

Apr. 23, 1960
George W. Ruffin
Williams Ruffin
to B. H. H. 1960

WISE MOVE

A recent action by the Board of Trustees of School District One was most wise and a very needed action. By unanimous vote, the board closed four elementary schools and consolidated them into two sections. Much benefit will be derived from this action primarily by the students, and secondarily by the general public.

The public will benefit mainly in a financial way as it has been estimated that some \$8,000 to \$10,000 per year will be saved in operational costs. Through this consolidation the salaries of three teachers will be saved; a more efficient, and shortened bus route system evolved; less maintenance costs; lowered operational costs and a more efficient administration system will result.

Instead of heating four buildings, only one will have to be heated next winter. (One is being heated anyhow and the additional students will not increase the operational costs). Also janitorial services will be lessened, further adding to the savings.

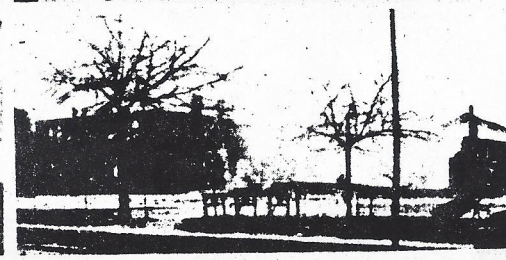
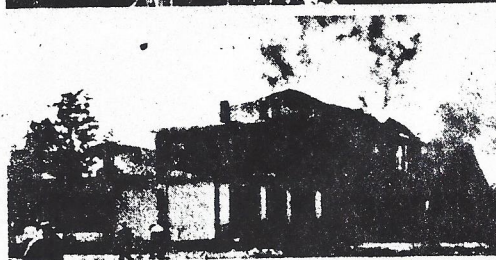
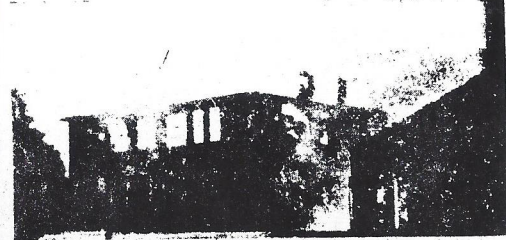
The most important aspect of the decision to close these small, outmoded schools, will be the improved conditions, more conducive to education, to be enjoyed by the pupils. It is impossible for one teacher to teach several classes and do them justice, especially when all are in the same room. Such practices went out in modern education at the turn of the century. Under this new operational plan, the pupils will have at least a teacher per grade. The teacher will have a lower number of students and thereby more personal attention can be given to the pupils, with a resulting better job all around.

Another perhaps unthought of advantage, will be acclimating the young pupils to a larger school. Under this plan of dividing students into two groups, slowly

they will become used to larger schools, having more pupils, and through necessity more formal ways of doing things. When the new consolidated elementary school is completed the pupils will have had experience in a larger school and the change will not have as great an emotional impact, especially on the first three grades.

The District One Board is to be complimented on this wise move. For once the political repercussions and public opinion did not hold forth and prevent this needed action. Instead of considering the easy course of action, the board took the right, and not the popular course. Too often decisions affecting our schools are based more on the politic thing to do, rather than on what is best for the school child. For once the child was thought of instead of the more vocal parents.

Congratulations are in order for this wise move, instead of condemnation.



SMOKE BILLOWS FROM THE ROOF of the Lodge gym in the picture to the upper left and flames can be seen flickering under the eaves of the elementary school building in this picture which was taken shortly after the fire broke out. The upper right picture shows the flames rising from the school building and the one in the lower left shows the roof of the grammar school just after the flames burst through. The white building to the left of the burning one is the high school. Several students can be seen moving the equipment out of the range of the fire. In the lower right the smoking ruins of the gym and grammar school are shown. Some flames still play in the gutted school building and the front wall of the gym has collapsed. The damage was estimated at \$36,500. (Staff photos by Smoak, Jr.)

Plans Made To Utilize Buildings At Lodge School

H. S. Price, chairman of the Colleton County Board of Education, stated Tuesday that present plans were to demolish the standing brick walls of the Lodge elementary school, and then to continue to make use of the buildings on the school property for the balance of the year.

The cannery, stated Mr. Price can be partitioned and turned into two class rooms; a care-takers cottage can be used for four class rooms. The building used for the high school was not damaged, nor were the lunch room and rest rooms.

Chairman Price had praise for Prin. S. C. Hiett and his excellent work in saving much of the school equipment.

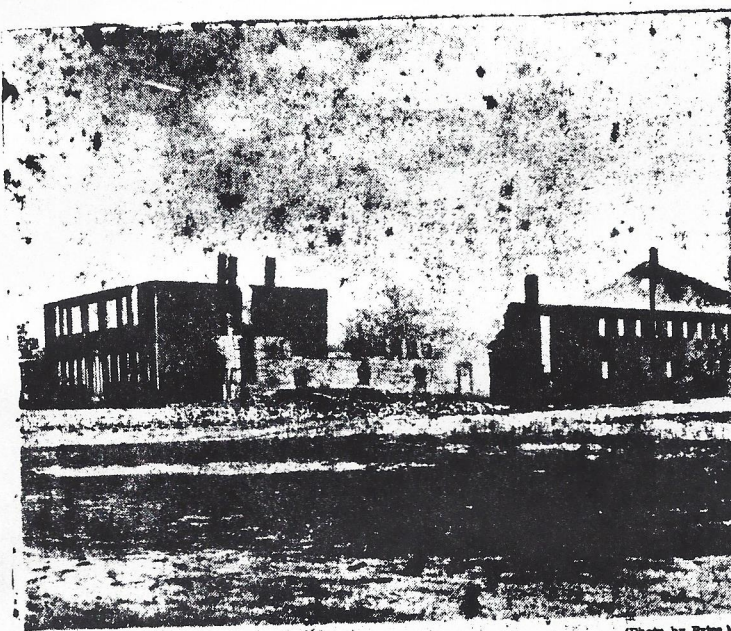
H. M. Frigo, county supervisor, aided in securing equipment needed to demolish the walls.

It is understood that a meeting of patrons of the school was held last night at Lodge to make plans for the future.

E. H. Roberts is superintendent of School District One, and members of the District's Board of Trustees are: Felix M. Herndon, Ruffin, chairman; P. C. Godley, Islandton; J. D. Liston, Smoaks; Z. J. O'Quinn, Williams, and O. L. Barnes, Lodge.

This week the three top school men of Colleton county left Saturday early for Atlantic City, N. J. to attend a national meeting of school administrators. They are County Superintendent of Education C. Move Padgett, who makes his home at Lodge; and District Superintendents, Mrs. Roberts of Smoaks, and R. A. Mubley of Walterboro.

They have been sent a wire informing them of the disaster which struck the Lodge school, but were advised that everything possible was being done to take care of the situation, and there was no need for them to return before the week end as they had planned.



Remains Of School At Lodge After Colleton County Fire Yesterday

Lodge Schoolhouse Destroyed By Fire

By RICHARD PRICE
A Special Correspondent

LODGE, Feb. 15 — Fire destroyed the main building and gymnasium of Lodge school while classes were in process at 11:15 a.m. today.

The 125 students in school were evacuated safely after the flames began spreading from the gymnasium, where they originated, to the main building.

A number of school books were destroyed, but much other equipment was salvaged. School officials estimated that it would cost \$150,000 to replace the structure.

Firefighting units from Ehrhardt,

the Walterboro Airport and Barnberg joined in battling the blaze, but a lack of water prevented them from controlling the flames.

Cause of the fire was reported as a faulty flue in the gymnasium. The hot-water tank serving the dressing rooms in the gymnasium blew through the roof 250 feet into the air and landed in a field 500 feet away. Flames leaped across the 12-15 feet separating the gymnasium and the main building.

Principal Sherill Hiett said there are 250 students enrolled in the school. The nearby wooden building of the old Lodge school was not damaged.

Fire Destroys Lodge School

WALTERBORO, Feb. 15 (Special)—The Lodge gymnasium and elementary school building were completely destroyed this morning by fire.

Charles Ponds, janitor for the school, started a fire in a stove in the gym early this morning and was cleaning up the building for a basketball tournament that was to have been played tonight. He discovered the fire and notified S. C. Hiett, principal, who immediately gave the alarm, and had the students evacuate the building.

Flames and heat from the burning gym set the brick elementary school on fire. The flames were fanned constantly by a west wind that was a contributing factor to the spread of the fire.

Ehrhardt and Barnberg sent their fire trucks but because of low water pressure and wrong size fittings on the hydrant they were unable to slow the fire down, but their efforts saved the wooden high school building 10 feet from the elementary school.

A truck from the Walterboro Air Base went but did not unroll any hose.

Reported damage was \$36,500 with \$30,200 covered by insurance. The majority of the equipment and all of the records were saved.