

HASKELL HALL PURCHASED

In 1924 a girl's dormitory was added when the Foss homestead at the corner of Heywood and Kelleran streets was purchased. It was named Haskell Hall in honor of Col. E. H. Haskell of Newton Center, Mass.

Ricker has had its progress and its service interrupted by four wars. In each it has found some difficulty in functioning in such times of national emergency. In each war many of its graduates served with distinction as the school squarely met each crisis as it arose.

Little is known of the part played by Houlton Academy in the Civil War because the historians of that day seem to have neglected to set down for posterity the records of the era.

The year 1898 has a dual significance for Ricker Classical Institute. It marked the outbreak of the Spanish-American war with some score or more students, being members of Company L, 2nd Maine Regiment being called into the service.

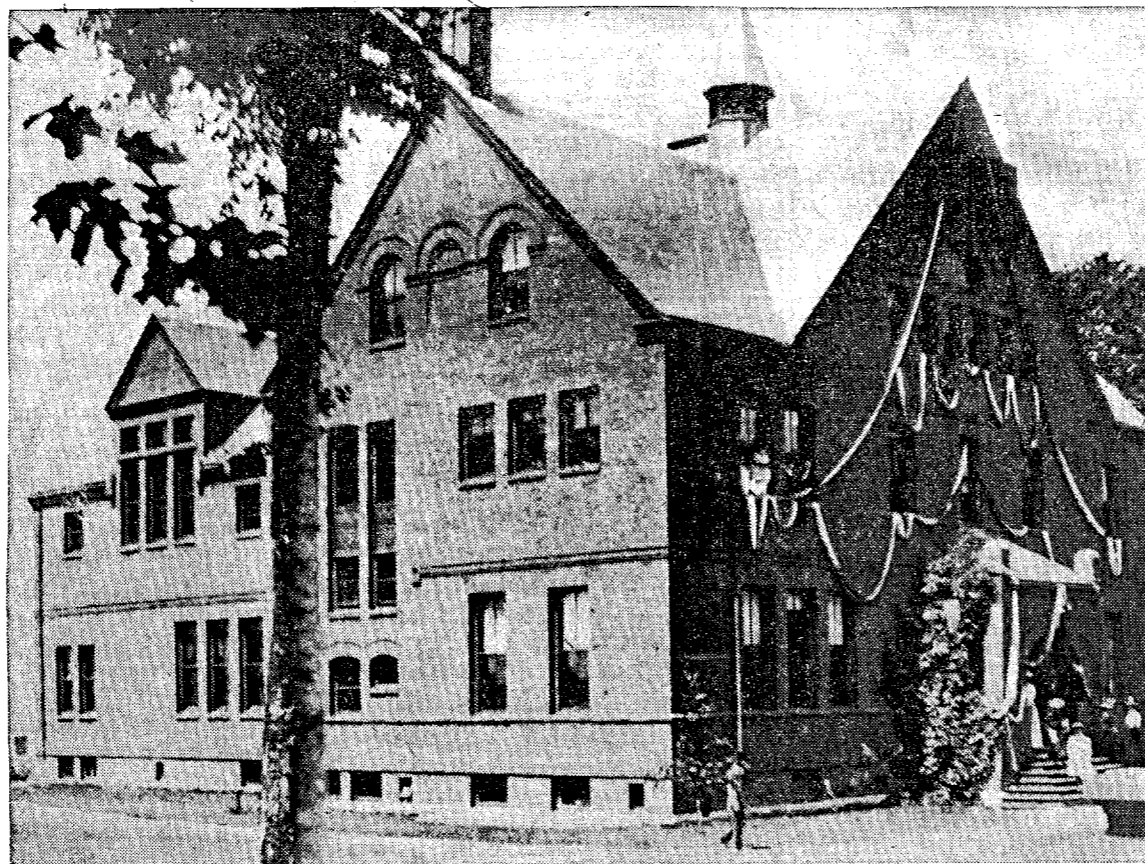
The list of those mustered into active service for this war includes, Burchard Alexander, Elwood Dudley, Frank C. Merritt, Albert G. Merritt, Harley Ruth,

Frank Kinney, Olin Rideout, LeRoy B. French, S. Fred Cummings, Elson A. Hosford, Arthur S. Cleveland, Mellon Wallace, Harry Jones, Joseph C. Houlton, Nathan Lermond and George Cooper.

The same year of 1898 marked a milestone in the history of Ricker. The school had struggled through the first 50 years of its existence and was privileged to observe the semi-centennial of its history.

Ricker embarked on its next half century of conspicuous service to its community just before the turn of the century with a clear conscience that it had more than justified its existence over 50 years and had vindicated the faith and courage of its founders and its benefactors, such as Dr. Ricker, Mrs. Wording and others.

There was no inkling then what the next half a century would hold for the school, what crises would have to be successfully met, and what emergencies would arise. As this is written, almost 60 years later, Ricker and its board of trustees are still fighting for its existence and will continue to do so until the need for its facilities shall have finally been fully recognized and when it must eventually emerge to con-

Its Service to Ricker Ended In 1944

This is Wording Hall bedecked with bunting to celebrate the semi-centennial of Ricker in 1898. This building was destroyed by fire on March 23, 1944.

tinue the rich heritage of service for which it was founded and which it has carried on with such conspicuous success.

EARLY 20TH CENTURY

The early days of the 20th century were unmarked by any outstanding event in Ricker's history. The school continued to carry on in its traditional fashion. Its curriculum was maintained abreast of the best educational thinking of the day. Its athletic teams acquitted themselves well on diamond, gridiron and basketball court and sent many distinguished athletes onward to greater acclaim in Maine colleges.

The Good brothers, Roy and Ralph, who were famous for their feats at Colby College, the latter leading in both baseball and football, being one of Colby's gridiron greats of all time, also starred for Ricker.

A pitcher by the name of Peaslee entered Ricker from Jonesport and during his playing days was invincible, making a tremendous record. He also played for Houlton town teams of that day but failed to fulfill the promise of his prep school days when he en-

tered faster company in the major leagues.

Sam Fraser came down from Masardis to spend four years at Ricker and led its baseball team to conspicuous triumphs through his prowess as a pitcher. One of the first "spitball" artists of his time, Sam later had an outstanding baseball career at Bowdoin and was tagged for a big league tryout. He yielded to the call of the business world instead. He is currently retired and now lives in Houlton.

WORLD WAR ONE

Ricker's next brush with a war came in 1917 when the United States became embroiled in World War One. The count says that 85 of its graduates or undergraduates saw service in this conflict and it is recorded that eight paid the supreme sacrifice. They were either killed while in active service or met death while awaiting a call to go overseas.

The honor roll of the school lists these men and women who did not return from the service: Ruby Barker, A. Lee Ferguson, Leon R. Graham, Frank B. Hol-

den, Lester J. Lurvey, Raymond E. Pond, Violet Robinson and Colin B. Tracy.

In 1919, just after the close of the war, a memorial service was held under the elms on the campus and a bronze tablet bearing the names of these heroes was presented to the school by its alumni. This tablet, along with so many other historical memorabilia of the school, was destroyed by the fire which ruined Wording Hall on March 23, 1944.

Ricker has had a succession of capable headmasters since Milton Welch took over the principalship of the newly organized Houlton Academy in 1848.

HAD LONGEST SERVICE

By far the longest period of service as Ricker's principal was that performed by Roy C. Hayes who guided the destiny of the institution for 20 years. He was at the helm at the very start of the junior college curriculum which had been voted by the trustees in 1925 and was put into effect the following year.

Throughout his score of years of association with Ricker, Prin. Hayes earned the respect as well

of President of Ricker Junior College. Roy Bither succeeded him for two years in this same dual capacity.

In 1949 the responsibility was divided and Harold Inman became principal of Ricker Classical Institute and John Laberee president of Ricker Junior College. He was followed by Jasper Crouse from 1950 to 1953, by Robert Willett for a single year. During 1955-56 and 57 a committee of the trustees and faculty administered the school. The latest president will be C. Worth Howard who will assume the position at the start of the 1957-58 school year.

It was during the administration of Prin. Hayes as principal of the school that Ricker made two forward steps that were critically important milestones in its continuing service to its area.

ESTABLISH JUNIOR COLLEGE

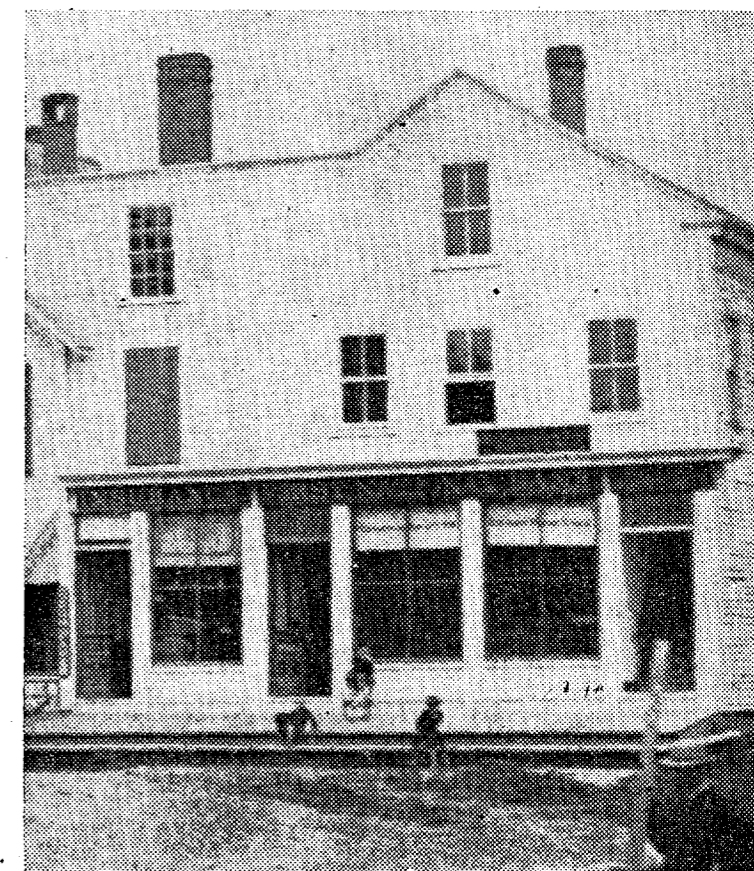
In 1925 the trustees of Ricker came to the momentous decision that the services of the school should be enlarged and expanded. It had existed as a four year secondary school for almost three quarters of a century, had long served its area with distinction and had given vitally needed impetus to the educational advancement of thousands of young boys and girls who might otherwise have had a difficult time continuing their education to higher institutions of learning.

So, the trustees decided to petition the legislature for permission to expand their curriculum to include junior college status so that students, without means to enter college, could take two years of college work at Ricker after which they might elect to complete their course by two years at a regular college or be content with the two more years of education they had been able to acquire.

PETITION IS GRANTED

The petition was granted in 1926 and, later, the legislature again authorized a change of name and the school became known as Ricker Classical Institute and Junior College with authority to grant the degrees of Associate in Arts and Associate in Science.

The school progressed under the trials which beset every business and profession as well as institutions of learning during the trying times of the thirties. The country was in the doldrums of a

County's First Commercial Bank

The people of Aroostook County had made available to them the first facilities for commercial banking when the First National Bank of Houlton opened its doors in 1882 in this building. When the present structure was erected in 1907, this original building was torn down.

new set of misfortunes which Ricker had to face and, somehow, surmount. It wasn't easy. The going was rough. But the venerable old school emerged, not unscathed, it may be said, but surely with no lessening in the seriousness of its predicament.

World War Two burst upon an unsuspecting world on December 7, 1941. The perfidy and the treachery of the Japanese sent waves of apprehension throughout the world. The mobilization of United States forces was immediate and Ricker felt its full impact. Both student body and faculty were depleted by the insistent summons of the various branches of the service.

On top of this blow came an even more catastrophic misfortune which befell Ricker on the fateful night of March 23, 1944. Prin. Hayes was at an American Legion meeting when he was summoned to the sorry scene of Wording Hall helplessly doomed by flames which had lodged in her

served the school well. It was then 66 years old. Its loss was a blow that was more serious than was first realized.

The fateful blaze occurred on a Thursday night just after a fitful fall of snow. A greater storm might well have reduced the seriousness of the catastrophe. Houlton churches responded to the emergency and, on the following Monday morning, classes were resumed in the vestries of local churches and in spare rooms which were made available in other local school buildings.

WATSON HALL USED

The Church of the Good Shepherd offered the facilities of Watson Hall and vacant rooms in the Community building, as it was then called, the gift of Mr. and Mrs. S. L. White were also made available.

Ricker faltered momentarily in its proud educational march, but it did not halt. Prin. Hayes, the trustees, the pupils themselves,

GIFTS

FROM THE
**Carry All
SHOP**

HAVE BEEN A BY-
WORD SINCE 1946.

We are pleased to have been a part of Houlton since 1946. We have enjoyed the past 11 years . . . and the friends we have made —

CONGRATULATIONS HOULTON
ON YOUR 150th BIRTHDAY . . .

The CARRY-ALL SHOP
COURT STREET HOULTON



THEIR TIRE TROUBLES WERE FEW . . .



. . . back in the days of the "horse and buggy" tire troubles were few . . . but the pleasure of a ride in the "canopy topped wagon" was just the thing . . . but as progress takes place . . . old styles and ideas are gradually replaced . . . with today's modern transportation . . . automobiles and trucks. The advantages of the modern automobile and truck are known and accepted these days. Many an automobile owner relies on our modern and fast service to help them with their tire troubles.

. . . and while we are relatively new in the tire business of Houlton, however, we pause and take pleasure in adding our best wishes in this year's celebration.

OUR
 Congratulations . . .
 HOULTON on
 YOUR
 150th BIRTHDAY
 . . . and to the
 HOULTON PIONEER TIMES
 ON YOUR 100 YEARS OF SERVICE
 IN AROOSTOOK COUNTY

THE MOST MODERN
 AND NEWEST RECAPPING
 CENTER in AROOSTOOK
 COUNTY.

- GOODRICH TIRES
- EXPERT RECAPPING

BRING YOUR TIRE TROUBLES TO

HOGAN TIRE CO.
 BANGOR ROAD — HOULTON

Hayes earned the respect as well as the affection, not alone of the undergraduates and faculty, but of the entire community. It was a fitting tribute to his leadership that the trustees saw fit to name the school's library, acquired in 1945 in his honor.

Second longest term as principal of Ricker was that of Arthur O. Thomas who came to the school in 1885 and did not leave it until 1901. His immediate predecessor was William Knowlton who also left his stamp on the school and the community from 1875 to 1885.

The first principal, Milton Welch, was in charge for four years, from 1848 to 1851 and returned later, in 1855 for a single year. The next three principals were Theophilus C. Abbott, Lewis L. Record and William Holt, the first two of whom served a single year with the third staying for two years.

In those days it sometimes happened that a man was principal for a single term which makes it difficult, at this late date, to figure periods of service exactly.

ONE WOMAN PRINCIPAL

Only one woman ever acted as head of the school. She was Miss Mattie C. Call who was in charge in 1872 and 1873.

Between her and Milton Welch's second one year term the institution was presided over by: Cyrus Carleton, 1856; Lyman S. Strickland, 1857; George B. Towle, 1858; J. Quincy Barton, 1859-61; A. Quincy Randall, 1862-63; Ransom Norton, 1864; Merritt C. Fernald, 1865; Charles H. Fernald, 1866-70; E. R. Thorndike, 1871.

Following after Miss Call was a single year term by Nathaniel Melcher who was succeeded by Prin. Knowlton and then by Prin. Thomas for the longest association, up to that time. Justin O. Wellman came to Ricker in 1901 and remained four years. He was followed by Edwin C. Harmon for a single year, then by L. M. Felch and by Herman Betts for three years each. Irving C. Weeks lasted four years, until 1914, Jonathan Dyer was in charge for the next three and then came Eugene Stover who served from 1918 to 1923. Ernest C. Fuller was here for but a single year before the arrival of Roy M. Hayes to take charge.

ALSO PRESIDENT OF RJO

For the same period of his supervision over Ricker Classical Institute, Hayes also bore the title

country was in the doldrums of a financial depression. Even the fact it was the only school in Maine to hold the distinction of being authorized by legislative permission to grant associate degrees, failed to make things any easier for Ricker.

The student body was maintained numerically during this period and the curriculum kept pace with advances in educational practices. Ricker was fully conscious of its responsibilities and was meeting them.

NEW SET OF MISFORTUNES

Then came the forties and a

by flames which had lodged in her tinder-dry walls and partitions and which stubbornly refused to yield to even the most valiant efforts of the fire fighters of the Houlton Fire Department.

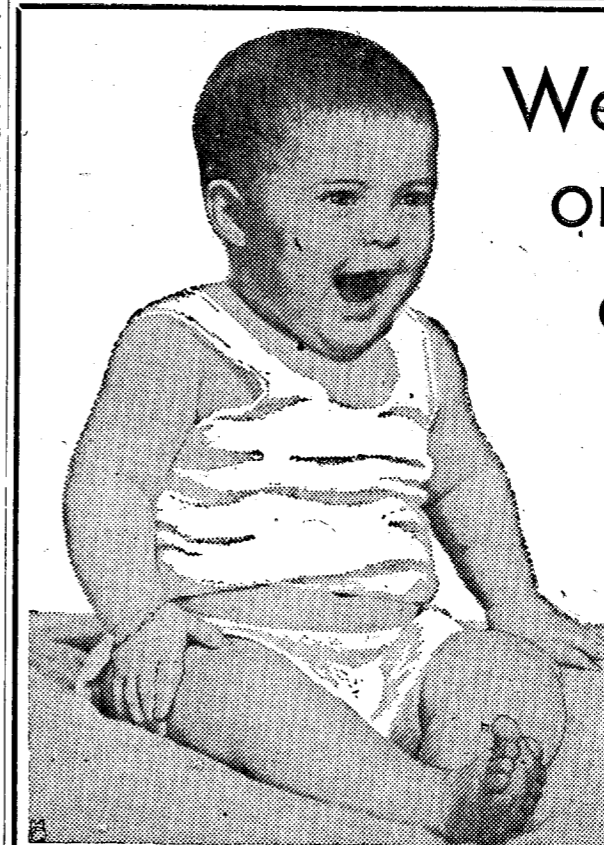
WORDING HALL DESTROYED

Wording Hall had not only been the school's principal classroom building, it had also contained the office of the principal and was the repository of the school's vital records of its graduates and valuable data covering the preceding century. The building that was destroyed had

trustees, the pupils themselves, and the entire town worked together with a heartening spirit of cooperation.

With the students temporarily sheltered and their academic work resumed, thoughts must now be turned toward the restoration of the great loss.

An organized effort was quickly underway to restore what the fire had destroyed. The next two years were critical ones yet they made history for the Town of Houlton and Ricker Classical Institute and Junior College.



We're
 only a year
 old . . . but
 we're sure
 glad we're
 here

As one of Houlton's "youngest businesses, we're proud to add our congratulations on this occasion of it's 150th Birthday . . . our contribution, of necessity, will have to be your second Century of Progress and you have our assurance that we'll do our share.

Also our Best Wishes
 to the Houlton Pioneer
 Times . . . on your 100 years
 of Service to Aroostook County.

WILSON'S SHOES OF
 DISTINCTION

MARKET SQUARE — HOULTON

