
Grady County Historical Society – Schools

Southside Elementary

Includes typed letters, newspaper clippings, photographs and an indenture regarding the school.

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4/28/66

JBR:

You may have gotten the date of building the brick school building where Southside Grammar School low located, but I noticed an article in issue of December 14, 1906, which mentioned:

"Cairo's handsome new school building, erected two years ago cost \$15,000. The present enrollment of the High School is 150. ¹⁹⁰⁴

The article named teachers as follows:

Prof. J. S. Weathers, Principal
Miss Kitchen has charge of 7th & 8th grades
Miss Jenkins from Eatonton, 5th & 6th grades
Miss Zant, 3rd & 4th
Miss Bailey, of Camilla, 1st & 2nd
Miss Basmajian from Atlanta, Music Teacher, a native of Armenia.

This means the school was built in 1904.

Cairo Southside School

cut 4" x 2-7/8"

Cairo southside school as it looked in 1904.

Built shortly before 1890, this school faced north on what is now 5th Ave. S.E. (formerly College St.) between present 3rd St. S.E. and the Tallahassee Road. Ben W. Mauldin, born in 1886, started to school here in 1892. The building had an auditorium in the center, with class rooms on each side, east and west. Prior to this the Cairo school was located immediately south of the Methodist Church. The northside school of the early 1890s (of which we have no picture) was located immediately west of the N. Broad St. brick home of the late W. B. Roddenbery, Sr., which now belongs to the Baptist Church. That schoolhouse was later converted into a residence which was the home of Henry B. Sutton to the time of his death.

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This will occupy
about 1/2 to 5/8 of a page.

Julien:
Elsewhere in the text of the book
mention will be made about the
northside school, which was
built with stock subscriptions.
You sent me the receipt that was
issued your father for his
subscription -

I think the above is all that needs
to be printed under the picture of
the southside school - RSB

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The northside school of the early 1890s (of which we have no picture) was located immediately west of the N. Broad St. site where W. B. Roddenbery, Sr. built his brick home and where he died in 1942, which property now belongs to the Baptist Church. That schoolhouse was later converted into a residence which was the home of Henry B. Sutton at the time of his death in 1918.

As stated, I don't know what the property is worth, or for what cash price it could be sold at the present time. Bearing in mind that nobody would put any value on the house as a residence, I have an idea that the land, 70 feet by 150 feet, could be sold for some figure between \$6000 and \$7000 cash lump sum. There is no mortgage against the property. But before either of us should think of buying or selling, the property should be appraised by disinterested experts. The first thing for you to consider is whether selling or buying one half of the FUTURE EXPECTANCY in the property at whatever disinterested experts say it is worth.

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Revised

FEB 22 1966

~~Prior to this and for some time before the Cairo school was
closed~~

Cairo Schools

March 30, 1965

MEMO TO: R. S. RODDENBERY, JR.
Moultrie, Ga.

I will stop writing on letterhead to you, as there will be many memorandums to you and I will direct them as above and I will keep file of these to know what I've answered and try to keep from double answering your requests for information.

This is to answer part of your March 28th memo:

I did not attend the school west of WBR, Sr.'s brick residence, north Board St. The first school I attended was the wooden building on the south part of ~~what~~ is now our Southside Elementary School but was our High School also until maybe six or eight years ago.

I attended school first in 1898. But there was a school building where the old Parker School you referred to was located, it wasn't a school at that time and might have been a residence.

The men I need to inquire about are from Mr. Ben Mauldin, a few years older than I am, Mr. Ed VanLandingham, and Frank Proctor, the only ones I know of who can give this information.

However, the school for all of Cairo ^{after} ~~was~~ the one maybe at the Parker location and Methodist Church location was the one on the southeast part of Cairo where the brick school was that you likely went to, and that wooden building didn't burn down but was torn down. It had a center auditorium with a stage and ~~that~~ was used for the main classroom for maybe sixth grade to tenth. There was a shed on the east and west that was for the other grades. All of this doesn't give much information that could be put into writing. It does give information that there was a wooden school where the brick school was finally built and it burned down. That was after 1910, in fact, I can pinpoint that for I have the Pinkerton Detective Agency's report to Papa in trying to find out who burned it, and I believe that was 1918 to 1920.

Reading the last paragraph of your letter, it seems what you would like to know was when the first brick building was built in Southeast Cairo, and of course immediately prior thereto, the old building was torn down.

In my first, second, maybe third or fourth grade which would carry us to 1901 or 1902 was in the wooden building. My last several years in school was in the brick building. But I can find when that brick building was built, I think, and I will mark this as one of the things to feret out.

I think your idea of not taking too much of your book about schools for it won't mean much to anybody but we older people like myself and a few others, and of course Uncle Bob now. But to just give the location of the schools and the struggle to have schools in those first years and the teachers, and all the Cairo Schools being in the Southeast Cairo until 1928, I believe, they built the Northside Grammar School, and then I can get the date, six or eight years ago,

moved the High School to the present Tallahassee Road location and it is a beautiful location and building. It wouldn't take much to give that, with the main emphasis on the old teachers and the old locations and the difficulties of having schools, etc.

I approve of the idea as expressed in last paragraph of your letter.

JBR

February 17, 1966

MEMO TO RSR, JR.

I note the article about the Cairo Southside School, and it will be of interest to not only we old timers, but many others. For by tying in that with the Northside School, whatever it's name might be, gives the early beginning of the fine school system we now have.

One thing we should have mentioned when I wrote about it before, and it is that this Southside School that you ~~do~~ show a picture of is on the exact location of our Southside Elementary School where there are over 1,000 pupils now. In fact, on that lot we have the old wooden gym, the new school building with a large auditorium holding hundreds that was the high school until ten years ago, and then an additional elementary 7 room school, all on the same lot.

I started to school in the east shed of that school building. I went up, of course, when I was in a higher grade to the west shed room. They were not exactly shed rooms, for they were first-class little school rooms that would hold 30 or 40 pupils, each of them. My first teacher, I think was a Scaife girl, or maybe Aunt Clyde taught here, but don't mention any of that. But Mrs. T. A. Powell, who was Miss Crozier, was my teacher in the west classroom.

There is a reason for my mentioning this, for none of it should go in the book. It is, that the center room was an all purpose room. I expect two or three grades were in the east and two or three grades in the west classroom. And then the upper four or five grades, and I don't think they went further than the 10th grade then, was in that center room. I went to school there, too, and remember well where my seat was. It was an auditorium, it had a stage where the principal had his desk and sat, then the desks for 50, 75 to 100 pupils. So this was really a 3-room school. Most of them in the auditorium portion. I thought you might want to change a little the comment about the auditorium in the center of the building, which was also the class room for the upper grades. That doesn't mean too much, but to make it factually correct, I thought I would mention it.

JBR

2 Ben Mauldin who attended either the one or three-room building that JBR attended the three-room building and was to make a tape but he never did get to the Library to make the tape, and what he would have said in the tape and told me, JBR and others was as follows:

"I attended the Southside School that was replaced with the first brick building and there was another school on the north side of the railroad directly back of where W. B. Roddenbery built his brick residence which still stands, and on the vacant lot that the Cairo Baptist Church owns and is a parking lot. And this school north of the railroad had wooden guns and the schoolmaster or principal, whatever they were called, marched the students in the vacant lot next to it. The schoolmaster had been an officer in the Civil War on the Confederate side and had a peg leg."

That is from JBR's memory of what Ben told, and we wanted it on a tape by him but we never did get to it.

We already know, for there is a receipt for a joint ownership of one share that W. B. Roddenbery and a clerk in the S. A. Roddenbery Mercantile Business bought jointly. And JBR believes he gave that to Lloyd Connell and he shouldn't have, and if he gave it to Lloyd it likely is in the present Grady County School Board old papers.

“GLANCING BACK”

“Southside school building demolition”

Oh me! Oh my! I sigh! Here's a tear in my eye! The wrecking ball is going to tear down the elementary school location of Southside where I spent my second and third grade years. My memories of those years in that building are as fresh as a new mown grass on a spring day.

That was the building where I got my hand popped with a ruler when I spelled a word wrong on a Friday's spelling test. In that same room, I got my hand popped even more soundly when I jumped roped in the classroom and knocked a vase of flowers off the bookshelf.

Out on the steps of that building, I threw up trying to

get out of the building. The teacher had called Daddy to pick me up because I was not feeling well. I then got sick on those steps, the same steps we girls played games on at recess. I remember how horrified I was and Daddy telling me it would be alright.

There was a merry-go-round on the playground that was the place to be if the swings were taken. On that merry-go-round, I squatted down to ride and when I stood up, my dress ripped from the waist and there I was showing my backside to the entire world.

The swings on the playground seemed to extend

out over the pickle stream which I'm now sure they didn't but then was a wonderful place to swing,

It was on that playground we girls chased boys and tried to kiss them until we got into trouble with that same second grade teacher.

We played stitch-starch until we were drunk as skunks. Stitch starch was a game where two people held hands facing each other and went round and round until someone fell. Great fun I

Inside that building dur-



JOYCE LEE HERNDON

ing the years of the early nineteen fifties, there were smells I remember so well. The smells were a combination of wax from the floors, chalk dust, probably some mold and mildew, as well as the coats lined up on the wall in the hallways.

Back in those days, children smelled like the smoke from the wood smoke they brought from home. I probably smelled the same way since my family had fireplaces and a potbelly stove for warmth but I never thought my coats smelled like other children's coats.

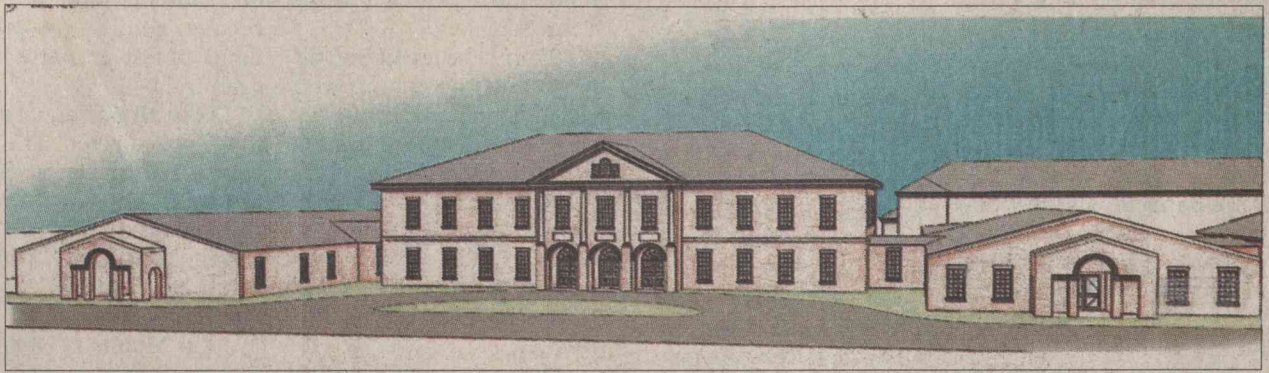
In my third grade at that school, I met the lady who was probably my favorite teacher, Mrs. Ferol Perkins. It was in her class where I was a redbird, a member of the top reading group. I loved reading and we read every book she had in the room.

She had a book of fairytales that I thought was magnificent. She even let us take the books home from time to time which was a thrill within itself because I could read the books to my younger sister.

Mrs. Perkins instilled in me the love of learning. From that grade on, I knew I wanted to be a teacher for the rest of my life. Though I am retired from public school teaching, I still teach at the local jail and still love it.

It will be hard to see my childhood memory base destroyed but time marches on. I would like some of the bricks to place in my yard because that old building holds special memories for me and for many other people in Grady County.

Farewell, Southside building! I will remember you as long as I have my wits about me.



THIS ARCHITECTURAL DRAWING done by Ray Finger shows a proposed new Southside Elementary School classroom wing, left, and a new two-story administrative building that would have classrooms upstairs. At right is an existing wing with a new facade to match the new buildings. Under the proposal unveiled this week the new front of the school would face Fourth Avenue S.E. The Grady County Board of Education is considering local facility needs as it plans to call for a sales tax referendum this fall.

BOE begins planning for sales tax referendum this November

Randolph H. Wind
Editor & Publisher

The Grady County Board of Education does not want the flow of sales tax dollars for education to be interrupted so local voters will be asked this November to approve a renewal of the penny sales tax for education.

The current Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST) will expire in June 2015 and in order to maintain a seamless flow of collections the latest possible date for a referendum

would be in November 2014.

The school board could have called for an election to be held next week in conjunction with the democratic and republican primaries and nonpartisan general election, but school officials were not prepared last year to take action to put the referendum on the May 20 ballot.

School System Finance Officer Dan Broome on Tuesday night updated the board members on the tentative timeline for holding the referendum this fall.

The school board has yet to meet to discuss projects that would be funded with the continuation of the penny sales tax, but on Tuesday night they got a first look at a master plan for the Southside Elementary School campus that included a plan for the construction of new classrooms and administrative building as well as the renovation of the school's cafeteria.

Landscape architect and planner Suzanne Finger was recently hired by the school system to develop a master plan for the South-

side campus. Any improvements to be made at Southside would be financed with ESPLOST proceeds.

"We've asked Suzanne to look at a site plan for Southside and give us some type of road map as to what we need to do there," Superintendent Lee M. Bailey said.

According to the superintendent, Mrs. Finger factored traffic flows, stormwater drainage and existing facilities in developing her master plan for

► See PLAN, Page A8

5/14/14

Majestic magnolia tree hit by lightning will be cut down

Four schools hit by recent strikes

Randolph H. Wind
Editor & Publisher

A majestic oak that graces the front of the Southside Elementary School will soon be cut down. The tree is the victim of a recent lightning strike at the school. In fact,

several schools have suffered damage from lightning strikes during September, according to Grady County School System officials.

Superintendent Lee M. Bailey estimates the magnolia tree is at least 50 to 60 years old or maybe older.

"It's popped from top to bottom. In our preliminary plans for renovation of the auditorium and proposed new construction at South-

side, we had discussed taking the tree down. However, no one really wanted to remove it," Superintendent Bailey said.

"We talk about making some changes and it gets struck by lightning after all of these years," Bailey added.

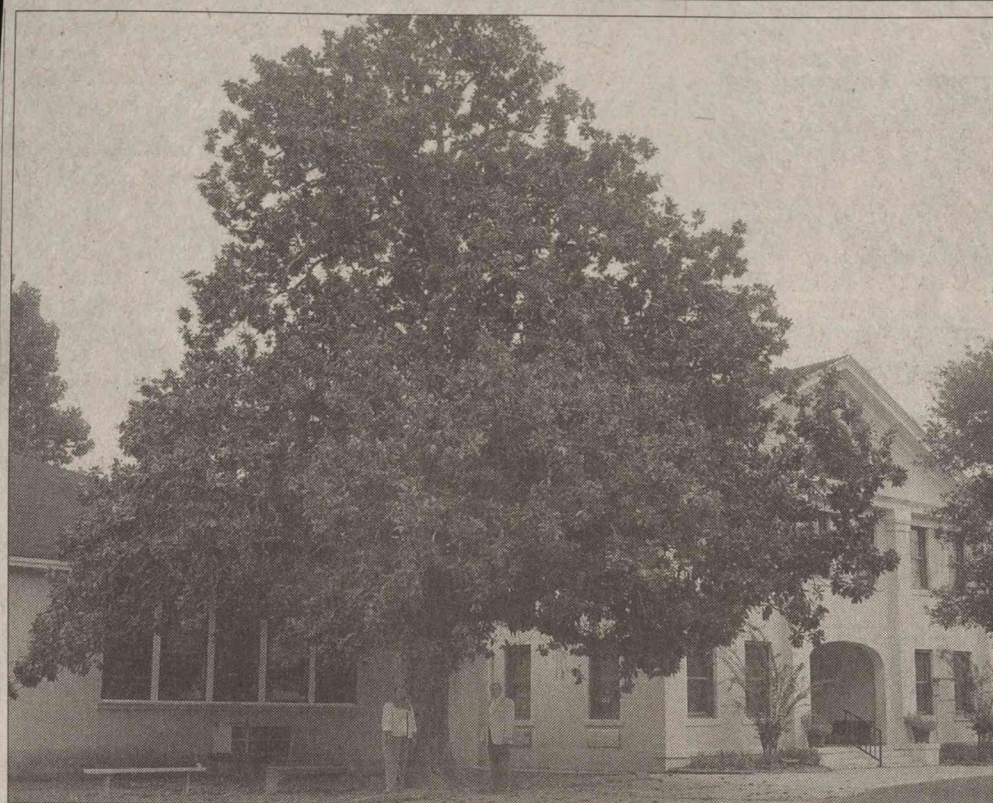
Operations Director Jerry Cox said the tree was hit on Sept. 19 and additional damage inside the school was experienced.

► See **TREE**, Page **A8**

10-1-



SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT Lee M. Bailey and Southside Principal Janet Walden point to damage done to a large magnolia tree near the entrance to the school.



SOUTHSIDE PRINCIPAL Janet Walden and Grady County School Superintendent Lee M. Bailey stand beneath a majestic magnolia tree in front of Southside Elementary School that has been struck by lightning and must be cut down.

Landmark tree must be cut down at local school

► **TREE, from Page A1**

Local schools first suffered damage from lightning on Sept. 8 when four schools were struck. Northside Elementary School lost its intercom system and security system in the first strike. At Southside, the school fire alarm was destroyed on the 8th and the second strike destroyed the new replacement fire alarm system. The second strike also took out the intercom system at Southside. The Sept. 8 strike damaged the security system at Washington Middle School and knocked out a scoreboard at Whigham Elementary School.

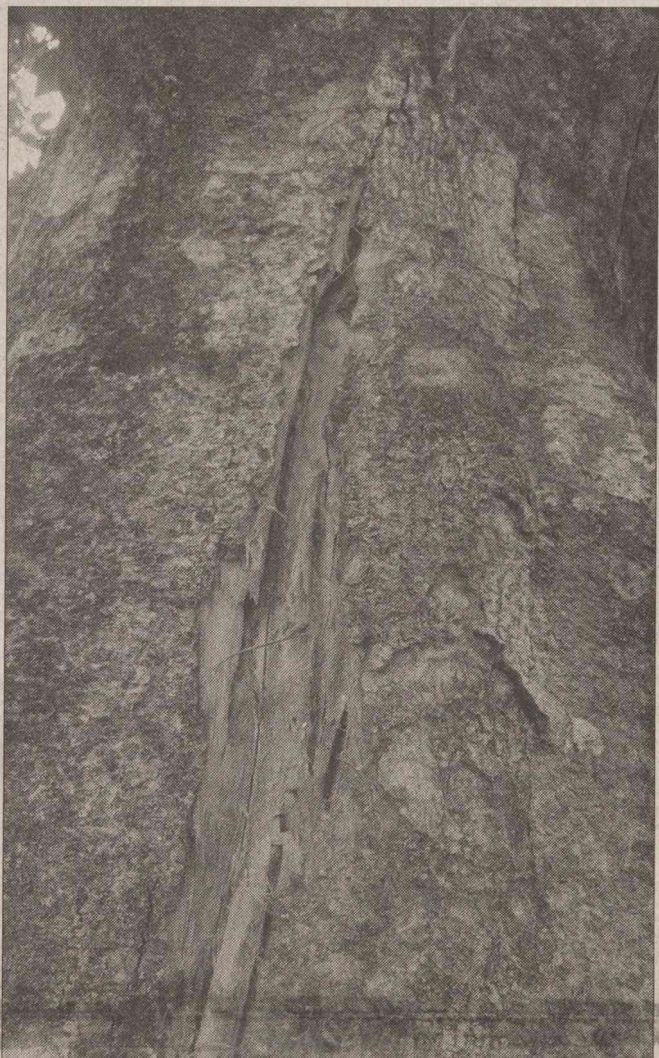
According to Dave Mitchell of the school system's maintenance division, the second strike at Southside knocked two commercial-grade surge protectors off the wall at the school.

Mitchell says 85 percent of the work to install a new fire alarm system and intercom system at Southside has been completed.

He said that temporary intercom systems are currently being used at both Southside and Northside until replacements can be put in place.

Mitchell says the school system's deductible is \$5,000, so he says all of the damage caused by the two lightning strikes will only cost the school system approximately \$10,000.

Operations Director Cox says his plan is to have a tree service remove the tree during the school system's fall break, which is Oct. 13 and



A POWERFUL THUNDERBOLT cut into this historic magnolia tree near the front entrance to Southside Elementary School. Officials are planning to cut it down over fall break.

14.

"The tree is too close to the building for our crews to try to take down. We will outsource the work to a private contractor with the experience to take the tree down in sections," Cox said.

The school system has already received two bids for

the work and on Tuesday Cox said he was anticipating obtaining additional bids.

"It's a beautiful tree and lots of youngsters have played underneath that one. You hate to see it go, but it will not survive," Superintendent Bailey said.

School board approves change orders on high school project

Randolph H. Wind
Editor & Publisher

Construction projects on the campuses of two Grady County schools continue to proceed toward completion, and on Tuesday night the school board approved two change orders for one of those projects. One change increased the cost of the project and the other reduced its overall cost.

School Superintendent Dr. Kermit Gilliard requested a change at the new Cairo High School College and Career Academy construction site after learning the drainage from a covered walkway would deposit storm water onto a sidewalk. According to Dr. Gilliard, the covered walkway had been designed to save money, however he requested the drains be tied into other

drains coming off the roof of the new building. The additional cost for this change is \$12,031.94

The board also approved the recommendation of Dr. Gilliard to approve a second change order, which resulted in a reduction of cost to the CHS College and Career Academy by \$7,294.28. This change is to eliminate all ceramic tile in the new facility's restrooms and replace it with an epoxy resin.

According to Dr. Gilliard, this will make the restroom much easier to clean and maintain. It will also greatly reduce odors that can be found in older public restrooms.

The superintendent said he had been impressed with the cleanliness and freshness of mens bathroom facilities at Colquitt County High School's football stadium

last year while attending the Georgia Music Educators Association District 2 Band Jamboree. "I asked Kevin (Strickland - assistant superintendent) to contact Colquitt County and find out the material used in those bathrooms, which had been renovated recently. Since then, we have learned that many other systems, including Thomas County, are going to this type surface when they renovate restroom facilities," Dr. Gilliard said.

The superintendent also reported that contractors at both CHS and Southside Elementary School were battling for time from masons which is delaying work somewhat, but overall, he said both construction sites were "progressing quite well."

Dr. Gilliard informed the

board about an open house held Sunday at Southside Elementary School's renovated auditorium and the PTO meeting held there Monday night.

"We've had lots of positive comments," Dr. Gilliard said.

The only negative report was from the Monday night event involving the balcony level of the auditorium when the lights were dimmed. The superintendent said that architect Ray Finger will be asked to address some lighting issues on the balcony level. "It gets pretty dark up there and we wouldn't want anyone falling or getting hurt," Dr. Gilliard said.

In other business Tuesday night, the school board:

► Declared a number of items from the School Nutrition Program as surplus property. Those items will be

auctioned off to the highest bidder. Items range from an industrial microwave and serving lines to a dishwasher and a two-door refrigerator.

► Approved just over \$3,400 in travel expenses for the superintendent to attend recent and future conferences and meetings.

► Approved the hiring of the following personnel: Rosalie White - teacher at Southside Elementary School; Nancy Newman - bus driver; Ronnie Cruel - bus driver; Crystal Keen - bus driver; Michael Youngblood - NJROTC instructor; Diane Strickland - bookkeeper at Washington Middle School; and Shannon Focaracci - school psychologist.

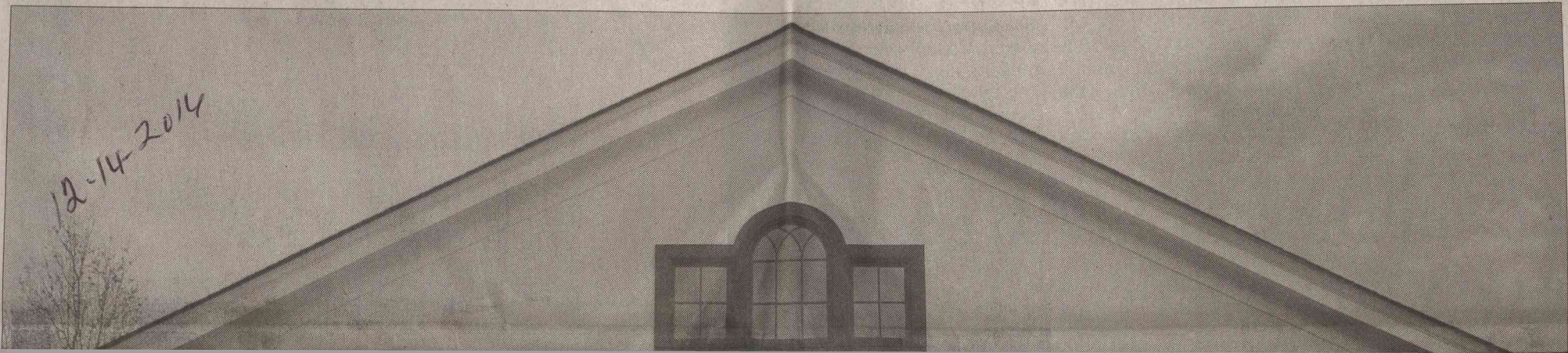
► Accepted the resignations of Tammy Nowell - teacher at Southside Elementary School and Chas-

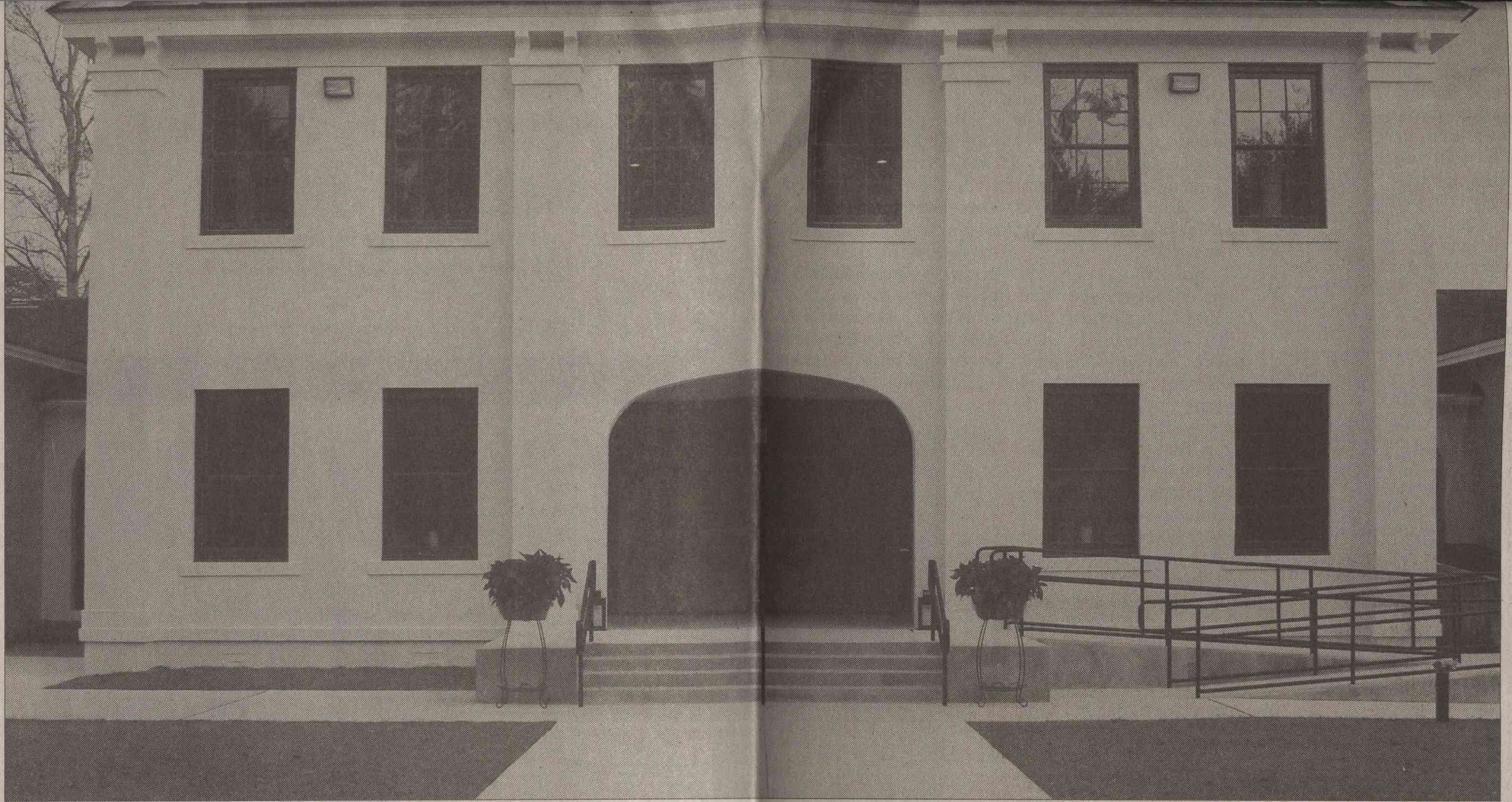
sidy Gurley - special ed para-

pro. ► Approved the retirement of Berry Wallace of the maintenance department, formerly a custodian at Southside. Dr. Gilliard pointed out that Wallace has approximately 40 years of service and "will be greatly missed."

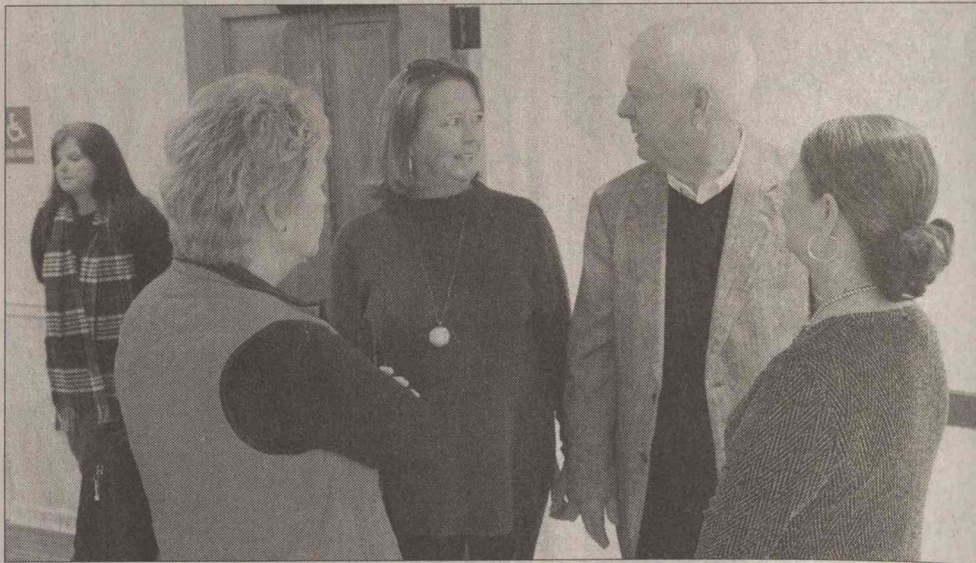
► Approved the transfers of Victoria Garland from parapro at Cairo High School to parapro at Northside Elementary School and Holly Harrison from teacher at Washington Middle School to teacher at Southside Elementary School.

► Met briefly behind closed doors to discuss a student tribunal issue and pending acquisition/sale of real estate.



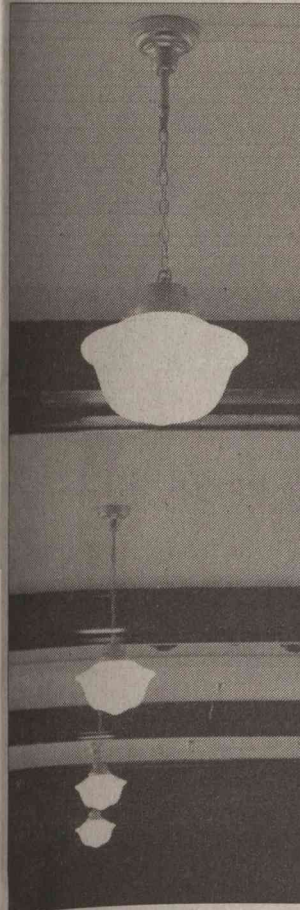


THE NEWLY RENOVATED Southside Elementary School auditorium was decorated festively for Christmas inside and out for Sunday's open house.



FORMER SOUTHSIDE PRINCIPAL Charlie McBee and his wife chat with former Southside teachers Sabrina Nix, left, and Lisa Oliver, second from left, during Sunday's open house of the newly renovated auditorium.

THE ORIGINAL light fixtures inside the Southside auditorium have been rewired and polished. They feature new LED bulbs.



REFRESHMENTS were served in the lobby/reception hall as shown in this photo taken from the mezzanine level. An elevator is also available in addition to two staircases.

Southside project tops list of needs to be funded with penny tax

Randolph H. Wind
Editor & Publisher

Demolition crews are expected to begin razing a vacant brick building on the campus of Southside Elementary School on Monday, and the Grady County Board of Education is beginning to make plans for a major renovation of the school.

School board members are considering a major facilities project at Southside, which is the last of the seven schools to be renovated.

The structure to be demolished has extensive termite damage.

The board met last Wednesday, May 28, to discuss the Southside project as well as other projects to be included on the list of projects to be funded by the renewal of the Education Special Purpose Local Options Sales Tax this November.

Potentially serious issues regarding the physical condition of the original Southside administrative building, auditorium and wings are being investigated.

Board members authorized Superintendent Lee M. Bailey to contract with an engineer to determine the exact condition of the school buildings.

"I have heard everything from that the main building has extensive termite damage to the foundation is sound. That is why we want an engineer who knows what to look for to go in and tell us exactly what we have . . . good or bad. No decisions will be made until we can base them on factual information. This is the same pro-

cedure anyone would, or should, do before tackling a project such as this," Bailey said this week.

The school system also recently contracted with Ray and Suzanne Finger of Raymond C. Finger Architects, LLC, of Thomasville to develop a facilities master plan for the Southside campus.

If the existing structure proves to be in such bad repair that it would be cost prohibitive to save the original building, Bailey is making plans for new construction.

The superintendent said he is particularly focused on being able to save the original school auditorium, "That is such an historic building and can be the focus of that campus."

Based on the plan developed by the Fingers, if a new administrative building is to be constructed, they suggest it should face Fourth Avenue S.E., rather than Third Street S.E. as the main building currently does.

The proposed new administrative building is designed as a two story structure that would be erected near where the vacant structure is to be razed and would connect with the existing classroom wing to the west.

School board Chairman Jeff Worsham asked how the money in the current ESPLOST earmarked for Southside would be spent. School Finance Officer Dan Broome explained that those funds can only be used for renovation and not for new construction.

"I don't want it to get out that we're about to tear

Southside down. I want to make sure the public understands what we are doing and what is the best use of the property we have there. I don't want to be the one to decide what we do at Southside until we can get a report from an engineer," Bailey said.

Board member Laura Register agreed and said that should be the first step. "That will determine how far we need to go and how the money needs to be spent," she said.

Broome said that the local school board will be making decisions that will impact the community for years to come. He noted that in Decatur County school officials there had obviously made plans for facilities to accommodate needs for "20 years down the road."

"I'm not being critical, but when we've built facilities before there was not much thought put into it," Broome said.

"We built it for 'then.' We need to look ahead and plan for the future," board member Teresa Gee Harris commented.

Bailey and Broome presented a proposed ESPLOST project list that includes \$5.4 million for the Southside project. That money would cover the cost of construction of a potential, new two-story administrative building and two structures that would connect to the administrative building and with the existing media center/cafeteria building. However, the board has yet to approve any new construction until an engineer's report on the existing struc-

tures is received.

Also included in the proposal is \$1.5 million to be invested along with the state grant to construct the new College and Career Academy at Cairo High School. A tentative projection of \$4.1 million is included in the project list for facilities needs at the county's other schools.

The school system administrators are also calling for \$900,000 to be included for a variety of other needs, but primarily to cover the cost of purchasing new school buses. Broome has earmarked \$1.1 million for purchase of instructional equipment and textbooks; \$2.2 million for systemwide technology purchases and security upgrades; and \$800,000 for renovation, construction and improvements to athletic facilities.

Broome noted that outside of sales taxes, the school system cannot spend ad valorem taxes on athletic facilities.

A total of \$16 million in needs have been identified, but Broome admitted that those are liberal projections and said the system will collect only about \$13 million in the current four-year ESPLOST, which expires next year.

Broome pushed for optimistic projections and encouraged the board to agree to a very general referendum question, which would provide the school system more flexibility in the spending of the sales taxes if the referendum is adopted by the county's voters this fall.

Board member Drew Pyrz said he supports Broome's

recommendation to build more flexibility into the process.

Broome said the school system would publicize the projects to be funded by the sales taxes, but would not advertise specific dollar amounts for the various elements of the project list. Superintendent Bailey said Tuesday he hopes to identify an engineer this week and a timeline for the inspections of Southside to take place.

Classroom wing taken down in matter of hours Tuesday

Randolph H. Wind
Editor & Publisher

It did not take the Calmart Inc., crew long to raze the former Kindergarten wing at Southside Elementary School on Tuesday.

The structure, constructed in 1938, has been vacant for approximately eight years after school officials determined it was no longer structurally sound. That assessment was confirmed Tuesday as the building came down, according to Grady County School Sys-

tem Operations Director Jerry Cox.

"The I-beams and baseboards were deteriorated, floors sagging, it was not suitable for occupation. The construction used to build that building would not meet code by today's standards," Cox said.

Grady County Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kermit Gilliard agreed and said as he watched the roof come down it was obvious there was very little bracing in the roof.

"I'm satisfied demolition

was the right action to take," Cox added.

Calmart, Inc., was the low bidder on the project and is being paid \$16,800 to raze the structure and clear the site. According to Cox by the middle of next week the site should be completely cleared.

"They will begin loading dump trucks and hauling the debris away tomorrow," Cox said Tuesday night.

A portion of the bricks are being harvested and South-

► See **RAZED**, Page **A7**

CM 6-11-14



NICK GERALD of Calmart, Inc., made quick work of razing this 1938 building on the Southside Elementary School campus. Work began Tuesday morning knocking down the brick walls and shortly after the noon hour the roof began to come down.

Building built in 1938 on Southside campus is razed

► **RAZED, from Page A1**

side Elementary School Principal Janet Walden said they would be sold as part of a fundraiser for the school with details to be announced soon.

The razed structure also suffered from extensive termite damage according to school officials.

On Tuesday night, the Grady County Board of Education voted unanimously to contract with France Engineering, LLC of Tallahassee to evaluate the structural condition of the main building and auditorium on the Southside campus at a cost of \$2,600. France Engineering was recommended by Architect Ray Finger, who along with his wife Suzanne Finger, have developed a master site plan for Southside and completed a preliminary design for a new administrative building and classrooms tied to other existing structures on the campus.

"I contacted another architect to get a price and when it came in at between \$8,000 and \$10,000 I felt very good about this price and would recommend we contract

with France Engineering," School Superintendent Lee M. Bailey told board members Tuesday night.

He added, "We want to know what we've got underneath the building so we will know how to proceed. I'm going to request that they have a report for us before the next board meeting."

Bailey and Cox are concerned that engineers may find that costly repairs would be needed to address structural issues at the school's main building and auditorium.

The superintendent has repeatedly said he wanted to have professional evaluations and cost estimates before making any recommendation to the board. School board members are planning to include a major Southside project on the referendum election this fall to renew the penny sales tax for education.

Bailey said sales tax proceeds earmarked for Southside can only be invested in renovation of existing facilities. If the sales tax is renewed by the voters there will be money set aside for new construction at the

school.

In related news Tuesday, administrative personnel presented the board with a proposed Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax resolution which included proposed ballot language. Board members previously instructed Superintendent Bailey and Finance Officer Dan Broome to word the ballot in such a way as to give the school system as much flexibility as

possible with regards to how much would be spent on each project proposed to be paid for with sales tax proceeds.

The board took no action on the resolution Tuesday night, but Assistant Superintendent Gilliard recommended that the board act at the July meeting at the very latest.

cm
6-11-14



THIS WING, which has been vacant for about eight years, was demolished Tuesday on the Southside campus.



Inc., made quick work of razing this 1938 building on the campus. Work began Tuesday morning knocking down after the noon hour the roof began to come down.

Editorial

Did you vote for a presidential candidate in the last election?

A lawsuit has now been filed to add fuel to the fire abuilding in Atlanta to tamper with the various systems counties use to conduct elections. The lawsuit, filed on behalf of seven black citizens, attacks all current voting procedures used in the state, but takes special aim at punch card ballots. It singles out punch card ballots on the basis that they are used disproportionately in counties with substantial black and other minority populations.

The lawsuit also criticizes the optical scan method of voting, noting that the system requires voters to color in a blank by a candidate's name, but can fail if the coloring is done wrongly.

In other developments fueling this push, Secretary of State Cathy Cox has commented, according to news reports, "Change comes slowly, but you can't persuade me that 95,000 people who took time to go to the polls skipped the most important race. It tells me we've got a system that causes the loss of votes. The public should be disgusted with it."

Governor Barnes, in recommending \$200,000 to fund a study of the state's election systems, has commented, "We ought to make it easier to vote, more convenient to vote and ensure that when they do vote those votes are counted."

The Bibb County elections supervisor has been quoted as saying, "If we can get good public education about these new systems, we think they'll be wonderful."

And therein lies the chief fault in this rush for massive election process overhaul. If we can get good public education about the various current voting systems, it's a good bet the percentage of nonvotes will be reduced.

Consider these statewide figures:

In counties using the much maligned punch card system of voting, the percentage of nonvotes in the November presidential election ranged from a high of 8.6 percent in Calhoun County to a low of one-tenth of one percent in Marion County, where only two voters among 2186 failed to vote for president.

In counties using the optical/central count system, the percentage of nonvotes in the November presidential election ranged from a high of 9.90 percent in Taylor County to a low of seven-tenths of one percent in Fayette County.

In counties using the optical/precinct count system, the percentage of nonvotes in

the November presidential election ranged from a high of 18.8 percent in Ben Hill County to a low of one sixth of one percent in Cobb and Gwinnett Counties.

In the two counties that still use the paper ballot the non-presidential vote was 5.6 percent in Taliaferro County, but only 2.5 percent in Montgomery County.

And among the 76 counties which still use mechanical voting machines with levers, like Grady County, the percentage of nonvotes in the November presidential election ranged from a high of 10.5 percent in Bacon County to a low of zero percent in Bryan and Emanuel counties.

The variations in precinct count in Grady County regarding this nonvote for president issue adds further support to the case that individual voters don't have the same priorities when it comes to participating in an election, in spite of what Secretary Cox thinks.

Records indicate that 6.8 percent of Grady countians who went to the polls in November did not vote for a presidential candidate, but that percentage was not consistent precinct wide.

By precinct, the nonvote for president was a meager 1.7 percent in Cairo-4. It was 3.1 percent in Duncanville; 4.5 percent in Pine Park; 5 percent in Spence; 5.2 percent in Cairo 5; 5.9 percent in Woodland; 6.9 percent in Higdon; 7 percent in Spring Hill; 7.5 percent in Whigham and Blowing Cave; 8 percent in Ragan and Midway; and 9 percent in Lime Sink.

But, get this: of the 546 absentee paper ballots cast by Grady County voters and marked by hand, 67, a whopping 12 percent did not cast a vote for president. They chose not to check either of the four squares available.

That's pretty convincing evidence that the under vote in any election, whether it be for president, sheriff, representative, tax commissioner or any other official, is due primarily to the choice of those casting ballots and not due to a failure of the voting system.

The Bibb County elections supervisor hit the nail on the head when she qualified her support for "new voting systems" with the phrase, "if we can get good public education about them." An informed electorate would clear up a lot of the problems Secretary Cox bemoans and the plaintiffs in that law suit identify as discriminatory



15 Years Ago January 10, 1986

A total of 2466 students were named to the University of Georgia's Dean's List for the fall quarter. Included were Mary Holladay Lamar, Lei Angelynn Hall, Susan Kaye Hancock, Julie Patricia Childs and Jill Teresa Whigham of Grady County.

Daniel Gerard Blaydes and Johnny Dean Darsey of Grady County have been named to the Georgia Tech Dean's List for the fall quarter.

Nina Grimes and Rodney Turner were named to the Thomas College President's List for the fall quarter; Josie Bailey, Joey Daniels, Jeffrey Ouzts and Tammy Thomas were named to the Deans List; and Carolyn Fincher to the Merit List.

30 Years Ago January 8, 1971

Cairo Kiwanians, for their luncheon program last Tuesday, enjoyed a brief, but unusually timely, review of the development upsurge in the outstanding Whigham community. The review was presented with the use of numerous color slides by Julius J. Newberry and Thomas L. Walker, both vice presidents of the steadily growing Bank of Grady County there.

The local chamber of commerce made an urgent plea to the Georgia Public Service Commission to actively aid in getting the two Seaboard Coastline Waycross to Montgomery daily passenger



From Years Past

15, 30, 45, 60 Years Ago

trains included in the new federal "Railpax" program.

PFC Jimmy L. Anderson, son of Mr. and Mrs. J.P. Anderson, 215 Third Ave. SW, was selected from among all of the troops under Col. John W. Grady's command as "United States Armed Forces Southern Command Soldier of the Month."

45 Years Ago January 13, 1956

Over 600 visitors filed through the new Grady County Work Camp last Sunday afternoon, looked over the newly completed concrete building and were served refreshments by the guards' wives as part of the official opening of the camp.

At a meeting of the leaders of the Grady County Weather Modification Association, it was decided to continue the efforts to obtain a fund necessary to include Grady County in the "rain increase" operations of the Water Resources Development Corp. of Denver, Colo., now being carried out in several counties. S.E. George is chairman of the association and Carl Minter is treasurer. Some \$2800 will be needed by the latter part of next week to assure inclusion

of this county on a trial basis until next July.

Dr. C.W. Harvell, director of the Grady County Health Dept., said that out of 4000 Grady County children eligible to get the Saulk vaccine shots to prevent polio, only 302 have been vaccinated.

60 Years Ago January 10, 1941

The Cairo Mayor and Council now have under study a proposal to purchase and install a diesel engine and thereby generate all of the city's electrical energy now purchased from Georgia Power and Light Co.

The local abattoir was the scene last Tuesday of the slaughter of what is generally understood to have been the largest hog ever produced in Grady County. The hog, a big type black Poland China, was raised by J.A. Reynolds, a well-known farmer who resides northeast of Cairo. It weighed 850 pounds. Dr. F.S. Carr, local veterinarian, produced a hog several years ago that weighed 830 pounds.

Radio Clinic on South Broad Street announces that it is now stocking the Decca phonograph records, said to be the best on the market.

Looking Back



In 1906, the citizens of Cairo built a new brick building to replace an earlier frame academy. This is what was left after the building burned in 1921. All that firemen were able to save were the school's Victrola, a few books and desks from one classroom. Lost along with the building were 25 tons of coal in the basement, library books, two pianos and stage scenery painted by a German artist in 1914. Both the earlier wooden building and the burned brick building stood on the site of what is now Southside Elementary School. After the fire, which left the ruins pictured here, temporary wooden classrooms were hastily built on the site and a local contractor made 300 double desks to equip them. That temporary school was occupied 18 days after the fire, but fire quickly struck again, destroying the 18 temporary classrooms. Classes were then held in other buildings while more temporary classrooms were built to accommodate students until the present Southside School main building was completed and occupied in 1922.

Cairo & Grady County
The best community of its size in
the entire United States!

Banter

Randolph
Wind



They're gone...

Cairo firemen unceremoniously and quietly moved from downtown to beneath the overpass last Wednesday after the newspaper went to bed.

I'm sure there will be some pomp and circumstance when an open house celebration is thrown for all of us to gawk and gander at the interior of the impressive new facility.

For months we have all watched with anticipation as the building took form and now has reached completion.

I'm sure our Cairo firefighters are proud of their new quarters.

However, they will be missed downtown.

I'm not so sure they won't miss downtown, too.

At the new station it won't be as easy to sit out and enjoy watching passersby on a lazy afternoon as has been a summertime tradition at the firehouse downtown.

After all, our firemen, through annual fire prevention week activities, have done a pretty good job of teaching us not to play with fire.

According to the fire department's annual report issued to the Cairo city council this week, firefighters responded to 244 alarm and no alarm fires. That's not quite a call a day on average, so firemen have time for training and fire prevention.

They also have time to do other chores that the city manager might assign.

I have great respect for our firemen, but it's easy to tease them about not missing an episode of The Young and the Restless or knowing not only how many cars passed by the firestation on any given day, but also who was driving.

Assistant Chief Farrell Siler is a classmate of mine. I can recall of us in school wondering how in the world the fire department could sleep soundly with the courthouse burning down right across the street.

Naturally, children could not fully grasp the concept of all the circumstances surrounding that tragic fire, but at the time it was a running joke.

I continue to tease Farrell about it, but now that the firemen have moved across town, perhaps the courthouse is safer. Who knows?

However, being a small town firefighter is not always boring.

During 2000, Cairo firemen were dispatched once to retrieve a cat from a tree and once to check on a report of a squirrel in the attic. It's a tough job, but someone's got to do it. Right, Farrell?

All jokes aside, I salute our Cairo regular and volunteer firemen and hope you enjoy your impressive new facility for many, many years to come.

Letters welcomed

The Cairo Messenger reminds letter to the editor writers that shorter is better. Concise letters are not only better read, they are more likely to be published because limited space is available.

Almost any point can be made in 350 words or fewer, so this is set as an upper level for length. Unsigned letters, letters signed with a fictitious signature, copies of letters sent to public officials, or letters containing unverified or anonymous quotes will not be accepted. We limit letters on a subject when we feel it has been thoroughly aired to the point of letters becoming repetitive.

Also rejected are letters that are libelous, in bad taste, or personal attacks on individuals or private businesses. Writers must include addresses and telephone numbers. These are for identification purposes only, and will not be published.

The Cairo Messenger

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R.E. Wind, Editor - August 15, 1957, to March 1, 1963
H.H. Wind Jr., Publisher - August 15, 1957, to June 1, 1980
Robert H. Wind, Publisher - June 1, 1980 to January 1, 2000

Randolph H. Wind - Editor and Publisher
R.L. VanLandingham - Associate Editor
Mesha C. Wind - Director of Advertising

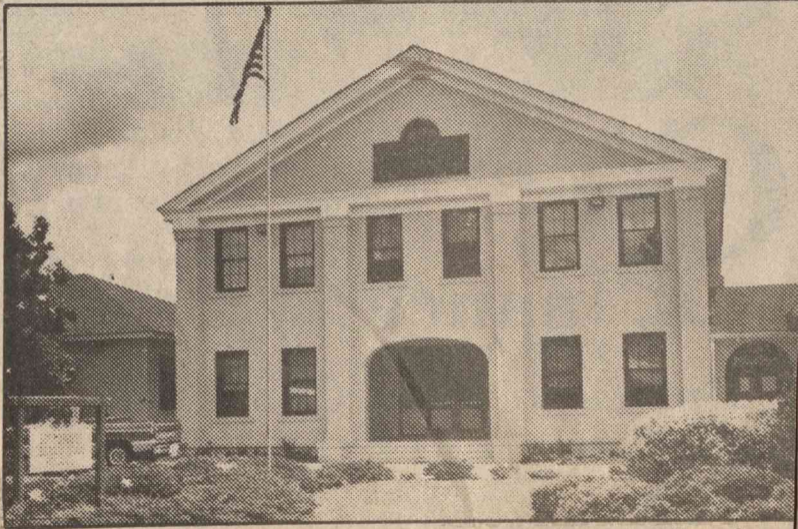
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Southside Elementary renovated to stately facade

Southside

THIS INDENTURE, made this _____ day of June, 1945, between A. B. Wight and Wendell Wight, heirs of K. P. Wight, deceased, parties of the first part and Board of Education of Grady County, Georgia, party of the second part.

WITNESSETH: That the said parties of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of One Dollar and other consideration, receipt of which is acknowledged, have bargained and sold and by these presents do bargain, sell and forever quit claim unto the said party of the second part, it's successors and assigns, all of the following described lands:

Strip of land in Cairo, Grady County, Georgia, fronting on the South side of Sixth Ave. S. E. and extending back South a distance of 200 feet, being bounded on the North by Sixth Ave. S. E., on the West by what is known as the J.B. Hawthorne property and on the East by Wight property, and being a part of the old Pelham and Havana Railroad right of way.

Forever relinquishing all rights, title, claim or demand in and to the above described lands, improvements and appurtenances to the said party of the second part, it's successors and assigns, in fee simple.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said A. B. Wight and Wendell Wight have hereunto set their hands and affixed their seals, on the day and year first above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered by A. B. Wight in Crescent County, Ga, on the 14 day of June, 1945, in the presence of:

A. B. Wight (SEAL)
A. B. Wight

D. W. Butler, Lieut, SC, USNR

N. P., _____ County, _____
My commission expires _____

Signed, sealed and delivered by Wendell Wight in Dougherty County, Georgia, on the 18th day of June, 1945, in presence of:

Wendell Wight (SEAL)
Wendell Wight

G. W. Chapman

N. P., State of County, Gen. at Large
My commission expires Feb. 9, 1949

Southside

THIS INDENTURE, made this _____ day of June, 1945, between Mrs. J. B. Wight, widow, and J. S. Wight and J. B. Wight, Jr., as executors of the last will and testament of J. B. Wight, Sr., deceased; Mrs. Sarah B. Wight, as executrix of the last will and testament of W. S. Wight, deceased; Mrs. Pearl Wight Clower; Miss Carrie Wight; Mrs. Thomas Wight, as executrix of the last will and testament of Thomas Wight, deceased; and Francis Brannon and Wight Brannon, as heirs of Mrs. Margaret Wight Brannon, deceased, parties of the first part, and Board of Education of Grady County, Georgia, party of the second part.

WITNESSETH: That the said parties of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of One Dollar and other consideration, receipt of which is acknowledged, have bargained and sold and by these presents do bargain, sell and forever quit claim unto the said party of the second part, it's successors and assigns, all of the following described lands:

Strip of land in Cairo, Grady County, Georgia, fronting on the South side of Sixth Ave. S. E. and extending back South a distance of 200 feet, being bounded on the North by Sixth Ave. S. E., on the West by what is known as the J. B. Hawthorne property and on the East by Wight property, and being a part of the old Pelham and Havana Railroad right of way.

Forever relinquishing all rights, title, claim or demand in and to the above described lands, improvements and appurtenances to the said party of the second part, it's successors and assigns, in fee simple.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said parties of the first part have hereunto set their hands and affixed their seals, the day and year first above written.

Mrs. J. B. Wight, Sr. (SEAL)
J. S. Wight (SEAL)
J. B. Wight, Jr. (SEAL)

Mrs. J. B. Wight, widow, and J. S. Wight and J. B. Wight, Jr., executors of the last will and testament of J. B. Wight, Sr., deceased.

Mrs. Sarah B. Wight (SEAL)
Mrs. Sarah B. Wight, executrix of the last will and testament of W. S. Wight, deceased.

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of:

N. F., Grady County, Ga.

My commission expires: _____

Southside

THIS INDENTURE, made this _____ day of June, 1945, between George A. Wight, party of the first part and Board of Education of Grady County, Georgia, party of the second part.

WITNESSETH: That the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of One Dollar and other consideration, receipt of which is acknowledged, have bargained and sold and by these presents does bargain, sell and forever quit claim unto the said party of the second part, it's successors and assigns, all of the following described lands:

Strip of land in Cairo, Grady County, Georgia, fronting on the South side of Sixth Ave. S. E. and extending back South a distance of 200 feet, being bounded on the North by Sixth Ave. S. E., on the West by what is known as the J.B. Hawthorne property and on the East by Wight property, and being a part of the old Pelham and Havana Railroad right of way.

Forever relinquishing all rights, title, claim or demand in and to the above described lands, improvements and appurtenances to the said party of the second part, it's successors and assigns, in fee simple.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said George A. Wight, has hereunto set his hand and affixed his seal, on the day and year first above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered by George A. Wight, in Dade County, Florida, on the _____ day of June, 1945, in the presence of:

George A. Wight (SEAL)
George A. Wight

Raymond O. Jensen
Carol J. O'Steen

N. E., Dade County, Florida.

My commission expires _____
Notary Public, State of Florida at large.
My commission expires Nov. 16, 1945.
Breded by American Surety Co. of N. Y.

THIS INDENTURE, made the 29th Day of December In the year of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-five between

W. J. POWELL

of the County of Thomas and State of Georgia Of the First Part, and

GRADY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Of the County of Grady and State of Georgia

of the Second Part, Witnesseth: That the said party of the First Part, for and in consideration of the sum of Ten Dollars and other valuable consideration ----- Dollars in hand paid, at and before the sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, has granted, bargained, sold, aliened, conveyed and confirmed, and by these presents does grant, bargain, sell, alien, convey and confirm unto the party of the Second Part, its successors and assigns, all the following described property to-wit:

All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the City of Cairo in Land Lot #59 in the 18th Land District of Grady County, Georgia, containing one-fourth (1/4) acre, more or less, and bounded northward by Decatur Street, southward by land formerly owned by Blair, westward by Mitchell Street, and eastward by lands formerly owned by M. L. Wight; being the same property described in a deed from K. Powell to W. J. Powell dated September 20, 1910, and recorded in Deed Book 7, folio 113, in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Grady County, Georgia.



To have and Hold the said above granted and described property, with all and singular, the rights, members and appurtenances thereunto appertaining to the only proper use, benefit and behoof of the said party of the Second Part, its successors and assigns, in Fee Simple; and the said party of the first part, the said bargained property above described, unto the said party of the Second Part, its successors and assigns, against the said party of the First Part, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, and against all and every other person or persons, shall and will and does hereby warrant and forever defend, by virtue of these presents.

In Witness Whereof the said party of the First Part has hereunto set his hand and affixed his seal and delivered these presents the day and year first above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of us in the County of Thomas State of Georgia

[Signature of W. J. Powell] (L. S.) (W. J. Powell)

..... (L. S.)

[Signature of Ruby Dell Slater] [Signature of Harriet M. Gask]

..... (L. S.)

THIS INDENTURE, made this 21st day of June, 1945, between Mrs. Walter L. Wight, Frank Wight, Mrs. Paul Mize, Mrs. H. T. McGahee and Miss Augusta Wight, heirs of W. L. Wight, deceased, parties of the first part and Board of Education of Grady County, Georgia, party of the second part.

WITNESSETH: That the said parties of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of One Dollar and other consideration, receipt of which is acknowledged, have bargained and sold and by these presents do bargain, sell and forever quit claim unto the said party of the second part, it's successors and assigns, all of the following described lands:

Strip of land in Cairo, Grady County, Georgia, fronting on the South side of Sixth Ave. S. E. and extending back South a distance of 200 feet, being bounded on the North by Sixth Ave. S. E., on the West by what is known as the J. B. Hawthorne property and on the East by Wight property, and being a part of the old Pelham and Havana Railroad right of way.

Forever relinquishing all rights, title, claim or demand in and to the above described lands, improvements and appurtenances to the said party of the second part, it's successors and assigns, in fee simple.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said parties of the first part have hereunto set their hands and affixed their seals, the day and year first above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered by Mrs. Walter L. Wight, Frank Wight and Mrs. Paul Mize, in Grady County, Georgia, on June 21st, 1945, in presence of:

Mrs. Walter L. Wight (SEAL)
Mrs. Walter L. Wight
Frank Wight (SEAL)
Frank Wight
Mrs. Paul Mize (SEAL)
Mrs. Paul Mize

[Signature]
[Signature]
N. P., Grady County, Ga.
By commission Notary Public, State of Large, Cairo, Ga.
My Commission Expires July 20, 1945

Signed, sealed and delivered by Mrs. H. T. McGahee, in Grady County, Georgia on June 21st, 1945, in presence of:

Mrs. H. T. McGahee (SEAL)
Mrs. H. T. McGahee

[Signature]
[Signature]
N. P., Grady County, Ohio.
By Commission expires: Notary Public, State of Large, Cairo, Ga.
My Commission Expires July 20, 1945

Signed, sealed and delivered
by Miss Augusta Wight, in
Fulton County, Georgia, on
June 19th, 1945, in presence of:

Miss Augusta Wight
Miss Augusta Wight

(SEAL)

May Ivey

N. P., Fulton County, Georgia
Notary Public, Georgia, State at Large.
My Commission expires: My Commission Expires Oct. 4, 1947,