

100 Years of Love: Love Memorial Elementary Celebrates a Century of Memories

Lincoln Herald Staff

LINCOLNTON, N.C. – A century of learning, laughter, friendships, and cherished memories will be celebrated as Love Memorial Elementary School marks its 100th anniversary on Sunday, November 8, from 3–5 p.m.

Former students, teachers, staff, families, and community members are invited to return to the school, located at 1463 Love Memorial Road in Lincolnton, to celebrate “100 Years of Love – Past, Present, Future.”

The special celebration will offer an opportunity to reconnect with old friends, reminisce about school days, tour the campus, and honor the generations of students and educators who have helped make Love Memorial such an important part of the community.

A Century of History

Love Memorial Elementary School traces its beginnings to 1926, when Lincoln

County received $75,000 in school bonds from the North Carolina State School Board. Of that amount, $20,000 was allocated to the new school, with additional funds raised through the efforts of the local community.

The school was named in honor of Edgar Love, a respected and progressive community leader who served two terms as mayor of Lincolnton and represented the area in the North Carolina General Assembly in 1916 and 1918. As a member of the Board of Education, Love strongly advocated for modern school facilities and improved educational opportunities for local children.

Originally a small rural school serving families in the surrounding mill communities, Love Memorial grew to an enrollment of approximately 500 students at one point in its history.

A September 19, 1935, article in the *Lincoln Times News* listed Virgil White as principal, with teachers Mrs. R.J. Sifford, Miss Mabel Crouse, Mrs. Myra Nixon Turley, Mrs. Darrell Lewis, and Miss Elsie Warlick.

Another important chapter in the school's history came in 1962, when Love Memorial became part of a consolidation involving Crouse, Long Shoals, Laboratory, and Love Memorial schools.