

OUR MOONLIGHT SCHOOLS.

Faithful and Untiring Efforts of Member of Jr. O. U. A. M. and Teachers Are Bringing Results—Many Who Have Never Had Opportunity of Schooling Attend.

I dare say but a small percentage of the people of Wilmington are aware of the magnitude of the moonlight school movement in this State, and particularly this city, at the present time; or of the sacrifice being made in order to carry the work to a successful conclusion, especially by our public school principals and teachers, who are devoting three nights a week instructing classes of men and women, ranging in age from 16 to 60 years, in the rudiments of a fundamental education.

There are enrolled in the moonlight schools of this city and county in the neighborhood of 300 pupils and the curriculum includes everything in a simple way from A, B, Cs to arithmetic, and to say that the pupils are putting their opportunity to good use and working hard to attain in even a small degree a simple education, that has heretofore for one reason or another been denied them, is putting it mildly.

With what degree of success their efforts will be crowned remains to be seen, as the good work progresses; nevertheless, wonders have already been accomplished, and if they persevere to the end there is no telling the amount of good that will come to the individuals and community as a result of these schools.

While it is a fact that New Hanover has the lowest per cent of illiteracy of any county in the State (32 in each thousand, or 32 per cent, 14 in each thousand being adults.), with these schools organized and progressing as at present this percentage should be reduced by one-half and in a few years wiped out entirely.

While due credit should be given State Superintendent of Schools Joyner (who first conceived the moonlight school proposition), the State Board of Education, the County and City Boards of Education, Superintendent J. J. Blair, the several principals, and scores of teachers, for the unselfish and untiring efforts they have contributed to the success of this movement, yet there is one other factor that we would deem this article incomplete without mentioning the important part they have taken both locally and throughout the State—that is the Junior Order of United American Mechanics.

Mr. Paul Jones, of Tarboro, who was the retiring State Councillor of this order at the State Council held in Charlotte last August, from the very incipency of the moonlight school idea, gave his untiring efforts for the success of these schools, and not only boosted the movement before the State Board; and in his home county, but made a State-wide canvass among the members of his order to impress upon them the importance of co-operating with the educational boards in their several counties in causing the schools to accomplish that for which they were intended.

The State Council, at its session in August, did not only sanction and endorse all he had done, but went further, and appropriated \$1,500 to further carry on the work that he had been doing, but where necessary to hire teachers and furnish the paraphernalia to carry the work to its goal.

It would fill a page of our paper were we to undertake to tell all that the order has done locally to make the schools a success, but as the article is growing quite lengthy we will only mention the most important.

To begin with, they had a committee present at all the sessions of the County Board of Education, and the meetings of teachers, to confer and counsel during the preparation for the schools, provided funds for the incidentals; even the care of the teachers being looked after, it being considered that when they had given their time it was enough; gave 300 tablets and pencils for the use of the students, the school boards furnishing the text books; got a line on the illiterates and got them to attend the school sessions, and in addition to the central committee, who make a flying visit to all of the city schools each night, have local committees for each school, whose duty it is to meet the cars and see that the teachers are safely escorted to and from the school building, and look after the wants of the classes and see that there is no lack for facilities of any kind.

And we will close by saying that no member of the order is happier at any time than when he is using his brain and brawn in behalf of education.

POPULAR YOUNG MAN DEAD.

As Result of Being Overcome by Gas— Found Dead Under Residence of Mr. Gore Where He Was at Work.

Mr. Amos Matthews, a popular young man who resides at 116 Wright street, in this city, was overcome by gas while clearing out a pipe at the residence of Mr. L. F. Gore, 709 Grace street, on Thursday.

He had disconnected the pipe leading to the meter and needing a fitting with which to repair the defect, he sent his helper to get it. When the helper returned he found Mr. Matthews lying on his face in a hole he had dug in preparation to blowing out the pipe, apparently dead. He summoned help and after all efforts had been spent to revive him the coroner was sent for. He decided that no inquest was necessary and the body was carried to the Yopp undertaking establishment for preparation for burial.

Mr. Matthews leaves a wife, mother, four sisters and three brothers to mourn his loss.

The Record extends its tenderest condolence to the bereaved relatives.

BOYS' BRIGADE NOTES.

Leopards Put One Over on the Tigers to the Tune of 42 to 20—Wolves and Lions Did Not Play.

Company C, Juniors, held a very interesting business meeting on Thursday which was presided over by President Hooper Johnson. This company holds regularly monthly meetings on the first Thursday.

The Seniors, Companies A and B, will hold their regular meeting on Monday, which will be opened with regular Bible class, conducted by Dr. J. M. Wells, the chaplain.

The next Lyceum number will be the Dorva De Leon Company, whose members are noted for their excellent manipulation of many different musical instruments.

Mr. Ivar Palmgren, one of the most popular members of the Brigade, who has been confined to his home in Rocky Mount for some time, is able to be out again, we are glad to know.

Mr. George Gafford is back in commission at the Armory, after a short illness.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LEAGUE.

Tigers, 20; Leopards, 42.

The goal throwing of Ed. Snakenburg was one of the features of the game.

STANDING OF TEAMS.

	W.	L.	Pct.
Lions.....	6	0	1,000
Leopards.....	4	3	.568
Tigers.....	2	5	.284
Wolves.....	1	5	.166

PRIZE BOWLING CONTEST.

Capps Bowling Parlors Will Give \$10 As Prize to Winner.

The Capps bowling parlor, on North Second street, near Princess, has a contest on this week which carries a ten-dollar bill as a prize for the highest score in the Monday night game.

The scores of all who bowl above the general average will be kept and a team of six selected from the highest scorers of the week preceding will compose the star team.

There will be three games bowled on the night of the contest to decide who will be the winner. It promises to be interesting and the management extends an invitation to the public to visit their parlor and witness some classy bowling.

The special prize feature will be continued through the winter and much interest is being manifested by the bowling element of the city.

The Raleigh and Wilmington High School teams will play a game of football here this afternoon to decide the championship of East Carolina.

The remembrance of how quickly Hall's Emulsion relieved your cough will linger long after the fifty cents you paid for it is forgotten.

W. M. SNEEDEN

—DEALER IN—

Fish and Oysters, Country Game. Escalops and Shrimp

We have recently purchased the Grocery Business of J. W. Duls (deceased) and put in a full line of Fresh Groceries. Quality and promptness we guarantee to all our patrons.

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The Up-to-date Sheet Iron & Metal Worker.

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