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STUDENTS OF JOHN O. HICKS RECALL OL' DAYS

Hicks Academy Served Useful Purpose in Clay—Dr. Truett Was A Pupil

With a program reminiscent of the past and pulsing with the interest of the present, Clay County citizens celebrated "John O. Hicks Day" here Saturday.

In order that posterity may not forget the life and labors of the educational pioneer, schoolmaster and citizen, John O. Hicks, who, for more than a quarter of a century, gave himself without reservation to the training and the culture of the youth of the highlands of Western North Carolina and North Georgia, the disciples of this stalwart teacher gather every year in October to hold a celebration in his honor.

Saturday's program consisted of a group of songs and readings directed by Mrs. Carrie McClure and rendered by former Hicks students. This part of the program was presented outdoors on the spot where the old academy once stood. Following this feature there were addresses by former students of the Hicks Academy, County Superintendent Allen J. Bell, and other visitors. After a picnic lunch there was an old-fashioned spelling bee in which Webster's blue back speller was used.

Outstanding Event

This unique and effective method of preserving the memory of one whose telling contribution to the public welfare was made in the prosaic seclusion of the rude school room of bygone days was instituted in 1928 by a group of Hicks students, all of whom are now well on in years. So popular did the idea become that the Hicks day celebration has become an outstanding event in Hayesville and Clay County.

John O. Hicks, a vigorous, energetic youth of Rutherford county, migrated to what is now the county of Clay about 1850, and opened a school on Tusquitee creek. What his educational opportunities had been no one seems to know but it is certain that he held no college degree. Following his efforts in the Tusquitee valley he taught schools successively in the community known as Bristol cove, Shiloh and Laurel Hill. He then came to the spot where Fort Hembree had stood and opened a school which met with splendid patronage by the youth of the surrounding community. Soon the school was moved to the location of the present Hayesville high school and became known far and near as the Hicks academy.

Hicks, by the force of his personality and the vigor of his convictions, made a lasting impression upon all who came in contact with him. His students remember him as a man of boundless energy. In the school room he was a fearless user of the rod. He was always equal to the task of discipline however challenging the difficulty might appear.

His disciplinary efforts sometimes went beyond the school room walls and campus boundary. On one occasion, a neighboring Baptist preacher, himself of no mean physical qualifications, came to reckon with Hicks about the punishment of his son. Where upon, without waste of words, the school master soundly thrashed the preacher as he had done his son. The absence of an athletic program in the schools of that early day possibly made an occasional fisticuff between pupil and teacher a welcome outlet to the physical energies of both.

One of the most interesting things about the relation between pupil and teacher is the pupil's close observation of the teacher's habits and moods. It was a saying among Hick's students that when he came into the school room with one trouser leg stuffed into his boot they might look out for a hard day.

Loved Fox Hunting

Like Washington and many other great men, Hicks loved the chase. Fox hunting was his chief diversion. He was a man of temperate most bordering upon austerity. He did not share the popular approval of alcohol so characteristic of his day.

In the school room he was clear and thorough as an instructor and he demanded hard work on the part of his pupils. In contrast with the specialized teachers of the present, he taught a wide range of subjects. Smith's grammar, Fowler and Davis' arithmetic, Towns analysis, Webster's blue back speller, and Maury's geography were subjects and texts in which he had a keen interest and which he usually taught. Assistance associated with him gave

The Perennial Scare

By Albert T. Reid



instructing in Latin, Greek, geometry, trigonometry, astronomy, and bookkeeping. Still other assistants taught the more elementary branches.

Hicks was interested in other matters besides the work of his school. He was a public spirited citizen. He was chosen as the first representative of Clay county in the North Carolina General Assembly after the county's organization. Later he was again chosen to represent his county in the law-making body of the state.

In the period following the War between the States when educational institutions were few and money for education distressing scarce, the Hicks Academy made an invaluable contribution to the political, moral, economic, and religious life, not only of Clay and Cherokee counties, but of the nation as well. The institution sent its graduates out into all the professions and walks of life.

Dr. Truett Was Pupil

Among these who began their education under Hicks possibly none has lived to achieve a greater place in the world's life than the Rev. Dr. George W. Truett, pastor of the First Baptist church of Dallas, Texas. Truett was born near Hayesville and in his boyhood was a pupil of Hicks.

The school buildings were of frame construction and consisted of a main building about 40 by 60 feet around which were grouped 11 cabins used as dormitories.

These cabins were 14 feet square and were planked up and down, the joints being stripped with narrow laths. The entire campus was surrounded by a picket fence. The buildings and fence were at all times kept immaculately white with paint or whitewash which gave a very striking appearance to the visitors and a feeling of respect to the student body. The school's enrollment often reached as many as 150 students.

Hicks gave up the leadership of the academy about 1876 and moved to South Carolina and from there he moved to Texas where he died at the ripe age of 90 years. He lived a bachelor until late in life when he married Miss Mattie Claybough, of Alabama, who was an instructor in music in the academy.

He succeeded as principal of the academy by F. A. Fessenden, of Boston, a Harvard graduate who carried on the school until 1887 when changes in conditions made it necessary to close the institution. Upon its site there stands today a modern public high school to carry on the work so heroically begun and sustained by Hicks.

In commenting upon Hicks' success as a leader who could call out

American Legion Planning Program For November 11

The Murphey post of the American Legion is planning a program to observe November 11th, Armistice Day. Following is a tentative program:

Meeting called to order by the Chairman, Col. Harry P. Cooper, 20th District Commander.

Invocation by the Chaplain, Rev. Howard P. Powell.

Advancement of colors by the Color Guard.

"America" sung by assemblage.

Introduction of speakers by Chairman:

Speakers are: Col. Don Witherpoon and Judge William F. Harding.

Retirements of Colors by Color Guard.

Benediction by the Chaplain.

Judge Harding will suspend Court at noon.

A football game in the afternoon.

FIRM OFFICIAL VISITS MINE IN MURPHEY SECTION

Mr. and Mrs. John Stead, of Easton, Pa., motored to Murphey for a few days' visit last week. Mr. Stead is president of the Notla Tale Company, of Murphey, which is owned by Binney and Smith Company, of New York, and is here looking after the interests of his company. The Notla Tale mine is located six miles west of Murphey on the L. and N. railroad, and is under the management of J. W. Bailey and son, J. B. Bailey of Murphey. Large quantities of the highest grade tale to be found in the United States, are being mined and shipped from this mine. The quality is equal to that of French and Italian tale.

The Scout is putting in its appearance late this week, due to the fact that we had a large bunch of circulars to print. A number of articles had to be cut short, and some were left out. They will appear next week.

The best is yet, one of his former students remarked that this success was more impressive because of the unorthodox material with which he had to work.

WOODMEN HOLD CONFERENCE AT MURPHEY 28 - 29

High state officials and representatives of lodges in several mountain counties assembled in Murphey Wednesday night for the annual two-day session of Woodmen of the World of Western North Carolina.

The first session was held Wednesday evening at the country court house at 7 o'clock. Speakers included W. H. Grogan, Jr., of Brevard district deputy; N. B. Rhodarmer, of Canton, state president; E. B. Lewis, of Kinston, state manager and a national director of the order, and B. T. Hill, of Wadesboro, head counselor.

Ralph Moody, Murphey attorney, made the address of welcome, and Hugh Monteith, of Sylva, responded. The invocation was spoken by Dr. J. P. Anderson, pastor of the Presbyterian church. President Rhodarmer called the meeting to order and presided.

The Thursday morning session was held at the courthouse at 10 o'clock. Afterwards the Coneheta Camp No. 891, of Murphey were hosts to the delegates and other visitors at a banquet at the Regal Hotel.

Murphey Baptists Call South Carolina Pastor

The Rev. Claude Turner, pastor of the First Baptist church of Beaufort, N. C., received a call this week to the pastorate of the First Baptist church of Murphey. He has not yet accepted the call, but it is believed that he will do so. The Rev. Mr. Turner preached two sermons here on the 5th of this month, and made a favorable impression upon the membership of the church.

An Optimist

"Say, I met a real optimist yesterday." "Who was that, the bird who believes the company isn't going to lay off any more men?" "No, it's the fellow who exclaimed after getting a leg cut off in a railroad accident—'Thank goodness, it was the leg with the boil on it.'"

LONG ILLNESS FATAL TO AGED MURPHY WOMAN

Mrs. J. M. Vaughn, aged sixty-three, died at her home here at 1:15 Thursday morning following an illness of several years. She was the daughter of the late J. D. Abbott, and was born August 15, 1868. She married James M. Vaughn, 36 years ago. She is survived by her husband, two sisters, Mrs. R. H. Hyatt and Mrs. G. W. Candler, one brother George Abbott, and a number of nieces and nephews. She was a member of the Presbyterian church. Funeral services were conducted Thursday afternoon at 3:00 at the Presbyterian church in charge of the pastor, the Rev. Dr. J. P. Anderson, assisted by the Methodist pastor the Rev. H. P. Powell. Burial in the Sunset cemetery. Active pall-bearers were her nephews, Ben McGlamery, Jr., Jack Long, Virgil Johnson, Dale Lee, Jim Franklin, Allen Howell. The honorary pall-bearers were: Paul Hyatt, Henry Hyatt, Jr., J. B. Storey, Sam Akin, Will Howell, Neil Davidson, Elbert Mallonee, Sheridan Helgeway, Arthur Akin, E. C. Moore and G. W. Ellis.

Lucile Frankum, 2 Years Old, Is Taken By Death

Lucile Frankum, the little two years old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Frankum, died at their home here Tuesday afternoon, following an illness of a few days. Burial was at Martin's Creek cemetery Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Besides the parents, the little girl is survived by two brothers and one sister.

Funeral Service Held For Mrs. Mary Gentry

Funeral service for Mrs. Mary Emily Wilson Gentry was held at Hanging Dog church Thursday morning at 10 o'clock by the Rev. H. P. Powell, pastor of the Murphey Methodist church. Mrs. Gentry died suddenly Tuesday afternoon at the home of her son, M. L. Gentry, in East Murphey. She was born December 18, 1845 and was married to C. C. Gentry February 27, 1868. She was a member of the Methodist church and the mother of the following children: S. C. Gentry, Mrs. Clara Farmer, Mrs. Ella Whitaker, P. C. Gentry, M. L. Gentry and E. M. Gentry.

STATE LEGION WILL INSTALL NEW OFFICERS

Tarboro, Oct. 26. (AP)—Henry C. Bourne of Tarboro, commander-elect of the state department of the American Legion, and Mrs. Hugh Berry, of Louisburgh, president-elect of the state legion auxiliary, will be formally installed here tomorrow night.

Thousands of legionaries from all sections of North Carolina are expected to attend the service which will be preceded by a monster parade.

Con. C. Johnson, of Moorsville, retiring state commander, will preside at the installation service. Henry Keethli, commander of the Tarboro post, will welcome the visiting legion members to Tarboro. Mrs. Haywood P. Foxhall, Tarboro auxiliary president, will also make an address of welcome.

Cherokee Chief Studies Lands

Jarrett Blythe, Chief of the Cherokee Indian reservation, and Clarence E. Balizet, forester for the reservation, were in Murphey this week looking after lands in Cherokee county belonging to the reservation, the Irrees tract being 3,000 acres on Hangingdog, known as the Henson lands. They have several other tracts in the county between Murphey and Andrews.