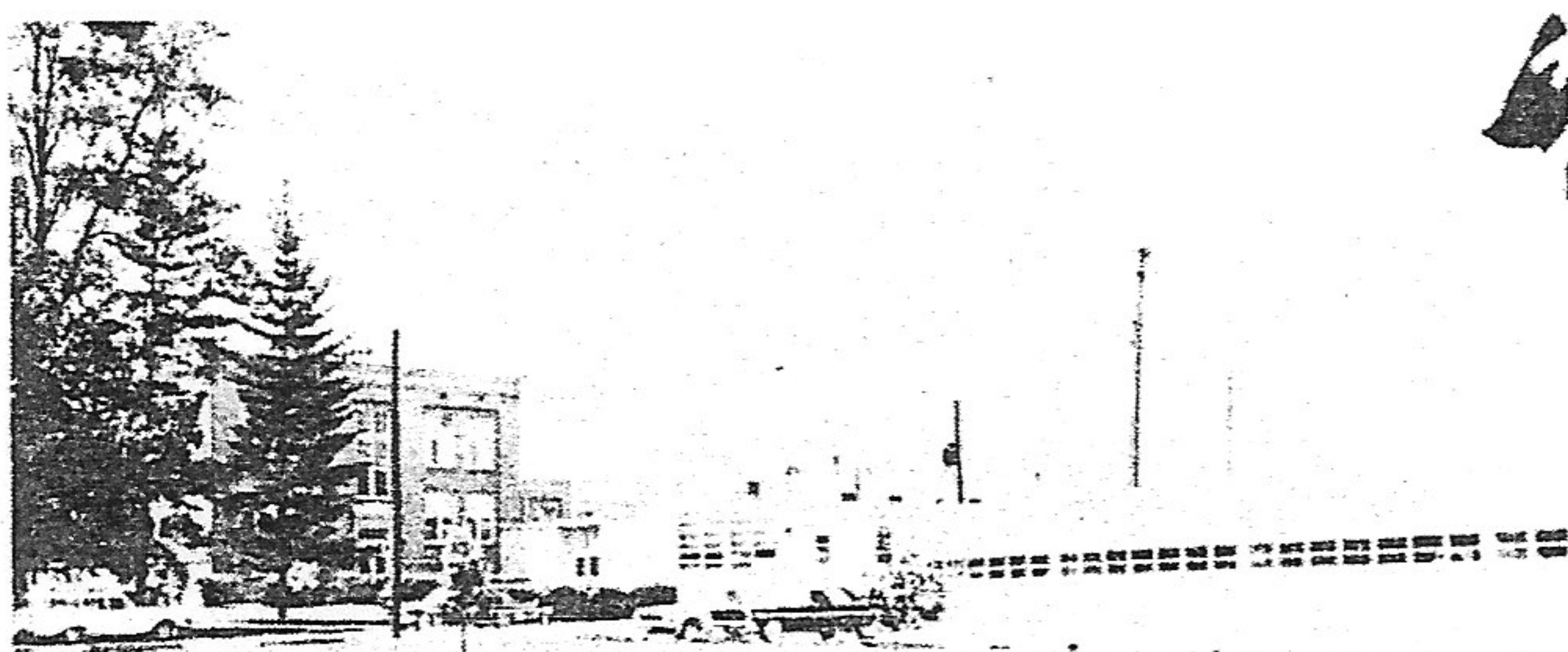


plant and replacement of two wooden stairways with concrete ones.

A major change came to the school in 1956 when Camden and West Elkton consolidated and became known as Shawnee Local School District.

In 1957 because of the increased junior high and high school enrollment due to consolidation, a new elementary building was erected. This structure located east of the high school contains a large multi-purpose room, library, clinic, office and fourteen class rooms. This made it possible to use the elementary building of 1904 for the junior high students.



Shawnee Elementary School, built in 1957

Seven years later—1964—another change came to the local school system when the Gratis School merged with Shawnee Local to form the Preble Shawnee School District. Since the mergers, each community has retained its elementary school; all junior high students of Preble Shawnee attend school in Gratis, all middle grades (6th and 7th) attend classes in Camden's old elementary school and all senior high students are enrolled in Preble Shawnee High School.

Camden has been quite fortunate in having citizens in the community that have been interested in the progress of the schools. Not only ideas but concrete evidence of improvements have been seen in the school through the efforts of such organizations as Parent Teachers Community Club, Parent Teach-

ers Organization, Parent Teachers Assn. and the present Home and School League; also the Band Parents Organization and the Preble Shawnee District Athletic Club.

Certainly during the last century great strides have been made in Camden's school facilities, opportunities and advantages. This has been no accidental development, but it has taken time, service and money. Let us trust that those who, in the future, have any connection with the school will cast aside selfish motives and cooperate for even a better school system.

FAMOUS PEOPLE

The cultural and educational facilities of Camden have influenced the lives of hundreds of people. Many Camdenites have gone from their local community and become quite illustrious in their special fields. Some have become well known statewide and others have become nationally known figures. Camden has many citizens and former citizens who have brought honor and fame to their town but there are five persons who have become more widely known than others: O. T. Corson, a



Sherwood Anderson — Author — Member of National Academy of Arts and Letters 1876-1941

Compliments of Past Time Pool Room — Camden
The Lamp — Camden
Wilma's Beauty Shop — Camden
Concrete Pipe & Tile — Camden

well known educator; Carney Lantis, a psychologist; Cyrena Van Gordon, grand opera soprano; Sherwood Anderson, author; and William Clayton Pryor, author and newspaper reporter.



Hon. O. T. Corson 1857-1928, Supt. of Camden Schools—1880; Pres. of National Education Assn. 1899



Cyrena Van Gordon—Grand Opera Singer 1892-1964



Wm. Clayton Pryor—1894-1949—Author and newspaper reporter

CAMDEN'S PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS AND NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Before the village of Newcomb was incorporated in 1832, the only records of elections were those of the township, and it is assumed that Camden participated in them. During this period there is one reference to the election when the county was divided into four townships and Camden was in the second range, which later was divided into Monroe, Washington, Gasper and Somers. This election was held in the home of Samuel Hawkins in Eaton.

In 1832 when Newcomb was incorporated by special act of the state legislature, corporation officers as prescribed by law, were elected. From this year until 1840, elections, both national and local presented no unusual interest but Camden voted.

In 1840 the first spectacular national election took place and Camden took a vital and absorbing interest in it. William Henry Harrison and Martin Van Buren were the candidates for President and Thomas Corwin and William Shannon were the

*Compliments of American Legion Post No. 377 — Camden
J. F. Daugherty, M.D. — Camden
The Golden Rule Mobile Home Sales — Camden
Rodeffer Insurance Agency — Camden*