

December 23, 1954

Vote To Raze Schools

Voters authorized the Selectmen to raze the Center and Western School buildings when the School Committee decided they were no longer needed for school purposes as asked in Article 6 and voted the transfer of \$1,600 from available funds for removal of the buildings and developing the sites for parking purposes.

August 1955

IN A DOZEN days it will be back-to-school for the youngsters of the Lower Cape and the superintendent of the Provincetown, Truro and Wellfleet schools, Augustus Keane, announces September 7 as opening day in all three. On the day before, September 6, teachers' meeting will be held in Provincetown at 9 a.m., in Truro at 11 a.m., and in Wellfleet at 2 p.m. On the first day of school the first-graders will be dismissed at noon at the Cape End with the rest of the pupils continuing through the regular school day. Noon lunch will be served. For the first time in well over a hundred years no Provincetown children will be enrolled in classes held in the now almost forgotten Center and Western schoolhouses on the sites of which cars are now parked.

May 18, 1955

STARTING LAST MONDAY, a crew of men with Arvo "Whitey" Rautiala as foreman for the J. J. Duane Company of Quincy, a fast job is being done in tearing down the old Center School; the windows are out, the chimney is down and many parts of the interior have been ripped out. But what amazed "Whitey" most was the run on the old school desks and chairs on Tuesday. When it became known that they were being sold at a small price per pair, townspeople swarmed the old building. Many bought only one or two sets but some antique dealers bought dozens and scores. By 1 in the afternoon "Whitey" had to announce that the desks and chairs in both the Center and Western schools had been sold. Frank Hurst of the Atlantic House scooped up the odds and ends, broken or not, and cleaned out the place by buying the lot. Some of the quaint little chairs, possibly dating back to the opening of the school 126 years ago may sometime appear as stools in the Carriage Room. Both schools must be down, the sites filled and graded by June 15. Materials of one kind or another removed from the building will be sold at the sites.



Where Center School Was - - Sept. 1977

May 26, 1955

ONE OF THE Center classroom clocks was taken to a shop that is to open soon on Commercial Street and two lads, in their early teens, peering into the room spied the clock hanging on the wall. With one voice they shouted "Myrtie Kelley, Myrtie Kelley!" Practically everyone in Provincetown and many who read this in distant places will remember the prim and precise teacher who ruled her classroom with a strong hand for so many, many years. Perhaps they, too, will remember the old clock that seemed reluctant to let a minute pass, especially those last minutes before closing or vacations or when it was "Stay after school!" They will remember how the old clock told the barefaced truth when tardy feet stood before the teacher's desk and how its tick accented the dismal quiet of the room when shouts and laughter rang from classmates free to play outside. Myrtie Kelley devoted her life to teaching Cape End kids. Why don't we name the parking lot where the school once stood after her.