

Bethinking of Old Orleans

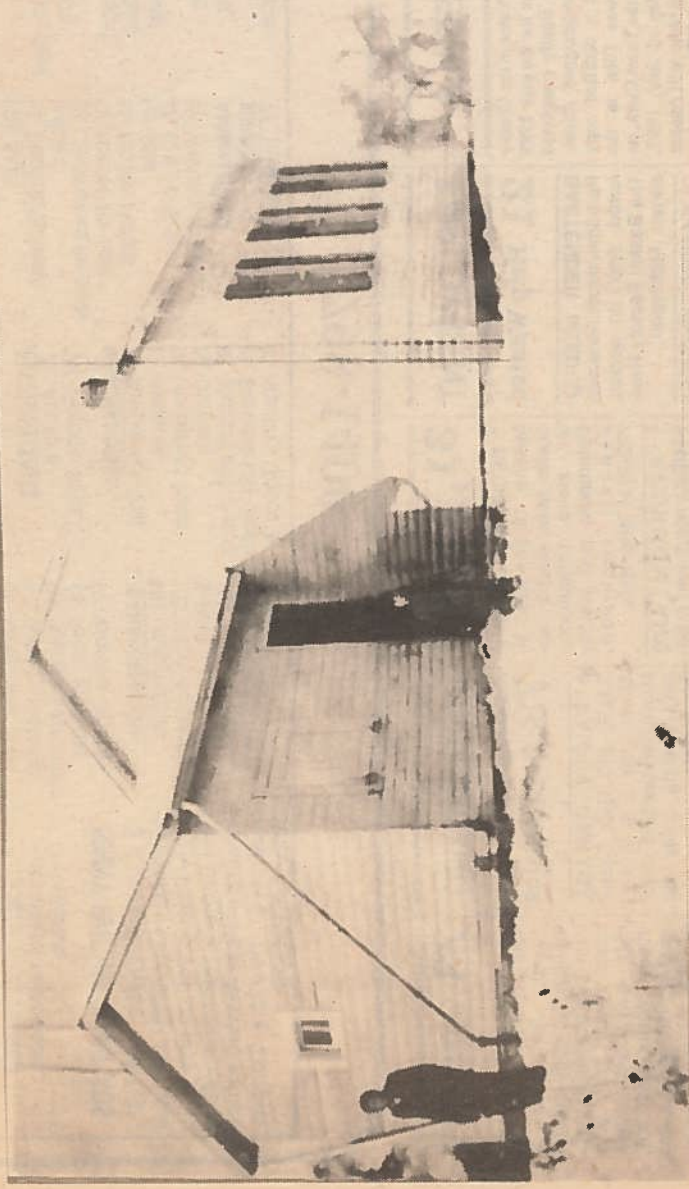
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RELATIVE EXPENSES



The photo shows the Rudds Corners School during the early 1930's which is now the Shiloh Baptist Church. Recently Phil Coville donated a ledger/account book which was used by the trus-

tees in that school district dating back to 1894. I thought with recent school budget votes, it would be interesting to see what the relative expenses were sixty years ago. So here's what we find for:

School Year 1932-1933	failure now \$102.93	
Mrs. Laura Lyman, Teacher	July 31 Am't Rec'd. from Bank	25.73
School District No. 8 Gaines & Albion	July 31 School Tax	800.00
	July 31 Public Money	355.30
July 31 Balance on hand		
July 31 Am't lost in Bank		
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	Total Receipts	\$1183.11

Oct. 13 Bert Sanford Wood	3.50	Cards & Stamps	1.11
Oct. 14 Mrs. Lyman Wages	40.00	Dec. 23 Mrs. Lyman, Wages	96.00
Oct. 27 Mrs. Lyman Wages	152.00	Dec. 31 Mr. Heenan, Building table & other labor	1.00
Oct. 27 Examination Papers and Soap	1.90	Dec. 31 H.E. Colburn, Window for wood house	1.50
Nov. 2 Dr. Burbank 27 at 75¢	20.25	Dec. 15 Floyd Perkins, Labor	3.63
Nov. 3 Rob't. Marsh, Chemicals & other supplies	9.28	Jan. 26 Mrs. Lyman, Wages	91.20
Nov. 3 Rob't. Moore First Aid Kit	.60	Jan. 27 Floyd Perkins, Oiling floor	2.00
Nov. 3 Wm. Sharp Cleaning toilets	5.00	Feb. 24 Mrs. Lyman, Wages	96.00
Nov. 3 C.M. Chaplin, Ventilators	4.00	Mar. 24 Mrs. Lyman, Wages	96.00
Nov. 3 Insurance	5.10	Apr. 1 Frank Yaskulski, Janitor, 17 weeks	17.00
Nov. 3 Edith Scharping, Taking Census	10.00	Apr. 28 Mrs. Lyman, Wages Mar. 27-3	30.00
Nov. 3 Edith Scharping, Cleaning School House, oiling floor	7.00	May 19 Mrs. Lyman, Wages	66.00
Nov. 3 Filing Bond	.25	June 19 Mrs. Lyman, Wages	52.00
Nov. 3 Freight on Supplies	.65	June 28 Bert Sanford, 2 cords wood @ \$3	6.00
Nov. 5 4 tons coal, H. Crowther & son @ \$12	48.00		
Nov. 23 Mrs. Lyman, Wages	96.00		
Dec. 3 Eugene Howard, going after & putting down seats	3.00	Total Expense	\$1089.50
Dec. 5 Bacon & Vincent, Flag, P. Towels, T. Paper & Chalk	12.74	Total Receipts	\$1183.11
Dec. 5 Myron Haich, 7 Seats	14.00	Amount on Hand	93.61
Dec. 6 Minnie Perkins, Postal		William Scharping, Jr. Trustee	

We look at this one year's amount for running a school and say to ourselves, "How easy life would be if it were that simple now!" Notice what's missing too. There's no reference to withholding tax from the wages or anything else that gives employers nightmares today. Then as now, the single most costly item were the personal services. We note in the Nov. 2 entry that there were 27 pupils attending the school. We can assume these were in grades 1-6 or possibly 1-8. Obviously, they did not have flush toilets, septic tanks and a leech field as the cleaning of toilets, chemicals and ventilators would indicate. Insurance only cost \$5.10 and the price of cord wood is amazing at \$3.00 compared to perhaps \$45.00 at current prices. It's interesting that they were burning both coal and wood. We note too, the failure of the Citizens National Bank which eventually paid off eighty some percent. The account book for other years includes vari-

ous trustees including: D.P. Fribee, Milford L. Hakes, L.F. Smith, John Rutledge, Roy Crandall, Bert Heisler, Mrs. Mary B. Hakes, Case Knapp, Edith B. Scharping, Frank Long, Franklin Butts and Arnold Coville.

At face value an account like this perhaps doesn't mean much but when we begin to look at what they bought and what they didn't have expenses for, tells us a lot. Back 60 years ago there would have been over 130 school districts similar to this spread across Orleans County. Now we have five districts which are a combination of the districts each town had years ago. The Rudds Corners School account book ends June 20, 1953 which leads me to believe Centralization took over that district in the school year 1953-54. By then the total expense had risen to \$5,805.98 for this same district.