

Terminal Hotel burned Tuesday
Evening 6:00 Pm March 16 1971

Tuesday, April 13, 1971

Amson Record

Old Terminal Hotel Was Busy Place In Former Days

The leveling of the old Terminal Hotel by the Wadesboro depot by fire recently brought out some reminiscences from older people, who knew it in its heyday. It was the property of Henry Stafford at the time it burned. He was said to be away visiting relatives at the hour fire broke out.

Mrs. Earle Martin, the former Lila Hill, who has lived in the area off and on during her life recalled that it was a thriving place when railroads were beehives of activity. She thinks it was built about 1913 by a Mr. Causey, telegraph operator here at the time. His first name was not recalled.

The Seaboard trains, along with Coast Line and Southbound trains switched in and out, disgorging passengers at an appreciable rate in the earlier part of the century. Senior Citizen Henry Huntley remembered that in those days most of the business was centered around the

depot, Truck shipping, numerous private cars and airplanes were matters of the future then.

The Terminal Hotel was operated for a time by Mrs. Bessie Gray, widow of John Gray, who was a brother of "Our Miss Effie" at the Tea Room. It was used by railroad employees and people traveling on trains. The young women attending Salem College traveled by Southbound trains for a time. People going to the popular watering place, over in Stanly County, Rocky River Springs, could ride the train to Norwood or Aquadale. Salesmen, known then

chiefly as drummers, traveled by train much of the time in the early 1900's.

Mrs. Martin remembered that one cold night Mrs. Gray had an unusual number of guests to care for, and came to her mother, the late Mrs. J.E.C. Hill, to borrow some quilts and blankets to meet the emergency. The only heat in the building came from a central stove in the office and the kitchen stove.

Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Hildreth ran the hotel for a time. Both Mrs. Hildreth and Mrs. Gray had the reputation for setting good tables, or serving plenty of tasty home-cooked food.

Families by the name of Hancock, Everett and Courtney lived in the big two-story house through the years. The Cortneys had a son, Horace, who served in World War I, Lila remembers.

The property was sold to the last owner, Henry Stafford, by Mack Coley. The owner, Mr. Stafford, is said to be between 85 and 90 years of age, making the loss of the property even more difficult to bear.