

VII. Side by Side

By Kit Watts

The church and college growth affected the town even as the town's development affected Adventist institutions. In fact, local historians see the 1907-1933 period as the second phase of the town's history, or the age of institutionalism.

The town grew up from a country village to a populous suburb of 12, 000, the eighth largest city in Maryland.³³

In 1909 the first concrete bridge was laid across the Sligo making access to the college and san safer and more convenient. In 1912 the dangerous B & O Railroad crossing that intersected Cedar Street (just beyond the Review and Herald) was improved by cutting an underpass beneath the tracks.³⁴

The forerunner of John Nevins Andrews School opened at 8 Columbia Avenue in 1907, and the forerunner of Sligo Elementary School opened in College Hall in 1914.

A Volunteer Fire Department was organized in 1922. The Takoma Park Bank (now Suburban Trust located next door to Home Study Institute) opened in a private residence in 1917 and moved to its present location in 1927. Just up the street the Citizens Bank opened that same year in a remodeled house by the old Takoma Park Church.

Other religious groups established themselves in town--Baptists in 1919, Lutherans in 1924, the Disciples of Christ in 1926, and the Roman Catholics in 1930.³⁵

Meanwhile Sligo Church conducted an active home missionary program. College students held gospel meetings in outlying areas, adding members by this means. In 1926 the church surpassed all its previous financial records.

The church was pastored informally, often by a college or academy Bible teacher. J. N. Anderson from 1922-1925 and Richard F. Farley from 1920-1930 carried the church, along with other demanding responsibilities. H. L. Shoup, well-known Bible doctrines instructor at the college, was the first minister asked to take the job on a full-time basis. He became Sligo's pastor in the summer of 1930.³⁶

As the church began to grow as a community, Shoup urged that a proper building be planned--and he is credited with raising the first \$800 for the present building.³⁷

Alger Johns succeeded Shoup as pastor. But it was under Clinton J. Coon, who came in 1939, that sentiment for a new church gained momentum enough to set an architect to drawing plans, and a fund-raising committee to rallying financial support.

Incidentally, also in 1939, the Sligo Elementary School moved into brand new quarters--the building now called Richards Hall. (Just two years earlier the Takoma Park, Hyattsville and Capital Memorial Churches had build JNA on its present site. Miriam (Mim) Tymeson became principal in 1935.)³⁸

Footnotes:

33. Takoma Park, p, 25.

34. Ibid, p, 25, 27.

35. Ibid, p, 31.

36. Sligonian, May 8, 1930, p. 1.

37. Interview with Eunice Shoup (daughter)

38. Interview with Mimes Tymeson.