

PAGEANT GIVEN AT BELL SCHOOL DEDICATION APRIL 12, 1953

(Continued from Page One)

of long-deferred hopes—this elegant new \$475,000 school building. And it was quite fitting that it should be named in honor of L. J. Bell who had served as Supt. of the city schools for 42 years.

The new building is of two stories, of brick, and contains 50,000 square feet of floor space. It was erected by the Barger company of Mooresville, and designed by Walter Toy and Porter Graves of Charlotte. It cost \$475,000, has 20 class rooms, a 684-seat auditorium, a cafeteria that will accommodate 250 persons, a library, visitors' room, offices for Principal, Supervisor and Superintendent; and all in all, a building wherein the community and tax-payers have certainly gotten their money's worth. There is most decidedly no "fat" or extravagance in its designing and construction.

And so a year after the building was first occupied came this time for acceptance and dedication.

That is what took place Sunday, April 12th, at 2:30.

Had the weather been fair, the auditorium could not possibly have contained the crowd. The tribute is that it was practically filled in the face of the year's most driving rain-storm, with lightning and thunder.

The entire program revolved around the man in whose honor the building was named — L. J. Bell — a man now in his 76th year and retired in the serenity of a life built in service to his community.

Supt. J. E. Huneycutt presided. A historical story of our schools, starting with the Act creating the Richmond Academy in 1788, was told in song, dance and pageantry. Atty. Thomas Leath was the Narrator, reading the prepared History. And Supt. J. E. Huneycutt and Music Director Geneva Beaver had woven the whole into a Pageant that thrilled and delighted those so fortunate as to be present. Mr. Huneycutt's adaptation of the History into the Pageant evidenced skill and thought; and he was most ably assisted by Miss Beaver, a talented young lady,

and the entire grade school faculty. Various persons were helpful in assembling the historical data.

The exercises started promptly at 2:30 with the Star Spangled Banner. The Invocation was made by Dr. Bruce Benton who was chairman of the Board for 14 years. Then came the "Story of Education in Rockingham" in ten Scenes, with the children acting the various periods, and impersonating Board members, teachers and others long since dead. It was a vivid portrayal beginning with the first school in 1788 and ending with the present residence now stands.

At the conclusion of the Pageant, the present and former Board members were invited to the stage and recognized by Mr. Huneycutt. Of the 44 persons who have served on the Board since 1901, 17 are living; and 14 of the 17 were present Sunday afternoon. During these 52 years there have been but 6 chairmen — W. C. Leak 1901-1918, W. N. Everett 1918-1923, George S. Steele 1923-1931, Rev. Bruce Benton 1931-1945, George P. Engle 1945-1947, and the present Chairman Isaac S. London who has served since 1947. In these 52 years there have been nine Principals.

In May of 1949 Richmond county voted a bond issue of \$1,750,000 for school buildings with the County getting \$700,000, Hamlet system \$525,000 and Rockingham \$525,000. The State supplemented these funds from its bonds. The first money spent by Rockingham was on a completely new Negro grade building costing over \$200,000. Then came this new Bell school, and abandoning the old grammar school site in the business heart of town. The Board wisely bought twelve acres of land in the northeastern part and building operations got underway in early 1951. Toy and Graves of Charlotte were the architects, and the contract was let to Barger Construction Co. of Mooresville. The magnificent non-fat building now accepted Sunday is attestation of how well Walter Toy and Graves planned, and Barger executed. It was fitting that Walter Toy should

be present Sunday, and officially present the key of the building to Board Chairman Isaac London—even though the building has actually been occupied since April 10, 1952.

After Mr. London accepted the building, Supt. Huneycutt introduced Mrs. Sarah Everett Toy of Charlotte, who had sculptured a bronze bust of Mr. Bell, and Mrs. Toy graciously presented this bust to the school. It was accepted for the school by Jack Cockman, president of the PTA.

Next Mr. London announced, regretfully, the resignation of Miss Bessie Terry as Principal—a position she has so ably filled since 1922. Her impaired health necessitates her retirement after the June 2nd Commencement (and the Board will in a few days elect a Principal to succeed her). Supt. Huneycutt then spoke feelingly of the fine work of Miss Terry over the years, and on behalf of the Bell faculty presented her with a handsome wrist watch. Her response was typical of the Terry spirit, and she was most gracious in her appreciation.

And another teacher recognized for her years of devotion to the school was Miss Maude Moore who has been a grade teacher here since November of 1902 — nearly 51 years. Another former teacher present was Mrs. Lottie Linton Stewart who taught for 8 years beginning in 1909 — and Mrs. Lucy Phillips Russell who came to Rockingham in 1881 as a 19-year-old lassie and taught for several years. She was 91 last March 7th.

At the conclusion of the program, the PTA had "open house" and refreshments and the public enjoyed roaming through the 20 class rooms, the big cafeteria and seeing the other facilities. 700 children are in the six grades using this L. J. Bell Elementary School building, and every one of them is proud of such a "home" and happy to be privileged to have a part in it.

Officially recognized is the plaque at the front entrance, listing the Trustees who had a part in the building program, and chronicling this fact for all time.

No better way to end this story of the acceptance of the Bell building April 12th than to quote the frontispiece that appeared under Mr. Bell's picture on the programs Sunday, as prepared by Mr. Huneycutt. Mr. Bell was called on for a

word as the program neared its end — and he responded as his friends knew he would — the old Bell spirit of self-negation, and humility. And he closed his brief remarks with "—and may God bless you all."

And he meant just that.

The program was long. It had to be — starting 'way back in 1788 — 165 years ago. But the Huneycutt-Beaver deft hands moved things along smoothly, and the Pageant portion was over at four.

A final act was the introduction of the 14 present and former Board members, and other guests. Especially were all happy to see three former members there — Paul Whitlock from Charlotte, Ozmer Henry and Ed Allen from Lumberton.

RABIES CONTROL

(Continued from Page One)

confirmed cases of animal rabies and hundreds of our citizens took the antirabic treatment in 1952. This, of course, does not mean that only 178 animals had rabies in 1952. When clinical cases are considered, there would be several hundred positive cases of animal rabies. The term "clinical cases" refers to live animals observed showing symptoms of rabies but whose heads were not sent to the State Laboratory of Hygiene upon death.

Dr. Reeves pointed out that rabies control is a state-wide and national problem, but those programs are only as successful as the local programs carried out in the various counties.

The State Board of Health has established a Veterinary Public Health Section to assist the county health departments toward organizing adequate rabies programs which will be uniform and which have one objective: the eradication of rabies. Dr. Reeves went on to stress that Richmond County cannot be free from constant danger unless rabies is eradicated and unless the neighboring counties do the same.

In conclusion, Dr. Reeves said that the Richmond County Health Department campaign to control rabies would depend entirely on the cooperation of the citizens toward this public health problem.

REGISTERED?

(Continued from Page One)

at present there are not more than 750 registered. A woeful lack of interest.

Go to the City Hall and make sure your name is on the books. Those living in Town can vote for Mayor, Commissioners and School Board; but those living outside Town can vote only on School Board.

The Election is May 5th. And in the May 5th Election, only those living in Town can vote on the \$175,000 water bond issue, and for Mayor, Commissioners and School Board.

Those living out of town, but in the School District, can vote May 5th only for School Board members.

A fact that many voters seem to have overlooked is that the registration books for the April 27th Primary closes at 9 o'clock this Saturday night, April 18th.

But the books for the May 5th BOND election will not close until Saturday week, April 25th at nine.

Only two more days remain in which you can register for the Primary; remember that and act now.

BILLS AMENDED

(Continued from Page One)

changes or amendments to them:

Bills Amended.

HB 1054 — Introduced by Pittman, April 1 (Sheriff salary and tax collector creation)

April 9, amended in House to provide that beginning first Monday in Dec., 1954, county commissioners may designate number of assistant CSCs, deputy CSCs and other necessary clerical assistants (appointments by CSC and salaries fixed by commissioners); and to provide that beginning first Mon-

SALE MILLIKIN

(Continued from Page One)

order from Judge Johnson J. Hayes at Greensboro. This temporary order will be heard before Judge Hayes in Greensboro tomorrow — Friday. And the Judge will decide whether the sale shall be held or stopped.

At the same time they secured the temporary restraining order to stop the April 13th sale the Millikins also asked the Judge to prohibit any further seizures of their property until a tax court can determine their final liability.

Recites History of Case

In the complaint filed with Judge Hayes April 10th, the lawyer for the Millikins outlined this history of their trouble with the Internal Revenue Bureau:

"On June 11, 1942, tax agents, armed with a peep-hole assessment for more than \$82,000, 'took over' the plaintiff's coin-operated phonograph business in Rockingham, closed their laundrette in Hamlet and padlocked a phonograph repair shop in Hamlet.

"After that, agents seized more than \$7,000 the Millikins had in banks and building loan associations and put under seal 'about \$10,000' in government bonds held in a safe deposit box.

"On August 4, 1952, the Millikins were sent a 90-day letter notifying them their liability had been re-determined at more than \$105,000.

"On April 1, 1953, tax agents seized three of the plaintiff's cars and notified the couple that the laundrette and repair shop with the automobiles would be sold April 13.

"According to the com-

History of Schools.

In the Post-Dispatch of April 23rd will be given the entire history of the school system of Rockingham, together with Mrs. Toy's presentation speech and her own presentation speech.

But this story cannot be closed without giving the summation on Mr. Bell as written by Supt. Huneycutt for the program.

Came For Dedication

Among those from out-of-town who came to Rockingham April 12th for the dedication of the Bell school building, we note:

Mr. and Mrs. Ozmer L. Henry and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Allen from Lumberton. Ozmer a Board member from 1928-1931, and Ed a member 1917-1925.

Paul A. Whitlock from Charlotte, he being a Board member 1901-1906.

Misses Virginia and Augusta Land, twins from Hamlet.

Harvey Terry from Whiteville.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles McLaurin from McColl, Miss Elizabeth Hall from Belmont; Frank S. Terry from McColl he an uncle of Miss Bessie Terry — and he will be 82 this April 25th.

And another who came and who is keenly interested in our school is Mrs. Margaret Garrett now of the Greensboro high faculty but who from 1930 to 1952 was with our high school 52 was with our high school — and head of the English department.



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plaint, "The jeopardy assessment was arbitrarily made without notice to plaintiffs and was entirely unnecessary."

"In addition, the couple charge tax agents with obtaining information against them from "individuals who desirous of wrecking their business . . ."

day in Dec., 1956, county commissioners may designate number of assistants to register of deeds (appointments by register and salaries fixed by commissioners); passed House.

HB 1055 — Introduced by Pittman, April 1 (CSC and register salaries)

April 9, amended in House to authorize county commissioners, after Sept. 1, 1953, to designate the number of persons necessary to keep county jail, which persons and jailer shall be appointed by sheriff and serve at his direction; to direct commissioners to fix salaries of jailer and his assistants; to provide that jail fees be paid to county which shall pay for jail expenses; and to provide such clerical assistance for sheriff as commissioners designate (appointments by sheriff and salaries fixed by commissioners); passed House.

HB 1056 — Introduced by Pittman, April 1 (Commissioners salaries)

April 9, passed House; April 10, received in Senate; sent to Salaries and Fees.

HB 1057 — Introduced by Pittman, April 1 (Ellerbe bird sanctuary)

April 9, passed House; April 10, received in Senate; sent to Wildlife.

HB 1092 — Introduced by Pittman, April 7

"To revise and consolidate the charter of the Town of Hoffman in Richmond County." (Rewrites town charter. Grants usual specific corporate powers, including powers (1) to acquire more property than needed for public improvements, (2) to sell or lease such excess property with protective restrictions and to issue bonds on security of such property. Provides for mayor and board of five commissioners, to be nominated and elected at large for two year terms, vacancies thereon to be filled by board. Board is to be judge of qualifications of board and mayor. Board salaries are

to be fixed by ordinance to become effective during term of office following that of board passing ordinance. Provides for election of mayor protem, regular and special meetings of board, open sessions of board, procedures conduct of business Sets out procedures for conduct of town elections on Tuesday following first Monday in May in odd-numbered years; candidates are to be nominated by petition. Officials are to take office on first Monday in June following election. Authorizes appointment of necessary town officers who need not be residents at time of appointment. Sets forth provisions for custody and disbursement of town money. Continues present officials in office until next election.)

April 9, amended in House to provide that mayor shall vote only in case of tie vote by commissioners; April 10, passed House.

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