mr. Weddington's first term was 2,058 pupils for 1895, and 2,142 for 1896. In May, 1897, Mr. E. B. Springs was elected mayor and the same board of school commissioners, with Messrs. J. W. Byers, H. Baruch and R. E. Cochrane as new commissioners. A new primary department was added with Miss Mary Graham as teacher, and two rooms were added to the white and three to the colored school, making 11 rooms for the blacks. Mr. E. M. Snipes, Mr. Chas. L. Coon and Dr. T. J. Wilson, Ph.D., of the University of North Carolina, all served these schools as teachers successively in the ninth grade, which position is now filled by Miss Fannie B. Moore. Plans and specifications were submitted to Mayor Springs for a new building of ten or twelve rooms for whites. The Superintendent reported 2,234

for 1897, and 2,254 for 1898 of Mr. Springs' administration. Mr. J. D. McCall was elected mayor in May, 1899, with Messrs. J. H. Ross, H. A. Murrill, Frank Shannonhouse and C. W. Johnson as new commissioners. Four new rooms were added to the white school and four to the colored, making thirty-two rooms for whites and 14 for the colored schools.

"Mrs. Josephine Durant, one of our excellent teachers in the primary department, was unable to teach on account of protracted illness and her place has been filled by Miss Lelia M. Young. The Superintendent's report in September for the end of Mayor Springs' and the beginning of Mayor McCall's administration, shows an enrollment of 2,458 pupils. The teachers' monthly report for March show already a grand total of 2,682 pupils, made up of 1,639 whites and 1,034 Negroes. This completes the history of this great system of schools. We have traced their expansion from an enrollment of 500 in 1882 to an enrollment of 2,700 in 1900. Starting in 1882 with twelve teachers, we now carry 47 teachers on our roll, thus making this the largest school south of Baltimore. Miss Sallie Bethune has been with these schools since the opening day; she has never been absent or tardy, and, after long and faithful service, enjoys the proud distinction of having taught more children to read than any other teacher in the State.

Miss Lucy Alexander came in during the first month, in 1882, Miss Sudie Hutchison in 1883, Miss Josephine Durant in 1886, Miss Charlee Hutchison in 1888, Miss Laura E. Orr and Miss Mary E. Wiley in 1889, Miss Emma Vogle and Miss Lelia M. Young in 1890, Miss Julia D. Roberts and Miss Kate Harris in 1892, Mr. J. A. Bivins in 1892, Miss Emma Miller in 1894, Mr. Will G. Perry, of the seventh grade in 1899. The Superintendent acknowledges a debt of gratitude to all of his teachers for their loyalty and faithfulness. He hopes some day in the future to record the names of his younger teachers on the roll of honor, feeling assured they will cheerfully forgive, on account of their extreme youthfulness, this failure to enroll among the veterans of the profession.

"Fellow citizens, we have reached today a milestone memorable in our City's educational progress. The scene presented here is inspiring. Look where we will, the picture broadens and becomes more and more uplifting. On our left the beautiful Lutheran College smiles upon us through the tree tops of her beautiful campus. On our right is the splendid Presbyterian College overshadowed in our imagination by the magnificent structure soon to be erected in its place. While in dim perspective, we see the flag of our State floating over the largest public schools in the South. And as a beautiful background, we, fellow-

citizens, are here to lay the cornerstone with the inscription, 'Liberty, Religion, and Education' in the broad foundation of the largest, most costly and most splendid structure for public schools ever erected in our Commonwealth, and which, when completed, will be the central figure of Charlotte's educational panorama."

#### NAMES OF SUPT'S. AND TEACHERS

Superintendent T. J. Mitchell, Mt. Gilead, Ohio; Mr. J. S. Bell, Principal; Misses Grace S. Dewey, Sallie Bethune, Annie Davidson, Hattie Moore, Nola Alexander, Carrie Clarkson, Lucy M. Robinson, of New York, First primary; Mr. L. H. Walker, principal; Misses Mary Allen, Lucy Alexander; Mr. John M. Walker, Jr.; Miss Fannie Brady, Mrs. R. P. Waring, Miss M. J. Stevenson, New York; Miss Lisette Bernheim, Mr. Lawson Quinn, Misses L. J. Smith, of New York; Annie Jones, Mary Deyo, Anna Carr, Sudie Hutchison, Eugenia Thomas, Greensboro; Miss Edith Bogle, Philadelphia, Pa; Miss Florence Bartlett, Washington, D. C.; Misses Annie Rankin, Bessie Caldwell, Kate Shipp, Mr. J. M. Erwin, Miss N. M. Robie, Mr. E. B. Smedes, Miss Ella Scarr, Miss Oertel, Mrs. Harris, Miss Cody Phifer, Miss Annie Rodie, Mrs. E. D. Kellogg, Boston, Mass.; Misses Addie Williams, Lula Kirkpatrick, Emma Woods, Mr. Walter Clark, Miss M. Clarkson, Miss Josephine, Misses Clark Query, Rosa Franklin, Annie Morrow, Mr. T. J. Corlew, Principal.

August 9, 1886, J. T. Corlew, elected Superintendent. Mr. M. Solterman, Misses Minnie Wriston, Sarah Dean, Lizzie E. Burr, Julia Scurry, Lilly Long, Mamie Hall, Mary Walker.

January 28, 1888, Superintendent Corlew resigned.

February 7, 1888, Alexander Graham elected superintendent.

Mr. F. C. Torry, Mr. D. N. McLaughlin, Mr. Frank P. Wyche, Miss Charlee Hutchison, Mr. T. C. Blaisdell, Misses Laura E. Orr, Mary Wiley, Estella Duls, Mr. W. C. Dowd, Mr. H. A. Foushee, Misses Laura Grimes, Josephine Davidson, Messrs. Holland Thompson, C. C. Hook, Ralph Holland, J. E. Bivins, E. M. Snipes, C. L. Coon, Misses Minnie Duls, Hattie Eldredge, Lilly Jamison, Lily Durham, Laura Pearson, Mrs. Macbee, Miss Lazenby, Dr. T. J. Wilson, Misses Julia D. Roberts, Emma Vogel, Emma Miller, Lelia Young, Minnie Cuthbertson, Fannie B. Moore, Margaret A. Donnelly, Janie McClintock, Kate D. Harris, Ella McAden, Laura G. Little. Lottie Linton, Sadie Clarkson, Lester Bloom, Eugenia B. Rintels, Fannie Harris, Sadie Hirshinger, Alice Holland, Mary O. Graham. M. Jennie Freeman, Fannie Little, Feriba Grier, Nooe, Sallie Kelley, Annie Trotter, Lucy Tiddy, Mr. Will G. Perry, Carrie McLean.

#### NAME OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS

Elected first Monday in May, 1880; Mayor F. S. DeWolfe,

Chairman: Ward 1, R. D. Johnston, W. A. Barrier; Ward 2, H. B. Williams, Dr. A. W. Alexander; Ward 3, D. W. Cates, Allen Macauley; Ward 4, A. Burwell, Dr. E. Nye Hutchison.

Elected May 7, 1883; Mayor W. C. Maxwell, Chairman; Ward 1, R. D. Johnston, W. A. Barrier; Ward 2, H. B. Williams, Col. H. C. Jones; Ward 3, D. W. Cates, Hannibal Edwards; Ward 4, Capt. A. Burwell, Rev. J. T. Bagwell.

Elected May 4, 1885; Mayor Colonel William Johnson, Chairman; Ward 1, C. Scott, M. C. Mayer; Ward 2, W. M. Wilson, P. H. Phelan; Ward 3, H. Edwards; John E. Brown; Ward 4, George W. Graham, Charles R. Jones.

Elected first Monday in May, 1887; Mayor F. B. McDowell, Chairman; Ward 1, M. C. Mayer, S. E. Linton; Ward 2, W. M. Wilson, P. H. Phelan; Ward 3, John C. Burroughs, Joseph Siler; Ward 4, Walker Brem, D. P. Hutchison.

Elected May 6, 1889. Mayor F. B. McDowell, Chairman; Ward 1, S. E. Linton, W. C. Maxwell; Ward 2, W. M. Wilson, P. H. Phelan; Ward 3, Joseph Siler, J. Hirshinger; Ward 4, Walter Brem and E. K. P. Osborne.

Elected first Monday in May, 1891; Mayor R. J. Brevard, Chairman; Ward 1, W. S. Mallory, R. F. Stokes; Ward 2, T. T. Smith

George Bason; Ward 3, J. Hirshinger, J. Siler; Ward 4, C. W. Tillett,  
M. F. Kirby.

Elected first Monday in May, 1893: Mayor R. J. Brevard, Chair-  
man; Ward 1, J. G. Baskerville, R. S. Stokes; Ward 2, T. T. Smith,  
P. M. Brown; Ward 3, J. Hirshinger, William Anderson; Ward 4, John  
R. Pharr, M. F. Kirby.

Elected first Monday in May 1893: Mayor J. H. Weddington,  
Chairman; Ward 1, J. G. Baskerville, R. F. Stokes; Ward 2. T. T.  
Smith, J. H. Ross; Ward 3, Hirshinger, William Anderson; Ward 4,  
John E. Pharr, J. D. McCall.

Elected first Monday in May, 1897; Mayor E. B. Springs, Chair-  
man, Ward 1, J. G. Baskerville, R. E. Cochrane; Ward 2, J. W. Byers,  
H. Baruch; Ward 3, J. Hirshinger, William Anderson; Ward 4, John R.  
Pharr, J. D. McCall.

Elected first Monday in May, 1899; Mayor J. D. McCall, Chair-  
man; Ward 1, J. G. Baskerville, C. W. Johnston; Ward 2, J. H. Ross,  
H. A. Murrill; Ward 3, J. Hirshinger, William Anderson; Ward 4,  
John R. Pharr, F. M. Shannonhouse.

#### CORNER STONE ARCHIVES.

The next feature on the programme was the reading of the following cata-  
logue of the corner-stone archives by Dr. George W. Graham:



The following is the list of the archives placed in the corner stone: A copy of the Holy Scripture, A State Flag of North Carolina, a copy of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, Constitution, by-laws, and catalogue of Stonewall Chapter of the Southern Confederacy, a list of officers of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, catalogue of Mecklenburg Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, Souvenir Edition of the 123rd Anniversary of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.

The edition contains an account of the unveiling of the monument of the signers on May 20, 1898; photograph and names of the young ladies who assisted in the unveiling; an address by Dr. George W. Graham upon the genuineness of the Declaration; picture of monument, also old court-house in which Mecklenburg Declaration was adopted on May 20, 1775; picture of headquarters of Lord Cornwallis in 1780, when his troops occupied Charlotte; picture of house in which President Polk was born. The cabin was in Mecklenburg County, ten miles south of Charlotte. Mecklenburg Council, No. 17; Zebulon B. Vance Council, No. 42, Jr. O. U. A. M.; Queen City Council, No. 3. Daughters of Liberty; photographs and names of many Confederate veterans living in Charlotte in 1898; picture of residences and churches in Charlotte the same year; advertisements of leading business men of the city. A silver coin by Capt. T. T. Smith.

Next sketches of Charlotte, by Mr. Wade H. Harris, showing industrial prosperity of city in the year 1900; flower and vegetable seeds contributed by Miss Lottie Gray; photograph of St. Peter's Catholic Church, and list of members, Charlotte Township Road manual, names of city officers; report of Good Samaritan Hospital; report of St. Peter's Episcopal Hospital; catalogue of Presbyterian College for Women; catalogue of Elizabeth(Lutheran) College for Women; catalogue of officers, teachers and pupils of city graded schools; ninth annual report of Charlotte board of education; roster of the 21 companies furnished by Mecklenburg County to the civil war; poem - "The Old North State Forever."

The archives will be left open till to-morrow, in order that the city papers, which contain an account of to-day's proceedings, may be deposited with them.

The ceremonies were ended by the singing of "The Old North State" by all the school children present. The benediction was pronounced by Rev. L. R. Pruett.

#### AN INTERESTING ARCHIVE.

The following letter was also added to the archives in the cornerstone:

"These seeds were placed here by Lottie Oliverin Gray, of fifteen summers, hoping a corresponding maiden in some century to come may plant them and see if they will grow into vegetables and beautiful flowers.

"There is Pansies, that's for Thought', and may they recall the school children whose names are inscribed here.

"Written in my hand in the modern style."

The opening in the corner stone will be closed to-day. The stone is of granite, 24 x 13 inches. On the west side are the words: "Frank P. Milburn, Architect; Nicholas Ittner, Builder," On the east side: "Liberty - Religion - Education, Anno Domini, 1900." The box where the archives were placed is 5 x 11 inches.

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66-8540

# CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

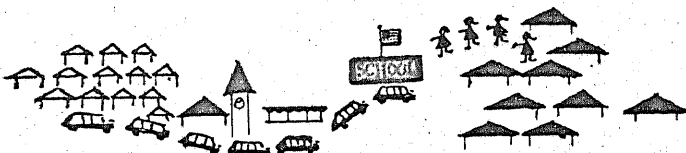


CHARLOTTE, N. C., is a confident city, proud of its rich past, sure of its aims. It has grown steadily since its founding in 1766 at the crossroads — now Trade and Tryon Streets — where the county's log courthouse stood. Its schools have done more than keep pace with Charlotte's growth; until very recently the city had no professional planning agency, yet in its continuing expansion there has been an orderliness, a sense of direction to which the schools have at some times positively contributed and from which they have often received impulses. Educationally the city's goals are high, and as they are neared are constantly being raised; as a matter of course but not complacently education is granted its important position.

This happy educational climate is one reason Charlotte's school plants, by and large, are of a consistently high quality hard to match over the full width of any comparable city in the country. Another reason is advance educational planning of sufficiently long range, on bases sufficiently sound, so that seldom has the school administration been caught napping. Another is the talent displayed in the friendly yet stiff competition among the city's architects, virtually all of whom have been engaged in the school building program; still another, the cooperation between the school system and various other municipal agencies. Nor can Charlotte's excellent economic health be ignored as an underlying cause as well as, in part, an effect. To citizens of Charlotte, to become a member of the school board is quite literally an honor, carrying with it responsibilities for discharge regardless of politics; to Charlotte's architects, schools are satisfying commissions. How did this come to be? What is the present nature of the schools? What of the future? As Charlotte's metropolitan influence expands, inevitably the schools of surrounding Mecklenburg County are seriously affected; is this problem being solved to the satisfaction of both?



SCHOOL



Pjb. 10.00

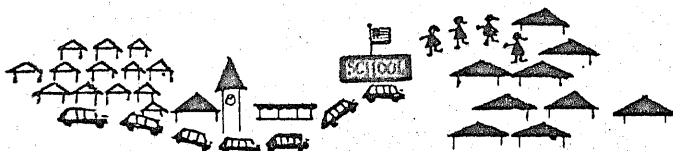
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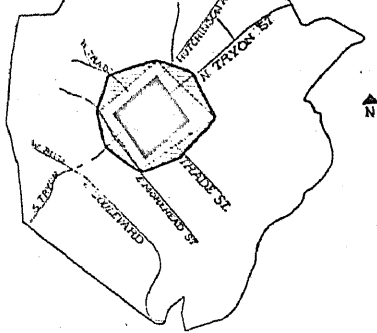
# CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA



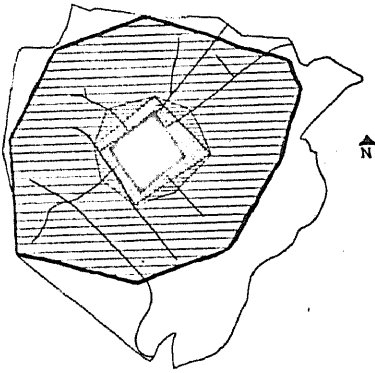
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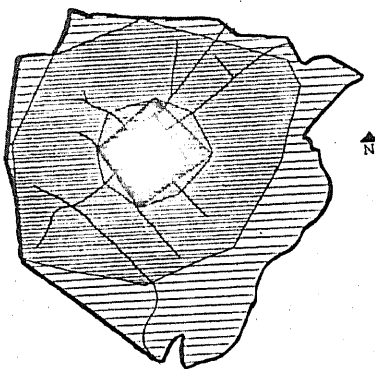




Year:	1855	1877	1885
Population:	1500	5000	8400



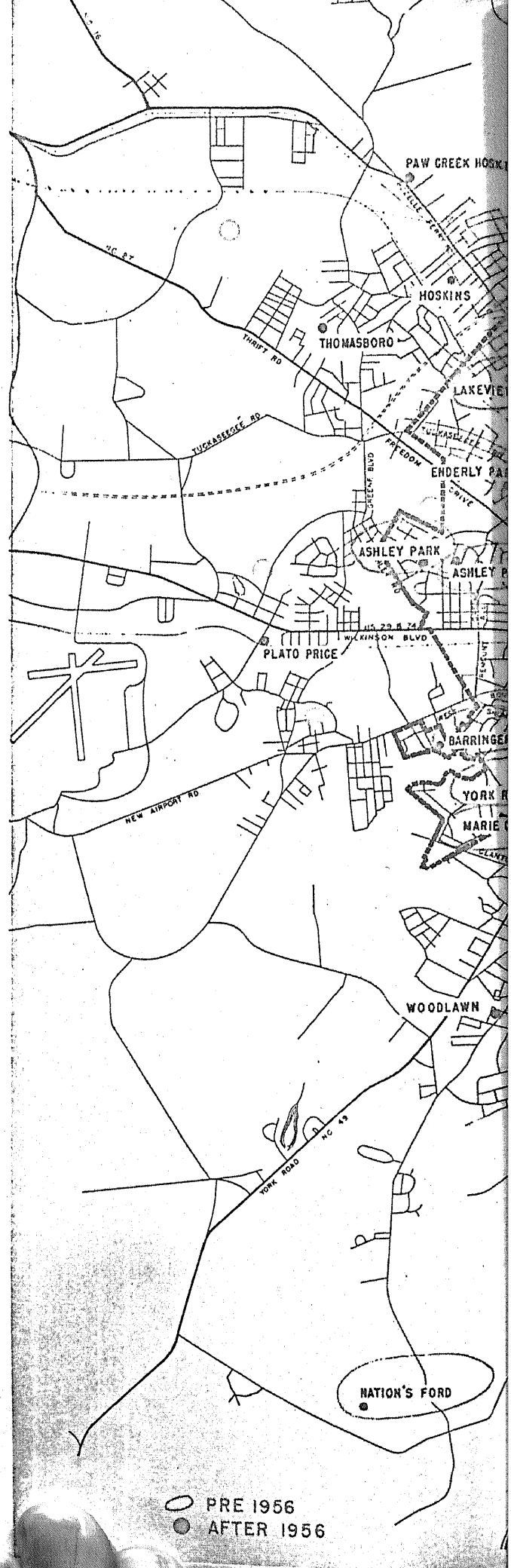
1907; population, 28,000

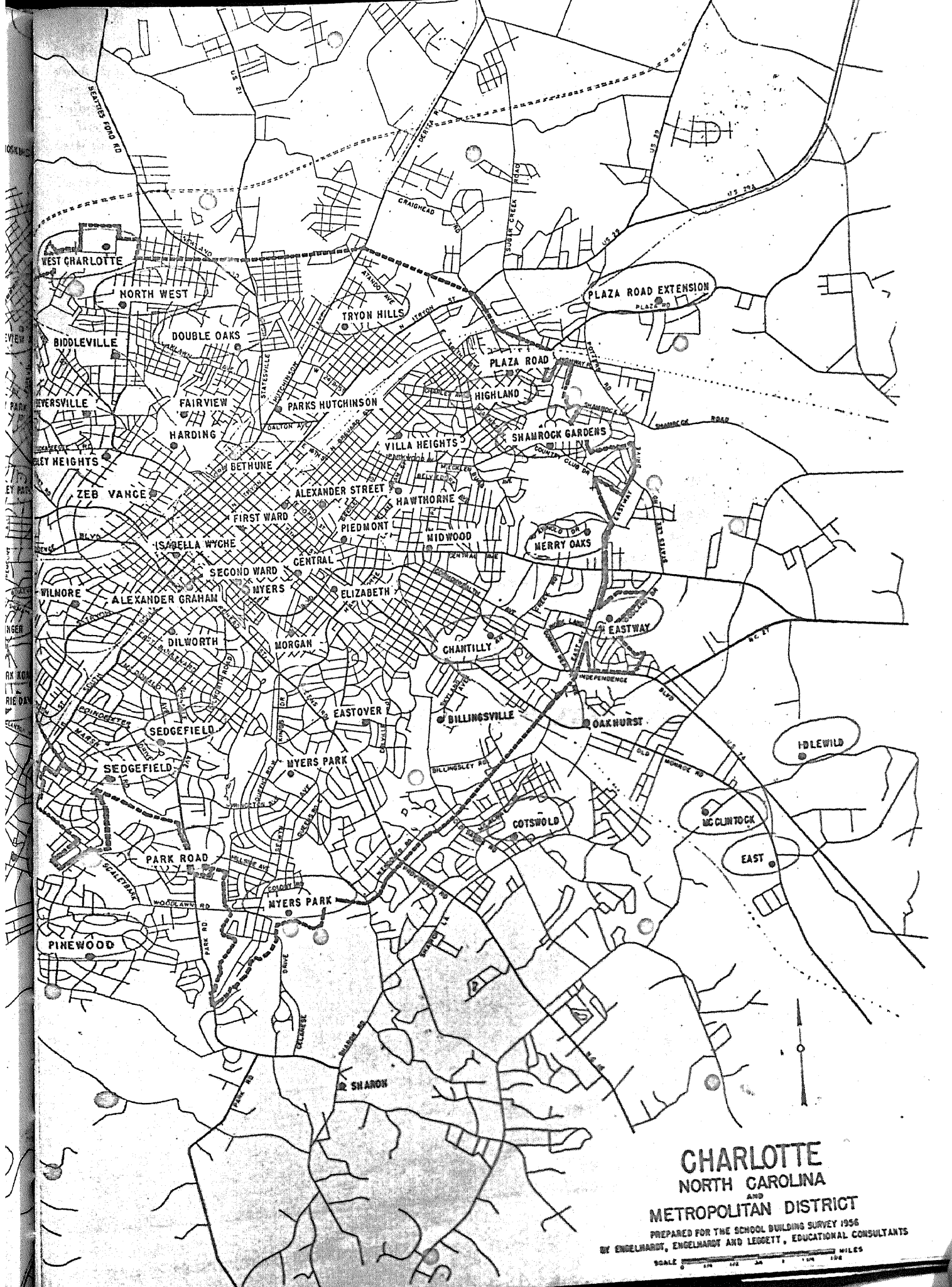


1928; population, 82,100

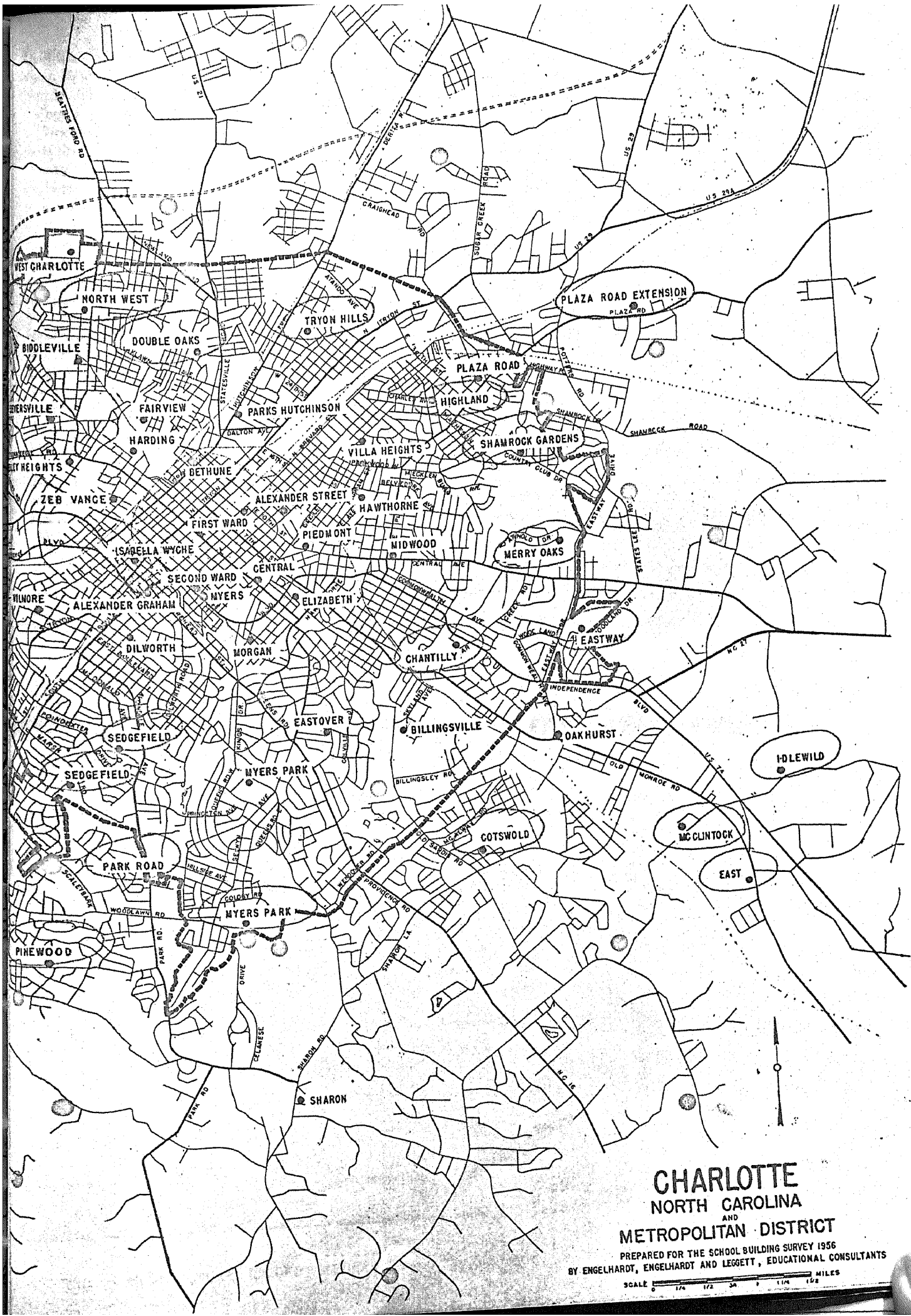
### SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY: CHARLOTTE, N. C.

Charlotte's area and population (currently about 150,000) have heretofore grown fairly steadily; but now on the city perimeter there are 83 new, large developments totalling about 14,000 lots on which in mid-September stood roughly 4000 houses completed or under construction. In 1949-50 Charlotte had 30 school buildings (capacity, 17,610 pupils); following a program then formulated, 21 new schools have since been built (15 elementary, 4 junior high, 2 senior high; capacity, 11,560) and nearly every existing building has been added to or rehabilitated. The program in surrounding Mecklenburg County has been about two thirds as large. A new 5-year city-county program is just starting.



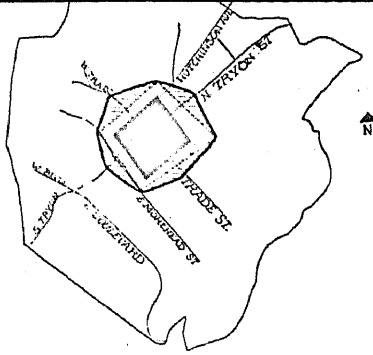


**CHARLOTTE**  
**NORTH CAROLINA**  
 AND  
**METROPOLITAN DISTRICT**  
 PREPARED FOR THE SCHOOL BUILDING SURVEY 1956  
 BY ENGELHARDT, ENGELHARDT AND LEGGETT, EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANTS  
 SCALE 0 1/4 1/2 3/4 1 1 1/4 1 1/2 MILES

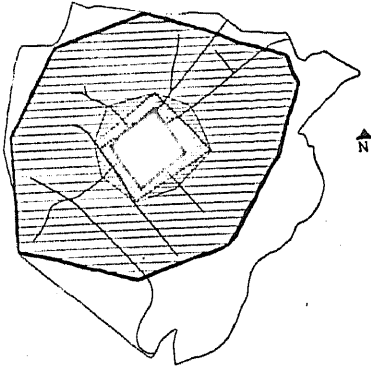


**CHARLOTTE**  
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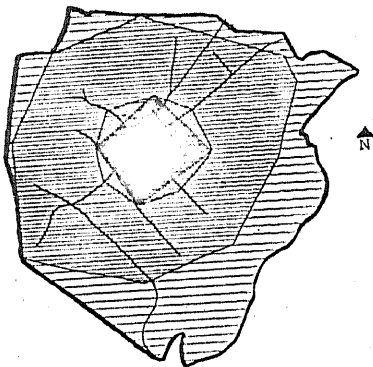




Year:	1855	1877	1885
Population:	1500	5000	8400



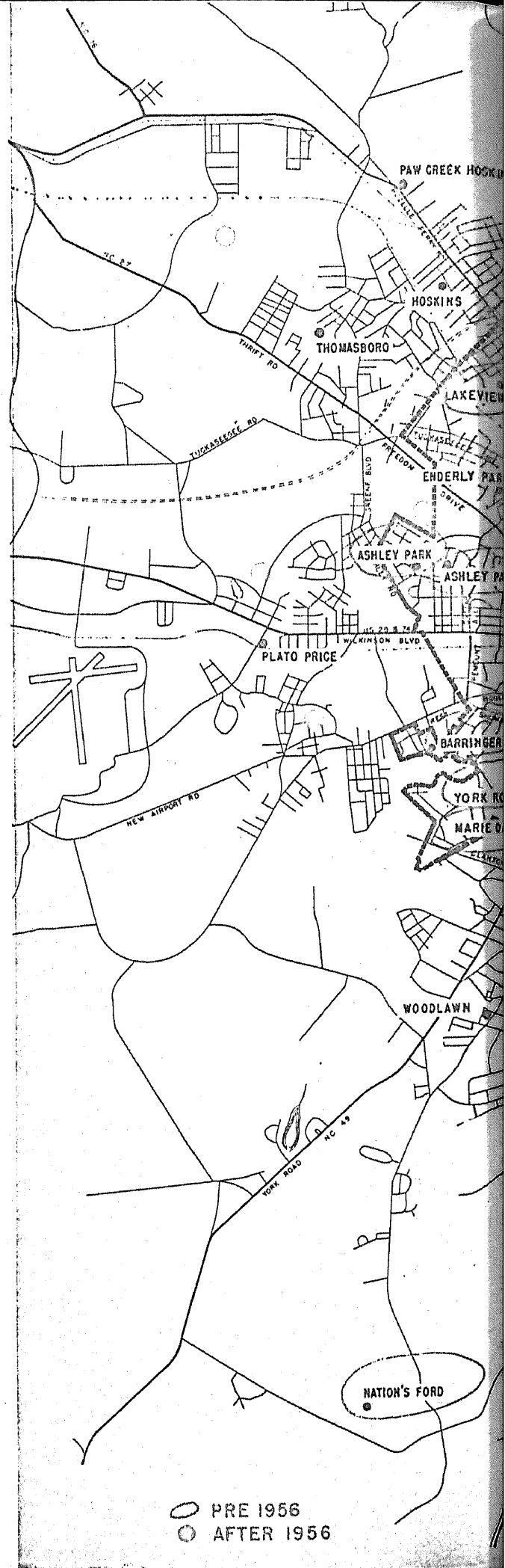
1907; population, 28,000



1928; population, 82,100

**SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY:  
CHARLOTTE, N. C.**

*Charlotte's area and population (currently about 150,000) have heretofore grown fairly steadily; but now on the city perimeter there are 83 new, large developments totalling about 14,000 lots on which in mid-September stood roughly 4000 houses completed or under construction. In 1949-50 Charlotte had 30 school buildings (capacity, 17,610 pupils); following a program then formulated, 21 new schools have since been built (15 elementary, 4 junior high, 2 senior high; capacity, 11,560) and nearly every existing building has been added to or rehabilitated. The program in surrounding Mecklenburg County has been about two thirds as large. A new 5-year city-county program is just starting.*



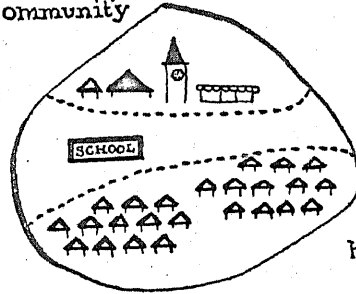
Charlotte embarked on its current school building program after World War II. The money for new buildings has come primarily from bonds issued by Mecklenburg County, with the proceeds prorated between the city and the County. Since 1946 a total of \$23,795,000 has been sold in four issues; no issue has been voted down at the polls; a fifth is in prospect this fall. As the amount issued has increased so have the County's assessed valuations. In 1952 there was a much-needed property revaluation. The statutory debt limit is 5 per cent, and (counting in debt service payments) all bond issues after 1946 have been close to the limit; in other words, the debt-to-limit ratio has been quite constant. Since 1946 the city has spent on construction nearly \$17 million. Most of this has come from bond issues, a small share is capital outlay and another portion, state grants. In addition, Charlotte has spent about \$1 million of capital outlay funds on modernizing, renovating, re-lighting, rewiring, etc., in old buildings.

Business of this magnitude might well have appalled the Charlotte schoolmen of earlier days, though judging from what they did accomplish one suspects they would nevertheless have tackled it. Charlotte was settled in the 1750's, mainly by Scotch-Irish Presbyterians, sturdy dissenters whose sincere interest in education is in all probability an underlying reason for the high order of its educational plant, administration and policies, and for the high local re-

gard for the teaching profession as well as for the architects. As in other states, North Carolina's early schools were private academies; in 1863 a bill to create grade schools was introduced in the legislature by Mr. Harris of Cabarrus County, near Charlotte. Politics and the Civil War interrupted; in 1875 the necessary tax bill was passed, but not until May, 1880, was it ratified by Charlotte's voters. A few weeks later the city's Board of School Commissioners was organized; in March, 1882 it picked its first Superintendent of Schools, T. J. Mitchell of Mt. Gilead, Ohio, who went to the best professional school he could find — Oswego, N. Y., Normal School — to get a core of well trained teachers. The following September two public schools opened: one in the barracks of the old Carolina Military Institute, and a school for Negro children in a tobacco barn on Fifth St. A teacher shortage existed in those days too, and one of Superintendent Mitchell's first acts was to bring Miss Eva Kellogg from Boston to head a teacher-training division.

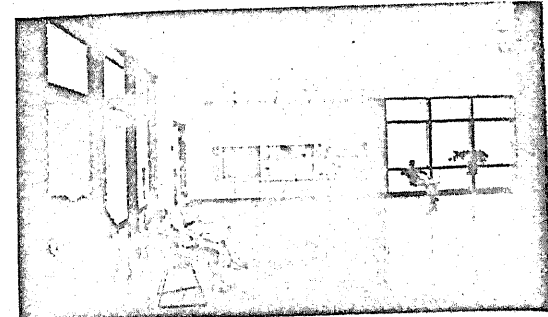
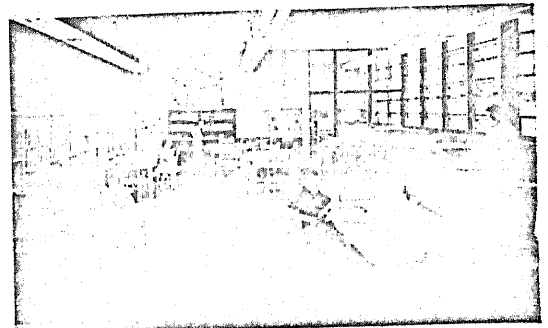
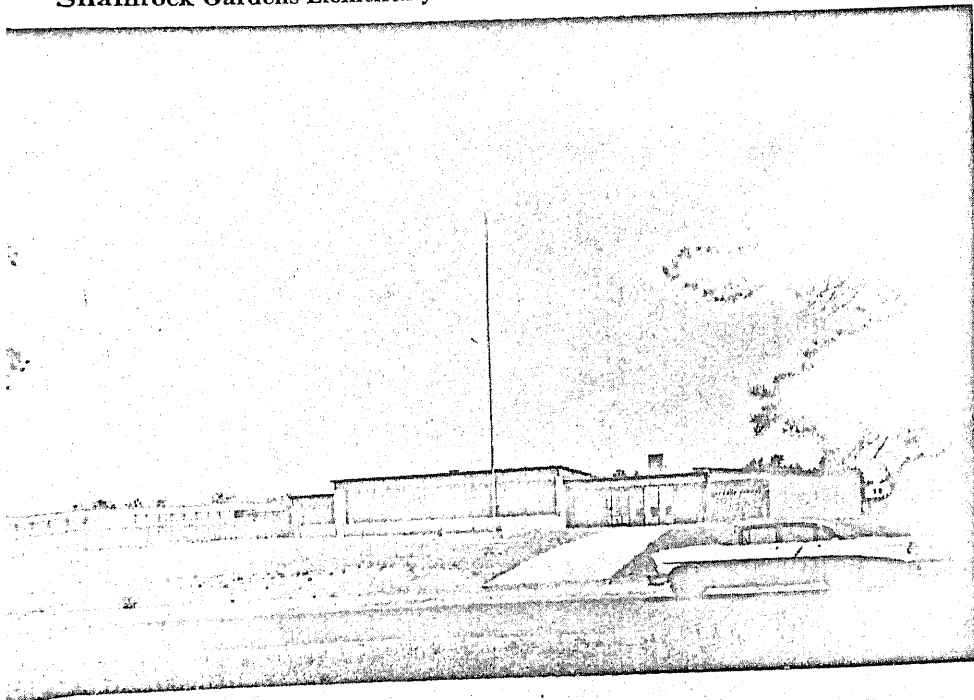
*Some of Charlotte's recent schools have helped accelerate sluggish though desirable community growth. Shamrock Gardens Elementary, started in 1950 and added to in 1952 at total cost of over \$350,000 (R. Edwin Wilson & Assoc., Archts.) is an example. The surrounding development had progressed very slowly; with the advent of the school it was rapidly built up.*

Partially developed community



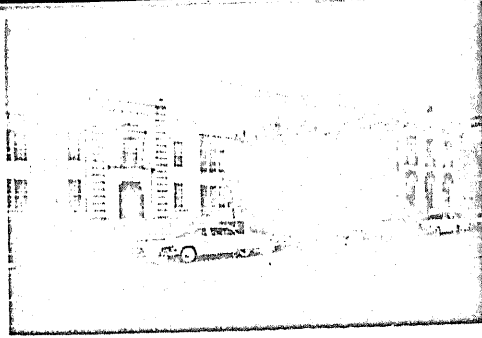
housing

Shamrock Gardens Elementary

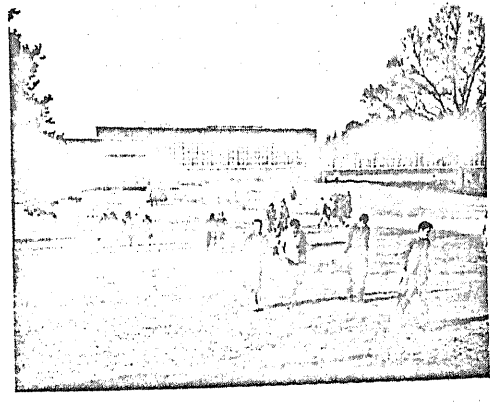


Joseph W. Molitor

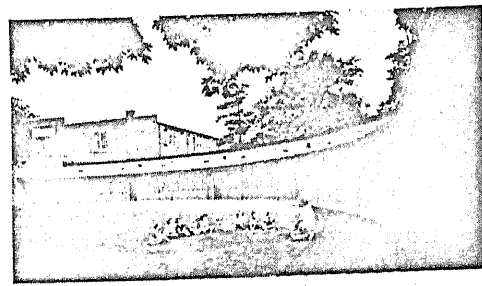
THE INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL  
AND THE COMMUNITY:  
CHARLOTTE, N. C.



Central High



Myers Park High

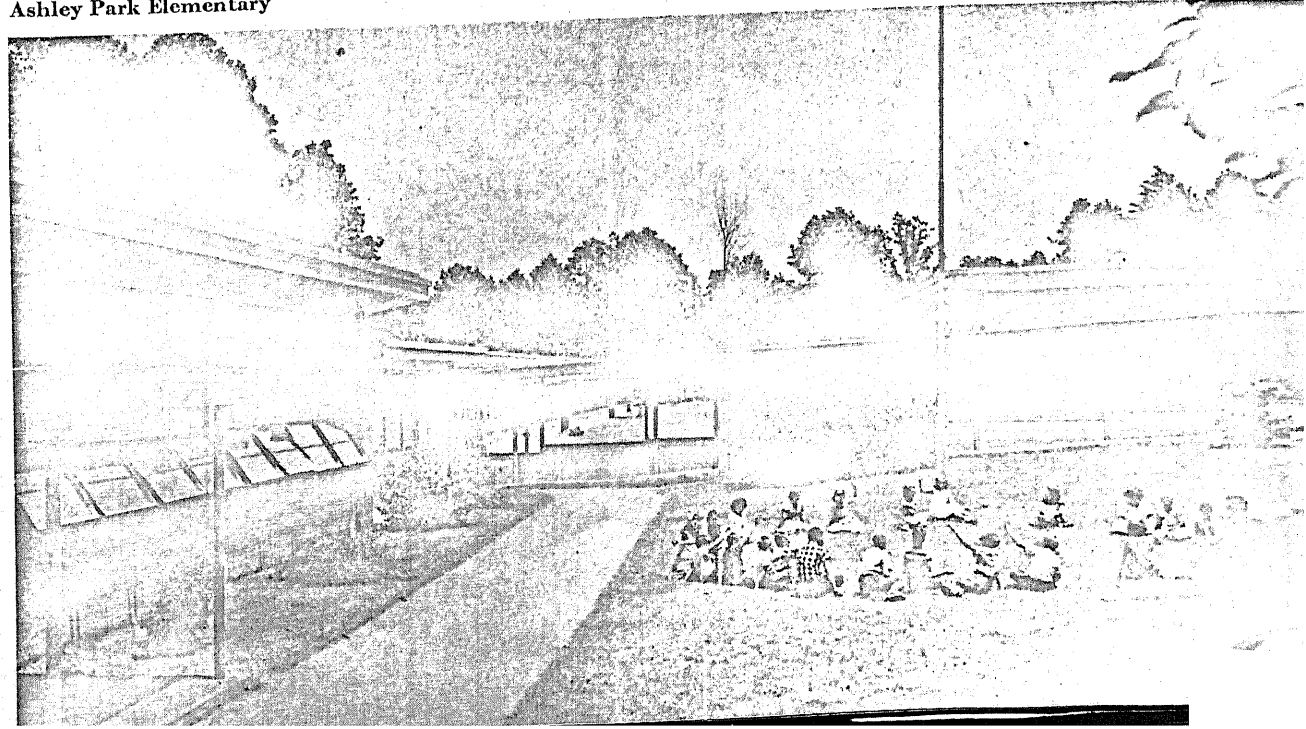


Elizabeth Elementary

TYPICAL PROBLEMS .

*To bring an entire school system up to date involves rehabilitation of and additions to existing structures as well as new buildings. In 1946 Central High got a \$17,400 field house (G. W. Connelly, Archt.); it has also been thoroughly rehabilitated. Myers Park High, designed at about the same time but built in stages (total cost well over \$1 million; J. N. Pease Co., Archts.) as one of the country's first campus-plan secondary schools, has attracted national attention. At Elizabeth Elementary a \$220,000 classroom addition (Biberstein, Bowles & Meacham, Architects) was accommodated on a small, difficult urban site. Ashley Park Elementary, started in 1950 and enlarged in 1952 (total, over \$375,000; D. M. Mackintosh, Archt.) was brand-new, on a large site; in it new educational ideas began to flower architecturally.*

Ashley Park Elementary



**THE INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL AND THE COMMUNITY: CHARLOTTE, N. C.**

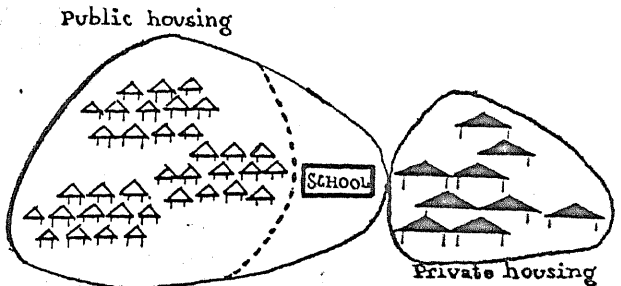
In early days Charlotte's boys and girls were taught in separate classrooms; in the old South Graded School, the south side of the building was the boys', the north, the girls'. There were some great teachers in those days: Miss Sally Bethune, Miss Kate Shipp, Miss Lillie Long are recorded as being remembered with respect and affection. They stayed with the schools for a long time under a succession of superintendents. Supt. Mitchell became President of Alabama State Normal in 1886; J. T. Corlew, a former Charlotte school principal, was superintendent until 1888; and then came Dr. Alexander Graham, who had been superintendent at Fayetteville since those schools opened in 1878. Dr. Graham thus had a rich background of experience in public education, which was just getting under way in the state; the policies he initiated have of course been modified as educational theory has advanced; but to the strength and character he built into Charlotte's schools is due much of their present vitality.

Under his aegis the graded school system developed apace. His interest in manual training and mechanical drawing led him on a search for a promising teacher, whom he found in Mr. C. C. Hook of West Virginia, the father of the present Walter W. Hook, F.A.I.A., of Charlotte, one of whose schools appears in this collection. Drawing and music

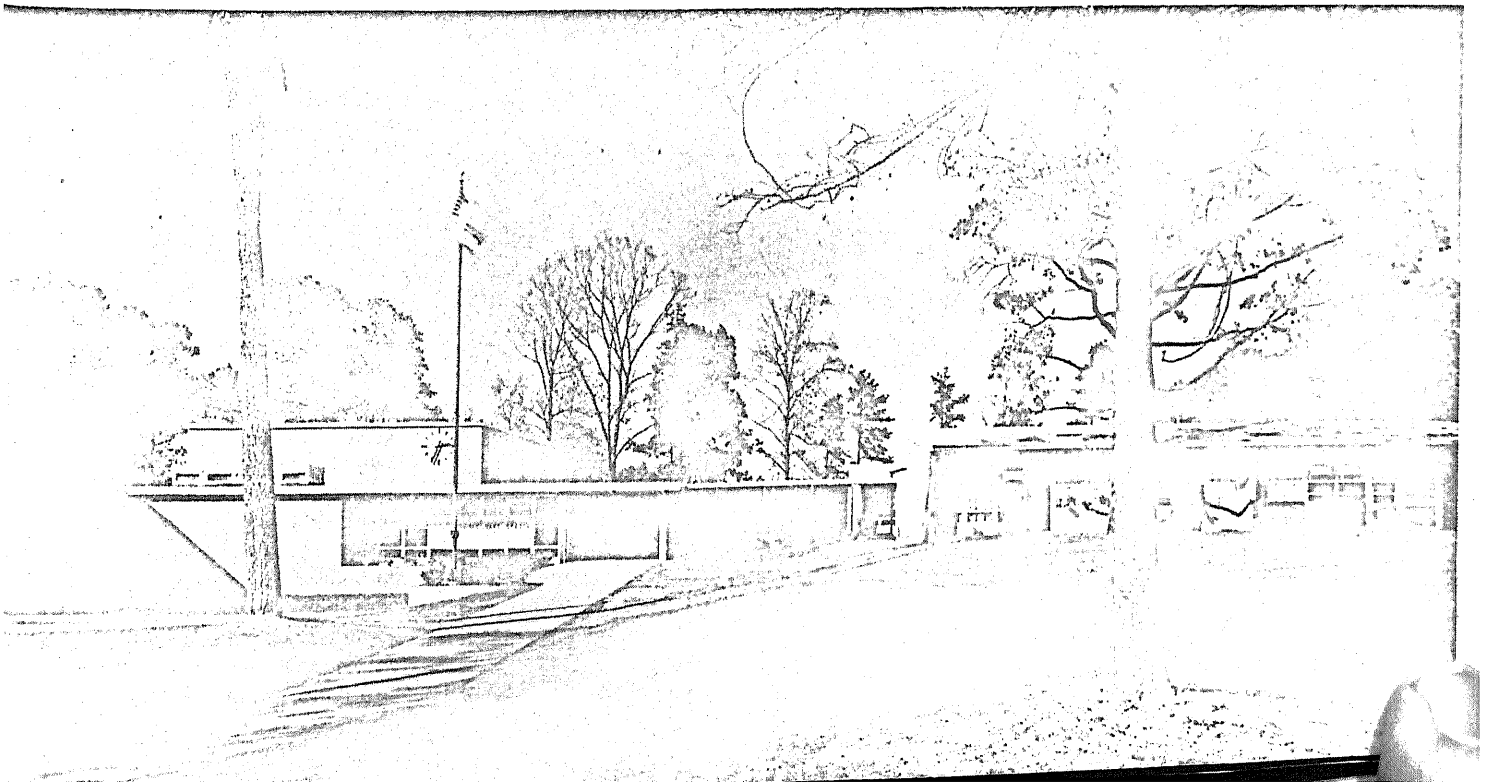
came to be considered valuable features of the curriculum. By 1895, an increase in local school taxes was necessary and was approved at the polls. By 1900, the student body had outgrown its quarters and a new building, soon to be regarded as one of the most forward looking in the country, was erected: the First Ward School. On March 13, 1900, its cornerstone was laid before a crowd of 3000. At about that time Charlotte had 2700 pupils in its public schools, and 47 teachers. Today, in contrast, it has almost 30,000 pupils and approximately 1200 teachers.

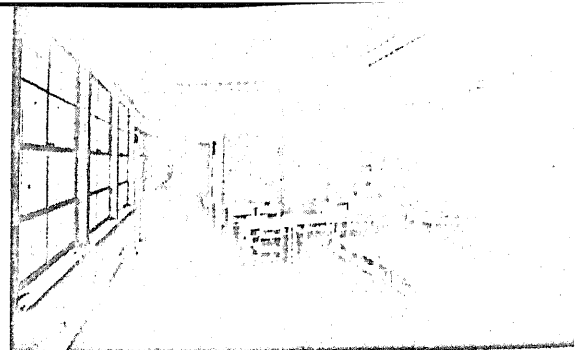
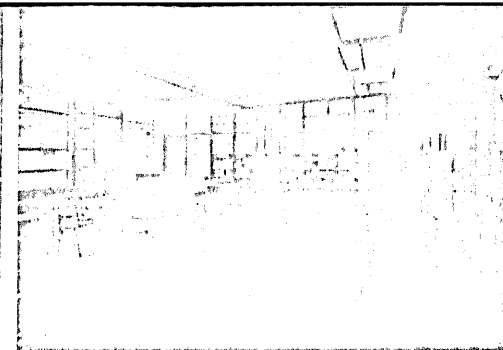
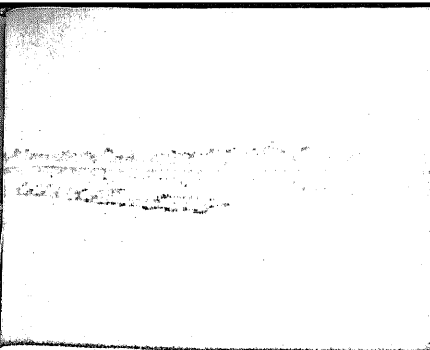
Dr. Harry P. Harding followed Dr. Graham in 1913, and after a long, successful administration was followed in 1949 by the present superintendent, Dr. Elmer H. Garinger. Dr. Harding organized the upper grades into a departmentalized high school; and in 1923 the entire system was transformed into a 6-3-3 organization. The junior high schools then introduced were the first in the state.

*Locations and design of many of Charlotte's new schools have been strongly influenced by housing projects; cooperation between the schools and both private developers and public authorities is standard practice. Double Oaks Elementary, which won national recognition (cost including addition, over \$600,000 in 1951-52: A. G. Odell & Assoc., Archts.), was erected on a part of a public housing site that was unusable for housing, between a public and private development*



**DOUBLE OAKS ELEMENTARY**



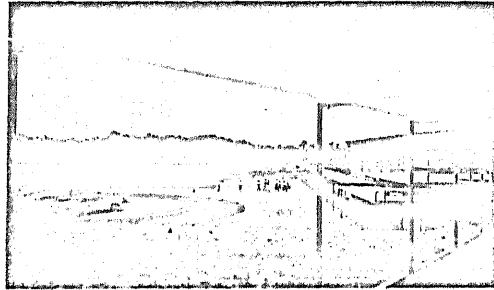


**LAKEVIEW ELEMENTARY**

*School population increased more rapidly than had been expected though larger enrollments had been foreseen and schools planned for expansion. Lakeview, started in 1950, enlarged 1951, cost (total) over \$300,000; Charles W. Connelly & Assoc., Archts.*

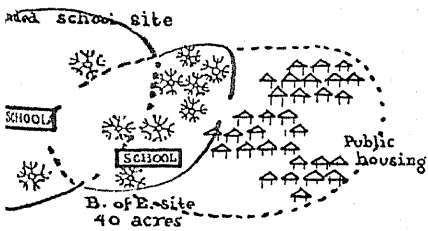
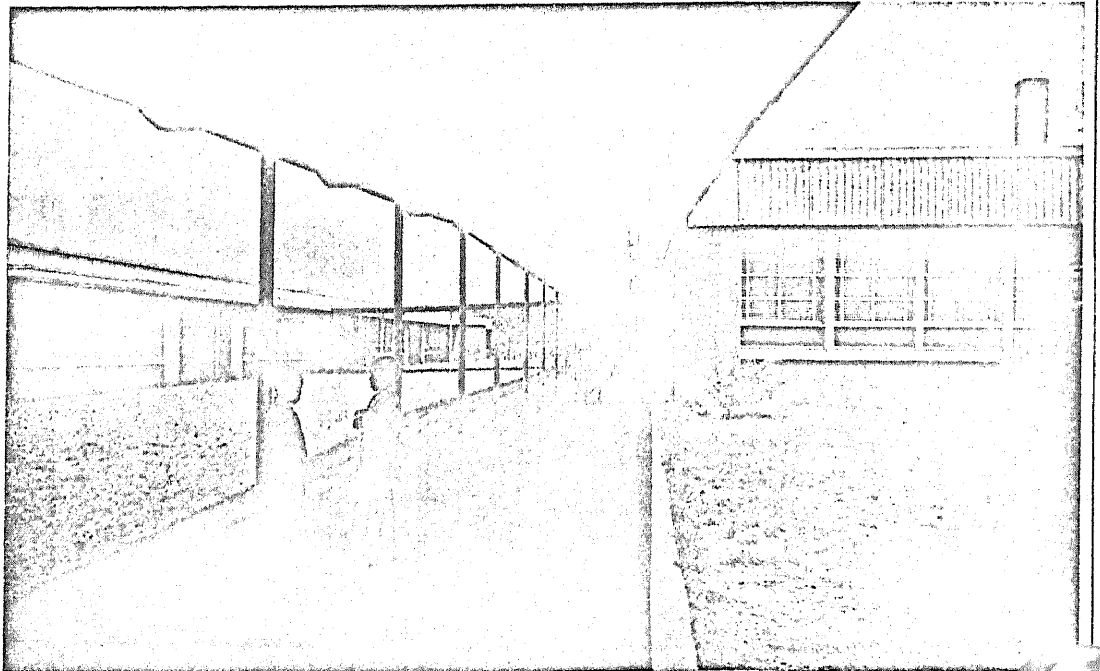
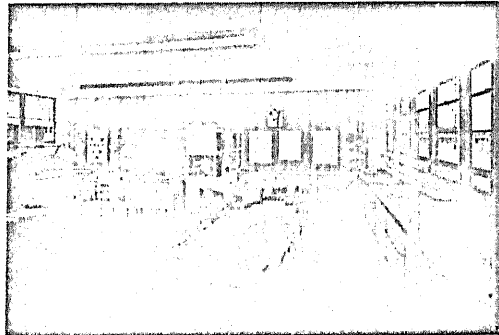
Joseph W. Molitor

**YORK ROAD JUNIOR HIGH**



*York Road Junior High, part of the 1952 program, cost over \$450,000 to build; Charles W. Connelly & Assoc., Archts. Its site, shared with Marie Davis (below), was acquired in unusual fashion.*

**MARIE DAVIS ELEMENTARY**

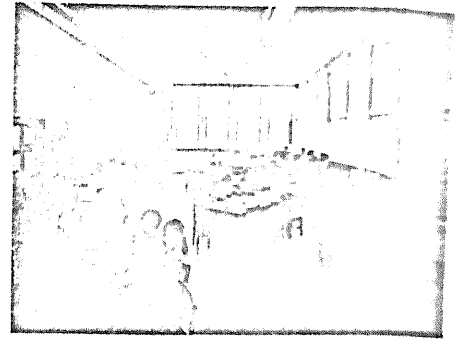
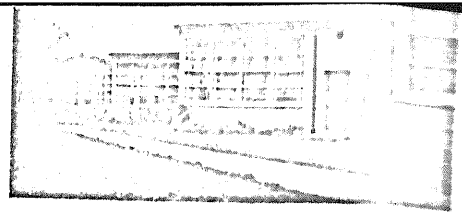
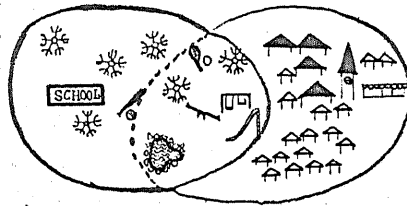


*Marie Davis Elementary, another of 1950 plants that was added to in '52, occupies a large site part of which was turned over to the housing authority when that agency needed it. Later the school board expanded site to provide room for York Road Junior High (above). Note: unless otherwise stated, dates given are those of allocation of funds, not of actual construction; cost figures are for construction only, not including sites, equipment, and similar factors*

**THE INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL AND THE COMMUNITY:  
CHARLOTTE, N. C.**

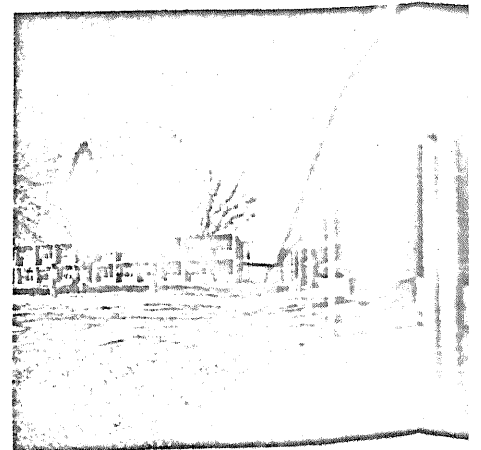
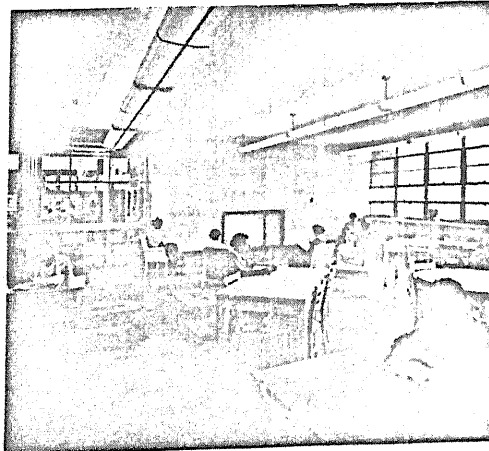
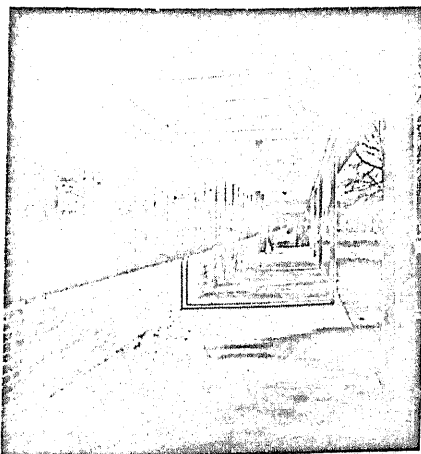
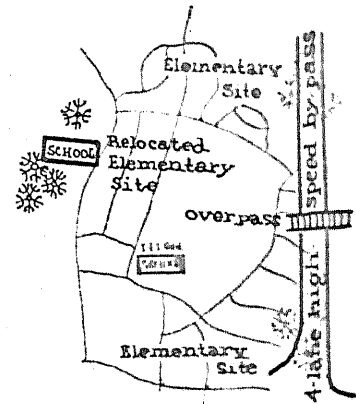
The wisdom with which Charlotte's school administration has progressed under its present leadership has raised its educational system to an enviable position. At the close of World War II a substantial school building program was inevitable. Recognizing that this was likely to be a task beyond their experience, the school authorities retained a firm of educational consultants (then Engelhardt, Engelhardt & Leggett, now Engelhardt, Engelhardt, Leggett & Cornell) to survey needs, make recommendations, and assist in detail in carrying them through. The survey and recommendations went far beyond forecasts of pupil loads, site selections and similar major practical responsibilities; they included consultation on such fundamentals as the nature of the educational program itself, and the possibilities inherent in sound school-community relationships. In effect the entire city became a vast education laboratory in which theory was evolved, tested, refined, and after thorough investigation put into practice. No problems were ignored. Educational needs were thoroughly discussed with teachers and staffs, and on occasion superintendents and specialists from all over the nation were called in for group consultations. The accuracy of the 1950 survey's predictions thus fulfilled is near perfection: first priority called for 17 elementary schools to be built between 1950 and '55; all but four additions have been completed and of these two were provided in a different manner, two are

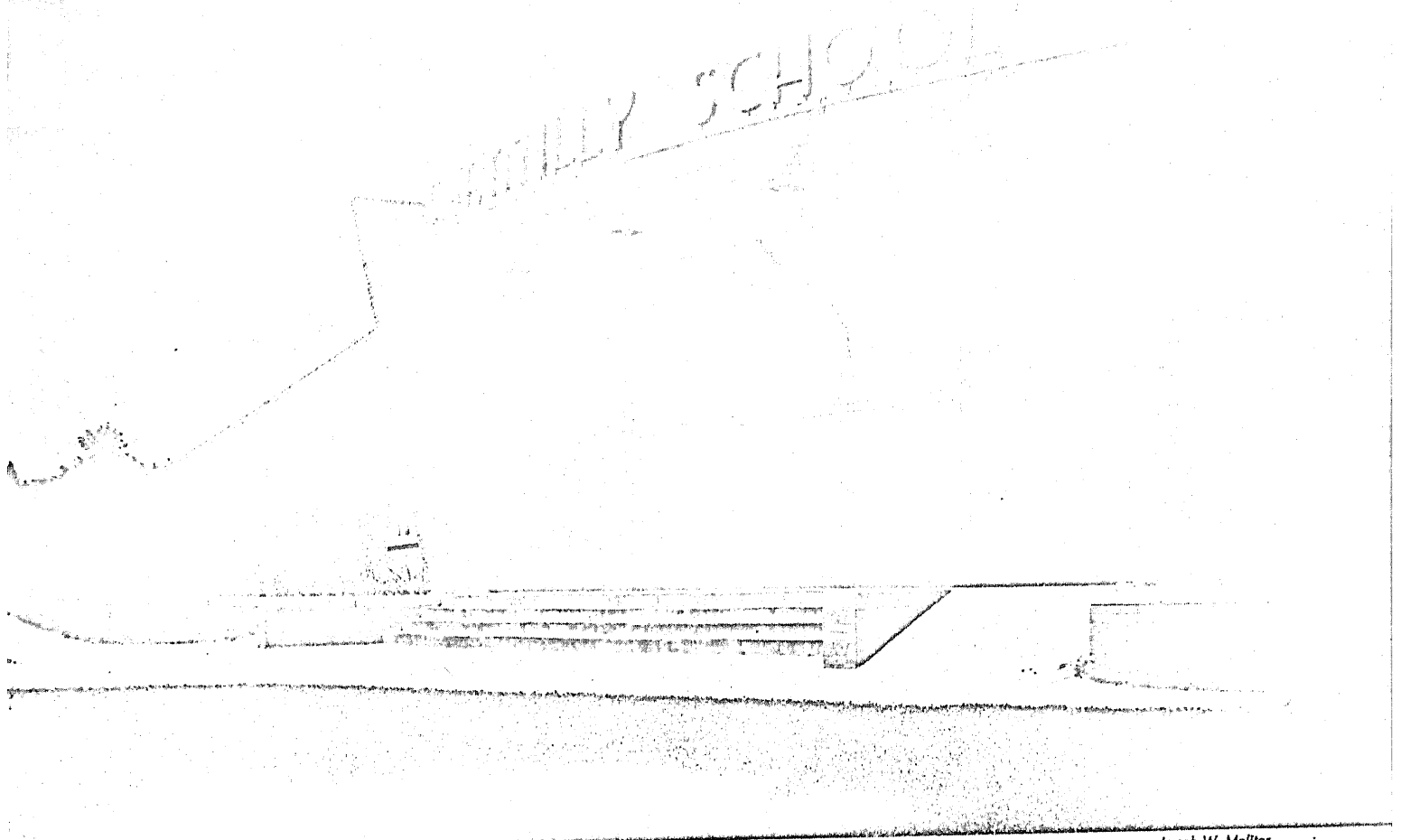
*Chantilly Elementary, started 1946, enlarged 1952 (cost, \$445,000; M. R. Marsh, Archt.); original classrooms are placed sawtooth-fashion, a precedent not followed in later buildings. Like West Charlotte High (below) it has a larger site than had earlier been considered necessary*



*Chantilly Elementary School, one of the early postwar plants, was*

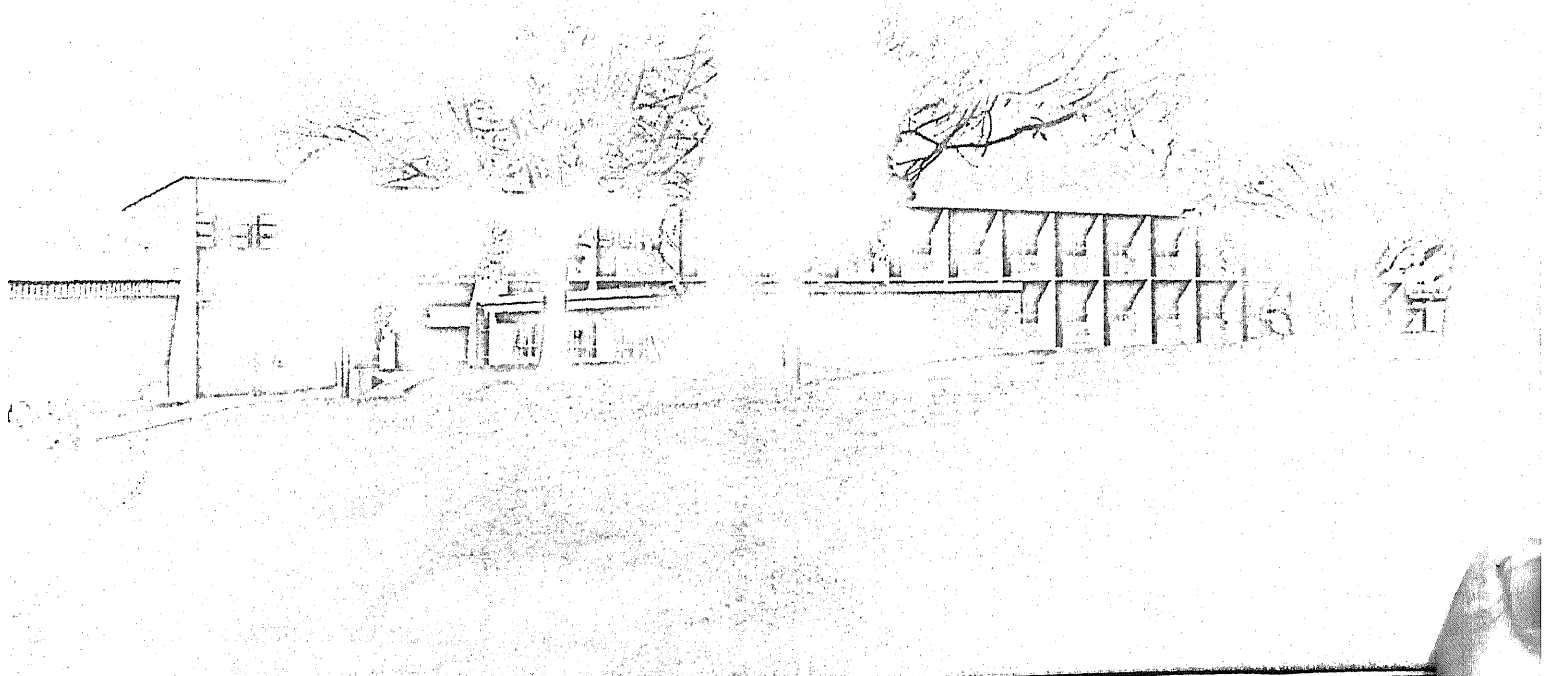
*West Charlotte Senior High School, another winner of national recognition, is just within the present city limits in the center of a high-quality Negro suburb that is building up on both sides of the county line. A new superhighway bisecting the development and cutting off access to school for many children led to cooperation with highway authorities to obtain a pedestrian overpass, and to relocation of a projected elementary school on the site*



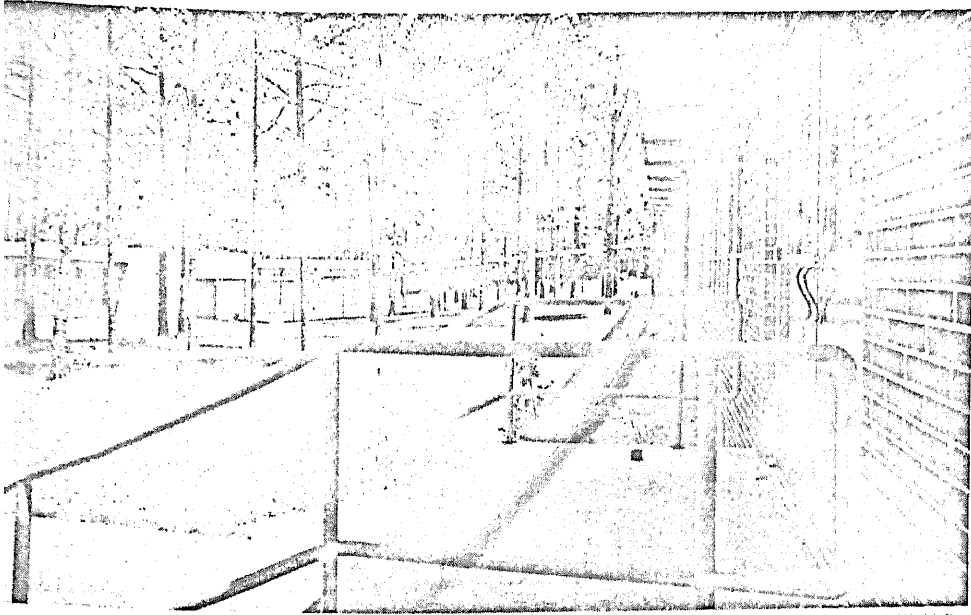


Joseph W. Molitor

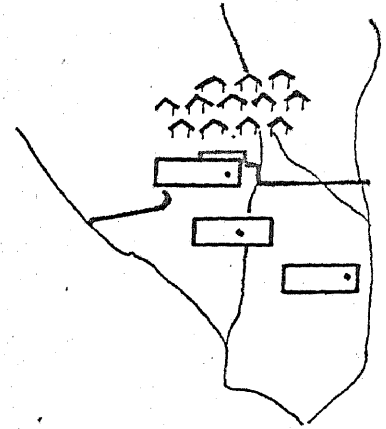
*carefully programmed educationally and designed to remain, as it has, an effective part of the learning process*



THE INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL AND THE COMMUNITY:  
CHARLOTTE, N. C.



Joseph W. Mollitor

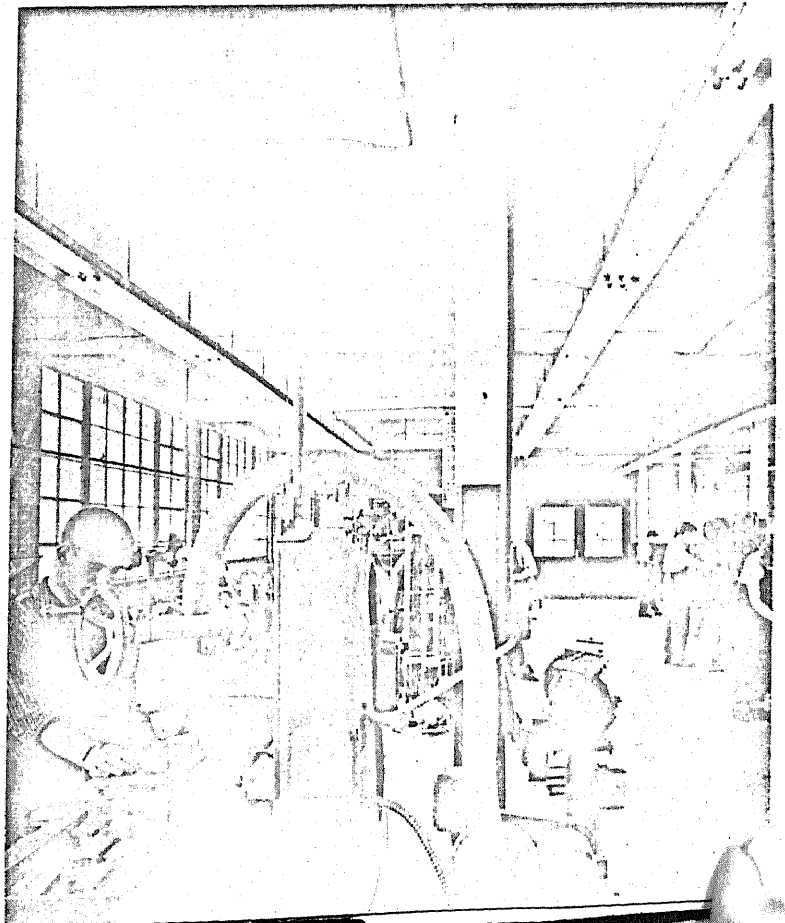


*In Charlotte, construction of several excellent schools has led to development of high-class Negro suburbs — a rare phenomenon*

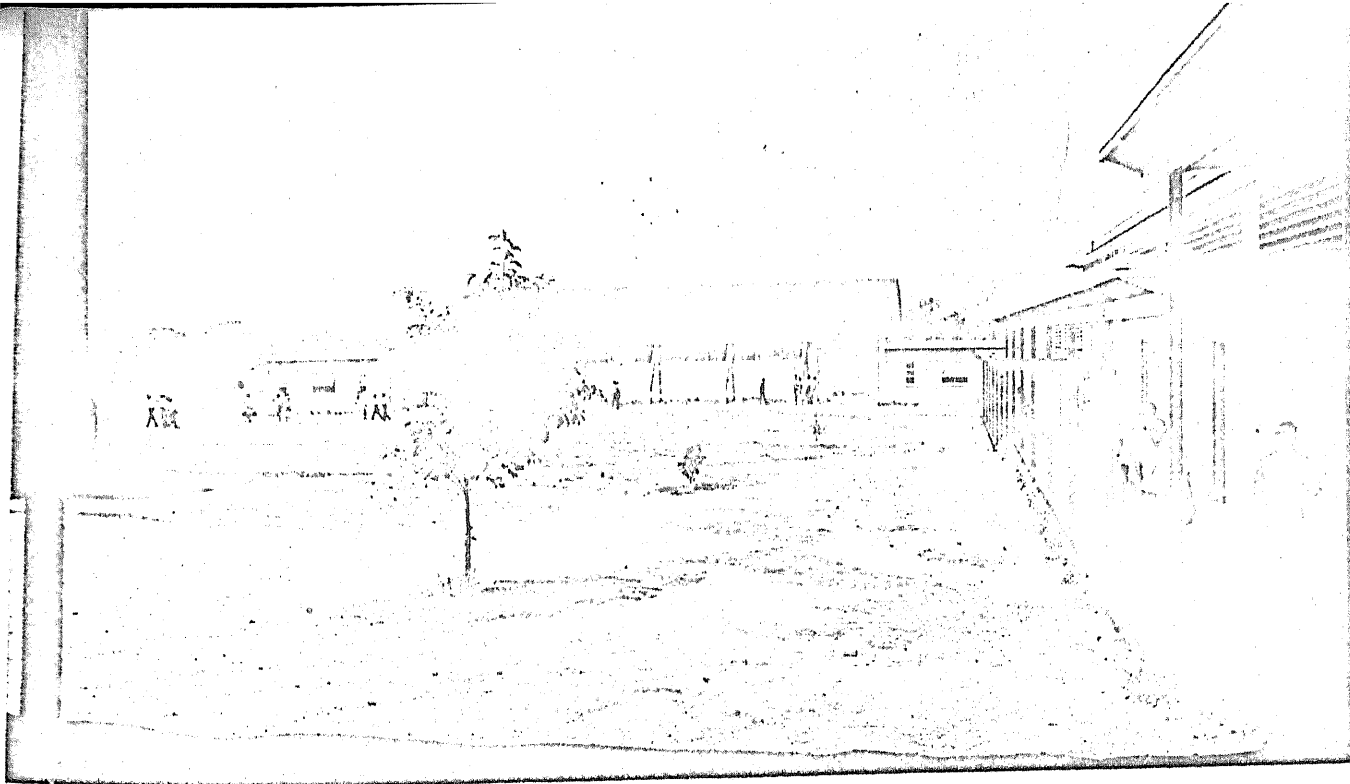
now under consideration. All of four secondary plants or additions have been completed. Of lesser priority plants to be built 1955-60, three have been completed and several sites have been obtained.

The Charlotte school system — or any, for that matter — does not operate alone in its world. The city's school administration, it is evident, has cooperated extensively with the local housing authority, with benefits to both. The schools have at times followed, at times led private developers, always closely. There are the beginnings of similar close relations between highway authorities and the schools, between the Park and Recreation Commission and the schools. The large school sites recommended by the educational consultants, Engelhardt, Engelhardt, Leggett & Cornell — and almost uniformly acquired — make admirable beginnings for joint school and park development, a procedure which can be expected to increase. Provision of facilities of this kind, active acceptance of all these enlarging opportunities, is giving Charlotte good schools not only for all its children but also for all its citizens.

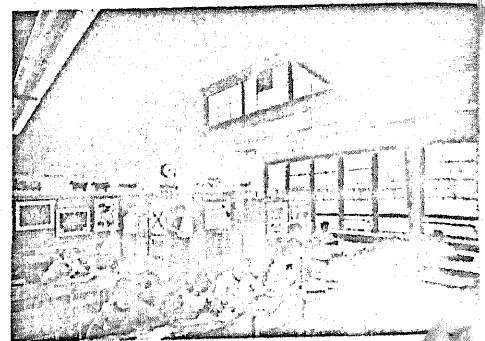
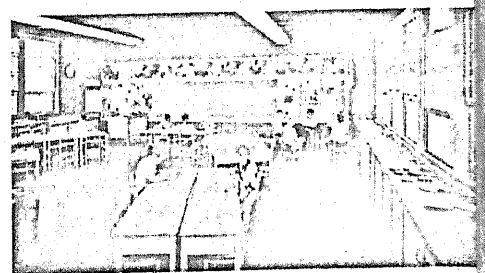
*The spacious site of Eastway Junior High, above, a 1952 project (\$524,000; J. N. Pease & Co., Archts.), is one of many of the size recommended by the consultants. Below, modern shop in the old Central High School (Biberstein, Bowles and Meacham, Architects)*







*Above, Northwest Junior High (Charles W. Connelly, Archt.) is one example of the encouragement of substantial Negro suburbs. Below, children's art displayed in Sedgefield Elementary (Walter W. Hook, Archt.). Right, band room, Eastway; elementary classrooms, Sedgefield and Merry Oaks (Paul Snyder, Archt.)*



## THE INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL AND THE COMMUNITY:

### CHARLOTTE, N. C.

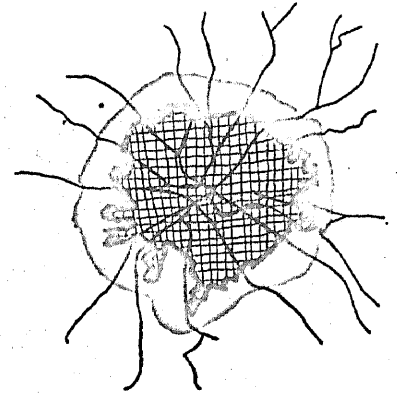
One postulate in the Charlotte school building program has been utilization of virtually all the city's architectural talent. Certain advantages have resulted, most of them foreseen. There has been no unethical practice, and yet stiff competition for jobs is the rule. This has meant that each architect is more than ever on his mettle when he works on one of Charlotte's schools, which of course means an increasingly high standard of architectural performance. It was also considered educationally essential that all buildings should fit their precise individual needs, and the repetitive details are few, the repetitive plan non-existent. A natural concomitant of the competitive architectural situation, this might be expected to produce over-expensive structures; in practice exactly the opposite has been true, chiefly because budgets were carefully estimated and seldom violated. One of the system's many visitors — hardly a week passes with-

out its quota of sincerely interested professional inquiries from far and near — was Dr. A. J. Stoddard, Consultant to the Fund for the Advancement of Education. Dr. Stoddard was quoted in local newspapers as being thoroughly impressed with the advanced design of all the schools, with the economy of land purchase and building construction, with the high quality; in any other city, he declared, they would have cost half again as much.

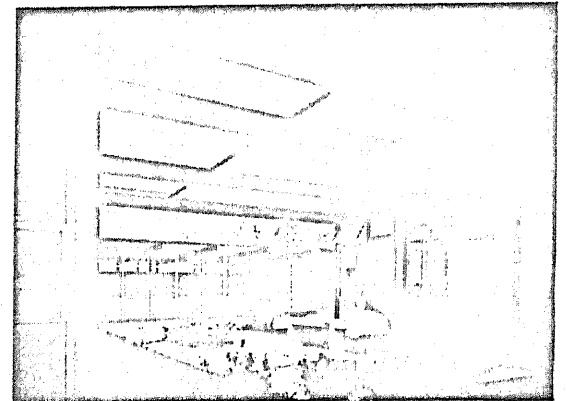
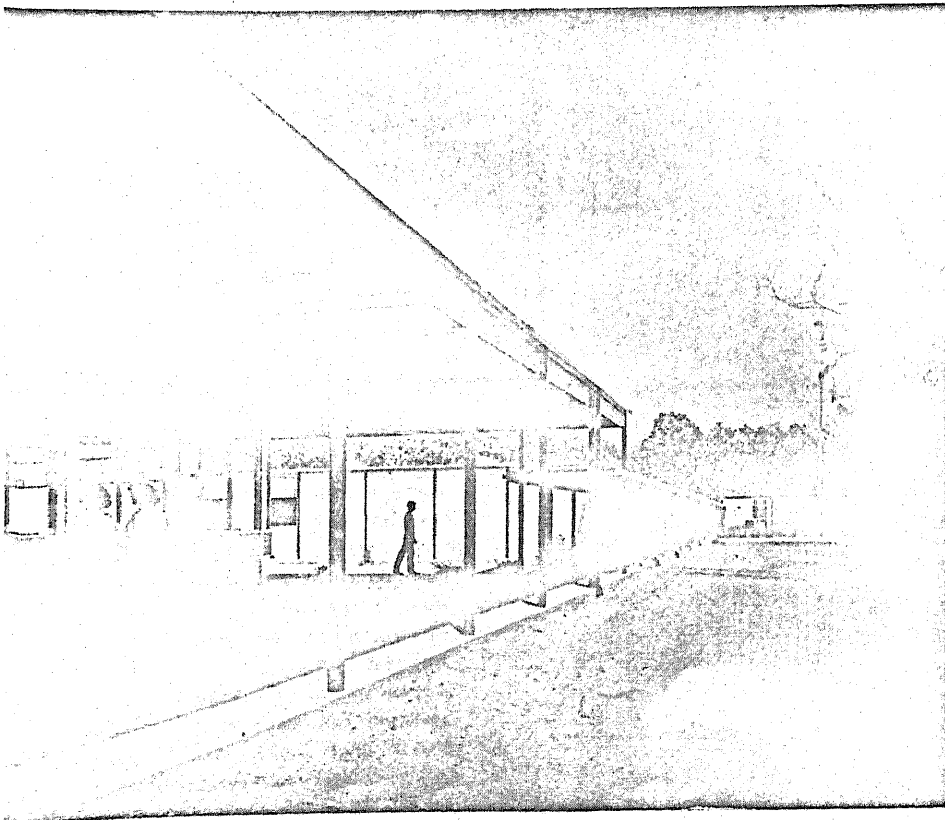
Among the city's architects schools are considered excellent commissions; while architectural fees are not high — indeed, one suspects that school jobs are often undertaken partly because they are civic duties and for the prestige they carry — rarely has a Charlotte architect actually lost money by doing one. No architect can be expected to get rich doing a superb custom job to a tight budget, and that is exactly what Charlotte requires.



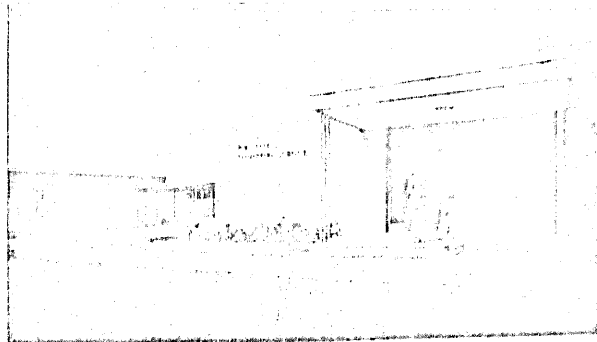
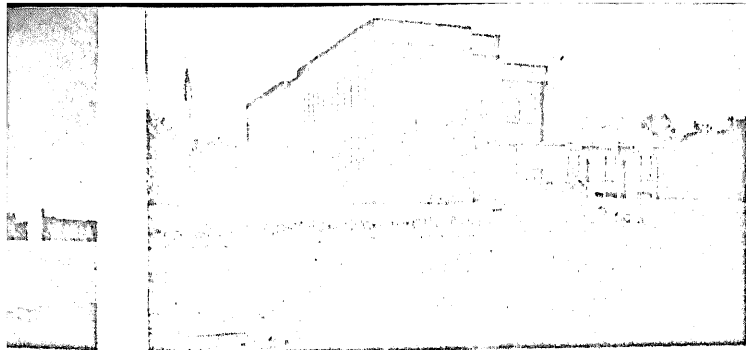
Charles W. Connolly, Archt.



Architects: A. G. Odell & Assoc.



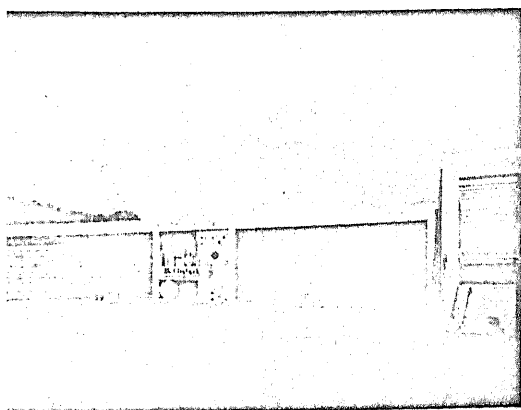
Most recent of Mecklenburg County's secondary schools is Wilson Junior High School, named in honor of the County Superintendent, Jim Wilson. The school, winner of awards in two national competitions, will eventually house 1200 pupils. It is of light steel frame with shop-fabricated wall panels and extensive glass areas, campus-planned as a series of buildings around several courts.



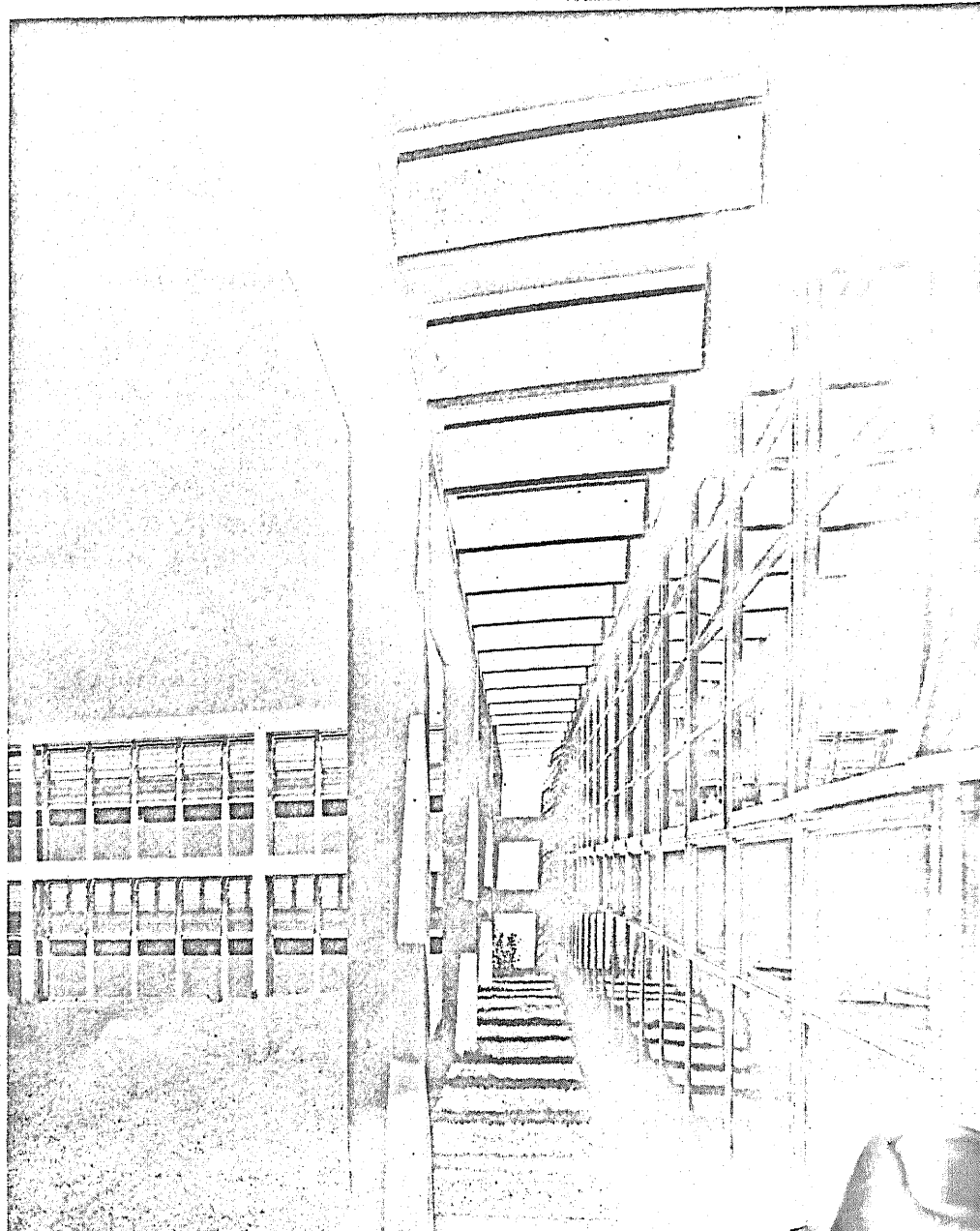
Graves & Iuy, Arcnts. Photos: Molitor

Mecklenburg County surrounds Charlotte. School bonds for both County and city derive from the County. As the city's population has densified and its territory expanded there have inevitably been delicate situations; in fact, there has been danger that areas immediately outside city limits would become a sort of no-man's land. To avert this the two boards of education are now cooperating closely in a joint advance-planning program. Meanwhile the county has been solving its own building problems. Above, left to right, West Mecklenburg High; Hoskins Elementary; Paw Creek Elementary

Architect: R. E. Edwin Wilson & Assoc.

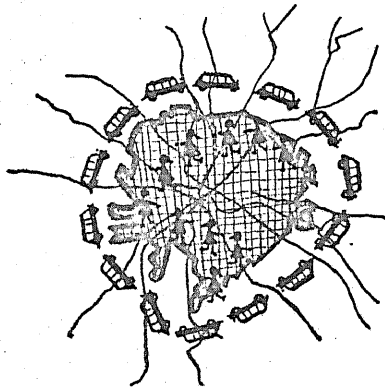


One county problem has been consolidation of numerous small, inefficient school buildings into fewer, larger, better functioning plants. There were many obstacles — the pride of the several individual rural communities, a diversity of opinions and loyalties, a tight budget. The county administration's patience has overcome most of these. Above, right, the new McClintock Junior High

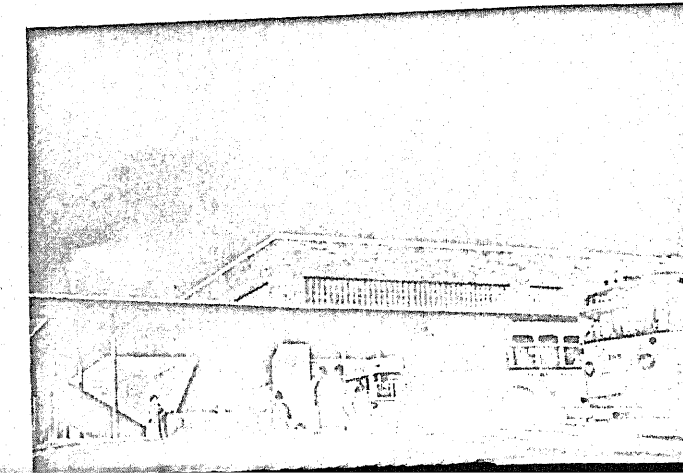
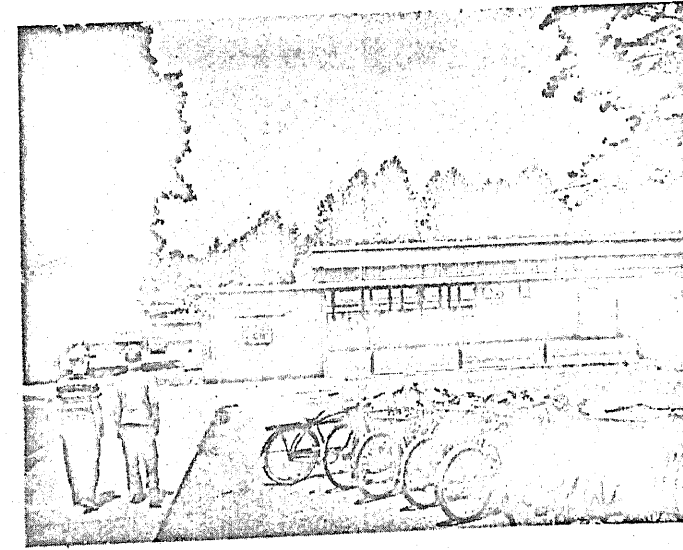
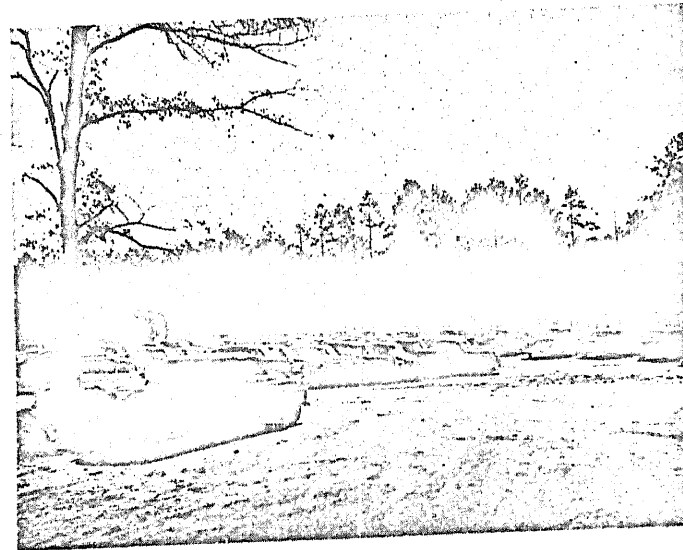
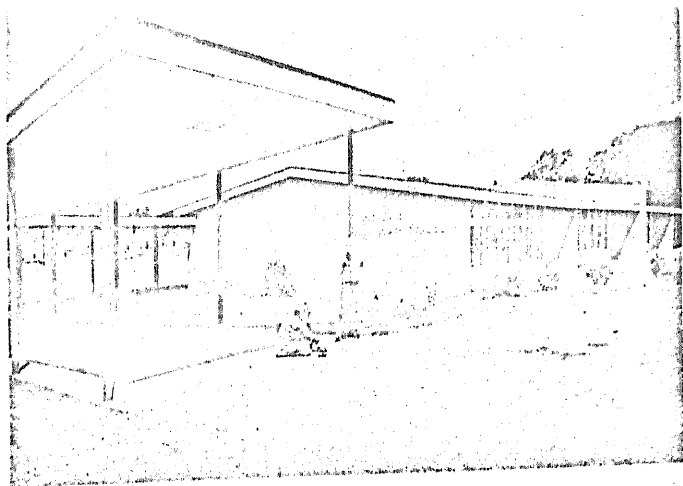


**THE INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL  
AND THE COMMUNITY:  
CHARLOTTE, N. C.**

Charlotte and Mecklenburg County were named in honor of Queen Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, wife of George III of England. Nevertheless the famous Mecklenburg Declaration considerably antedated the colonies' Declaration of Independence. Self reliance still characterizes the people of the area. It is a good thing, then, to know that these two determined entities, the city and the county, have chosen to cooperate to solve their mutual school problems. As the county becomes suburban and the city pushes out into the countryside the question of who pays for what becomes important. To work things out equitably both boards have retained again the consultants who up to now have worked with them separately, and the first report of a five-year, continuing, joint survey of needs has been completed. Projects proposed for construction over the next five years are: Senior high schools, 4 new, 9 additions; junior highs, 7 new, 7 additions; elementary schools, 14 new, 16 additions; and an administration center to be the headquarters of both boards. The estimated cost of these 58 projects is \$23 to \$25 million at present prices. If past performance is a criterion, the new buildings will contain many advances over the old; and it is to be remembered that Charlotte's schools are noted for sensible pioneering in their campus plans, their schools-within-schools, their general education laboratories, and their concern for the development of the individual pupil as well as for the way they have helped their city to grow.



*The city board provides no transportation for its pupils, but all modes are in use (photos, top to bottom: on foot, high school students' jalopies, lower-graders' bicycles, commercial bus lines). The county uses school buses driven by students*



Joseph W. Melior

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