

WINNING ARTICLES IN RECENT CONTEST

The Four Best Papers Submitted by School Children on the Subject of Wilmington and the Shipyards — Three Won Cash Prizes and One Received Special Mention

Below we publish the winning papers filed in the contest for the cash prize offered by The Dispatch for the three best articles written by school children on what the shipyards will benefit Wilmington and what Wilmington should do to aid the shipyards.

First Prize.
Winnie Davis Byerly, 223 South Front street, was awarded the first prize of \$20 in gold, she having the unanimous decision of the judges. She is only 11 years old, and is in grade 5A at the Union school. Her paper follows:

Although having been residents of Wilmington, North Carolina, a little more than a year, will try to tell why Wilmington is destined to become the metropolis of the South.

Wilmington is located on the Cape Fear river, 30 miles from the bar. It is a fortified and well-protected city that it is an altogether safe place in which to live. The enemy would have a hard task before them if they would try to pass by Fort Caswell. Commerce by water and rail is an important thing to make a city grow.

Another important advantage is being near the largest and most important cities of the United States. For instance, Washington city, the capital of the United States, is only 17 hours ride and 360 miles from here. New York, the largest city of the United States, is 18 hours ride and 500 miles from here. Charleston, another important city of the United States, is located 200 miles from here. Wilmington has good commerce with all of these cities, including Baltimore.

Wilmington is a most delightful place in which to live. It has a very mild climate, average mean temperature 63, summer 78, winter 48, and is only eight miles from the ocean. It is progressive, having wide-awake citizenship. New Hanover county has the record of the United States health department as one of the most healthful counties of the southern states. Wilmington has excellent schools, and is noted for the best ancestry in the country.

Normally, we have 28 to 30 passenger trains per day, and electric car service every 30 minutes to and from Wrightsville Beach, as good as any in the world.

As there are coal fields in Chatham county, which is only 150 miles from here, it is another great advantage to Wilmington. Coal is needed to run the large factories, to produce steamships, to burn in stoves and it has many other uses.

We have hard lumber forests near another great advantage, as hard lumber is very essential to build wooden ships, for making furniture, and for fuel in the mild winters. Gum, cypress and ash trees are found around Wilmington. Oak, hickory and poplar trees are found 150 to 200 miles from here.

As Wilmington is located on the Cape Fear river, only 30 miles from the mouth, and has a depth of 26 feet from Wilmington to the bar, and a depth of 30 to 40 feet deep on the bar, by a little dredging any large ocean-going vessel can easily go in and out of Wilmington.

At the present time the population of Wilmington is about 30,000. The growth of Wilmington is due to the commerce it has with other cities, the good railroads, the good waterways, the co-operative spirit of the people, new industries and government work.

The government has just about completed a United States custom house, which in structure and architecture is very beautiful and imposing. Greenfield Lake is another of Wilmington's natural beauties. Three cheers for the future Wil-

ilmington and The Wilmington Dispatch.

Second Prize.
Second prize of \$10 went to Mae Sanders, 411 North Third street, aged 15 years, and a member of the sophomore class. Her paper follows:

The prosperity of Wilmington is self-evident. Look at its bank statements, under another head. See its beautiful, wide and well-kept streets, its elegant dwellings, its well-dressed inhabitants and its contented people. The public schools are unquestionably as good as the best. The entire management is progressive and the corps of teachers are intelligent and competent. The High school ranks with the leading preparatory schools in the country and its diplomas are accepted by the university of the state. We have a fine public library and three hospitals. The traveling public is well taken care of by hostleries, the Wilmington being the leading hotel. It is well managed, comfortably furnished and up to date in all particulars.

Wilmington and the surrounding territory have many beautiful and good roads. The soil around here is most admirably adapted for truck farming, for fruit cultivation and for stock and poultry raising.

Wilmington is the fourth cotton port in the world in the extent of shipments. Its advantages as a port has much to do with this. There are several large lumber mills in the city. Of course, the shipbuilding will greatly increase the commerce.

The foregoing has given some idea of advantages possessed by Wilmington as an exporting and importing city, and it is proper that something should be said of its advantages as a port from which the interior can be reached and supplies distributed through the section of country which might be called tributary to it. It has a direct line of steamers to New York, and it is the terminus of five separate railroads.

The oyster and fish industry is a source of unending revenue in Wilmington. Ever since the Biblical days, when "Pharaoh's daughter went down to wash herself in the surf and her maidens walked along," surf bathing has been a popular pastime with the public. The fact that surf bathing is delightful is proven by the avidity with which both the well and ailing take to the surf.

Wrightsville Beach, one of the most up-to-date resorts on the Atlantic coast, is only 30 minutes travel from Wilmington. Wilmington and Carolina beaches are other of our summer resorts, which may be reached by automobiles or boats.

We have the Philadelphia National training grounds at Sunset park and plans for a ball park at the beach, yacht clubs, hotels, dancing pavilions, bath houses, etc., so no one should become stale for the lack of good healthful amusements.

So it is to be readily seen that Wilmington offers the very best in the way of amusements and health resorts to the newcomers. Our far-seeing business men can look after their wants as well, if not better, than in any other place in the state. All newcomers are welcomed to our city and will be assured old-time hospitality.

Third Prize.
The third prize of \$5 went to Jennie Mae Hartsfield, 709 Dock street, her story following.

Wilmington, one of the most beautiful, aristocratic, historical, old towns of North Carolina, is situated near the mouth of the Cape Fear river. It is the only town that is entirely free from embugoes. There are few, if any, cities along

the Atlantic coast that possess such varied opportunities as our "City By the Sea." Her possibilities and adaptabilities are unsurpassed. First of all, Wilmington has wonderful natural and climatic advantages; these, linked with her extraordinary railway and waterway facilities, place her first among those cities which are in her class for shipbuilding.

She has population and wealth, coupled with a most excellent agricultural region in her own and adjoining counties.

She counts among her citizens men and women of broad vision; these men and women are not only visionary, but are working folk. They are folk who bring things to pass.

When C. M. Wylie gave his interesting and instructive address April 11 he was enthusiastic in describing Wilmington and her resources in the matter of shipbuilding. He expressed it as his sincere and honest opinion that Wilmington was really and truly the best place for concrete shipbuilding of any place along the South Atlantic coast, because of the peculiar sand and gravel that is necessary in the making of the best concrete. This particular kind of sand and gravel is found plentifully in Wilmington's vicinity. Mr. Wylie's knowledge of concrete shipbuilding makes his opinion worthy of consideration.

There are many things that even we children can do to help make this the greatest shipbuilding city, especially of the South Atlantic coast. We must co-operate and work in harmony with these new people. We want to make our city a clean and attractive place; we want to do our utmost to exterminate the mosquitoes and flies, because they cause diseases and spread them. Let us do our very best to give our new friends pleasant homes and a warm welcome to our Sunday schools and churches. May Wilmington wake up to her possibilities and prove by her thrift and frugality that she is able and can take care of any and all enterprises that may locate within her borders, especially shipbuilding.

Special Mention.

While the paper given here was ruled out by the judges for not complying with the rules fully, it was in their opinion the best one of any considered. It was submitted by the winner of the first prize, Winnie Byerly, she having filed two papers in the contest.

1st. Because it is located on the Cape Fear river, 30 miles from the bar. The depth of water on the bar is 30 to 40 feet and the river has a depth of 26 feet from Wilmington to the bar. With a little dredging the navigation can be made easy and safe for the largest ocean going vessels.

2nd. Because of Wilmington's great natural advantages, our government (Uncle Sam) has selected two large shipbuilding sites. The Liberty Shipbuilding corporation and the Carolina Shipbuilding corporation. These shipyards, with the two other yards that have been located here, will bring thousands of people here from far and near.

3rd. Because Wilmington is located in the sunny south, where the climate will permit the men and their families to work the year round.

4th. Because Wilmington has three fine bathing beaches to visit during the bathing season, which will afford anyone great pleasure. Wrightsville Beach has fine street car service running to and from the beach every 30 minutes. The other two beaches are Carolina Beach and the Wilmington Beach, which have a first class macadamized road. The good road is at all times a pleasure to auto tourists. Carolina Beach can also be reached by a steamer.

5th. Because Wilmington has fine railway facilities. The Atlantic Coast Line R. F., Wilmington, Brunswick and Southern R. R., and the Wilmington Seacoast R. R.

6th. Because of Wilmington's fine waterway and good railroads the freight rates are very moderate.

7th. Because Wilmington with these great advantages is going to get busy and build homes for the newcomers, make them comfortable as possible, and make them feel that Wilmington is their home, that they have come to live not as strangers, but as home people.

8th. Because Wilmington has the very best schools in the south and the finest churches in the south, with families of refinement and traditions of the best ancestry of the country.

9th. Because citizens of Wilmington are doing everything to beautify and cleanse their city and to make it the most beautiful city of the south.

Now we have the foundation of a city, so the next thing to do is for the citizens of Wilmington to work together, pull together under all circumstances. Advertise what we have and what we are going to do and encourage new industries of every kind that will be a credit to our city and surrounding country. Not discourage them but offer them a helping hand, offer them great inducements that will land them in Wilmington.

While the men are working for the good and expansion of the city the women should also help by holding out the glad hand to the wives and families of the shipyard employes instead of being selfish and snobbish, and make them feel at home and welcome in the city, and happy and contented. For the newcomers to be satisfied and contented will contribute a great deal towards the success of the city and work and permanent growth. It is always well to remember that "Many an honest heart may beat beneath a ragged coat." Being sociable and kind to strangers within the gates will uphold the traditions of southern hospitality.

Another timely suggestion—there are too many unsightly buildings that should be removed immediately, that detract greatly from the appearance of the city, and if it can not be accomplished with the owner's consent, they should be seized by the ones having the interest of the city at heart, as the first impression is generally a lasting one.

Last, but not least, Wilmington has two splendid daily papers, morning

and evening, that for dispensing live wire news, stand second to none anywhere.

They are The Evening Dispatch and The Morning Star. Both have the Associated Press service, which is direct telegraphic service, giving very latest news, military and otherwise, before results cannot be excelled by papers having much larger circulation. Both

have excellent carrier service and are a credit to the city.

The Star gives the latest night news early in the morning, and The Dispatch gives the latest news happening through the day, which at the present time is much desired and sought after by the news hungry public.

Three cheers for The Wilmington Dispatch.

Looks as if St. Louis did its bit for the Yankees when they allowed Manager Miller Huggins of the Cardinals and Del Pratt of the Browns to beat it for New York.

Experts who have been watching Shortstop Caton perform this season say that he is the best "suit" for Honus Wagner the Pirates have yet tried out.

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Taffeta Skirts in solid black and navy, as well as striped. Priced at \$6.50 and \$7.50.

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