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GREAT OCCASION WAS COUNTY COMMENCEMENT

3,000 CHILDREN IN PARADE

Crowd Estimated Between 8,000 and 12,000—Parade of Over 3,000 Children Was Inspiring Sight—Exhibits Were Splendid—Prize Winners—Report in Detail of Happenings of a Great Day in the History of Robeson County Schools—Lumberton Beautifully Decorated for the Occasion

Not in the history of Robeson county has a greater educational rally been known than was the second annual County Commencement held in Lumberton Friday. It was a day that will be long remembered by thousands of Robeson county folks—people of all ages and sizes. The crowd was estimated at from ten to twelve thousand, not less than 4,000 of the number being school children from every nook and corner of the county. The number of schools represented in the parade was 55 and the number of children in the parade was more than 3,000, besides a number of school committeemen, floats and mounted marshals.

Early in the morning people began to arrive on buggies, wagons, carts, automobiles, and walking. Even before the several heavily-loaded trains began to arrive the town was overflowing with people. After the trains had come in perhaps the biggest crowd that ever gathered in Robeson was here.

While the rain in the afternoon somewhat interfered, the program was carried out to perfection with the exception of a baseball game between the Lumberton and Fairmont teams. Notwithstanding the rain, the large crowd seemed in good spirits and seemed to have had a great day. The East Lumberton brass band furnished the music—good music—for the occasion. The parade, the spelling contests, the athletic contests, and the splendid school exhibits furnished plenty of entertainment—rich entertainment for all the people.

The town was well decorated for the occasion, rest rooms were prepared in different parts of the town for the benefit of the visitors, and a hearty welcome awaited everyone present. In fact, Lumberton as a whole was fortunate in having so many intelligent, orderly Robeson county people here for this grand occasion. The committee on decorations was composed of Messrs. J. P. Townsend, W. O. Thompson and A. E. Spivey.

The first thing on the program was the parade, which started from the graded school building at 11 o'clock a. m. The parade was more than a mile in length and was more than a credit to the occasion. This parade, in which more than 3,000 children marched, was a sight to behold. First came Lumberton's large fire truck, beautifully decorated and filled with members of the local fire company. In front of the auto was a large banner on which "Safety First" was printed in large letters. Next came Mr. W. K. Bethune, chief marshal for the town, and Prof. R. F. Sentelle, chief marshal for the schools, mounted on horses, wearing high hats and otherwise appropriately costumed.

Following these came the East Lumberton band, playing music that caused the spirit of the occasion to take possession of the people who thronged the sidewalks. Next in the parade came a number of beautiful and attractive floats. The first was a splendid float representing Flora Macdonald College, Red Springs, followed by one prepared by the senior class of the Lumberton high school, on which the members of the class were riding. Behind this was a beautiful float on which the junior girls of this school were mounted. Next came a float from Baker's Chapel school, which was most artistically arranged and made a most attractive appearance. The floats were most attractive and beautiful and did credit to the occasion. After the floats came the school children marching in a faultless manner. The following schools were represented in the parade: Lumberton, Orrum, Barnesville, East Lumberton, moonlight school, Bloomingdale, Lumber Bridge, Fairmont, Iona, Oak Grove, Smyrna, Rennett, Meadows, St. Pauls, McDonalds, Glennwood, Philadelphia, Saddle Tree, Oak Dale, Gaddysville, Harmony, Jennings Mill, Raft Swamp, Marietta, Tabernacle, Centenary, Mt. Tabor, Pleasant Hope, Regan, Purvis, Mr. Eliam, Smith's, Raynham, Barker's, Tolarsville, West Lumberton, Center, Rozier, Oak Ridge, Bethesda, White Pond, Nye, Oakton, Ten Mile, Red Springs, Shannon, Antioch, Oak Grove, Spring Hill, Pembroke, Raemon, Long Branch, Cedar Grove, Beulah, Rowland. There were perhaps other schools in the parade without banners. Following these were a number of pupils from the Rex school riding on a automobile float. The last of the parade was a beautiful float prepared by the progressive firm of R. D. Caldwell & Son. It took the parade 50 minutes to pass. Many of the children were giving continuous yells for their schools.

There were many features about the parade that deserve special mention. One was the perfect order of march. This showed that the teachers of Robeson have the children under good control and are training them for useful men and women. There are many other features that deserve special mention—in fact each school taking part deserves that, but time and space will not permit.

The parade alone was worth coming from any point in Robeson county to witness. A parade with more than 3,000 bright school boys and girls marching—the boys and girls that will be the men and women of our county tomorrow was enough to make one sit up and take notice. This thrilled the fathers and mothers and made them glad. It made many of them resolve to strive harder to educate their children and will no doubt result in much good to the educational cause in this good county, "The State of Robeson".

The parade started from the graded school building, marched down Seventh street to Chestnut to Second, across to Elm and up Elm to Eighth street, then Eighth street to the school building. The front of the parade had reached the starting point some time before all the children had left.

Spelling Contests

Immediately after the parade the spelling contests were held in the yard in front of the school building. The elementary grades were the first to spell. Quite a number from various schools entered the contest and all who entered proved to be master spellers, as did those in the high school contest which followed. Miss Fannie Lewis of the Fairmont graded school won the prize for the best speller in the elementary grades—\$2.50, offered by Mr. C. B. Skipper of Lumberton, while Miss Cora Ford of the Oak Dale school, near Marietta, won the prize—\$2.50, offered by Mr. M. W. Floyd, of Lumberton, for the best speller in the high school contest. A large crowd gathered about the spellers in order to hear them. The way they spelled the hard words given them showed that there are some good spellers in the schools of Robeson. Mr. Stephen McIntyre of Lumberton conducted the spelling contests.

After the spelling contests diplomas were awarded to more than 200 pupils who had finished the seventh grade work.

Prizes were awarded as follows:

Best Appearance in Parade
For the school making best appearance in parade, taking into consideration marching and order—\$5.00, H. E. Stacy, won by Orrum high school, awarded by committee, composed of Mrs. R. E. Lewis, Mrs. B. W. Page, L. R. Varsler.

A number of other schools made exceptionally good appearance in the parade, notably Fairmont, each pupil neatly dressed, with shoes polished, all marching in perfect time and order, made an appearance that could not be surpassed by any school, in country or city; and Philadelphia, strong in all points and particularly strong in marching.

Exhibits

The school exhibits were a great drawing card. They were arranged in the various offices at the court house and thousands of people saw them. The following schools and exhibits: Oakdale, Rowland, Red Springs, Pembroke, Purvis, Fairmont, St. Pauls, East Lumberton, Iona, Lumberton graded school, Philadelphia, Baker's chapel, Harmony and Raft Swamp.

The exhibits were all most attractive and showed that good work along all lines had been done by the pupils.

Farm-Life School Exhibit
The Philadelphia farm-life school exhibit was perhaps the most interesting. This exhibit was arranged in Farm Demonstrator L. E. Blanchard's office upstairs in the court house. The display of the work done by the domestic science class of this Robeson county institution was most attractive. In this department were articles of most every description made by the class, all sorts of good things cooked by the girls, etc. The cakes, various kinds of bread, candy and other things made one feel very much like eating something. It showed that the girls who attend this school are learning how to make home pleasant for those who are so fortunate as to win them.

Perhaps the most instructive feature of the exhibit from this school was the orchard department. The spraying apparatus and equipment was shown. Also pictures of the school boys in the actual work of spraying and pruning were hanging on the walls. The equipment consisted of a spray-barrel, several feet of hose, tools used, etc. It was most instructive and interesting to many who saw it.

Then too, the poultry department exhibit was very interesting. In this department were shown trap coops, by the use of which one can tell how many eggs each hen lays during the year. No chance for a hen to lie about her record; they've got it down. The coop was built by the boys in the school. A model biddie coop was also on exhibition. In this coop were 59 live R. I. Red biddies. Besides the things mentioned, this splendid exhibit contained a sanitary drinking fountain made by some of the male pupils in the school.

(Continued on page 4)

THE FINAL SUMMONS

Mrs. Annie McDavid Sharpe Died This Morning at Garnett, S. C.—Mother of Mr. J. A. Sharpe of Lumberton—Remains Will be Interred at Garnett Tomorrow

Mr. J. A. Sharpe received a wire this morning advising him of the death early this morning at Garnett, S. C., of his mother, Mrs. Annie McDavid Sharpe. The funeral and interment will take place at Garnett tomorrow.

Deceased was the widow of Rev. V. A. Sharpe, who was for years an honored member of the North Carolina Methodist Conference, transferring to this Conference from the South Carolina Conference, and who died in Granville county December 21, 1894. She was 82 years old on the 12th of last month and had been in declining health for the past two months at the home of her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Wiggins, at Garnett, death being due to the general infirmities of old age, though she was remarkably active when she visited her son and daughter-in-law here last fall. She is survived by four daughters and two sons—Mrs. J. F. Turner of Fair Bluff, Mrs. P. T. Farabow of Carthage, Mrs. J. E. Wiggins and Miss Mary Sharpe of Garnett, Mr. A. M. Sharpe of Anderson, S. C., and Mr. J. A. Sharpe of Lumberton. Mr. Sharpe will leave this evening for Garnett to attend the funeral.

Mr. E. B. Wright of Boardman Died in Philadelphia Yesterday

From this morning's Wilmington Star it is learned that Mr. Edward B. Wright of Boardman, vice president and general manager of the Butters Lumber Co., died yesterday in Philadelphia, where he had been undergoing treatment for some time. The funeral will take place in Philadelphia this afternoon and it is thought that the remains will be taken to the old home of the deceased in Michigan for interment. Mr. Wright was between 55 and 60 years old. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, Misses Martha and Helen, and one son, Mr. E. S., who is assistant general manager of the company at Boardman.

Infant Son of Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Bullard

Edgar Lloyd, 5-months-old son of Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Bullard, died at the home of his parents in the southern part of town yesterday morning at 3 o'clock. The child had only been sick a short time, the cause of its death being acute pneumonia. The funeral was conducted at the grave yesterday afternoon at 5 o'clock by Rev. H. C. Moore, of Raleigh, who filled the appointment of Rev. C. L. Greaves, pastor of the First Baptist church, here yesterday morning and evening, and interment was made in Meadow-Brook cemetery. Many beautiful flowers, offerings of sympathetic friends, covered the grave.

Son of Rev. A. J. Groves Died at Southern Pines Yesterday

Mr. Frank Groves, 26 years old, oldest son of Rev. and Mrs. A. J. Groves of Rowland, died yesterday of tuberculosis at Southern Pines. Interment will take place today at Littleton. Rev. Mr. Groves was pastor of the St. Paul circuit for four years and is now pastor of the Rowland circuit.

ROBESON HEADS THE LIST

Four Schools of Robeson Will be Represented Among the 75 Schools in Annual Debate at Chapel Hill

Orrum, Fairmont, Rowland and Tabernacle won out in the triangular debating contest in which 1,300 students from 325 high schools in North Carolina participated on the evening of March 31 and along with 71 other schools have been declared eligible to enter the final contest at Chapel Hill for the Aycock Cup. Robeson thus heads the list with four schools sending representatives to Chapel Hill. Seven other counties—Alamance, Brunswick, Gaston, Iredell, Scotland, Wake and Wilson—have 3 schools each, and 3 others—Gaston, Dublin and Johnston—will be represented by 2 schools. The boys will gather at Chapel Hill Tuesday of this week for the final preliminary, two teams from each school, and the winners will meet Friday for the final contest for the Aycock Memorial Cup. Here's hoping that a Robeson county team bring back the coveted cup.

TOO SLOW FOR LUMBERTON AND FAIRMONT

Withdrawn from Upper Cape Fear League—May Form League With Raeford and Laurinburg

Lumberton and Fairmont have withdrawn from the Upper Cape Fear Baseball League, which was recently organized, composed of the towns of Fayetteville, Parkton, Lumberton and Fairmont. The reason for this action was that Fayetteville and Parkton only wanted to play two games each week, while Lumberton and Fairmont wanted to play four, or more. Lumberton fans say they could not afford to hire players for only two games each week. An effort will be made to organize Lumberton, Fairmont, Raeford and Laurinburg into a four-town league.

NANCE GETS 4 YEARS ON ROADS

Man Who Used Gun So Freely at School Closing Draws Road Sentence But Appeals—Chain-Gang Guard Fined for Being Drunk and Disorderly

Four years on the public roads of Robeson county was the sentence imposed by Recorder E. M. Britt Saturday upon Will Nance, who shot and wounded four persons at a school closing at Smith's school house, Howellsville township about 10 miles from Lumberton, at the school closing on the night of March 31, last. Nance was tried on five charges. One for assault upon Miss Olive Smith with intent to kill. For this he drew 12 months; for assault with intent to kill upon Miss McKellar Barnes, Mrs. Luther Campbell and Mr. Marcus Allen, 10 months for each offense; for assault upon Mr. J. M. Wilson with intent to kill, six months. Nance gave notice of appeal through his attorney, Mr. T. A. McNeill, Jr. He was required to put up a \$1,000 bond, which he failed to make and was taken back to jail. Mr. S. McIntyre assisted Solicitor R. A. McLean with the prosecution.

A report of the shooting was published in last Monday's issue of The Robesonian. The evidence was practically the same as was the story first published in The Robesonian. Nance testified that he had been drinking "2 in 1" whiskey and lemon extracts and did not remember anything at all about the occurrence. All those wounded by Nance are getting along all right. However, Misses Barnes and Smith were unable to attend the trial.

There was much interest in the case and the trial, which lasted for several hours, was heard by a large number of people.

B. E. Parnell was before Recorder Britt Saturday on two charges, one for being drunk and disorderly on the streets here Friday. For this he had to pay a fine of \$5 and cost. When arrested Parnell had a dangerous-looking gun on his person. It was an S. & W. 44 calibre. Before he was arrested Parnell had been threatening to use his gun. For "pistol toting" he had to pay a fine of \$20 and the cost. Parnell is a guard at chain gang No. 2, and seemed to think this gave him a right to carry a pistol. Recorder Britt declared that he had no more right to carry a concealed weapon when off duty than any other man. The recorder took occasion to lecture Parnell on some length, and said he was not the first chain-gang guard who had been up before him for being drunk in Lumberton. He cited the fact that it was a shame for a man to be in charge of men and working them for an offense for which the same man is guilty. According to the way the recorder talked about the matter, Parnell stood a good chance of drawing a road sentence.

Charley Ivey was also before the recorder on the charge of being drunk on the streets here Friday. Judgment was suspended upon payment of costs, with the understanding that if caught on the streets drunk again, and convicted of same he was to secure a road sentence.

Tried to Sell Hired Horse and Buggy—In Jail

Mexico Stephens, colored, is resting in jail as a result of trying to sell a horse and buggy which he had rented from Messrs. H. M. Beasley & Brother of Lumberton. Stephens drove to Bennettsville, S. C., and was offering to sell the outfit at so low a price that officers there suspected something was wrong and arrested the negro. Some of the Messrs. Beasley's friends wired them to learn if they had missed a horse. Mr. W. B. Beasley, junior member of the firm, in company with Deputy A. H. Prevatt boarded an auto and rushed to Bennettsville. They recovered both the horse and the negro. He will be given a hearing before Recorder E. M. Britt tomorrow.

Closing of Indian School at Raynham April 14

Correspondence of The Robesonian. Raynham, Apr. 10—The Rowland school district 1, Indian, will close its 5-months' session April 14. We have a splendid program, consisting of dialogues, concerts, recitations. Everybody is cordially invited, with good behavior, to attend this closing.

H. P. BOWEN, Teacher.

If a bill reported the other day from the House of Congress committee on claims is passed the sum of \$12,474.11 will be disbursed by the United States to 106 North Carolina mail carriers or their heirs, for services rendered in the first 3 months of 1861. The bill provides for the relief of over 400 carriers in the Southern States. Their claims total \$195,568.25.

A bill introduced in the House of Congress the other day by Dale of New York carries a provision for \$50,000 with which to establish a fish culture station in the mountains of North Carolina. Six Southern States are provided for by the bill, the other 5 being South Carolina (near the coast), Alabama, Texas (north-east section), Texas on the Gulf coast, Florida, each \$50,000.

BUIE AND PHILADELPHUS NEWS

Demonstration of Tractor Road Engine April 12 and 13—Some Cotton Planted—County Commencement Enjoyable Affair—School Entertainment—Personal

Correspondence of The Robesonian. Buie, Apr. 8—Mr. W. P. Tradin of Rocky Mount, representing the Emerson Brantingham Co., who sells the Big Four tractor engine for road purposes, will on next Wednesday and Thursday, April 12, 13, demonstrate to the people in Robeson county in Red Springs township, the work of his tractor on some road near Red Springs. This is something the people all over the county should be interested in and ought to come and see this road machine at work.

The entertainment given at Philadelphia on last Tuesday night was enjoyed by a large audience and we understand the proceeds raised amounted to close around \$100.

The elders of the Presbyterian church at Philadelphia, composed of Messrs. I. T. Brown, G. A. McKay, J. M. Brown, W. M. Tidy and possibly others that we cannot recall, visited at the home of Mr. D. M. McKay and transacted the business of the church. While there they also enjoyed a bountiful and well-prepared dinner.

His many friends throughout Robeson county, are glad to see the name of Mr. J. F. McKay in the local papers for re-election to the office of county commissioner.

Messrs.—G. A. McKay, Mack McArthur, W. H. Adams and Fred Brown are spending today in Lumberton.—Dr. J. L. McMillan and Mr. I. T. Brown spent Tuesday in Rocky Mount.—Mrs. W. M. Pate, Mrs. I. T. Brown and Mrs. J. G. McKay spent Thursday in Lumberton.—Mr. McKay McKinnon of Maxton passed through Buie on his way to Maxton, returning from Lumberton Monday.

Through this section we have heard of cotton being planted for several days. This is rather early, but the prospects are that the weather will continue warm, and it will soon be up.

The number of the people that attended the County Commencement was almost countless. There were many from in and around Philadelphia and everybody seemed to enjoy themselves. It is almost impossible to attend a commencement or anything else that comes off at Lumberton without enjoying oneself, because here you mingle among the very best people that can be found.

Some of the Visitors at Robesonian Office

Following is a list of a few of the people who attended the County Commencement Friday and also visited the Robesonian office. This list does not include all who visited this office but only those whose names were taken down by one member of The Robesonian's staff. Others who visited the office on that day are mentioned elsewhere: Messrs. Arthur Davis of Fairmont, R. 3; M. F. Howell of Howellsville; J. W. Watts of Lumberton, R. 1; H. C. Sanderson of Marietta; C. G. Floyd of Barnesville, R. 1; W. F. Howell of Lumberton, R. 6; D. P. Buie of Philadelphia; John J. Page of Marietta, who was accompanied to town by his sister Miss Mary Page and four of his children; C. A. Oliver of Marietta; G. C. Woodell of Buie, R. 1; A. J. Kelly of Fairmont; G. B. Allen of Howellsville; M. A. Buie of Lumberton, R. 6; J. E. Phillips and children, little Miss Brownie and Master Wilton, of Rowland; J. J. Shaw of Lumberton Bridge; W. E. Fleming, principal of the Orrum high school; C. K. Morgan and son, Master Herbert, of Marietta, three others of Mr. Morgan's children also coming to town with him, Masters Joseph and Colonel and Miss Eva; and the following valued correspondents of The Robesonian: Miss Pearl Carlyle of Rozier; Miss Naomi Ivey of Raynham, who was on her way home from Dublin, where she had been visiting her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Woodell; Mr. Anderson Britt of Long Branch.

Mr. M. Shepherd Says He Will Not be a Candidate

Mr. M. Shepherd of Orrum, who represented Robeson in the lower house of the Legislature during the last session, was among the visitors at the County Commencement Friday. Quite a number of Mr. Shepherd's friends are urging him to make the race again. He says however, that he will not make the race, as he don't see how he can spare the time. Mr. Shepherd thinks Mr. J. S. Oliver, of the Marietta section, who has been prominently mentioned for this office recently, is a man who would represent the county in a most acceptable manner.

Mr. S. H. Hobbs Will Speak at Back Swamp Thursday Night

Mr. S. H. Hobbs of Sampson county will speak on Rural Credits at Back Swamp Thursday night of this week, April 13. Mr. Hobbs is a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Commissioner of Agriculture. He was in Lumberton Saturday.

—Midling cotton is selling on the local market today for 11 9-16 cents the pound.

BRIEFS ITEMS OF LOCAL NEWS

—License has been issued for the marriage of W. L. Fry and Bessie Pittman; Dock Love and Ella Barnes.

—Red Springs Citizen: The ladies of the Civic League have made beautiful with plants and flowers the square near the passenger depot.

—Mr. John T. Biggs underwent an operation for appendicitis at the Thompson hospital this morning. He is getting along fine since the operation.

—Mr. R. W. Shelby is having a modern 2-room residence erected on his lot, Sixth street. When completed Mr. Shelby and family will live in the house.

—Arch McMillan, an insane colored man, was taken Saturday to the State hospital for colored at Goldsboro. He was accompanied by a nurse from the hospital.

—After being closed since Thursday afternoon Superior Court for the trial of civil cases convened for the second week at 10 o'clock this morning. Judge F. A. Daniels of Goldsboro is presiding.

—Mr. Isham Kinlaw and son, Louie, of Howellsville township were callers at The Robesonian office Friday. Master Louie is a boy of unusual size for his age. He is 9 years old and weighs 141 pounds.

—Red Springs Citizen: We are pleased to note that Miss Katie Buie is rapidly recovering from an operation for appendicitis recently performed in Richmond. Her brother, Mr. J. N. Buie, still remains with her at the hospital.

—Mr. D. M. Hollowell, who lives on east Fifth street, has been feasting on home-grown head lettuce for the last ten days. Besides having plenty for home consumption, Mr. Hollowell is furnishing some of the local grocers with fresh lettuce each day.

—Mr. A. D. H. Brown of Pembroke, who was among the visitors at County Commencement and at The Robesonian office Friday, reported that that morning he saw a rabbit killed by an auto, a sight which he said he had never seen or heard of before in all his days.

—Quite a number from Lumberton have gone to Fairmont today to attend the annual birthday party given Mrs. Rosa A. Pittman of that town by her children and grandchildren. Mrs. Pittman is 89 years old today and has many friends who hope that she may live to see many more birthdays.

—Messrs. Neill Smith and Isham Pittman of Fairmont had an auto collision about one mile out from Fairmont Friday morning, near the home of Mr. Andrew Jones. Every spoke in one of the front wheels of Mr. Pittman's car was broken and the fender of Mr. Smith's car was bent. No one was hurt.

—Quite some spell of weather for April. After the promise of balmy spring weather the weather man unloaded upon this devoted section and people Friday one of the coldest and rawest days of the year; and it has been cold ever since. Unseasonably cold weather is promised till the middle of the week, after which warmer weather is said to be due.

—Miss Lee Pope, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Pope of route 4 from Lumberton, went Friday to Charlotte, where, in the Presbyterian hospital, she underwent an operation for appendicitis. The operation was performed by Dr. R. L. Gibbon. Miss Pope was accompanied to Charlotte by Dr. W. L. Grantham. Dr. Grantham remained in Charlotte until after the operation and said Miss Pope was getting along nicely.

Bad Boys Breaking Into Fruit and Drink Stands

Mr. J. W. Fisher, who conducts a fruit and drink stand, Chestnut and Fourth street, says some boys who live about town have broken into his place of business on two Sunday nights recently. The entrance was made by prizing open the tin sides of the stand. Some cigarettes and soda water were missed each time. Mr. Fisher says he has asked the parents of the boys to have the business of breaking into his place of business stopped, and if it is not stopped he will let the law take its course. A stand of the same kind operated by Mr. Justin Phillips, Elm and Second streets, also one on Fourth street, operated by Blake Brothers have recently been broken into on Sunday nights in the same manner. Ah, chewing gum and cigarettes were missed from these places. Mr. Fisher thinks it is the same boys doing all the work.

Governor Craig has granted a pardon to John P. Williams, Harnett county, who has served three months of a one-year sentence for selling whiskey. The prisoner developed tuberculosis and the county authorities believe that to retain him in prison longer will endanger the health of other prisoners.

My glasses were fitted by Dr. Parker, the only specialist in Lumberton licensed by State Board Examination for this important work. HIS SERVICE SATISFIES.