

ELLERBE FAIR
Oct. 26, 1923
SECOND SECTION
Pages 13 to 24

ROCKINGHAM Post-Dispatch

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
One Year\$2.00
Six months\$1.00
Three months75
Single copies 10c each

Vol. 6. No. 47. Special Ellerbe Fair Edition ROCKINGHAM, N. C., THURSDAY Afternoon, OCT. 18, 1923. 24 Pages This Issue—Pages 13 to 24 \$2.00 PER YEAR



Growth of Ellerbe School Ellerbe Fair October 26th Ellerbe--Mineral Springs

Supt. Mitchell Gives Detailed Sketch of Growth of the Ellerbe School During the Past Five Years. Remarkable Development in That Time from Two-Room Wooden Building to Present Elegant Brick Structure Having Over 500 Pupils. Gov. Morrison a Former Pupil of the Old Ellerbe Springs School. Unusual Achievements. Present Superintendent Under Contract for Five Years, from 1922. School Fortunate in Personnel of Faculty. Has Made Fine Record in Athletics, Especially Basketball.

Why of Interest.

The growth of the Ellerbe School is of interest because it is such a typical illustration of the dramatic and inspiring impulse that education has taken of recent years in North Carolina.

The Fundamental Principals.

There are two fundamental principals on which the Ellerbe School is built.

First, there is the conviction that country children, not only need and must have, but they can have as good schools as larger towns. They can have a good school by joining together at some central point. Children come to this school from a distance of six miles on all sides. This gives an area, twelve miles in diameter and containing about one hundred and fifty square miles. In this area are five hundred children of school age. Five hundred children! That makes enough for one teacher for every grade, two teachers for beginners, and for all needed high school departments; general course, agricultural course and domestic science. This forms an ideal working unit so that these children have an equal chance for an education with those of the larger towns.

Second, the directors of the school feel that universal enlightenment, the universal ability to think, is the hope of the world. That prohibition cannot be truly effective, that lawlessness and graft cannot be done away with, that wars cannot be ended, that all homes cannot be happy and prosperous, that the social teachings of Jesus Christ cannot reign supreme until all men are loosed from the shackles of ignorance, and every voter is taught to think. Then, too, in the Ellerbe School, children are taught how to make profitable their hours of work, how to make enjoyable their hours of leisure and how to bear their responsibilities as world citizens.

From a Small Beginning.

The old Ellerbe School was a one-room affair. It was started at least sixty years ago and the small building was moved from place to place, always centering around the Ellerbe Mineral Springs, one mile from the present town of Ellerbe. It was once by the side of the present Presbyterian church and the green blinds were put in to protect the church windows from stray stones.

Good Teachers.

Many often speak of Mr. Micheaux and later of Mr. McAskill and of many other teachers who did good work even under difficulties.

Good Pupils Too.

There were good pupils in those days, as well as in ours. Dr. F. J. Garrett, of Rockingham, walked five miles every day back and forth from this school. Mr. T. C. Leak and Mr. D. A. Parsons also attended.

Gov. Morrison a Pupil Here.

It was as a small boy that Gov. Morrison received his early instruction in the old Ellerbe School. Those who attended with him, as Mr. T. C. Leak, describe our Governor as a thin, pale boy, not strong, but "chock full of ambition."

Better Days.

The school was still a small affair when it was moved to the town of Ellerbe and two rooms built. But the plans lay in the right direction and later two more rooms were added. Many recall the days in this old wooden building when Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Arrowood were principals.

Real Plans On Foot.

As this building became crowded and as the roof began to leak whenever it rained, thoughts turned toward something better. The County Board of Education decided to make Ellerbe the center for all adjacent territory and to develop, if possible, (that is, if the people would co-operate) a consolidated school. The plan met with the hearty approval of the Ellerbe committee which at that time consisted of Mr. J. B. Bennett, Dr. J. M. Maness and Mr. J. H. McRae.

Couldn't Make Bond Issue Large Enough.

To the proposed end, a \$12,000 bond issue was voted and carried without an opposing vote. It was learned, however, that the property valuation would not permit so large a bond issue and it was necessary to vote again on \$8,000. This time also there were no opposing votes.

A Brick Building.

With some aid from the County and with this \$8,000 a splendid six-room school building was erected in 1919. The plans were laid, it was thought, for the future, and everyone felt that the town was equipped with a school for all time. The location

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A Community Effort That Should Meet with United Support of Richmond County. Only Fair in County This Year. Friday, Oct. 26th, is the Day. Gov. Morrison to Make Address at 12 O'clock. Exhibits in 50x75 Gymnasium at School. Music by Brass Band. Baby Show in Morning and Horseshoe Pitching Eliminations. Athletic Contests, Girls and Boys, Dashes, Comic Races Etc. Dog Show. Booths. Football Clash Hamlet and Ellerbe at 4 O'clock. Ellerbe Host to County. Come, Enter Exhibits, Spend the Day.

Friday, October 26th, is the day, and Ellerbe the place, for the only Fair to be held in Richmond County this year.

And this approaching Fair is to be the worth-while kind—no cheap Carnival, no Midway, no devices to extract the small change from the innocent. It is to be a Community Fair in fact as well as name. The people are urged and invited to enter exhibits. A premium book can be obtained from Secretary J. A. Glazener at Ellerbe. All exhibitors are asked to bring their exhibits to the new gymnasium at the Ellerbe school on Thursday, October 25th. A watchman will be on duty that night to safeguard everything. Every exhibit will be in place and order by 9 o'clock the morning of the Fair.

The people of the county and surrounding counties are invited to come to Ellerbe October 26th. The town will receive them with wide-open arms, figuratively, and the Ellerbe community spirit will be strongly in evidence—note we said spirit, not spirits. Governor Morrison will make the address of the day promptly at 12 o'clock, from a platform on the east side of the gymnasium. Booths will be on the grounds wherein sandwiches, etc., will be sold for the benefit of the school fund; and in the school auditorium arrangements will be made for serving oysters, hot, fried, raw or stewed, anyway, to the hungry-inclined.

One of the features will be the Baby Contest beginning at 10:30 o'clock. These will be judged on the Speakers' platform, and the mothers are invited to bring their infants and enter them. Blue ribbons awarded for prettiest under six months; prettiest between 6 months and one year; prettiest between one and two years.

At 10:30 will start the eliminations in the horseshoe pitching contest; the lists wide open. The finalists will compete at 2:30 to decide the County's champion.

At 10:30 Coach Cox will pull a "bunch" of funny stuff, in the way of serious and comic races for boys and girls—sack race, potato, etc. Also, at 2 o'clock, will take place the Dog competition.

At 4 o'clock the football game between Ellerbe and Hamlet.

All in all, the Management has arranged a full day's program, and Ellerbe is counting on fully 2,500 people attending this Fair. A Brass Band will furnish music throughout the day from the Speakers' platform. Get yourself young again; get a "wife beater"; throw confetti; blow a horn; eat popcorn and crackerjack, and mingle with your neighbors and friends. Take a day off.

In brief, the program is as follows (with many side stunts that space prevents mentioning here):

PROGRAM.

- 9. A. M.—Fair grounds open. No admission charged.
- 10:30 A. M.—Baby Show starts at Speakers' platform.
- 10:30 A. M.—Horseshoe Pitching Eliminations start.
- 12:00 M.—Governor of North Carolina makes address.
- 1:30 P. M.—Athletic stunts, boys and girls.
- 2:00 P. M.—Dog competition.
- 2:30 P. M.—Finalists in Horseshoe Pitching Contest.
- 4:00 P. M.—Football game, Ellerbe vs. Hamlet.

WHAT ABOUT ELLERBE.

Farm Demonstrator W. H. Barton Asserts That This Section of Richmond County is One of the Finest in the State—40,000 Peach Trees Planted in Past Two Years in Ellerbe Community.

Ellerbe, the most centrally located town in Richmond County, on a branch of the Norfolk-Southern Railway, had only 50 people in 1911. In our ignorance of its possibilities we regarded our land as fit for little more than to "hold the world together" and much of it sold for about \$2.50 per acre.

Ellerbe now has a population of over 500, two banks, a knitting mill, telephone exchange,

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Visit of Editor to Ellerbe and "What He Saw." A Growing Town Backed by Constructive "Back Country." Built on Solid Foundation. Prospect of Two Miles of Hard Surface Road. Valuation for Township is Two Million Dollars. 86 Dogs Listed in Township. Town Tax Rate 37cents. Farmers Place 1000—Bales Cotton Ellerbe for Cooperatives. Population Ellerbe 1910 Negligible; in 1920 473—and Growing. Three Score Pupils, Two Teachers, in 1918, 500 Pupils, 15 Teachers, Now. Watch Ellerbe Grow!

(Isaac S. London)

A town that in 1910 was not even dignified with a census notation, the subject of this special edition of the POST-DISPATCH—ELLERBE—has grown and developed to the point that it has discarded its swaddling clothes and is now a healthy and lusty youngster.

The editor made a "visitation" to the town last week, and was surprised to note the sturdiness and thrift in evidence. And so it is with keen pleasure that we have devoted these twelve pages to a resume of the town's financial, industrial and educational growth—and that which may be said for the town, can equally be said for the community. For in the last analysis, a town is but a larger gathering of people; and that is really the only distinction between so-called "country" and "town." And to its excellent back-country is Ellerbe indebted for the permanency of its present growth.

The enrollment in the Ellerbe school is around 500—and if one estimates population in the way Charlotte does (six people to every school pupil) then Ellerbe has an immediate trade source of 3,000 people. As a matter of fact, the 1920 census gave Ellerbe 473 people.

The POST-DISPATCH is glad of the opportunity to portray the civic life of this part of Richmond county, and especially at this time when all eyes are centered on the approaching Community Fair that is to be staged at Ellerbe on Friday, October 26th. It is with the Fair in mind that the following facts and comments are noted. And you readers will pardon the writer if he digresses and makes comments that may be considered more or less "aside from the subject."

TWO MILE HARD SURFACE ROAD.

Right now the citizens of Ellerbe have their attention focused on getting the State Highway Commission to build a two-mile stretch of hard surface road on either side and through the town. The Mayor and Commissioners have the matter up with the proper authorities and it is possible such a road may be given them in 1924.

MINERAL SPRINGS TOWNSHIP.

Ellerbe is the capital of Mineral Springs township—a township that in 1920 was listed as having 2,480 people, as compared with the 1,414 in 1910 and 1,317 in 1900. Do you note the big jump made by the township in the past ten years, as compared with the first ten years of this new century? The gain of over 1,000 in this last period can be credited chiefly to the development of Ellerbe—and were a new census taken now, it would show still stronger percentage of gain.

Richmond county, as you readers perhaps know, was given a population of 25,567 in 1920, of which number 12,663 were males and 12,901 females. The women (God bless 'em) outnumbered us a wee bit. Of this total population there were 10,545 negroes. In 1910 the total population of the county was 19,673. Rockingham, the county seat, was listed as having 2,509, but this has been

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MAIN BUILDING ELLERBE HIGH SCHOOL, ELLERBE, N. C.