

**ADDRESS DELIVERED***Continued from Page One*

this sum had to be made from the Contingency Fund.

In the spring of 1944 the Board of Correction and Training sent a committee to Efland to look over this site with the idea of utilizing it as a State School. The buildings had so deteriorated that the place could not be considered as we had no funds with which to build. Governor Broughton was urging action on the part of the Board, and the Commissioner was running down every suggestion as to a location. This was war times and it looked as if a suitable building could not be found. Finally an opportunity arose when the Negro N. Y. A. in Rocky Mount received orders from Washington to close. I shall not go too much into details but any not familiar with Government affairs has no idea the amount of red tape one has to face to get an agreement signed. Governor Broughton threw the prestige of his office behind it and at the July 1944 Board Meeting I was happy to announce that the contract for the use of the buildings had been signed. Even then inventories of equipment had to be made and much renovation of buildings had to be done to convert them into usable buildings for this new occupancy. Governor Broughton arranged payment for these things out of the Contingency Fund.

In the meantime the Executive Committee had been busy considering applicants for a Superintendent and at this same July 1944 Meeting the Committee nominated Miss Mae D. Holmes for Superintendent and she was elected as of July 1, 1944, and has continued to the present time.

From July 1, 1944, to July 1, 1947, Miss Holmes conducted the School in these barracks on the Tar River in Rocky Mount. It was not a suitable site, the buildings were inadequate and there was no farm, but there were some advantages. The Rocky Mount people were most congenial, and being situated within the corporate limits meant that the students had an opportunity to have more social life. The girls regularly sang in the choirs of the town, there were frequent shopping visits to the stores, and parties and dances were given at the School to which were invited the young people of the community. In this short time the School had made a place for itself in the community and even with all the inadequacies the Superintendent and staff were loathe to leave. The move meant going to a strange community, to a farm home five miles from town. It did mean the inheritance of substantial buildings and much equipment for house-keeping and farming.

Only Miss Holmes and a few of us associated with her know of the struggles encountered with the setting up of this School at this temporary location and of the moving of the School bodily to this beautiful site here.

It was in the Legislature of 1947 that

a bill was passed discontinuing the Old Farm Colony which had occupied this site since 1929 and turning over the site, farm, buildings, equipment, stock and tools to the State School for Negro Girls for a permanent home. July 1, 1947, was moving day and what a day it was. The Eastern Carolina Training School and the Morrison Training School helped with their trucks, buses and boys and within a few days the 50 girls were in their new home.

In a way the School known generally as Dobbs Farm began life anew. For the first time permanent plans and policies could be evolved. Health plans had to be made with the local doctors and hospitals. Ministers were contacted who would assist with religious services. It was important that acquaintance be made with recreational leaders, with the welfare workers and, yes, with the police. May I say that this all was worked out satisfactorily, largely because of the skill and administrative ability of Miss Holmes. She has put her life in the Institution and what you see here in the way of planning and arrangement is distinctly of the Holmes flavor. She has put much time in the selection of her staff and the training of staff members on the job, so here is an organization to be commended.

Some renovation of old buildings has been made but this is the first real building program since this School moved here. It consists of this beautiful building we are in, a dormitory, and a combined School and Administration Building. It is these buildings that we are here to dedicate. The regret is that the Gymnasium and Auditorium which were a part of the Central Building had to be deleted because of lack of funds. The fact that we have no Auditorium is the explanation as to why we are meeting here in the Cafeteria today. Requests will be made to future Legislatures to add these wings to the building.

And to whom are we dedicating these buildings? To the North Carolina girls who are in need of the care and training this School can give. A generous State has contributed the money, much care and planning has gone into the buildings, and we want them used for many years. They must be taken care of, and I am sure they will be for "housekeeping" is a big part of the training here.

So, Miss Holmes, I congratulate you, your staff and your girls on occupying these beautiful buildings. Nine years may seem a long time and the road you have traveled since you came to Rocky Mount and occupied the temporary buildings there, then moved here and set up house-keeping anew, may seem long and paved with many stumbling blocks, but this is a new day and the road ahead should be smoother. Along with the dedication of these new buildings, may we dedicate our lives to the training of North Carolina girls to good citizenship and thus fulfill

**NEW BUILDING DEDICATED***Continued from Page Four*

general appearance, excellent behavior, posture, attention to the director all served to impress the audience with the great power of Christian training and its inescapable influence upon the lives of these boys, who otherwise, might, even at their tender ages, become outcasts of society. These boys, not alone through music, but also through a wide variety of other helpful activities at Morrison are being led into the straight and narrow paths of noble living, with the fervent hope of everyone that eventually they may climb high up on the beautiful hill of useful citizenship.

Mrs. Brown's usefulness at the school is felt all over the campus. She deserves the gratitude of all citizens, and indeed the gratitude of every club woman whose high and holy calling is to rescue the perishing and lift up the fallen in our midst. Unstinted honor, Professor Brown justly and worthily deserves, but all of us recognize that one great power behind his throne—that far-seeing, gentle, constant, irresistible, uplifting power of Josephine Stevens Brown.

**Club Poem**

When the meeting's called to order  
And you look around the room,  
You're sure to see some faces  
That from out the shadows loom;  
They're always at the meeting  
And they'll stay until its' through—  
The ones that I would mention  
Are the always-faithful few.

They fill the many offices,  
And are always on the spot,  
No matter what the weather,  
Though it may be awful hot;  
It may be dark and rainy,  
But they are tried and true;  
The ones that you rely on  
Are the always-faithful few.

There are lots of worthy members,  
Who will come when in the mood,  
When everything's convenient  
They can do a little good;  
They're a factor in the meeting  
And are necessary, too;  
But the ones who never fail us  
Are the always-faithful few.

If it were not for these faithful,  
Whose shoulders at the wheel  
Keep the institution moving  
Without a halt or reel,  
What would be the fate of meetings,  
Where we claim so much to do?  
There surely would be failures  
If we lacked the faithful few.

the statute of 1943 which established the Institution for this purpose. In reality it is a Character Training School, a Heart Training School, if you please, and God grant that it shall be held always to this high purpose.