

Transcribed by Grace Karr Gettings 19-August-2003

ARGUS 14-December-1906 DOUGLAS SCHOOL BURNS

The Douglas School building, a few miles south of this city, was destroyed by fire on Monday afternoon, shortly after the close of school. Just how the fire originated is not known as there was no one present when the fire started. It is presumed that it must have caught in the ceiling from the fire left in the stove, as those who reached the scene first found the blaze the hottest at that point. The building was a good sized one, it being the old Douglas Church edifice which was transformed into a school building a number of years ago. It was perhaps worth about \$800, being insured for \$500. Some of the people living nearby reached the building in time to save the library books and all the school books as well as all the pictures and maps. Miss Nelle Sutton of this city was the teacher in charge. Owing to the small number of pupils which attended the school" only ten being regular attendants, the district may secure a place in which the schoolwork can be contained until a new structure can be erected. Later, they have secured the old Weisner tenant house just south west of the old school site, which will be fitted up for temporary use, and school will reopen therein next Monday.

PATRIOT 16-Februar-1922 - "Disgrace" Is '22 Viewpoint

Friend Bradshaw: The picture of the old "Sky Scraper" school building in a recent issue of the Patriot takes me back some fifty years. I did not start to school the first year that building was used, but soon after viz. 1872. Miss Lizzie Fenner was my first teacher.

"Pride of Carrollton" -- Well, perhaps the application was excusable then, but now with all due respect to those who could have conceived of such a monstrosity of a building for school purposes, that "Disgrace to Carrollton" would be more appropriate.

The building was a veritable firetrap, with those long draughty halls, long and seemingly endless stairways; detrimental to the high school girls who had to climb and keep on climbing until they finally reached the old high school room. There was no adequate way of heating the building; the immense cast iron stoves they used were big as hogsheads, and had large sheet iron drums up on top. These stoves had a wonderful appetite for coal--surely they were the largest stoves ever made.

Imagine having to carry all the coal up those many flights of stairs that these monster stoves required? Is it a very great wonder that a former janitor, driven to desperation, would set fire to and destroy such a nuisance?

According to the law, this janitor committed a crime, but from every humane standpoint he, unintentionally no doubt, conferred an everlasting benefit to posterity.

It is no doubt the only way the community would ever have gotten rid of that very unsuitable school building for many, many years. At the time it was destroyed, I remember many thought that the punishment given the janitor was too light. I wonder what they think about it now?