

W. H. LEWIS

Mr. W. H. Lewis, long time principal of Burrell Slater High School, came to Florence in 1928. He was born in Perry County and grew up in Montgomery. He has a B.S. Degree from Morehouse College and he attended the University of Cincinnati his first year in the Shoals area. He later got a scholarship that enabled him to receive his Master's Degree at Fisk University in Nashville.

When Mr. Lewis came to Florence there were two schools for Black children, Burrell and Slater. Mr. Lewis supervised both schools when they came into the city system in 1937.

Mr. Lewis organized the first Black Boy Scout Troop in the area in 1938, and was instrumental in organizing the first marching band at a Black school.

Mr. Lewis led the fight for accreditation for Burrell Slater which was achieved in 1958. The school maintained high standards until it was phased out in 1968.

Mr. Lewis retired in 1971, after 43 years of service. He devotes his time now to the things he never had time for during his many years of service; hunting, fishing, some research and writing.

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