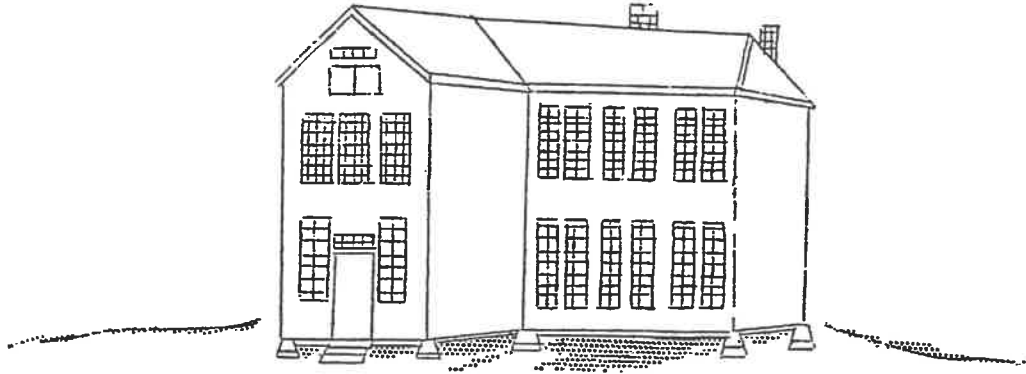
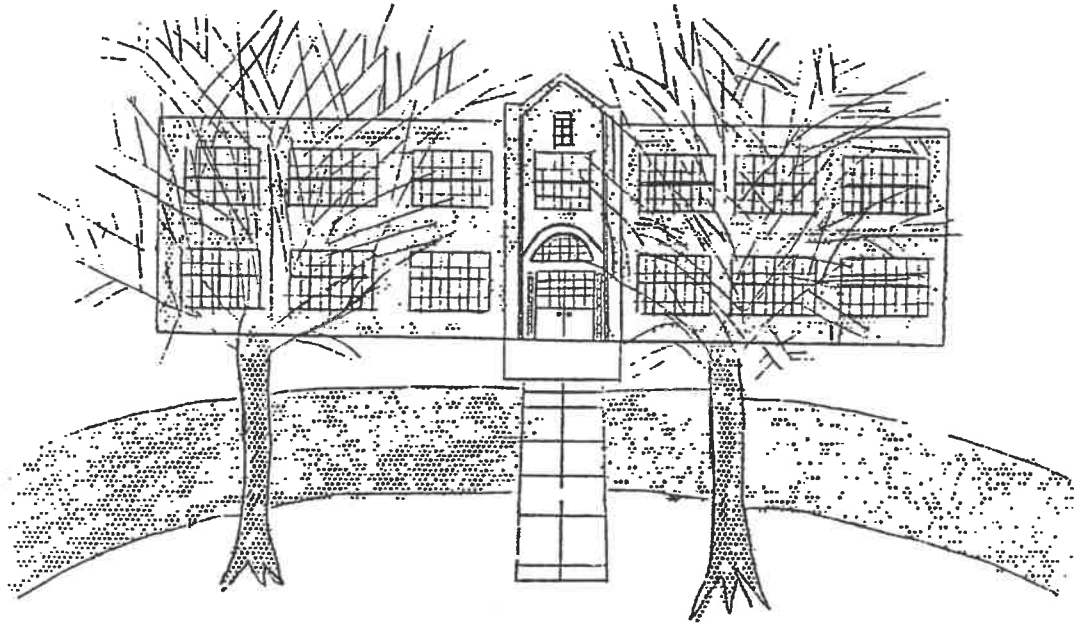


# HISTORY OF BAILEY SCHOOL



FIRST SCHOOL BUILDING — 1913



SECOND SCHOOL BUILDING - 1924



PRESENT SCHOOL PLANT  
1957

HISTORY OF BAILEY HIGH SCHOOL  
By Journalism Class

January, 1913

The knell of the Republican Party was tolling over America. A new era under Woodrow Wilson was arising. Changes in national and world affairs were in the making. Similarly, a change was taking place in the lives of the people of the Bailey community: the town was getting its first school!

The death of Rock Springs School, a three-room building a mile from the town of Bailey, had given birth to Bailey School, a two-story frame building with six classrooms downstairs and an auditorium upstairs, sitting on a four-acre tract of land. On each side of the front entrance were cloakrooms, one for the boys, one for the girls--forerunners of the present-day lockers.

Into this modern, roomy building marched three teachers--Principal Whitely, Mrs. A. B. Bissette, and Miss Minnie Brooks--teaching primary, grammar grade, and high school subjects to students of all ages, who sat on boards laid across blocks or nail kegs and learned their reading, writing, and arithmetic to the rhythm of dangling legs.

Mrs. Bissette recalls that there were no grades in those days, no overcrowded rooms, no permanent records, no outstanding extra-curricular activities; but, she adds, there were problems: attendance was poor, fights on the school grounds were not unusual, and sanitary conditions in many cases were appalling. Baths, to many of the youngsters, were summertime propositions; inhabited heads were common sights; and itch was ever prevalent.

Even so, the school moved forward, growing in enrollment and in subjects offered. Miss Lelia Ames came to begin musical instruction, and Miss Ida Brooks started conducting home economics classes in one of the small dressing rooms at the end of the stage, with a two-burner oil stove as her equipment.

May, 1918

What a proud hour for the school and the community! The first graduating class of Bailey High School, seven strong, received their diplomas. All were girls, following the leadership of their first woman principal, Miss Mattie Morgan. The roll call on that particular graduating day could easily have been that of today, thirty-nine years later, so familiar are the names: Lonie Bissette, Zettie Bissette, Gertrude Ferrell, Hazel Finch, Swannie High, Dovie Joyner, Lizzie Underwood.

In those early days, as each year came and went, so did a new principal with the exception of Miss Morgan who remained here three (?) years. In addition to her and Whitely, there were Julian Redfern, Tyler, Miss Lydia Page, Albert Oaks, R. W. Boling, H. D. Pegg, and C. B. Houck serving as principals.

By 1922 the school had enlarged to the point that the 1913 building was no longer adequate. Bailey had inherited High School, and three buses were bringing children in from surrounding areas. The time had come for a new building. During that school year the old building was moved to one side and the present one begun. Houck and his core of teachers taught in this building and wherever there was available space in churches and empty store rooms.

January, 1924

Another milestone in the school's history had been reached. The "floating school" returned to its former grounds but entered a new building, the present one, with L. H. McNecly as principal. Working with him were eleven other teachers with an enrollment of 392.

McNeely ushered in a change in the length of tenure of the school's principals. Prior to him had been nine (?) principals over a period of eleven years. On the other hand, since 1923, there have been but five principals over a period of thirty-three years. Naturally, then, evidences of more progressive efforts began to be seen as principals remained to work in the interest of the school and became citizens of the community.

September, 1925

Bailey became the heir to Mt. Pleasant High School, thus bringing the enrollment

to 431, the number of buses to 6, and the teachers to 14.

The school's first paper, the ECHO, came into existence soon after McNeely became principal, but it was not to remain for long, for in 1928 the last issue was printed, leaving Bailey without a paper until 1940 when the school began publishing the BAILEY BUGLE.

The home economics subjects that had their beginning under Miss Ida Brooks grew under Miss Alma Clay, the first official home economics instructor, into a real organized department, set up in the room now transformed into the science laboratory.

That same year the Home Demonstration Club was organized in Bailey with Mrs. A.B. Bissette as president. The club worked co-operatively with Miss Clay in equipping the Home Economics Department, in purchasing the first stage curtains, and in landscaping the school grounds.

Working together, the Home Economics Department and the Home Demonstration Club got a representative from Van Lindley's Nurseries, of Greensboro, for \$20 to landscape the school grounds. Following his plan, the clubs purchased shrubbery and set it out around the school building. The men of the town, working with the two departments, went into the woods and got the trees that are now growing in the school yard.

Athletics came into prominence in 1926, with basketball the first organized sport then came baseball, tennis, and volley ball. Of these four sports, basketball has been the most successful. Teams have won the county tournament, county championships, and the runner-up place several times. A trophy case, gift of the class of '51, is filled with 14 trophies and awards brought home by the various teams throughout the years.

September, 1928

Succeeding Principal McNeely was James N. Grant, who served Bailey for seven years.

In the fall of 1931, Bailey adopted its last school, Mannings.

While Grant was here, the school passed the 500 enrollment mark for the first time. The present enrollment of 641 shows that over the past twenty-five years the enrollment of the school has increased but little, yet the average daily attendance has steadily improved as evidenced by the fact that there were but thirteen teachers, twenty seniors and five buses in 1932 compared with twenty-three teachers, forty-two seniors, and nine buses in 1957. According to the records available, the year 1932 featured, for the first time, every senior graduating.

One of the "Believe-it-or-nots" of Bailey is the fact that right in the middle of the depression she added the first agricultural department, located in the basement under the stage, with John Wolfe as adviser, and built the present gymnasium.

When Grant left the school, the faculty had grown from 13 to 15, and the graduates, from eight to twenty.

September, 1935

The school began its twenty-second term with C. U. Williams serving as principal. This year, also, saw R.W. Jones leading the P.T.A. No records can be found of the work of this organization prior to that date, but since then it has been a constantly growing association, endeavoring to meet the needs of Bailey High School.

As one reads the minutes kept of the PTA, he finds that this organization has sponsored many of the school's activities and helped to finance many of its projects. Over the years it has purchased library books, basketball suits, various school equipment, band instruments, an activity bus, and pianos. It has promoted, and partly financed, the first-aid room, the installation of new plumbing works for the building and gym, canning of food for the lunchroom, rewiring of building, teen-age parties, and Halloween Carnivals. The latter is the annual fund-raising project of the organization. Although organization presidents and school principals have come and gone, the PTA remains a vital part of the life of Bailey High School up to this hour, with Mrs. Raymond Finch now serving as president.

September, 1939

As Bailey School began its second quarter of a century, Carl H. Walker became its

thirteenth principal.

Walker and 17 teachers taught an enrollment of 509. Coming with Walker to Bailey was E. A. Howton to head the Agricultural Department, which moved that year into its new and present building. As a result of the Farmers School, financed in part by the Federal Government and begun under Howton's supervision in '41, the department was able to equip the shop rooms with much of the machinery and tools needed to do the type of work the men and boys have been turning out since that time.

In the fall of 1940 Miss Miriam Garret, with the help of NYA workers, opened a hot lunch stand. The next year the balcony of the auditorium was converted into the school's first real lunch room with Mrs. Percy Murray as its supervisor.

January, 1940, saw the first issues of the BUGLE published, and a year later, the first journalism class organized. This paper has continued its publication except for two non-consecutive years. For the past 15 years, the journalism class has been making trips to Columbia Scholastic Press Convention in New York and bringing home First Place or Medalist Rating for high schools 300 or less in enrollment. State and National recognition gained from these honors and the BUGLE'S wide exchange with other papers have brought to the school more publicity than any other one of its activities; for example, one day's mail brought requests for copies from New Hampshire and South Dakota. Mrs. Howard Farmer, first adviser, was joined by Mrs. L. T. Lassiter the next year. They have been serving as advisers ever since. It was this paper's recognition that led to the State Department's arranging for President Bayar of Turkey to visit the school while he and his party were touring the United States.

The year 1941 welcomed Mrs. L. T. Lassiter as a new faculty member and as head of Bailey's first commercial department. Graduates from this department are accepted for qualified positions without any further business training. This department is also recognized as one of the best and most thorough of any small school in the State.

About this time, the school installed the hall lockers, for the convenience of students, and the sound system to connect classrooms with the office. In the meantime, Sears Roebuck and Company presented to the school a Junior set of the Encyclopedia Britannica.

The year Walker resigned, the number of graduates had climbed to thirty-three. September, 1943

As the school marched on, broadening its curriculum and expanding its efforts to meet the needs of the students, M. W. Weaver became its leader. Still here, he has the honor of having served the school longest of any principal. With him came the addition of the twelfth grade, bringing with it a demand for an enlarged plant. This demand was met by the addition of four rooms at the east end of the building, two upstairs and two down. The two rooms on the ground floor were taken over by the first grades; the two upstairs enabled the library to have a combination reading and library room for the first time and the BUGLE to have its first publishing quarters, even if it did have to share them with the English department.

By 1953 another addition was made. This time it was a new building that housed a Home Economics Department and a cafeteria.

Finally, in 1954 an elementary library, under the supervision of Mrs. R. G. L. Edwards, was opened for the first time. This library now has 2,760 volumes; the high school library has 2,119 volumes.

When the new home economics department was opened, the old room was converted into a science department.

For the past several years Mrs. George C. Johnson and Mrs. Helen Murray have been full time piano and public school music teachers.

Within the last year an office secretary has been employed, a 29 piece band organized, and the school acreage increased to ten.

1957 finds the school keeping pace with the progress of the times as it graduates the largest class in its history, sees the possibility of an additional teacher next year, purchases uniforms for the band, and improves the auditorium stage by adding a cyclorama and refinishing the floor.

But these facts and statistics do not tell the whole story.

A school may boast of its awards, its championships, its achievements, but the heart of the school is its students. They are its best advertisement. As such, Bailey is unusually proud of some of its alumni.

That first graduation class, 1918, had one member, Gertrude Ferrell, to follow the inspiration of the school by becoming a teacher. Since then, there has been an average of at least two prospective teachers going out from the school each year. Among this number are a few who have done particularly outstanding work. Ambrose Manning as a Professor of French at the University of Tennessee. Recommended as an exchange teacher to England, Evelyn Poole Corham is teaching English in Alexandria, Virginia. Winning a scholarship to Berry College, Ralph Farmer remained there to teach. Having been awarded a Ford Fellowship last year, he is now studying for his Ph. D. in Business Administration at the University of North Carolina. He will return next fall to head the Business Administration Department of Berry College.

A number of Bailey students, turned teachers, have selected Nash County as their teaching home; three--Edith Farmer, Rachel Bissette, and Clara Lou Stott--have returned as teachers to their Alma Mater, Bailey High.

Better yields in crops are not the only thing that Bailey agricultural students strive for. The Department of Agriculture has produced Carolina farmers, American farmers, a State FFA president, and a top State Hybrid Corn Producer. Bobby Perry, who received the Planters Cotton Oil Company scholarship to State College, is now Farm Supervisor for Planters National Bank, Rocky Mount, North Carolina. For the past ten years John H. Wells as served as adviser for this department.

One of the most famous ex-members of the commercial department is Margaret Brown, a ten-year member of the FBI, Washington, D. C. Margaret has a private office and holds an important position with this organization. Dorothy Jordan and Doris Murray are also with the FBI. Numerous students from this department are working different offices of the State department, as secretaries of private firms, and as employees of several banks in the State.

Bailey is represented in almost any field one may mention. There is Marks Underwood, Research Chemist at Dan River Mills. Grady Stott, who has his law office in Gastonia, has recently been appointed Solicitor. Doing heart research work at Chapel Hill is Jacqueline Collie.

Three dentists--Charles and Edward Eatmon and William Bissette; a doctor, William Farmer; and three ministers--Keith Glover, John Jernigan, and Lester Bissette--have gone out from Bailey. Phi Beta Kappa member, Jane Morgan, was winner of one of the two English scholarships given by Harvard University to Duke students. Raymond Potter is County Agent of Anson County. Kenneth Farmer heads the Engineering Division of Sears Roebuck and Co., Greensboro, North Carolina. Bernease Eatmon Luna is superintendent of one division of the Jackson Memorial Hospital, Miami, Florida. And the list could continue.

Then there are entire families who have brought honor to Bailey School. The mention of a few will suffice. The Percy Liles family has Paul as Advertising Manager of the Wilson Times; Percy Lee, Captain in the Naval Air Force; Raydolph, Cashier of First Citizens Bank in Fayetteville; Elsie, a former social worker of the First Methodist Church in Tampa, Florida.

An attorney in the Justice Department, Washington, D. C., a Methodist minister, and a college graduate are positions of honor earned by Travis, John, and Robert Jernigan.

In the Edgar Farmer family is the head of the Engineering Department of Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company, Washington, D. C.; the head of the Business Administration Department, Berry College, Georgia; buyer for the Leggett Meyers Tobacco Company; a teacher in Bailey High School; and a past secretary to the vice-president of Wachovia Bank.

The three daughters of the M. F. Morgan family have graduated from Duke, two of whom made Phi Beta Kappa (Marie and Jane); two became teachers (Marie and Bobbie), and one has been secretary at the United Nations (Jane). Millard Morgan, Jr., a graduate

of Georgia Tech, is now 1st Lieutenant in Japan, flying jet planes.

The John Ed. Beard family has made an unusual record. Octavia received the highest rating ever made on a Placement Test at Louisburg College; she is a graduate of the School of Journalism, University of North Carolina. Ruth was USO Receptionist in Europe and Japan during World War II. Mildred is a county nurse for Pamlico County, having received her training at the University of North Carolina and the University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

There are other Bailey School families who likewise have members doing outstanding work, but it is impossible to name them all.

In 1945, 20% of the Bailey men in the Armed Services were commissioned officers. Among this number are several who have received special honors. Millard Morgan, Jr. made the highest grade ever obtained on the Comprehensive Test given at the Bainbridge, Georgia, Air Force Base. James Jones is receiver of the Navy Cross for distinguished service in the Pacific battle. Others ranking high are Bruce Perry, Colonel; Harvey Bissette, Major and Air Force jet trainer; William D. Farmer, Major in USA Medical Corps; Captain Percy Liles, USN; George Lee Bissette and Robert Griffin, pilots.

Turning to highlights here and there and adding a bit of spice, one finds from the records that in 1932 all married teachers were asked to resign; however, the next year, the community decided that the Mrs. or Miss did not make the teacher; as a result, married teachers have been back at Bailey since 1933.

Bailey school can offer proof that teachers are not always as brilliant as given credit for. One of Bailey's past principals went to the bank where he was told his account was overdrawn. He promptly replied: "That's all right; I can take care of that. Hand me a check, please; whereupon he wrote the check to "Cash" for the amount overdrawn and gave it to the cashier.

Some teachers have become "fixtures" at Bailey, so attached are they to the school. Mrs. J. P. Underwood has taught here 27 years; Mrs. Howard Farmer, 26. Others on the road to comparable terms of service are Mrs. Rudolph Glover, Mrs. L. T. Lassiter, Edith Farmer, and Rachel Bissette.

Going through the list of graduates, one finds the names of Finch and Glover appearing most frequently, followed by Bissette and Lamm.

In view of all this history, if one can judge the future by the past, Bailey School will continue to grow and its alumni to set records of honor for their school.

The End  
February, 1957