

A SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY FAIR

How Two Townships Came Together and Held a Fair That Was the Talk of the Countryside—Second Prize Letter

By Roy Thomas

THE Bahama Community Fair held at the Bahama Farm Life School, in Durham County, N. C., this fall shows what a rural community can do when there is unity of effort by the people.

The fair compared favorably in the number and quality of exhibits with many county fairs. There were 1,500 people in attendance, 1,400 individual entries, comprising 50 head of horses, 25 head of cattle, 20 hogs, 40 coops of

community was held six weeks before the date of the fair. The Bahama Fair Association was organized and the officers and directors were named. It was decided that the fair should be held for one day and that the exhibits should be restricted to two townships—Mangum and Lebanon.

How Exhibits Were Entered.—There are nine schools in the two townships, so each school was assigned a booth. The patrons and

do the judging. There was no expense to the fair association for the services of these men.

Prizes.—Our idea was that the school should be the unit of each neighborhood, and in order to make it worth while for the schools to compete a prize of ten dollars was offered for the best school exhibit, five dollars for the second best and two dollars for the third best. Forty dollars in cash prizes were offered to the individual entries. Twenty dollars of the premium list was given by the State Department and the remainder was secured by private subscription.

Dinner.—Instead of the usual picnic dinner, lunch and cold drinks were sold. Ordinarily, enough can be made in this way to pay the expenses of the fair.

How Premiums Were Paid.—The premium money was deposited in a bank in Durham and a check signed by the secretary of the fair was mailed to each winner.

The people of the Bahama community surely think that the fair was worth while, for they are already making plans for next year. An exhibit hall large enough to accommodate all the exhibits is being planned. The fair will be held two days instead of one, and many new features will be added to the program.

ROY THOMAS.

Durham, N. C.

A TEACHERS' HOME

Buffalo School District Put up a Handsome Schoolhouse and Made a Teacher's "Manse" of the Old Building

THREE years ago the Buffalo School Manse was the Buffalo schoolhouse. It was then considered about the second best school building in Cherokee County. But the lighting was poor, coming from all sides, causing cross lights which were bad on the children's eyes. In some of the rooms there were even windows in front of the children. Then, too, the rooms were crowded even after a third room had been added.

As soon as the new building was decided upon, it was mentioned that the old one would make a delightful "Teacher's Manse." This idea was a pleasing one, as it was hard to get board.

The old building was then remodeled and is now the most convenient of modest four-room homes.

A large garden furnishes the teachers with vegetables and the children with a demonstration plot.

This year the teachers have raised



DOMESTIC SCIENCE AND ART EXHIBITS

chickens, 800 entries in the field crops department, and over 500 displays in the domestic science and art department. The fair was opened at nine o'clock in the morning with a parade three-quarters of a mile in length. The parade, headed by a brass band, was composed of floats and horseback riders from the various schools in the community. After the parade, Capt. E. J. Parrish, representing the Durham Chamber of Commerce, made a short address of welcome.

The judging, which was done by representatives of the A. and M. College, was conducted so that there was no conflict in judging the entries of each department. This arrangement enabled the people to observe the judging of all exhibits, and it proved a most satisfactory plan. It was really a short institute course for the farmers. When a farmer brought up his horse, cow or hog to be judged, the good points and defects of the animal were pointed out. If his animal won the blue ribbon he was told why, and if it did not, he was told why his neighbor's animal was better than his. In the field crops department the farmer was told what qualities should constitute a good exhibit of corn, potatoes, wheat, etc., and then he was told why this entry of corn was better than another. The many questions asked the judges were evidence that the people were there to get some real benefit from the judging. The event that attracted most attention in the livestock department was the saddle horse contest in which there were twelve entries. After the judging, athletic contests were held and at four o'clock the fair closed.

The erection of the exhibit hall two weeks before the fair was a splendid example of community cooperation. All the materials and lumber for the erection of this building were furnished free by members of the community. This building was used for the school and field crops exhibits.

A brief outline of how the fair was organized and managed may be of interest to other communities contemplating having a community fair.

Preliminary Organization.—A mass meeting of the people of the com-

supporters of each school entered their products with that particular school. This arrangement helped each school to make a splendid showing, and also allowed the individual entries to compete for prizes.

Regulations.—All field crops and domestic science and art exhibits were entered the day before the fair, and the livestock was entered before nine o'clock on the morning of the fair. No admission fee was charged to enter the fair grounds.

Preparation of Accommodations.—Each school was required to look after its own booth—entering and placing the exhibits and decorating. Temporary stalls and pens for the livestock were erected several days before the fair by men of the community.

Supervision of the Departments.—A man of the community and two students of the farm life school were assigned to each of the following de-



CANNED AND PRESERVED GOODS EXHIBIT

partments: cattle, horses, hogs, poultry and field crops. Girls were put in charge of the domestic science and art departments.

Parade.—Each school was required to furnish two floats and as many horseback riders as possible. A prize of two dollars was offered for the best float.

Judges.—Mr. W. H. Hutt, Chairman of the State Committee, arranged for two men from the A. & M. College to

a nice fat hog and almost a hundred chickens.

So far, the manse has been a success, the teachers living together amicably, which is contrary to the usually accepted idea that women cannot get along together.

(MISS) MARION MORGAN.

Rt 1, Blacksboro, S. C.

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