

The Laurinburg Exchange

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LAURINBURG, N. C., THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 1914.

\$1.50 PER YEAR, IN ADVANCE

COUNTY COMMENCEMENT HELD AT SNEAD'S GROVE

Boys and Girls of Scotland's Schools Render Fine Program—Big Crowd Attests Educational Enthusiasm—Weather Ideal and Dinner Appetizing and Abundant. Athletic Events in Afternoon.

The boys and girls were the "whole show" at Scotland county's school commencement last Friday at Snead's Grove, and a fine show they made. From tiniest tot to stalwart youth and graceful maiden they one and all acquitted themselves splendidly and reflected high credit upon their painstaking instructors.

Ideal weather and educational enthusiasm combined to draw a multitude to the "Grove," surrounding counties being represented among the throng of Scotlanders. Good humor, good program, good dinner, good order—all these conspired to give a "good time" to fifteen hundred happy men, women and children. Bright sunshine took the edge off the crisp morning air and made possible holding the exercises in the open air. Hard by the school house a large stage had been erected and prettily decorated and seats were arranged all around.

THE PROGRAM.

Superintendent Peele was master of ceremonies, and kept the program running smoothly.

"America" was sung by the schools of the county as the opening number, and then prayer was offered by Rev. J. H. Dixon, after which Principal J. A. Hornaday of Snead's Grove school made the welcoming address, in which he extolled the importance and value of the county commencements.

The declamation contestants were Lee Lassiter of Spring Hill school, Colin McArthur of Laurinburg, Robert Gibson of Mason's Cross, Patterson Covington of Snead's Grove and George Hargrave of Laurel Hill. Each young man spoke well and the contest was in doubt until Hargrave had made a start, and then it was clear that he would win the laurels. Later this popular judgment was found to be confirmed by the judges' decision.

Music by John's Station school and a song by Spring Hill school was followed by two bewitching playlets, "Little Boy Blue" and "The Town Musicians," by pupils of the first grade Laurinburg schools, under the direction of their teacher, Miss Roberta Cole.

Miss Ruth McKinnon, tenth grade Laurinburg schools, captivated the crowd with her recitation of F. Hopkinson Smith's humorous story of "The One-Legged Goose." Miss McKinnon's rendition was lifelike to the last syllable in the quaint and effective darkey dialect, and she held her hearers enthralled from first to last.

The biggest battle of the day was next staged in the spelling contest. Two dozen or more boys and girls were lined up, with L. M. Blue of Gibson as spelling master. Before beginning the contest Mr. Blue paid worthy tribute to Webster's "Blue-Back Speller"—the criterion by which the young contestants were to be tried. First one and then another fell by the wayside, until finally only two young girls—both from Mason's Cross school—were left to struggle for the honor and the prize. After a grueling fire of hard words Miss Lottie Wright was left in possession of the field—where all but she had fallen wounded in the war of wits and words. Mason Cross school thus became possessor of the silver cup while little Miss Wright won the dictionary presented by M. L. John, Esq., of Laurinburg.

The John Charles McNeill medal for essay by high school student on "The Place of the Public Schools in the Life of Scotland County" was won by Boyd White of Mason Cross school and was presented in very brief remarks by Dr. J. L. Gibson of Laurinburg, who conformed to the school committee's rule confining speech-making to members of the schools, declaring that "what it took to cut out oratory, he had it or knew where to get it."

The grammar school essay medal [offered by THE LAURINBURG EXCHANGE] was won by Miss

Marie Tedder, seventh grade Laurinburg schools, whose subject was "Things I Like Best." The EXCHANGE made the presentation in 18 seconds and Miss Tedder then read her essay, which will be published in this paper at an early day.

Those awarded diplomas admitting them to eighth grade (high school) were:

Laurinburg—Mary Fields, Carolyn Patterson, May McArn, Alex McIntyre, Marshall Prince, William Teller, Halstead Covington, Bernice Douglas, Aggie Morrison, Juanita Burney, Eugenia Fairley, Eva Walters, Marie Tedder, Inez Tedder, Pansy Beacham, Lula Tatum, Broma Humble, Leila Cowan, George Odom.

Spring Hill—Anna Stubbs, Lonnie Stubbs, Annie Gillis.

Mason Cross—Elmore Gibson, William Dawkins.

Snead's Grove—Lucy Douglass Snead, Minnie Elva Norton, Fred Glenn Currie, Alva Murray Covington, Arthur Dewey Covington.

Rev. J. C. Humble's benediction marked the conclusion of the morning program.

DINNER.

Soon baskets and boxes were unloaded and the feast began, and a typical Scotland county feast it was—generous in quantity and unsurpassed in rich and dainty quality. When the "inner man" of all the hundreds had been satisfied a brief rest was taken before the afternoon's entertainment got under way.

ATHLETIC CONTESTS.

One-hundred yard dash: Tie between Ralph Sanford of Laurinburg and Glenn McArthur of Spring Hill.

High jump: Entrants, Clifton Fairley and Ralph Calhoun of Laurinburg and Maurice Threadgill of Snead's Grove. Won by Threadgill.

Broad jump: Entrants, Sanford, Threadgill and Warwick. Won by Sanford.

The baseball field became an animated scene when the crowd—old and young—became transformed into vociferously rooting fans, cheering and geying their favorites.

The line-up was: Laurinburg—Caldwell, catcher; Blue, pitcher; McArn, first base; Fields, second base; McLaurin, third base; Carmichael, shortstop; Prince, right field; Shaw, center field; Paylor, left field.

County—Pate, catcher; Olive, pitcher; Buie, first base; McArthur, second base; Warwick, third base; Watson, shortstop; Sizemore, right field; Gibson, center field; Threadgill, left field.

Umpire, Bob Covington.

Scorer, C. W. Odom. Laurinburg scored one run in the first inning, and then stood still for a disheartening spell, while the County team piled up four runs in the first two innings, but the county boys stopped short in hits and runs right there, while Laurinburg got five more runners across the plate in the latter half of the game, the score standing 6 to 4 in favor of Laurinburg at the end. Laurinburg got 13 hits and made 2 errors; County, 4 hits and 4 errors. Of the town players those getting more than one hit were: Caldwell 3; Blue and Fields 2 each.

The game was brightened by many good plays, and interest was tense to the last. The town boys owe much to Professor Caldwell's playing and coaching, for in weight they were far outclassed by their opponents.

And thus ended the third county commencement held in Scotland, and the best and most largely attended, say those familiar with the school history of the county.

The only accident of the day was a broken arm suffered by Clifton Fairley in the high-jump contest.

A thrillingly amusing side-line event during the baseball game was a series of scraps between one little lad of about 10 years and three separate combatants of equal or greater age. It was

THE PONY CONTEST

The Pony Contest is creating a great sensation and interest is running high. The first count of ballots has been made and the following ten children are leading in the race:

Charlie Prince
Ferris Cole
Henry Cox
Maggie Quick
Thos. Everett

Frances Hubbard
Edgar Harris
Annie May Ross
Edith Moore Gibson
Lee Tucker

There are quite a number of contestants that have received votes who will no doubt be high up in the list next week and will be making those now leading get a hurry on. Lack of space forbids our mentioning the entire list of contestants, so we only name those leading.

Get votes at either of the following places of business:

The Laurinburg Exchange
The Gem Theatre
The Yellow Store
Blue's Drug Store
McLaurin & Shaw

STATE NEWS.

On April 1st more than 6,000 parcel post packages were mailed in Greensboro.

One day's fishing in the Pamlico river near Kinston the past week resulted in the catching of 7,800 shad.

The annual meeting of the State Epworth League is to be held in Wilmington, June 17 to 21.

John Skelton Williams, controller of the currency, is to address the N. C. Bankers' Association in Raleigh, May 11.

The Scotland Neck Commonwealth has been sold by J. C. Hardy to Luther Mills Kitchen, son of Congressman Kitchen.

The postoffice safe at Siler City was blown open and robbed of \$500 in stamps and \$275 in cash April 3. No clue to robbers.

H. B. Holland is successfully operating a canary farm in Craven county. A large number of little songsters is looked for from the nests this month.

William Laurie Hill has relinquished the editorship of Our Fatherless Ones, the Barium Orphans Home paper, and is now traveling agent for The Presbyterian Standard.

Pink C. Ennis, well known throughout North Carolina as the publisher of Turner's Almanac, died at his Raleigh home last Wednesday. Mr. Ennis was 62 years of age and was born at Salisbury.

Mr. B. Adams of Newport, N. C., while visiting in Wilmington desired to mail a letter and spying a red box near a telephone pole went to it to deposit the letter. In trying to get the box open, it being a fire alarm box, he turned in a call that brought out the fire department.

B. B. Mallison and wife lost their suit against the Norfolk Southern R. R. last week in which they asked for damages on account of Mrs. Mallison's ill health alleged to have been caused by having to wait in a poorly heated room of the company at Kinston.

In the second annual contest of the High School Debating Union of North Carolina held at Chapel Hill last week two 15-year-old Winston-Salem boys, Chas. Roddick and Clifton Eaton, won for the negative the debate on the question, "Resolved, That the Constitution of North Carolina should be so amended as to include the initiative and referendum." This is the outcome of the debates held on the same subject throughout the State, March 20th, between 600 debaters representing 150 schools. The victory of these very young boys is indeed notable.

fast and furious while it lasted, and the little "white hope" won out against all comers. It was fair and funny and no harm done.

GENERAL NEWS.

Fleas carried in sacks of sugar, and not rats, are responsible for recently reported cases of bubonic plague at Havana, Cuba, according to Surgeon John Guiteras.

The city of Torreon was captured by Villa last week, 2,500 being reported killed and wounded. Most of the Federals escaped, and Villa is in pursuit for further butchery.

Something "new under the sun" developed last week in the incorporation, April 4, at Albany, N. Y., of the American Posture League, a national body whose object will be to get people to sit up and stand up straight.

Absolute prohibition is scheduled to prevail in the U. S. Navy on and after July 1 next. Upon recommendation of Surgeon General Braisted, the following order has been issued by Secretary Daniels: "The use or introduction, for drinking purposes, of alcoholic liquors on board any naval vessel, or within any navy yard or station, is strictly prohibited, and commanding officers will be held directly responsible for the enforcement of this order." This will abolish officers' "wine mess."

Listen, Children.

THE LAURINBURG EXCHANGE is in the Pony and Bicycle Contest, and every paid subscription you secure for us for one year entitles you to 750 votes. This is your opportunity to get votes in great numbers. Call on your friends, have them renew their subscription or get on our subscription list for a year. Each and every yearly subscription paid gets 750 votes. We also give coupons with every job that we print and every advertisement that we print. Get your friends to let us do their job printing and to get their advertisements in now, and secure their coupons. You get five times as many votes from us as you do from others. Get busy and get the Pony.

Paving to Be Commenced Soon.

In talking to Mayor Tucker, Monday, about the Main street paving, the reporter was advised by Mr. Tucker that actual work would be commenced on the paving within three weeks.

This will be glad tidings to the majority of the citizens of Laurinburg. It is an improvement that has long been needed and one that this publication has long clamored for. The administration deserves, and doubtless will receive, the thanks of the citizens of progressive Laurinburg for their action in the matter.

The work will require an expenditure on the part of the town of about \$5,000. Property-owners will pay two-thirds of the cost.

W. T. M'KENZIE REFUSED NEW TRIAL

Supreme Court of North Carolina Hands Down a Decision Confirming Verdict of Lower Court in the Conviction of Will T. McKenzie of Murder in the First Degree—Governor to Be Appealed to.

The Supreme Court of North Carolina handed down a decision last Wednesday affirming the verdict of the lower court in finding Will T. McKenzie, a young man of Scotland county, guilty of murder in the first degree. The crime, as our readers know, happened in Scotland county near Laurinburg, on the afternoon of October 22, 1912. McKenzie, who, it was alleged, was mad with his brother-in-law, Peter D. Jones, went to a field from which Jones was delivering cord wood and shot him to death. The case was moved to Robeson county for trial, and on Saturday, September 6, 1913, the jury hearing the case returned a verdict of murder in the first degree, and McKenzie was sentenced to die in the electric chair on October 20th last. From this verdict the defense appealed to the Supreme Court, and on March 21st the matter was argued before that court, the court refusing to interfere with the decision of the lower court.

The case was one of much interest, McKenzie being a young man with a large family connection and a carrier on one of the rural routes from the Laurinburg office. Mr. Jones, his victim, was also a man of wide connection and a very popular and well-liked citizen. Both the defense and the State were ably represented in the trial of the case, which attracted a great deal of attention throughout the State.

The defense admitted that McKenzie killed his brother-in-law, Jones, but claims that it was an act of self-defense and asked for an acquittal. The State contended that McKenzie wilfully and deliberately sought Mr. Jones for the purpose of killing him, and upon finding him, after exchanging a few words, deliberately shot him to death.

This decision of the Supreme Court wipes away all hope of saving the young man unless the Governor should intervene in his behalf, and even with this interference, it would mean nothing less than a commutation to a life sentence. It is now the duty of the Governor to set a new date for the electrocution, which will in all probability be done at an early date.

McKenzie has been in the Robeson county jail since being carried there for trial last September.

The Thursday edition of The News and Observer contained the following report of the Supreme Court's decision:

"State v. McKenzie is another murder case. Defendant killed his deceased wife's brother. Chief Justice Clark for the Supreme Court states: 'Testimony is admissible to show the feeling of the prisoner towards the family of his deceased wife, whose brother he slew, by reason of their allegations of ill treatment of his wife by prisoner and their feeling toward him, as tending to show motive for the crime. Evidences of former difficulties between the defendant and deceased and the state of feeling between them is admissible on a trial from homicide, and it is also proper to introduce evidence tending to show the cause of such difficulties and ill feeling.'

He states further that the testimony of the widow of the deceased that she saw the prisoner pass her house shortly after the gun fired, the distance, the time, and that the horse was in a lather, was admissible. The motion for judgment of non-suit was properly denied, as there was evidence of premeditation and deliberation.

"Chief Justice Clark states that it was admissible to question witness for defendant as to his former testimony before the coroner and clerk, under the instruction of the trial judge, that this was not substantive testimony but for the purpose of contradicting and impeaching witness.

"The defendant also filed exceptions, that the widow dressed in mourning with several small children was allowed in the court

room, and that during the trial they were permitted to associate with the jury at a boarding house. Chief Justice Clark states that such recitals in counsel's brief cannot be considered unless they have been found as fact by the trial judge. But taking them as true, they do not entitle the prisoner to new trial, as it was proper for the widow to wear mourning and it was admissible for her to be present at the trial. It appears that the widow and the children were boarding at the only hotel in the town, as well as the jury, but it does not appear that they conversed with the jury or attempted to influence them, and doubtless the jury was under the supervision of an officer and kept together. There was no error in the trial."

Petitions have been circulated asking the Governor to commute the death sentence of Mr. McKenzie to one of life imprisonment.

FROM SNEAD'S GROVE.

Mrs. Dora Stephenson, of Richmond, Va., a former teacher here, was a pleasant visitor at Mr. S. A. Snead's during the commencement.

Miss Lucy Hayes, of Norlina, who taught the past term here, returned home Friday. Miss Hayes was greatly liked by the whole community and all hate to lose her. Some of the boys, so anxious for a last peep, stole across the country in a car and bade her a sorrowful good-bye from Hamlet.

We learn that Mrs. C. W. Snead fell Sunday night, from which she received right severe injuries.

Mr. Marshall Threadgill, of this place, carried off the prize for the high jump Friday, having topped it at 5 feet 1 inch, with his six feet some inches and 184 pounds avoirdupois.

If you cannot understand that downcast, far-away look in Jim's eyes, just remember that she's gone home.

In our last week's correspondence THE EXCHANGE made us say, in reference to the ball game, "There was some trick," when what we wished said was "some kick."

We noticed some cotton planted on the James place March 31st. This is the earliest we've seen. Corn planting is seemingly a little later than usual.

Mrs. B. R. Phillips, of Hamlet, is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. V. McPhail, this week.

A number of our boys went to an oyster supper at Mr. McArthur's, near Rachels, Friday night and report a splendid time. There will be a meeting of the W. O. W. here Friday night—first degree work.

The stroke of paralysis which we reported Mr. Charles Bowen having suffered last week was more serious than at first supposed. The announcement of his death, which occurred at the home of his son, Mr. C. J. Bowen, last Sunday morning at 9:50 o'clock, occasioned much sorrow and regret among the people of this entire section, where Mr. Bowen had spent his entire life of 79 years—he having died within a few days of his eightieth birthday. Mr. Bowen had been a faithful member of the Baptist church for 60 years. The funeral and burial, conducted by his pastor, Rev. J. R. Williams, of Laurinburg, and assisted by Rev. J. B. Parker, of this place, was held Monday afternoon at the Snead graveyard near here at 3 o'clock. The pall-bearers were Messrs. S. M. Jackson, Louis Gibson, W. F. Jackson, M. F. Livingston, G. P. Covington and D. C. McPhail. Surviving Mr. Bowen are three sons, Messrs. C. J., Porter and E. W., and two daughters, Mrs. E. B. Cole and Mrs. J. L. Peele, all of whom have the tenderest sympathy of their many friends in this their sad hour.

Any Christian spirit working kindly in its little sphere, whatever it may be, will find its mortal life too short for its vast means of usefulness.—Dickens.