Schools of the Easley Area

Alice School

Those of us who know Alice School as it is today can hardly realize that in 1911, when Alice Mill began operations, there was no school at all. Soon after, however, the school originated in a small dwelling with Miss Lillian Sholar as the first teacher. As enrollment increased, it became necessary to move the school to the large hall directly over the mill office. Until she was succeeded by Miss Brucie Ellison, Miss Sholar served for several years as the only teacher.

The enrollment increased so rapidly that it was soon impossible for one teacher to do all the work. Mrs. Anna McCombs and Miss Maballe Hamilton succeeded Miss Ellison, and in turn were succeeded by Mrs. Mary McCombs and Miss Annie Nell Wyatt. When Miss Wyatt resigned, Miss Ethel Dorr was elected to fill her place.

Still additional enrollment during the following year made a double session necessary. The need for a larger building was so great that construction of the present Alice School building was begun and completed in 1925.

The building consisted of six classrooms and a large auditorium. Only four grades were taught until the summer of 1938 when it was decided that Alice would have five grades. In 1949, due to conditions at Easley High School, plans were made so that Alice could have her own sixth and seventh grades. Additional space was needed and, during the summer of 1949, a new classroom, kitchen and dining room were added. Many other improvements were made, including the beautification of the school yards, making Alice one of the most attractive schools in Easley.

Mrs. Mary McCombs served faithfully and efficiently as principal of Alice School from 1924, until her retirement in 1947. At that time she was succeeded by Miss Dorothy Stone as principal. The faculty at that time included: Miss Montez Whitfield, 7th grade; Mrs. Dora Sue Evans, 6th grade; Mrs. Ben Griffin, 5th grade; Miss Dorothy Stone, Principal and 4th grade teacher; Mrs. W. H. Forrest, 3rd grade; Miss Ethel Dorr, 2nd grade; and Miss Lois Latham, 1st grade.

And now, in 1957 we find only two changes in our faculty. In the fall of 1951, Mrs. H. G. Dowling became teacher of the 7th grade as successor to Miss Montez Whitfield. Mrs. F. M. Julian came to us in January, 1954 to fill the 5th grade vacancy made by the resignation of her sister, Mrs. Ben Griffin.

All through the years there has been splendid cooperation between teachers and patrons. This, plus the wise leadership of the late superintendent W. M. Scott and our own Superintendent J. C. Brice, has made for much progress in our school and community.

In recent months we have been happy because of so many physical improvements at Alice School. These include: new basements, fluorescent lighting, new drinking fountains, a new stoker, a stage curtain, an automatic dishwasher, and new tables and chairs in the lunch room. All of these comforts are conducive to better learning. [The Alice School was closed and the students attend McKissick Elementary.] Sources. Alice Manufacturing Booklet. Published 1957. Abstracted by

Arial School

Erected during the summer of 1929, this addition to the Easley School System was ready for operation that fall. The late Mr. W. M. Scott, head of the Easley Schools for 25 years, was Superintendent at the time; the Board of Trustees was composed of Mr. M. E. Garrison, Mr. Ben Woodside and the late Mr. E. L. Bolt. In the beginning, six teachers were employed to serve the enrollment of 200 students.

Shortly after Arial School opened, a Parent-Teacher Association was organized and functioned efficiently until it disbanded at the outbreak of the war. Through the assistance of this organization, many improvements and additions were noted at the Arial School. Included among the activities instituted by the P. T. A. is the annual community fair where exhibits of flowers, canned goods, sewing and cooking are presented. The school has also added a lunchroom which has increased the value of school life in the Arial community immeasurably.

The two principals, who have served the Arial School faithfully through the years are, Mrs. Anna McCombs and Miss Alma Van Lindham.

Pupils and teachers were saddened in December, 1948, by the death on Christmas Day of their beloved Superintendent, Mr. W. M. Scott, who had successfully led Easley Schools through twenty-five years of progress. Mr. Scott has a worthy successor in Superintendent J. C. Brice, who was the very capable Principal of Easley High School for a number of years.

Several years ago we started an elementary school library for the children in Arial School. At the present time we have eight hundred regular books in the fields of fiction, science, and history. We also have seven hundred supplementary readers, a set of Compton's Pictured Encyclopedia, and thirty-five copies of Webster's dictionary for the fourth and fifth grades. The greatest need at this time is a reading room where these books can be placed on shelves within the reach of children. This is the next project that the school is undertaking.

In the summer of 1955, the electrical system of Arial was brought up to date with fluorescent lights for the classrooms and lunch room, indirect lighting in the auditorium, and outlets in all the classrooms enabling the teachers to use record players, slides and movies to enrich the regular courses of studies.

In 1956, two electric water coolers were installed in the halls. Several new maps were bought and a rex-o-graph machine was added to the school's equipment. New tables and chairs, also a steam table greatly added to the attractiveness and efficiency of the lunch room.
Through the combined efforts of the patrons, Mr. McKissick, and the school, a lovely new stage curtain and draperies for the windows in the auditorium were purchased in the spring of 1957.

This year, 1957, Arial has seven grades, a student body of 200 pupils, and a faculty of seven teachers. Source: Alice Manufacturing Booklet. 1957. Edited by Jenny Nicholson and Meg Hunnicutt

1929. "The work on Easley's new school buildings is progressing nicely. H. W. Hamilton, who has the contract for the solid brick building at North Side, has the foundations in and has started the walls. The Arial School, which is being built by Cox and Hodges of Greenville, is of brick veneer. It is being rushed to completion as fast as possible. The frame of this building is about up." (Easley Progress, July 11, 1929) Article copied by

Brights Station School

The Brights Station School was a two-room frame structure. It seems to have been used at least during the 1920's to 1940's. This school is located off Lenhardt Road and served many black families of that area. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lee Hendricks recall attending the school in the 1920's and 30's. Mr. Hendricks went to the 8th grade there and then went to Simpson School. Their children also attended Brights Station. Mr. Osborne Sloan went to Brights Station and recalls several teachers; Mr. Johnny Cox, Mabelle Williams, Bertha Collins, Myrtle Copeland, and Inez Gosnell.

The school building also served as a meeting place for the congregation of New Foundation Baptist church from 1925 to 1933 when the church was built nearby. Sources: Interviews with Mr. Osborne Sloan and Mr. and Mrs. Henry L. Hendricks, April, 1989. Written by

Cedar Rock School

"There was a nearby school known as Holly Bush School. Holly Bush and Tabor schools eventually were consolidated and the new school was named Cedar Rock School." (Excerpt from letter written on January 19, 1989 by from the Cedar Rock Baptist Church)

Cedar Wreath School

Cedar Wreath was established about the year 1844-1852. The building was rectangular with a large fireplace at one end and doors and windows on each side. It was made up of planks boarded up and down. A few planks across the joist served as a ceiling. The first floor was made of ply-tongued and grooved. This was unusual in floors of that day. The seats were slabs with strong pegs inserted for legs. Later the building was made longer, and desks were added. These desks were hand-made and were used by several pupils sitting side-by-side.

A roof was made of boards. A blackboard, made of poplar planks painted black, was used, and could be moved from place to place.

The first school was a pay school. The men, who had school-age children, subscribed the funds necessary to pay the teachers. Often, other men helped pay the expenses.

Poor children were allowed to attend free. Sometimes, the teachers took part of their salary in board, going from house to house.

Later the school became part of the county system. Some of the trustees of the school were Col. W. S. Pickens, J. W. Rosamond, Wesley Pickens, Isadore Elrod and Dixon Settore.

Some of the teachers were Misses Melinda and Mary McWhorter, Miss Nan Rosamond Glenn, Rev. J. Stockman, Powell Smith, Will Knight, Miss Jennie Rosamond, Rev. E. P. Warren, V. E. Masters, Clarence Pickens and Lewis Ellison.

Cedar Wreath was burned on May 6, 1896, and was rebuilt. The children who attended there went to other schools, possibly St. Paul, Mt. Airy and Concrete. Source: Easley Progress. Three articles by Date unknown.

Crosswell Elementary School

The first Crosswell School was organized in 1889. John Easley donated his cotton house for the school building which was located across from Crosswell Baptist Church in Crosswell Community.

Miss Carrie Easley, sister of John Easley, was the first teacher. Parents paid approximately three dollars per month for the teacher's salary. There were five or six children enrolled.

The following year, 1890, Crosswell School was built on Crosswell School Road near what is now the Upper State Fairgrounds. The land was donated by Daniel W. Massingale and O. W. Garrison. The building was a one-room frame structure with no water or toilets.

In 1908, this building was torn down and another frame building was erected. A well was dug, but with every rainfall it filled with muddy water, so it could not be used.

The third building was built in 1915. It had two rooms with an auditorium upstairs. It was heated with a potbelly wood stove and had outdoor toilets. Water was carried from across the road. This building was built in accordance with plans and specifications as set forth by the School Commission of South Carolina.

The first hot lunches were started by Mrs. Charlie Johnson. Each child brought his own plate and spoon and was served from a big boiler on a potbelly stove.
The first bus to carry children to and from school was a Model T Ford driven by Lawrence Garrison.

In the 1920's, a new brick building with six classrooms and an auditorium was built. The old school building was moved and changed into a house for the school custodian.

At the time that building was built there were four teachers. Beginning with twenty five books, the first school library was started. Money for these books was donated by the state, the students, and the teachers.

The present Crosswell Elementary School, built in 1980, is located at the intersection of Saluda Dam Road and Kay Drive. The building has 12 regular classrooms, an art room, a music room, and two kindergarten rooms.

In 1986, two portable classrooms were added to the school. An additional portable was placed at the school in 1987. The school presently has an enrollment of 420 students.

Easley High School

In 1875, the late Mr. W. S. Morrison, later professor of English at Clemson College, taught two terms in the old Methodist Church building. This may properly be called the beginning of public schools in Easley.

Mr. Morrison was succeeded in 1876 by Mr. Geo. E. Prince of Anderson, a young law student, who later became a lawyer of note and a presiding Judge of the Tenth South Carolina Judicial Circuit. He taught in a new academy, which the citizens of Easley had erected by popular subscription during the summer.

Mr. Prince was succeeded by Mr. D. G. Humbert in 1877, a very pious and able young man, from Laurens County. He taught very successfully for several terms to the fall of 1879.

After the death or resignation of Mr. Humbert, the school was taught by Mr. Coltrain, assisted by Miss Lizzie Hutchins, the late Mrs. J. N. Howard of this town. They taught first in the academy and later in the R. K. Hill residence on Pumkpintown Street in 1879-80.

Mr. Coltrain was succeeded by Mr. J. T. Prichard who taught one term, 1880-81. While Mr. Prichard was the principal, a new two-story academy was built by a joint stock company on what is now known as College Street.

Mr. Prichard was succeeded by Mr. C. W. Moore of Anderson County, who was a very strict disciplinarian and a splendid teacher. He built the school up to a high state of efficiency, but only taught two years, 1881-83. He was succeeded by Mr. D. C. Lake of Edgefield, who was very successful in the management of the school for several years. He then moved to Texas where he afterward became president of a college.

Mr. Lake was succeeded by Mr. W. W. Wrightson, who taught for several terms until 1890. He was succeeded by Mr. J. C. Baird, who also taught very successfully for several terms, and then moved to Charlotte, N. C., where he has since been principal of a boy's high school. He was succeeded by Mr. W. H. Willis, who taught one year and was succeeded by Mr. M. S. Stribling, who after teaching two years, went to Pickens and later back to Oconee County, his home.

At the close of school taught by Mr. Stribling, the county had been divided into school districts, and in place of three township trustees, there were three appointed for each school districts. The town was made a school district. Before this connection with the township, trustees who only attended to the distribution of the funds derived from the constitutional tax, each school had a board of trustees who employed the teachers and looked after the management of the school. The Easley school had eight trustees. They had to guarantee the teachers' salaries, and very frequently they would have to put their hands in their pockets at the end of the year to finish paying the teachers.

About this time, 1893, the legislature passed an act allowing the freeholders of a school district to vote a special tax of not more than four mills to supplement the Constitutional three mill tax, each voter specifying the school to which he wished it applied.

In the spring of 1894, the Easley School District, one of the first in the state to do so, voted an extra four mill system. This was the beginning of the graded free school in Easley. It was also the end of the elected board of trustees. The management of the school was turned over to the district trustees.

In the fall of 1894, Mr. W. A. Dagnall taught the last pay school. The free school began after the collection of the taxes January, 1895. Mr. Dagnall taught one year and was succeeded by Mr. J. C. Lanston, under whose management the school grew very rapidly. He was principal for four years and was succeeded in 1908 by Mr. H. B. Dominick, who taught for the period of two years and was succeeded by Mr. J. C. Daniels, who was principal for three years from 1902-1905. (It was about this time that the present high school building was erected.) He was succeeded by Mr. O. D. Scay who remained only one year and was assisted by Miss Mae Putman.

Mr. Scay was succeeded by Mr. R. C. Burns, who served as superintendent of the graded and high school for four years, 1907-1911. During this time he was assisted in the high school, which consisted of the ninth and tenth grades in one room and the seventh and eighth in another, in 1907-1908 by Miss Mae Putman and Miss Roseborough, in 1908-1909 by Miss Mamie Norris, and in 1909-1910 and in 1910-1911 by Miss Sallie Watkins.

Mr. Burns built up the school to a high state of efficiency. He was succeeded by Mr. J. S. Kennedy who served one year. Mr. Kennedy was assisted by Miss Bess Burton, Miss Sallie Watkins, and his father in the high school work.

He was succeeded by Mr. W. W. Benson who served three years from 1912-1915. Mr. Benson was assisted by Miss Bess Burton in 1912-1913, and in 1913-1914 and in 1914-1915 by Miss Floride Davis, now Mrs. J. M. Smith of Easley.
He was succeeded by Mr. G. W. Coggins who served from 1915 to the spring of 1919. He was assisted in the high school in 1915-1916 by Miss Sarah Babb as principal. Miss Winnie Manning, music; and Miss Cecil Jewel. In 1916-1917 Miss Sarah Babb was principal; the other teachers were Miss Virginia King, Mr. Griffin, Mr. Marvin Mahaffey, and Mrs. G. W. Coggins. In 1917-1918 the assistants were: Miss Janie Thornton, Miss Margaret Morrison, and Miss Alice Martin. In 1918-1919, by Miss Janie Thornton and Miss Frances Anderson.

In the spring of 1918, Mr. Coggins resigned to accept a position at Clemson College. He was succeeded by Mr. F. V. Clayton, now county Superintendent of Education.

Mr. Clayton conducted the work very successfully here and was succeeded in 1919-1920 by Mr. Riser who resigned in a short time. Mr. L. M. Bauknight, our present agriculture teacher, now took up the work assisted by Miss Bowers, Miss Dorothy Moore, Miss Ruth Williams, and Miss May Beth Johnson.

In 1920, Superintendent J. V. McElveen took up the work which he has carried on very successfully up to this date. The eleventh grade was added in 1920-1921. The high school teachers in 1920-1921 were: Mr. W. L. England, principal, Miss Ana Aycock, Miss Gladys Dugan, Miss Cassie Nichols, Miss Mary Bird, Miss Isadora Williams, and Mr. L. M. Bauknight. In 1921-1922, the high school teachers were: Mr. W. L. England, principal; Mr. A. C. Meeteze, Mr. J. F. Knece, Mr. E. E. Perry, Miss Kate LaBoon, Miss Jennie Cox, Miss May Beth Johnson, and Miss Sarah Sanders who took Miss Isadora Williams' position as domestic science teacher when Miss Williams resigned to accept a position in Alabama.

The Easley High School has grown very rapidly during the last few years and is still making great progress.

During the last few years agriculture and domestic science courses have been put in the high school, which have been a great benefit to the school as well as the community. Source: Easley Progress. "Easley High School" by April 11, 1923.

**East End Elementary School**

The history of East End Elementary School begins the late 1940's. The parents on the east side of the tracks decided there was enough children to form a new school. They had been sending their children across the tracks to Northside and it was dangerous. This east side needed a school.

Five parents came up with the idea that a school was needed. Their names were R. Carl Byars, Roy McCall, A. P. Fant, John Hopkins, and Hugh Hamilton. They went to the Board of Trustees. The spokesmen presented their need to the School Board of Trustees. At the request of the Board, the wives of these five men conducted a survey in the East End neighborhood, counting the number of children in each family as well as the number of expected children. After this process indicated a large number of children in the area, the Board of Trustees agreed the need did exist for a new school to serve the children of that community. They set out to find a suitable piece of land for the school building. The location they found belonged to the A. G. Wyatt Estate, who sold the Board of Trustees the land where East End Elementary school was built.

They have had four principals in the history of the school. They are: Marilyn Kelly, Jim Hughes, B. B. McKelvey, and Don Batson. There are approximate 475 students who presently attend. When East End first opened, there were about 288 pupils.

In 1987, a $125,000 renovation included air conditioners, floors, dropped ceilings, insulation and lights. The nine-week construction work also involved painting classrooms, refinishing chalkboards, rewiring the building, as well as paving the outside playground, parking lots, and walkways. Sources: Interview with Don Batson, Principal; Easley Progress, article by Missy Jordan.

**Forest Acres Elementary School**

In 1964, it was decided that East End, West End, and Northside Elementary Schools were crowded and they needed a school in Easley on the west side of highway 123. When Pickens County School District bought the property from L. H. Smith, there were trees on the 20 acres of land and few houses in the neighborhood.

The school was completed in 1966 and called Forest Acres because it was located in the Forest Acres community. At the beginning, there were three small buildings with thirteen classrooms including special education. Forest Acres was designed for a warm climate like Florida. When the school began, there were openings in the halls for ventilation. Since Pickens County is cold in the winter, the School District had to close them.

Mr. William Childers was the first principal. There were two janitors, Ben and Charlie Mae Walton, and they kept the building very clean. There were no art, physical education, music and library classes. When the school first opened, there were 350 students.

In 1970, the new addition was constructed. The next year Forest Acres had over 700 students and the School District added four portables because it was getting crowded.

In 1981, Mrs. Sandra Bandy became assistant principal. She became our principal when Mr. Childers retired. Mrs. Bandy is going to leave this year (1989) and the faculty, staff, and students are unhappy.

Forest Acres presently had 591. The school district built a new West End School and this area was rezoned.

Mrs. Sandra Bandy remembers a special field day when a student tried to be "superman" and jump over the kindergarten fence behind the building. He did not make it!
She also remembers when a student brought a sick bat to her in a potato chip bag from the playground. They ran tests on the bat and found that it was rabid and two students took rabies shots because they had touched the animal.

Teachers who taught during the year 1966-1967.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Salary</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. William G. Childers</td>
<td>8466</td>
<td>Principal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Ressie D. Murphree</td>
<td>5344</td>
<td>Grade 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Rachel M. Quailes</td>
<td>4768</td>
<td>Grade 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Jessie Mae Blackman</td>
<td>6311</td>
<td>Grade 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Freia K. McCanless</td>
<td>3988</td>
<td>Grade 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Judie S. Kelly</td>
<td>4865</td>
<td>Grade 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Martha S. Kirk</td>
<td>6032</td>
<td>Grade 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Martha S. Kirk</td>
<td>4451 (resigned 10/31/66)</td>
<td>Grade 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Josephine H. Hutchin</td>
<td>6311</td>
<td>Grade 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Anna B. Thomas</td>
<td>5254</td>
<td>Grade 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Mary C. Cartette</td>
<td>4768</td>
<td>Grade 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Carolyn W. Wilson</td>
<td>5060</td>
<td>Grade 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Susan R. Frampston</td>
<td>4671</td>
<td>Special Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Evelyn A. Darby</td>
<td>5150</td>
<td>Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Nancy R. Alexander</td>
<td>6311 (one day a week)</td>
<td>Grade 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Gertude Sanders</td>
<td>(began 11/1/66)</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carol Newsome</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lunchroom Supervisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Norma Tripp</td>
<td></td>
<td>Custodian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Edna Hunter</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lunchroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ben Walton</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lunchroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlie Mae Walton</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bobbie Mae Stewart</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lunchroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessie Harkins Gillespie</td>
<td>(September to March)</td>
<td>Lunchroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bertha Inez McCombs</td>
<td>(September to December)</td>
<td>Lunchroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thelma Pepper</td>
<td>(January to May)</td>
<td>Lunchroom</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Glenwood Elementary School**

The old Glenwood School building was erected in 1904. Part of the material used in the building was salvaged from the ruins of an old Negro church, that stood about where the residence of D. B. Cobb now stands. The building had two stories, the upper was used as a lodge hall, the one-room lower floor, with elevated stage served as a school room until the year 1917-1918 when the new modern building was erected.

In 1905, there was only one teacher, Miss Lula Glazener. The equipment of the school room was not up to the present day, but was equipped equal to the average school and better than some. Water was brought to the school room in buckets and a dipper was used by all the children. Later one, possibly 1908, two teachers were employed, Miss Mamie Johnson and Rev. W. A. Christopher. These two served the school several years. The next teachers were Miss Mabel Duckworth, a resident of Easley, and Professor W. W. West. Under their leadership, new desks were installed, new school room equipment was bought, such as blackboards, maps, and globes.

The inadequacy of our school building was one of the great worries of our school patrons. The election of Miss Virginia as principal and community worker later proved to be a turning point in the history of our school and community. She has proved a great value to our community through her staunch leadership and has won the love and admiration of our people.

The late W. M. Hagood helped erect the present modern building. Children and teachers alike began their work in the new building in 1917. Today, we have one of the former pupils, Miss Ella Mae Loftis, of the school teaching grade four in this school. (Easley Progress, November 5, 1936.)

**McKissick Elementary School**

McKissick Elementary was built because three schools were old, rundown, and overcrowded. The three buildings at Alice, Arial, and Northside were small neighborhood schools built in the early 1900's. There were people moving to the neighborhood who wanted a modern learning facility. Pickens County School District made plans to build McKissick Elementary.

In 1973, McKissick School was built by the Triangle Construction Company. The original plans indicated that three sections were going to be built. Mr. Glenn Turner, the principal, didn't want the three buildings because students would have to go outside in the rain, sleet, snow, or hail across two buildings to get to the cafeteria and activity areas. So, they compromised by building separate pods housed under one roof. The educational facility has such a unusual shape because the
School District wanted flexibility in grouping the students. The school was named after the McKissick family because they did so much for the other three neighborhood mill educational institutions.

McKissick opened in the fall of 1975. The first year began with 37 teachers, five aides, two secretaries, three custodians, six lunchroom personnel, and one bus coordinator. The school commenced with 850 students receiving 130 students from both West End and East End. Due to the mill schools closing, McKissick received all the students from the three public grammar schools and all their library materials. Before McKissick Elementary opened, Glenn D. Turner had been principal of the three mill schools. The highest enrollment was 893 in the spring of 1978.

The Assistant Principals are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>1975-1976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Mike Mahaffey</td>
<td>1976-1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Sam Cox</td>
<td>1977-1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Susan Stegall</td>
<td>1979-1980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Gary Looper</td>
<td>1980-1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Jean Perry</td>
<td>1981-1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Larry Shirley</td>
<td>1982-1987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Cindi Hummecutt</td>
<td>1987-Present</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Due to the generosity of Ellison McKissick, the Computer Lab began in 1986. He gave an additional 30 computer terminals to faculty and students in the school year of 1987-88.

The school building was struck by lightning in 1982, shortly after the students were dismissed for the day. It caused a great deal of damage and $15,000 to repair it.

The first year (1975-1976) staff and faculty were as follows:

* Denotes faculty and staff presently at McKissick

*Glenn D. Turner
*Mrs. Katherine Baker
Mrs. Joyce Watson
*Mrs. Sue Deane
Mrs. Mary Hendricks
*Mrs. Christine Julian
*Mrs. Cecilia Spearman
Mrs. Mary West
Mrs. Mamie Couch
*Mrs. Nancy Eads
*Miss Sara Ann Lusk
*Mrs. Alfreda Wright
Mrs. Carolyn Cribb
Mrs. Marie Hursucker
*Mrs. Karla Skelton
Mrs. Martha Stewart
Mrs. Beverly Curry
Miss Gayle Anderson
*Miss Betty Jane Dodgens
*Mrs. Diane Lay
*Mrs. Linda Peake
Miss Joan Pettigrew
Mrs. Nancy King
Mrs. Jewel Curtis
Mrs. Barbara Holder
Mrs. Martha Hopper
Mrs. Annie Murphy
Mrs. Susan Edwards
Mrs. Jan Crowe
Mrs. Lora Franklin
*Mrs. Kay Hall
*Mrs. Grace Hamilton
*Mrs. Linda Hughes
Mrs. Barbara Fox
Mrs. Naomi Rhodes
*Mr. Dwight Robinson
Mrs. Esther Moore
*Miss Judy Ellison
Mrs. Phyllis Jeanes
Miss Eugenia Salley
Mrs. Merle Batson

Principal
Secretary
Secretary
Grade 1
Grade 1
Grade 1
Grade 1
Grade 1
Grade 2
Grade 2
Grade 2
Grade 2
Grade 2
Grade 3
Grade 3
Grade 3
Grade 3
Grade 4
Grade 4
Grade 4
Grade 4
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Grade 4
Grade 4
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Grade 5
Grade 5
Grade 5
Grade 5
Grade 6
Grade 6

Physical Education
Librarian
Kindergarten
Reading
Special Education
Music
Reading
Resource
Art
Kindergarten
Aide
It was in the year 1921, that the high school building could no longer accommodate the hundreds of children who were crowding her classrooms and the trustees could find only one solution to the problem--the erection of two new buildings, one West End and the other Northside.

Since its opening, Northside has averaged a yearly enrollment of over two hundred pupils, and last year marked the passing of her first full-time seventh grade into high school.

Some very competent, faithful and untiring teachers have served this school. The first year when Mr. J. V. McAlveen was superintendent, Miss Annie Adcock was principal and Miss Nell Hill, Miss Christine Walker, Miss Kate Price, Miss Grace Wyatt, Miss Ellen Ellison, Miss Elizabeth McNabb, Miss Mammie Bryan and Mrs. Robert Long were the teachers.

The next year, 1922-1923, was the last one that Mr. McAlveen was with the schools of Easley. The teachers that session were: Miss Annie Johnson, Miss Ellen Ellison, Miss Nell Hill, Miss Elizabeth McNabb, Miss Hariett Meares, Miss Bonnie Babb, and Mrs. A. G. King.

With the opening of this session and thru the wise choice of our trustees, Mr. W. M. Scott came to us as our superintendent. It was during this year that a veritable literary revival swept thru our schools. A book case with about twenty-five volumes was presented to Northside by Mr. Scott and the trustees. To this nucleus was added a set of Junior Classics, presented by Mr. M. E. Garrison, and the Book of Knowledge in fifteen volumes was then added as a gift of Mrs. R. E. Lathem, Mr. A. B. Taylor, Mr. E. L. Bolt, Mrs. O. S. Parrish, Mr. Frank Wyatt, and Mr. Ben Woodside. The teachers for this year were Miss Annie Johnson, Miss Ruth Cannon, Miss Elizabeth McNabb, Miss Julia Maria Davis, Miss Bonnie Babb, and Mrs. King.

Northside opened her 1924-1925 session with Miss Bryson, Miss Mary Turner, Miss Maude Myrick, Miss Alice Gasque, Miss Ellie Boggs, Miss Lyrah Land and Mrs. King as teachers.

One of the greatest movements ever put on in the Easley schools was started in the fall of 1925, when Mr. Scott had a book case placed in each room with the request that they be filled with suitable books as rapidly as possible. At the close of that year, 470 books had been placed in our school, including a revised unabridged dictionary. It was during this session that a wide-awake P. T. A. was organized with Mrs. Ben Day as president, Mrs. Sam Robinson, vice-president, Mrs. Brandon Taylor, secretary, Miss Virginia Drummond, treasurer. They have placed six seats on the grounds, planted flowers and shrubbery, set out trees and hedge, had constructed a platform in the assembly hall and other help in a material way. The P. T. A. was also instrumental in having the sidewalk by the school house paved and the house wired. A long felt need was filled that year by the opening of a class room with the hall making space enough for the assembling of the entire school.

September 6th marked the beginning of the sixth year of school work with 262 on roll, and in charge as teachers the following: Mrs. C. M. Jenkins, Mrs. Clarence Smith, Miss Mary Turner, Miss Alice Gasque, Miss Lerah Land, Miss Virginia Drummond, Miss Unice Bennett, and Mrs. King. This being the year that the departmental work was inaugurated in the school, it was feared that the general smoothness which had marked the previous openings would not be felt, but such was not true. This new system was experiencing a tryout that year with the understanding that the other schools were to adopt the plan if it proved successful. It is useless to say for you know that the plan has been followed by all the schools since that year.

In 1927-1928, the Board of Trustees, Mr. Scott, and the teachers felt the imperative need of some form of checking the child's physical condition. It was then that Dr. Finley and Dr. Potts were called into service, checking the physical condition of every child in the system. It was during this same year that supervised play was added to the school program.

This year 1928-1929, has been one of the fullest and most pleasant. It opened with Mrs. Smith, Miss Roberson, Miss Mary Gray, Miss Mary Turner, Miss Vivian Drummond, Miss Catherine Martin, Miss Ethel Hembree and Mrs. King as teachers. The Source Book in eleven volumes, eight volumes of Masterpieces of the World's Best Literature, and several
books for the classroom libraries have been added this year. Source: *Easley Progress*. May 30, 1929. Also, material written by Josh Lachen, from an *Easley Progress* Article in 1936.

1929. "The work on Easley's new school buildings is progressing nicely. H. W. Hamilton, who has the contract for the solid brick building at North Side, has the foundations in and has started the walls. The Arial School, which is being built by Cox and Hodges of Greenville, is of brick veneer. It is being rushed to completion as fast as possible. The frame of this building is about up." (*Easley Progress*, July 11, 1929) Article copied by Simpson Elementary School

The school, built in 1926, was named after John T. Simpson. Three additional buildings of the same structure made up the campus-like situation: a trade building (agriculture and home economics), a library and a teachery which provided living quarters for the principal and his wife and the teachers.

At that time, the beginning salary for a teacher with four years of college training, was $50 per month.

Teachers who taught in the old Simpson school and boarded with the Simpsons are still living in this area. They include: Mattie Mae Moore (retired and living in Greenville), Venice Wakefield (retired and living in Easley), and Annie Ruth Webb Morse (still serving the Pickens County schools).

The old Simpson School was rebuilt many years ago with the addition of the beautiful building known as Clear View High School, which later served the black pupils of Pickens County.

(Article from the *Easley Progress* brought by . No date.)

West End Elementary School

In 1922 the first West End School began. It was started by a group of citizens who banded together to convince the city leaders to build another school for the children. They wanted an additional school for the students because the other schools were overcrowded.

At first West End Elementary School had 8 teachers and 200 students. After eight years it was too crowded for a small two-story wooden schoolhouse. The principals at the first school were: J. H. Barker, Bonnie Babb, Mattie Cannon and Eva Van Landingham.

The second West End School took the place of the first one, which was not large enough for the students eligible to attend. This event took place in January of 1930. The school was a two-story brick structure with 18 rooms. There was an auditorium and gym combination. In 1936, there were 15 teachers and 604 students. The first principal at the second West End School was Eva Van Landingham. The principals that followed her were Elizabeth Henderson, Mike Mahaffy, and Doug Limbaugh. Miss Eva Van Landingham once had a dream that a new library and lunchroom would be added. In 1954, her dream came true.

Years past and the second West End was getting old. The furnace was old and not efficient, there was no air-conditioning, and there was little land to expand the facilities. The school was also crowded and several portables were needed. McKissick, Forest Acres, and Liberty Elementary Schools were also overcrowded and the area needed more classrooms. Pickens County School District decided to construct another school for the Easley community.

When the new school opened in the fall of 1984, it was designed for 600 students. But when the school opened, 746 students had registered at West End. It was overcrowded!

In 1984-1985 the faculty of the third West End School included:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sharon Baity</td>
<td></td>
<td>Librarian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jerome Balch</td>
<td>Grade 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elaine Bassett</td>
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<tr>
<td>June Blanton</td>
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<td>Cleo Brown</td>
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<td>Judy Burdine</td>
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<td>Jeanne Chasten</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yvette Cleveland</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Cope</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alyssa Dempsey</td>
<td>Art</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca Durham</td>
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<td>Chapter 1 Reading</td>
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<td>Joy Ellenburg</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Euhel Hayes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy Hester</td>
<td>Maid</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jessie Hill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Katherine Holcombe</td>
<td>Grade 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julia Hunnicutt</td>
<td>Food service</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verla Hunter</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

75
1929. "The West End School will be built by Jerry Liner of Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. The old building is being torn down this week and construction on the new building will begin next week." *Easley Progress*, July 11, 1929.

1936. Also see article in the *Easley Progress* November 5, 1936, where Miss Estelle Todd mentions there are 15 teachers and an enrollment of 604.

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**Easley Academy.**

*First Session for 1884, will begin January 14th, and continue Six School Months.*

**TERMS**

Primary Dep'm't, per month, $1.50
Intermediate " " 2.00
Academic " " 3.00
Select Course, " " 2.50
Incidental Fee, per Session, 50
Music extra.
Board in private families, per Month,........ 10.00

Each scholar's pro rata of Public Funds will be deducted from his Tuition during the Public Term, which begins January 14.

For Particulars, address C. W. MOORE, Principal,
Easley, S. C.

Jan 4, 1884–3m

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Respectfully,

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Easley, S. C.

Jan 25–8m