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THE HICKORY DEMOCRAT

The Democrat Leads
in News & Circulation

Established 1899

HICKORY, N. C., THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 1915

Democrat and Press Consolidated 1905

ASHEVILLE DIVISION TELEGRAPHERS BANQUET

Enjoyable Affair at Hotel Huffry
Saturday Night—Fifty-one
Present.

Fifty-one were present, including the operators, wives and daughters of the operators, and a few friends, at the second annual banquet of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers, Southern Railway System, Division 59, of the Asheville division, at the Hotel Huffry, this city, Saturday night. In elegance of appointment, witticism of speech, to say nothing of the more serious trend of talk, the general good nature of those attending, and the spirit of brotherhood manifested, this banquet was hardly surpassed by any ever held here. Beginning at 7:30 and lasting until 9:30, there was not a dull minute. A colored string band from Morganton furnished music of a high order and were repeatedly called upon for encores.

Before the banquet the operators assembled in the Chamber of Commerce rooms in the Black-welder-Riddle building and were accorded a hearty welcome by S. C. Cornwell, city manager. Trainmaster C. G. King, addressed the operators. Following this business meeting they repaired to the hotel where the following menu was served:

- Grape Fruit
- Sweet Pickles
- India Relish
- Roast Domestic Fowl
- Escalloped Oysters
- Roast Loin of Pork
- Deviled Eggs
- Creamed White Potatoes
- Nut Sandwiches
- Assorted Cake
- White Bread
- Snowflake Crackers
- American Cream Cheese
- Coffee
- Tea
- Chili Sauce
- Sliced Tomatoes
- Florida Celery
- Escalloped Oysters
- Roast Loin of Pork
- Deviled Eggs
- Creamed White Potatoes
- Nut Sandwiches
- Assorted Cake
- White Bread
- Snowflake Crackers
- American Cream Cheese
- Coffee
- Tea

After the guests had eaten of this delicious spread to their utmost satisfaction, Horace F. Payne, of Morganton, toast-master, addressed the gathering in his own inimitable manner. Beginning by joking referring to the guests as "men and fellow prisoners," and expressing his pleasure in seeing so many present he stated that fate had been kind to the operators. Since the last meeting a year ago not one of their number has been called to the great beyond and in the language of Mr. Payne, "We are still drawing our little \$65.00 check without any reduction and with regularity and precision."

Mr. Payne said it was a little egotistical in him to say much about the operators, being one of their number himself, but he added that the sun never shined upon a finer or more loyal set of men, the men who are daily entrusted with the lives of the traveling public and the company's property, the men who deal directly with the company's patrons, and who are the real personal representatives of the Southern Railway in their respective towns. He realized in a spirit of interest in the road which he served that as to how many friends the company had at each respective station depended altogether on the courtesies shown them by the employees and the promptness in which they dispatched the business.

He stated that the Southern Railway was a co-citizen of the South. Wherever it has planted its rails, in forests or in wilderness, churches and schools have sprung up and all along its lines it has enriched and ennobled humanity. With a few remarks on the evolution of railroading he closed with the following bit of poetry, which brought down the house:

"If father Noah were alive today
He would not be down in the mouth;
He would route his goods via the
Southern Railway,
The Premier Carrier of the
South."
Other speeches were made by W. A. Self, A. A. Whitener and Rev. J. D. Harte of this city and W. C. Feimster of Newton. Their addresses were of an exceptionally high order. Largely interspersed with humor they were filled with glowing eulogies of the telegrapher, "The pulse-beats of the Nation," as Mr. Feimster styled them.

HICKORY AND HIGHLAND CARRY OFF BIG SHARE

Win All Prizes in Contests at
County Commencement
Friday.

Newton, April 9.—Catawba's grim old court house was the scene of doings today not contemplated by its builders 70 years ago when they prepared a place for the trial of evil-doers and violators of the law, for instead of the stern procedures of the justice tribunal it housed the features of the county's first commencement of public schools and held the heart of the most inspirational day's work a Catawba County crowd of 7,000 people ever carried through on a public occasion.

Half the throng which crowded the town today was made up of children of school age, and more than 2,000 of them of all ages participated in the parade down Main street which made citizens prouder of Catawba County than they had ever dreamed they were. Ideal weather, excellent order and the almost flawless rendition of an extraordinarily fine program combined to make the first commencement a pleasant success in each of several particulars, and Supt. George E. Long tonight is being congratulated on this his first effort.

This forenoon the eight declaimers held forth, and astonished veteran educators with their splendid work. Percy Hunt was awarded the gold medal, but decision was quite difficult. The other speakers were Fred Hahn, Edwin Yoder, Roy Setzer, Cromer Seitz, Roy Lowrance, Coyte Barringer and Roy Cornelius. They came from the grades of the common schools and as declaimers have set a high place for future commencements.

Following the declaimers exultant addresses ringing with inspiration were delivered by presidents of county colleges. Dr. J. L. Murphy of Claremont College spoke of past educational conditions in the county and contrasted them with those of today. President J. D. Andrew of Catawba College told of the opportunities of the present and pictured the open door of hope. President R. L. Fritz, of Lenoir College, with a vast deal of humor which kept the thousand hearers rocking with laughter, described Utopian Catawba in the operation of the trinity of community life—the home, the school and the Church.

This afternoon, following a big public dinner in the court square, the recitations by eight young ladies were delivered, and Miss Ruth Hyder was awarded this medal. The other young ladies were Misses Mary Hoover, Ella Yount, Vesta Propst, Annie Lowrance, Annie Witherspoon, Mary Carpenter and Vera Erwin. The school winning the prize for the largest percentage of enrollment in the parade was Caldwell Township No. 1, which had 71 enrolled and 75 in the parade, over 100 per cent. The best exhibit of school work was adjudged to be that of the Newton Graded Schools, the prize, being a set of books from the Ranscum-Sherrill Chapter, U. D. C., and a second prize, a medal, given by the chapter, was awarded to little Lois Bowman of Highland School, for the best story written by a child of the first, second or third grades. A second prize for school exhibits went to the Startown Graded School. These school exhibits, displayed in the court room, were an all-day marvel to the thousands who viewed them, and are pronounced by school experts to be the creators of new records in this work.

Certificates were conferred on 60 boys and girls who have completed the primary grades and are now entitled to enter the high schools.

Robert Garth of Hickory was awarded the declaimers medal and Miss Isabella Morton of Hickory the medal for best recitation tonight.

In the athletic events, Cloninger of Claremont won the 100-yard race; Burdett Trot of Newton won the 300-yard dash, the standing high jump, the running high jump and the running broad jump; Craig Killian won the standing broad jump and Startown High School came off victors in the tug of war. For these events local merchants gave prizes. The five gold dollars offered by a merchant for the largest wagonload of people brought to town went to L. L. Hunsucker who hauled 67 young people in this morning.

Tonight the high schools of the county held their commencement exercises.

The Schools of Hickory Township

Growth in Recent Years.

The educational progress made in Catawba county within the last fifteen years has been nothing less than marvelous. The following tables of the schools in Hickory township show something of what is now being done. While these tables show only the schools of one township, the growth in other parts of the county has been just as great. The amount raised by local tax levy, the number of schools having more than one teacher, the enrollment and attendance of pupils make a record of which one may well feel proud. There are more than a dozen counties in North Carolina each of which has fewer pupils enrolled than Hickory township has in its schools.

Money Raised for Schools.

For the year ending June 30, 1900, the entire amount raised for school purposes in Catawba county was \$12,078.16. At that time there was not a single local tax district in the county; neither Hickory nor Newton then levied a special tax for school purposes.

For the year ending June 30, 1915, the entire amount raised for school purposes in Catawba county is not less than \$50,000, or four times as much as it was 15 years ago.

Hickory township now has 12 local tax districts, and raises from local school taxes almost as much as the whole county raised then from all sources. This one

township now spends for schools nearly twice as much as the whole county spent 15 years ago.

Enrollment and Attendance. During the present year 2,720 pupils have been enrolled in the schools of Hickory township. This is 65 per cent of the school census which shows 4,164 children between the ages of 6 and 21 years. Of the 2,720 pupils enrolled 2,146, or 79 per cent, were in average daily attendance.

Most of the pupils, both in the rural elementary schools and in the town graded schools, complete the course by the time they are 17 years old. Taking this into consideration, almost one-fourth of the children included in the school census really do not belong to be in the schools.

But the remaining three-fourths, or 75 percent, who are under 17 years of age, should all be in school. And the average daily attendance should be at least 85 per cent of the enrollment. The schools of Hickory township have only 65 per cent of the school subjects enrolled, and only 79 per cent of these in daily attendance.

Some of the schools report an enrollment of more than 75 per cent of the school census, while others report less than 60 per cent. There are in the township more than 500 children who belong to be in school, but who are not enrolled at all. Is there any way by which these children can be brought into the schools and kept until they have finished the

course?

Increase the School Efficiency. Much has been accomplished in the last 15 years. There are "in the whole township only 16 children who cannot read and write. All of these are found in the towns; not a single illiterate is reported in the rural districts of the township. There are 60 teachers employed in the schools of the township, and two-thirds of the schools have more than one teacher. More than \$20,000 a year is now being spent for school purposes in Hickory township. Are the results obtained all that can be expected?

All the children who belong to be in school must be enrolled. The schools can not possibly benefit those children who are not there to receive the instruction and help which the schools give. This is the first problem to be solved: How to get all the children in the schools.

The work done in the schools can be improved and enlarged by proper supervision. By this means teachers can be brought to adopt methods of work that will prevent waste of time and energy on the part of the pupils. The second problem to be solved is this: How to secure greater economy and efficiency in the work done in the school room.

If these questions can be answered correctly, the next fifteen years will see still greater growth made by the schools of Hickory township.

School Statistics of Hickory Township.

SCHOOL	Teachers	Census	Enrollment	Attendance	Special Tax Rate	Amount of Special Tax
1. Mt. Olive	2	105	90	73		
2. Cloninger	1	71	55	44		
3. St. Stephen	2	77	57	50		
4. St. Timothy	2	96	75	65	30c	\$ 581.33
5. Sweet Water	2	76	56	52	15c	128.48
6. Killian	2	103	91	75	15c	135.98
7. Barger	2	173	74	60		
8. Minerva	2	93	65	55	15c	78.50
9. Abernethy	2	128	95	70	15c	108.96
10. Baker's Mountain	1	42	30	25	15c	45.00
11. Link	1	48	28	22		
12. Houck's Chapel	1	71	44	36		
13. Windy City	2	137	74	68	30c	281.73
14. Long View	2	120	65	58	30c	245.50
15. Brookford	2	203	140	75		
16. West Hickory	5	344	240	190	20c	575.00
17. Highland	3	310	180	130	30c	725.00
18. Hickory Graded	20	1258	850	710	40c	8750.00
19. Sandy Ridge	1	63	48	44	15c	39.90
20. Union Grove	1	56	30	22		
21. Grand View	1	87	55	37		
x. Hickory City	4	464	242	158		
x. Baker's Mountain	1	39	30	26		
TOTALS	60	4164	2720	2146		\$11686.48

x.—Negro School.

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Although the crowd today numbered fully 7,000 people, there would have been many more adults and school children present but for the fact that measles has been epidemic in parts of the county. Claremont took three villages from the Belgians and made one officer and 40 men prisoners.

"In small engagements near the Avere stream at Albert we made 50 French prisoners. "French attacks in the western Argennes failed.

"Fighting between the Meuse and the Moselle increased in intensity in the afternoon. "In the forest region north of the Combers Heights the French collected strong forces for a fresh attempt to take our position on the heights.

"The attack, which commenced early in the day, completely failed, and the positions everywhere on the heights remained in our possession. "Southwest of Ailly stubborn fighting continued throughout the night and resulted in our favor. In an unsuccessful attack in force to the north of Flirey the French sustained heavy losses.

"In battles yesterday in the Bois-le-Pretre we took four machine guns. Severe night battles which followed were favorable to us. "The heavy French losses in engagements between the Meuse and the Moselle cannot yet be approximately estimated. Between Selouse and Lamartville woods our troops counted 700 dead and at a small place north of Regnieville more than 500 Lodjes were found. We took 11 French officers and 804 men and seven machine guns. "An anchored balloon which

BATTLE INCREASES IN INTENSITY ON MEUSE

Berlin Says French Attacks North of Combers Completely Fail.

Berlin, via London, April 11.—Today's German army headquarters statement read: "In the western theatre: "On the Yser canal, near Poesele, south of Drei Grabhten we took three villages from the Belgians and made one officer and 40 men prisoners.

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NEWS OF THE WEEK FROM WEST HICKORY

Local and Personal Items of That Hustling Town and Community.

West Hickory Apr. 12.—It seems that spring has opened up in earnest at last and garden making has been greatly in fashion in our town the past week.

Miss Minnie Abee spent Saturday and Sunday at Brookford with her sister, Mrs. A. Wilson. Mrs. M. McKenzie has been quite sick for several days but we are glad to say she is some better.

Mrs. Litton is doing fine business with her new millinery store. She is kept busy trimming and selling hats to her many customers. This is a new enterprise for West Hickory and we are glad to see it progressing so fine.

Mr. Geo. Hendrick and family of Newton, moved to the Ivey mill a few days ago. Last Monday night the West Hickory band furnished music for a party given at the home of Mr. S. D. Campbell.

Mrs. Sallie Brittain, who had been here several days visiting her parents, Dr. and Mrs. J. J. Hicks, returned to her home in Cherryville Saturday. Mr. G. M. Carswell and family moved from here to Newton one day last week.

Mr. Brantley Burns and wife, of Spartanburg, S. C., are visiting the family of Dr. J. J. Hicks. Mr. Ed. Burns and family were here Sunday visiting the family of Mr. L. F. Mitchell.

Claremont College Will Close May 7-9.

The program and speakers for commencement at Claremont College, May 7 to 11 inclusive, have been announced. The annual sermon before the graduating class will be preached this year by Rev. A. L. Stanford, pastor of the First Methodist Church of Hickory.

The order of the commencement exercises is as follows: May 7.—Play by the Dramatic Club under the direction of Miss Schmidt.

May 9.—Annual sermon before the graduating class by Rev. A. L. Stanford, pastor of the First Methodist Church. May 10.—2 p. m., annual meeting of the Board of Trustees; 8 p. m., Commencement entertainment by the Music and Expression departments.

May 11.—8 p. m., Graduating Exercises with an address by Rev. Walter W. Rowe. Marshalls.—Misses Katherine Kilgore, Clara Kilgore, Mattie McComb, Lucy Killingsworth, Katherine Bost and Treva Liven-good.

Welcome Springtime! Spring is with us! I can feel it! Something vital in the air, Warns of subtle change happening's All around me everywhere. To my nerves there comes a tingle. And a joy throb in my heart. 'Tis a feeling of new life that Only Springtime can impart.

Poets rave about the birds, and How they sing in bush and tree, But there's a song that beats the birds A-swellung up inside of me! I'm a-waiting, in a hurry For the grass to come up green! And I feel there's something lovely That I never Yet have seen! Just because She's late in coming I am meeting her halfway, And the feeling of her Presence Makes me gladder everyday.

CASSANDRA. Robber Swallows \$10,000 Diamond. A dispatch from Dallas, Texas, says that somewhere inside of James Williams, 19, under two years' sentence for a diamond robbery, is a \$10,000 diamond. He admitted that he swallowed it when he was captured. Lloyds Insurance Company, which has offered a reward of \$1,000 for recovery of the gem, wants to operate. The boy's attorneys say "nothing doing."

To Drive Out Malaria And Build Up The System Take The Old Standard GROVE'S TASTELESS CHILL TONIC. You know what you are taking, as the formula is printed on every label, showing it is Quinine and Iron in a tasteless form. The Quinine drives out malaria, the Iron builds up the system. 50 cents

CHEAPER, BETTER AND MORE EFFICIENT SERVICE

A Comparison of Telephone Rates Here and at Other Places.

A comparison of the rates charged by the Hickory Electric Company for telephone service and those charged by telephone companies in other towns brings out the fact that we are getting our service much cheaper than other towns and cities getting the same service. The Hickory Electric Company has about 700 telephones connected with their exchange, 400 of these being city phones and the remaining 300, country phones. Their rate is \$2.50 for business phones and \$1.50 for residence. Farmers who build their own lines and furnish their phones get a rate of 50 cents per month.

The following is a list of telephone rates paid by neighboring towns which have metalla special line service such as the local company gives:

Town	Business	Residence
Asheville	\$4.00	\$2.50
Charlotte	4.00	2.50
Durham	4.00	2.50
Graham	4.00	3.00
Gastonia	3.00	2.00
Burlington	3.50	2.00
Goldboro	3.00	2.00
Greensboro	4.00	2.50
Hendersonville	3.00	2.00
Morganton	3.00	2.00
Raleigh	4.00	2.50
Reidsville	3.00	2.00
Salisbury	3.50	2.00
Spartanburg	4.00	2.50
Winston-Salem	4.00	2.50
Wilmington	4.00	2.50
Hickory	2.50	1.50

Notwithstanding the lower rates there is not a town in North Carolina that gets better service from their telephone system than Hickory. It has been the intention of this paper for some time to compliment those in charge of out telephone system for the splendid service rendered and for the courteous treatment given by the operators. Of course there are some kicks raised, but these are generally from people who do not have a telephone of their own and use one belonging to some one else. When these people don't get just what they think they ought to have, they raise a kick. In regard to the service rendered and the reasonable rates charged we hold that the Hickory Electric Company is worthy of the compliments of every citizen of Hickory.

List Takers and Assessors For Catawba County. The board of County Commissioners has named the following tax listers and assessors for Catawba County, the first name being the assessor and the last lister:

- North Hickory—B. F. Campbell and J. W. Mauser.
- South Hickory—Jonas Abernethy and J. S. Leonard.
- Newton—P. E. Fry and C. O. Smith.
- Catawba—J. W. Lowrance and W. W. Erwin.
- Clines—D. A. Yount and C. C. Holler.
- Bandsy—S. L. Lefevers and Eli Speagle.
- Mountain Creek—A. P. Hicks and J. A. Gabriel.
- Jacobs Fork—J. A. Whitener and Gordon Wilfong.
- Caldwell—Mac Caldwell and M. C. Laney.

Secretary of Treasury Charged With Conspiracy. Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo and Comptroller of the Currency Williams have been made defendants in proceedings begun in the District of Columbia Supreme Court by the Riggs National Bank of Washington, D. C., which alleges that these officials have combined and conspired to wreck the bank.

Temporary and permanent injunctions to halt the alleged conspiracy, and to prevent the Comptroller from making what the bank charges are unlawful demands for special reports of various kinds, are sought from the court.

Told That There Was No Cure for Him. "After suffering for over twenty years with indigestion and having some of the best doctors here tell me there was no cure for me, I think it only right to tell you for the sake of other sufferers as well as your own satisfaction that a 25 cent bottle of Chamberlain's Tablets not only relieved me but cured me within two months although I am a man of 65 years," writes Jul. Grobien, Houston, Tex. For sale by Menzies Drug Co., and Lutz's Drug Co.