Sylvan Valley News

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THE COUNTY COMMENCEMENT

The county commencement of Transylvania schools last week was a success and in some respects the best since the inauguration of this feature of the educational program.

At 9:45 Friday morning there was a gathering of school children at the Brevard graded school building. From this place a procession by schools, with the Brevard school in the lead, moved along some of the principal streets, made a partial circuit of the town, and finally marched to the Auditorium. The seats in this building were soon filled with the pupils and people interested in the occasion.

The exercises of the morning began with an invocation by Rev. W. M. Robbins, pastor of the Methodist church. A violin solo given by Miss Grace Johnson, accompanied by Miss May Johnson on the piano, was beautifully rendered. Then followed the principal event of the morning, the recitation contest among the girls and the declamation contest among the boys of the seventh grades.

While there was not a large number of these contestants, the quality of the work was good, and it showed that particular attention is being paid in the county to this important part of education. The girls contesting were Misses ——— Bishop of Cedar Mountain, May Crary of Brevard, Grace Carpenter of Rosman. The boys were Clarence Deaver of Brevard and Walter McNeeley of Lake Toxaway. Each one of these showed careful training, perfect acquaintance with the selection, and—what is not always seen in contests of this kind—an intelligent appreciation of the thought and feeling to be expressed. The committee of judges expressed difficulty in coming to a decision, and this was no doubt sincere in the sense that every contestant merited special notice. The prizes—five dollars in gold in each case—were awarded to Miss Grace Carpenter and Walter McNeeley. It was a strange coincidence that these two winners had each the same selection, "The Death of Benedict Arnold," a piece requiring a good deal of dramatic ability to be well delivered.

After the picnic dinner at noon the Auditorium was again filled for the afternoon program, which was more varied than that of the morning. First, there was a spelling match, participated in by several pupils from different schools. The words were given out by Mr. A. F. Mitchell, and as each contestant missed he or she—in this match mostly she—sat down. The last two to hold the stage were Miss Anna Breedlove of Lake Toxaway and Miss Bennie Moore of the Round Top school. The last word given went first to Miss Breedlove. It was "collapse." She left out an "s," which was promptly supplied by Miss Moore. The misser collapsed to her seat and the winner held the platform. A serious defect in this match was the indistinctiveness with which many of the words were spelled. So far as the audience on the back seats were concerned a great many of the words might as well have been spelled in whispers.

In awarding the prize of a five dollar gold piece to Miss Bennie Moore, Superintendent Henderson also announced that the two in the final tug of the spelling match were also first and second in the seventh grade essay contest, for which a gold and silver pin were the prizes. Only the figures were reversed, Miss Breedlove standing first on an essay entitled "A Trip to Sapphire," and Miss Moore second, her subject being "Success."

Professor J. L. Vass of Furman University, Greenville, S. C., who had been scheduled for an address in the morning, but had failed to arrive on time on account of bad road delay to his automobile, was present in the afternoon and spoke to the assemblage on the subject of "Dreams." The speaker made a favorable impression by his clear and simple though beautiful style, and by the earnest, inspiring thoughts, well fitted to an audience made up largely of young people.

The athletic contests of the afternoon took place on the Institute base ball grounds. The prizes were as follows:

One hundred yards dash, boys over fifteen years, base ball mitt, Walter McNeely, Lake Toxaway.

One hundred yards dash, boys under fifteen, base ball mitt, Marion Galloway, Brevard.

Two hundred and twenty yards dash, boys under fifteen, base ball bat, Marion Galloway.

Standing broad jump, boys under fifteen, Empire base ball, Marion Galloway.

Running broad jump, boys under fifteen, pocket knife, Oliver Crary, Brevard.

Standing high jump, base ball mitt, Clyde McCall, Quebec.

Fifty yards dash (for girls only) Box of candy won by Clara Thomas of Lake Toxaway.

Friday night there was another recitation contest—this time among high school students. Rosman was represented by Walter Whitmire, Brevard by Miss Alberta Perkins, Penrose by Lawrence Beck. The prize, five dollars in gold, was awarded to Lawrence Beck.

The last part of the program was a forcible educational address by Rev. A. W. McDaniel. The music for the occasion was rendered by Misses Grace and May Johnson on violin and piano and was much enjoyed.

The county commencement, under the wise management of our progressive superintendent, Mr. T. C. Henderson, has already established itself as a very important part of the enterprises of the county.

BURLINGAME—LANNING

On Thursday evening of last week at eight o'clock Mr. J. W. K. Lanning was married to Miss Daisy Burlingame.

The ceremony took place at the home of the bride's sister, Mrs. E. T. Raines, and was performed by the pastor of the Baptist church, Rev. A. W. McDaniel. After the ceremony refreshments were served to the party assembled to witness the union of the happy couple.

The ceremony was performed in the presence of Mrs. W. A. Burlingame, Miss Estelle Burlingame, Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Raines, as members of the bride's family, and a very few invited guests.

Mr. Lanning is a well known and respected citizen of this community, having until recently carried on a shoe repairing business for several years in this town. The bride is a daughter of Mrs. W. A. Burlingame of Sapphire, and is a lady of excellent character.

U. D. C. NOTES

Mrs. T. H. Skidmore, Mrs. [illegible] Mrs. [illegible] and Mrs. [illegible] Chamblee went [illegible] to the district meeting of the U. D. C. at Marion Friday, representing the Transylvania chapter. Mrs. Annie Joan Gash, chairman of the educational committee, also attended.

The May meeting of the Transylvania chapter will be held on May 5th instead of the first Saturday to get reports from the district meeting.

After May first the library will be open every day except Sunday from four to five p. m.

TEACHERS' APPLICATIONS

Applications for positions in the public schools of the county have been filed with the county superintendent by the following named teachers:

Miss Nathalie Forsythe, Miss Beulah Whitmire, Miss Susie Jordan, Miss Annie Jordan, Clyde S. McCall and George W. Reece. The following teachers who do not live in the county have sent in applications for work in our schools: Miss Nannie A. Jones, Miss Frances Atkins and Miss Mildred Edwards.

All teachers who desire to teach in any school in this county should file their applications with the county superintendent at once.

JURY MAKES MISTRIAL

After listening for four days to the evidence, one day to the argument, two hours to the charge of his Honor Judge Long, and after deliberating for thirty hours, the jury in the Parker and Allison case came into court and declared they could reach no agreement in the case, whereupon the court ordered a mistrial in the case and ordered the defendants in custody pending their efforts to raise a ten thousand dollar bond for each of the defendants. After the jury had been discharged it was understood that they stood six and six.

The evidence in this case was watched with great interest by a very large number of people, and owing to the unusual length of the trial of the entire civil docket was necessarily continued, only a very few small cases being finally disposed of.

The trial of this case was unusual in many respects and owing to the contentions of the various lawyers many legal questions arose from time to time. The state was represented by Solicitor Schenck, assisted by D. L. English and O. W. Clayton, while the defense was represented by S. McCall of Asheville and Welch Galloway, W. E. Breese, Jr., and C. B. Deaver of the local bar. The jury in the case was composed of R. E. Patton, R. F. Glazener, J. H. Norris, J. A. Bryson, M. A. Moll, E. L. Batson, Eugene Southern, Eugene Morrison, J. L. Cantrell, Eugene Duckworth, R. R. Deaver and H. Q. Adams.

The News will not attempt to give a complete report of the evidence in this case. The story in brief was as as follows: On the night of the preceding day when James Clayton was found dead in the river by Vellie Parker, on September 13, 1914, Parker and Waive Allison were at a spot only a few hundred feet from the place where the body was found in company with a negro girl, Susie Williams. Up to this point there is no difference in the contentions of the state and defense, but according to Susie, a woman of admitted bad character, the defendants were with her when Jim Clayton came along and that they proposed that Clayton be rocked to see him run; that Parker did pursue the deceased immediately after which she heard voices as if some one was quarreling, whereupon Allison left her and in a short while the quarrel suddenly ceased, after which she saw some one striking matches at a place near where the quarreling seemed to come from.

All the above testimony was denied by the defense, who claimed that Parker and Allison left and went home before the deceased came along, that neither of them had seen Clayton for several days immediately preceding the homicide denying any knowledge of the crime charged against them.

The theory of the defense was that Henry Smith had something to do with the killing, showing that a bloody coat had been found hanging outside the house and that there was blood on the floor. The defense insisted that the blood on the floor came from a chicken and that the coat was a hunting coat that had been spattered with blood of game.

The defendants went on the stand in their own behalf and admitted that they had been near the scene of the killing a short time before the crime is supposed to have been committed, but claimed that they were not there when Clayton went to the home of Henry Smith. They explained their presence at the same spot the next day by stating that they had made a date with Susie Williams, and that the first intimation they had of the death of Clayton was when his body was discovered by Parker.

A large number of witnesses testified as to what they knew about the case and many character witnesses were brought to show the good character of the several parties interested in the case.

The case reached the jury last Friday morning about 10:30 and after deliberating for thirty-six hours a mistrial was ordered. It is understood that on the first ballot the jury stood four for conviction and eight for acquittal, but on the second ballot there were six on either side and there was never any more change in the voting.

After discharging the jury the court ordered that the defendants be required to give a $10,000 justified bond for their appearance at the next term of the Superior court when they will be tried again by another judge and jury. On Monday the defendants were taken to the Buncombe county jail for safe keeping, and it is understood that no effort will be made just at this time to secure the unusually high bond.

The next term of the court will convene the latter part of July when this case will again be taken up.

SERMON TO ODD FELLOWS

The Odd Fellows of Connestee Lodge No. 237, attended the Baptist church in a body last Sunday morning in accordance with their yearly custom. The congregation otherwise was large, and the auditorium of the church was filled. On the pulpit platform was a large choir which made good music, and Miss Grace Johnson played a beautiful violin solo.

Mr. McDaniel's sermon was in keeping with the occasion and was one which should have been heard by the members of all fraternities. His subject was the "Good Samaritan." He described vividly the circumstances of the parable and drew from it several impressive lessons. He commended the principles of the order and said that they were good if only lived up to. The spirit of fraternity and charity, he said, should be broader than the order and take in all men. Civic righteousness and standing for the best things in community government were points strongly insisted upon. The speaker expressed his pleasure over the fact that the Odd Fellows had this yearly observance, thus signifying their belief as an order in the principles of the Bible and the Christian religion. Reminding them that the pass word was a thing to be used carefully and reverently by the members, he said that the name of Jesus was the pass word for admittance into the heavenly kingdom, and showed how great should be their reverence for that name.

"THE ROSE MAIDEN"

"The Rose Maiden," which is to be presented at Brevard Institute on May 3rd, under the direction of Miss Mary S. Blair, is a most beautiful musical setting of the story of Roseblossom, Queen of the Flower Fairies, who, weary of a life of unbroken calm, prays of the newly returned spring, that he will bestow upon her also the gift of love that he bestows upon man. He warns her of the risk she runs, but finally yields to her entreaties by changing her while she sleeps into the form of a beautiful girl. Under the name of Roseblossom she wanders through the world to find the love that she seeks, and meets with a girl who, having been deserted by her lover, loses her senses and dies broken-hearted. But, undeterred from her search, Roseblossom becomes the wife of a forester, with whom she lives for a time such perfect happiness that she cannot survive his death. The elves bewail the fate of their queen, and curse love as fatal to peace and happiness.

Some Notable Streets.

The highest street in the world is Main street, in Denver; the richest is Fifth avenue, in New York city; the widest is Market street, Philadelphia, and the shortest is the Rue Dic, in Paris. The dirtiest street is that of Tchanksti, in Nanking; the cleanest is the Via Castile, in Seville, Spain; the most aristocratic one is Grosvenor place, in London; the most beautiful is the Avenue des Champs Elysees, Paris. The narrowest street is Via Sol, Havana, Cuba, which has a width of no more than forty-two inches.

EDWARDS—STOREY WEDDING

A wedding of note occurred at the Methodist church of this city on Thursday morning at eight o'clock a. m. when Miss Doris E. Edwards of Alliance, Va., became the wife of Mr. Charles R. Storey of Washington, D. C.

The decorations were tastefully and artistically prepared for the occasion by members of the ladies of the Methodist church, and consisted of evergreens intertwined with bridal wreathes and dogwood blossoms.

A beautiful arch was erected in front of the pulpit over the altar, and from the centre of it was suspended a beautiful bell of evergreens and bridal wreathes, while back of the pulpit and for a background, a bed of pines mingled with the wild flowers of the season and potted flowers and ferns in and around the pulpit and altar gave a singular and very beautiful effect.

Promptly at eight Miss Maude Allison began to sound the well known strains of Mendelssohn's wedding march, while from the right came the groom accompanied by his brother, G. W. Storey of Ruckersville, Va., best man, and from the left came the bride and her maid of honor, Miss Verna Goode of Shelby, N. C.

Rev. W. M. Robbins, pastor of of the Methodist church, in a quiet but impressive manner, officiated, using the beautiful and fitting ceremony of the Methodist church.

There, beneath this arch, stood the young couple, and from there they begin life's journey together. Quite a large crowd of admiring friends were present to witness the marriage, and regret welled from every heart to feel that one who had meant so much to this community for two years was about to depart.

Miss Edwards had been a teacher in the graded school of Brevard for two years, and not a note of dissatisfaction has ever been sounded, but on the contrary, her praises have been sung by young and old, parent and child alike, and the position was unanimously tendered her again recently when teachers for the next year were being selected.

In church, school, society and community life she was a power for good. Kind, gentle and considerate of all with whom she came in contact, these qualities made for her friends by the score who regret that she leaves this community. Her life partner is a young business man of excellent qualities, and we bespeak for this couple a happy and useful life.

A large crowd showered them with good wishes and rice at the railway station. May their pathway across life's fitful sea be one calm and their portal eternal happiness.

ROSMAN COMMENCEMENT

The Rosman high school closed a very successful term of eight months on April 22. The entertainment was well attended and much enjoyed by old and young. Those taking part in the entertainment deserve honor for their excellent performances.

We are glad to say that one of the seventh grade girls, Miss Grace Carpenter, was successful in finishing her grade and also in bringing back the gold metal from the county commencement in the recitation contest.

We think the committee was very fortunate in securing Prof. Tabor for another term, as the term just closed was so successful. He is wide awake in this cause, and strives to build up the school and has the best of success in his work. We feel sure the next term will be superior to the one just closed. Those wishing to attend school will do well to attend this one.

Matter of Chance.

With 70 deaths by homicide and 68 by automobiles for the first six months of the year, the difference between crime and joy-riding in this city appears largely a matter of chance so far as results are concerned.—New York World.