

Group-Center Commencement At Oak City Saturday Shows Schools Made Much Progress

Winners To Represent Group At County Meet

Returns from scores of winners in Group-Center I elimination contests reflect great improvement. Scores were tied in case of Everetts and Robersonville of Group I, each receiving a total of 9 points; notwithstanding, the first place, entitling to entrance in county commencement went to Robersonville. The Robersonville school made first place, or five points, in arithmetic and third place, or 2 points each, in spelling and primary story telling, while Everetts made three second places, in spelling, primary story telling, and arithmetic, respectively, earning three points in each contest, or a total of 9 points. It is necessary for a school to take at least one first place in group I schools to be entitled to enter the county commencement contests with hope of winning on total scores. The following Group I schools will enter the county commencement contests at Robersonville April 24th:

Robersonville will enter the arithmetic, pageant, and choral contests, and has a possibility of winning three first places when she meets the winner in the arithmetic contest from other schools in the finals. Hamilton School, a runner-up in the group-center at Oak City, won a total of 7 points; 5 for first place in spelling and 2 for third place in arithmetic. This school will enter the spelling, choral and pageant contests at Robersonville April 24, with the same possibility of earning 15 points. Oak City took first place in the primary story-telling contest and highest honors as host; her splendid dinner, fine sociability of her people, and splendid games and entertainment being unexcelled. The first place in story telling entitles her to enter primary story telling, pageant, and choral contests at the county commencement, and the services as host to a warm place in the hearts of those interested in the cause of education forever. She likewise has a possibility of winning 15 points at the county commencement.

There were more children in the Hamilton school group, which won on 10 hours in the spelling contest than in any second-honor group ever selected by judges in a like contest witnessed by the writer. Of course, this school was not allowed by the scoring method to take more than one place, first or second, and they chose to take first because it counted more for entrance to county commencement.

Everetts is entitled to enter choral and pageant contests at Robersonville April 24th, with possibility of earning 10 points. The group center I winner of the schools having three to five teachers was Parmelee with a total score of 16 points, and the runner-up was Gold Point with a total score of 13 points. Parmelee won first places in primary story telling and grammar-grade recitation contests and will represent the group center I schools in these contests and enter the choral and pageant contests at the county commencement. Likewise Gold Point won two first places, in spelling and arithmetic, respectively, and will therefore represent the group I schools in these contests and enter the choral and pageant contests at the county commencement.

The group center I winner of schools having two teachers or less was Spring Green, with a total score of 15 points, the runner-up being the Smith school, with a total of 13 points. The third place was a tie between the Hurst school and Keel school, the points being 10 each. Spring Green won two first places, in primary story telling and grammar-grade recitations and will represent the group center I schools in these contests and enter the singing contest at the county commencement. Smith school tied Keel for first place in the arithmetic contest, and therefore, there being no elimination, both schools will enter the arithmetic contest, the grammar-grade recitation contest, and the singing contest at Robersonville April 24. Hurst school captured first position in spelling and will represent the group center I schools in this contest and enter the grammar-grade recitation contest and singing contest at the county commencement.

This report is to show who goes to the county commencement to represent the two kinds of groups, the geographic group, comprising five townships in the western end of the county and centering at Oak City, and the other kind of group being the classification of schools based on the number of teachers in a school. There is naturally quite a difference in the quality of work done by larger and smaller schools which the teachers understand, but the improvement in the quality of work presented at Oak City Saturday over the work of one year ago is very noticeable. The average story teller in the larger schools last year would not excel the average story teller in the smaller schools heard at Oak City Saturday.

The schools are thankful to all who served in any way to help make their work at Oak City a success. Members of contest committees who live in western townships of Martin County will assist in securing judges and being present at Jamesville Saturday, April 17, for the second group-center commencement. The public is invited to come and bring a basket, spend the day; see if the children of today spell, recite, speak, figure, or sing as well as they did when you were a child.

Mr. W. H. Warrick, who attended the funeral of S. S. Hadley, returned to Norfolk this afternoon with his daughter, Mrs. Sampson Hadley, and Dr. Hadley.

CLOSING EXERCISES AT ROBERSONVILLE

School to Close Last Week in April; Program of Commencement Exercises

The tentative dates for the closing exercises of the Robersonville school follow:

Friday evening, April 23, 8 o'clock, operetta.

Friday evening, April 30, 8 o'clock, music recital.

Sunday morning, May 2, 11 o'clock, commencement sermon.

Thursday evening, May 6, 8 o'clock, senior class exercises.

Friday morning, May 7, 11 o'clock address and graduating exercises.

The valedictorian of the 1926 senior class is Della Louise Roberson; the salutatorian is Jeannette Bullock. Other seniors who have made excellent grades are Louise Roebuck and Gladys Everett. These grades were made over a period covering their high-school career.

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Subscription Card Parties Thursday

A subscription card party will be given both afternoon and night of Thursday. Tables or tickets may be reserved for both bridge and rook.

Great preparations are being made for the party by the ways and means committee of the Woman's Club, Mrs. Staton, chairman, and a special committee, of which Mrs. Myrtle Brown is chairman.

Funds must be raised for remodeling and refurbishing the club rooms, and the ways and means committee has made extensive plans for raising enough to put water in the building and purchase some necessary furniture. The club wishes to make its home into something of a community center, and it can not do so without funds.

A charitable program is now being carried out, and in truth the Woman's Club is doing the work usually done by the associated charities organizations. Work is being done of several other different natures, and all of it is for the good of the town. All of these things require money, and for these reasons the party is certainly given for a worthy cause and should be patronized.

The hours are 4 o'clock in the afternoon and 8 o'clock at night.

The price for single tickets are: Children, 25 cents; adults, 50 cents. Children are invited for the afternoon and both men and women at night.

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PROGRAM COUNTY COMMENCEMENT

Will Be Held at Robersonville Saturday, April 24; Exercises Will Begin at 10 A. M.

The county-wide commencement will be held in Robersonville Saturday, April 24. The exercises will begin promptly at 10 o'clock a. m. The following is the program for the day:

10 a. m.—Exercises begin.

12.30 p. m.—Lunch. Those desiring to visit all day will kindly bring lunch; this will make it possible for a basket picnic on the school grounds.

1.30 p. m.—Exercises resumed.

3.00 p. m.—Baseball game, Everetts vs. Robersonville.

The time and places for the various contests are as follows:

Contest A, Spelling: Open to all schools; at Missionary Baptist church, 10 a. m.

Contest B, Story telling: Open to all schools; in high school auditorium at 10 o'clock a. m.

Contest C, Arithmetic: Open to all schools; in high school building, tenth grade room, at 10 a. m.

Contest D, Pageant: Open to schools in groups 1 and 2; in high school auditorium at 1.30 p. m.

Contest E, Choral: Open to schools in groups 1 and 2; in high school auditorium at 2 p. m.

Contest F, Grammar-grade recitation: Open to group 3 schools; in high school auditorium at 2.30 p. m.

Contest G, Singing: Open to group 3 schools; in high school auditorium at 3.00 p. m.

Contest H, Dramatization: Open to all schools; in high school auditorium at 3.30 p. m.

Fire Destroys Part of State Insane Asylum

The State Hospital for the Insane at Raleigh was partially burned Saturday. The entire west wing of the main building was destroyed.

The fire started from the roof and was possibly caused from the careless handling of fire by carpenters who were working on the building only a few minutes before the fire was discovered.

Of the thousand patients not one of them was hurt, all being marched to safety and guarded by State troops except those unable to walk, who were carried to places of safety.

The insane people were unusually quiet and after the fire was subdued the men of the criminal insane section sang songs of praise to God for bringing them to safety.

The water supply was inadequate, as Dix Hill is so far from the water mains of the city it was hard to furnish water with sufficient pressure to effectively fight the flames.

The Durham fire department, with its high-power pumping equipment, assisted in a fine way, using water from a near-by reservoir.

The loss has not been finally estimated. The entire building was valued at \$970,000 with \$485,000 insurance, which may fully cover the loss.

The governor promptly announced that arrangements would be made at once to rebuild the institution.

Cost of Rearing Girl Is \$6,167; Boy \$6,077

New York, April 12.—It costs \$6,167 to raise a girl, and \$6,077 to raise a boy to the age of 18 years, according to a statistical study made public by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.

It costs \$2,500 each to feed them. The cost of being born has been reckoned at \$250. Other items were analyzed as follows by the insurance company:

"In the course of 18 years from birth the amounts spent for clothing and shelter upon the growing child are as follows: For a boy, clothing \$912; rent \$1,620; fuel and light \$300; furniture and household maintenance \$351; first cost of installation of home \$144; total, \$3,327. For a girl the figures are the same except as regards the item of clothing, which is \$1,002. The total is, accordingly, \$3,417."

Negro of Washington Killed by Live Wire

Washington, April 12.—James Harris, age 60, colored, an employee of the Pamlico Chemical Co., was instantly killed Saturday about noon, when he came into contact with a live wire at the plant of the company below Washington Park.

Harris was loading a car with fertilizer and rested his hand against a post which was charged with a current of 440 volts at the time. Death was instantaneous. Dr. Jack Nicholson was summoned but death had resulted before he arrived. Harris was from Rocky Mount, and his remains were shipped there Saturday afternoon.

Post-Office Robber Gets Three Years

John M. Burgess, the postal clerk in the Rocky Mount post office, who robbed the office of three pouches on the night of September 15, last, containing \$35,000, was tried in Federal court in Wilson last week. The jury was out only half an hour and recommended a light sentence in their verdict of guilty, inasmuch as all the money was recovered. Judge Meekins pronounced a sentence of three years on the prisoner.

Sheriff Presented With Unique Cane

Sheriff H. T. Roberson recently received from the State prison a very unique cane. The cane is light and highly polished and is inlaid with a darker shade of wood. At the end of the crooked handle is a silver plate with the initials of the sheriff. It was the gift of Mr. Zander Taylor, who is serving a term in prison, and who was in jail here for several months. He has always expressed his appreciation for the kindness of Sheriff Roberson during his days in the jail. He writes to the sheriff occasionally and expresses himself as remembering the attention paid to him.

Cove City Woodmen to Unveil Monument Here

Next Sunday at 2 p. m., at the Baptist cemetery Maplewood Camp, No. 263, Woodmen of the World, of Cove City, N. C., will unveil the monument recently erected at the grave of Gold-son Hardison.

Members of the Maplewood camp invite all members of Roanoke Camps and other Woodmen near to join in the ceremony.

MANY ATTEND FARM LIFE SCHOOL FINALS

H. S. Ward Speaker of Day Friday; Picnic Dinner On Grounds Was Feature of the Day

On Friday all the neighbors and patrons of Farm Life School and hundreds from afar gathered for the closing exercises.

The morning program was opened by the school singing "Carolina." Devotional services were then conducted by Rev. A. J. Manning.

Elder W. B. Harrington extended to all a hearty welcome and expressed the good fellowship and good feeling of all.

Superintendent R. A. Pope made a short talk on the progress and purposes of the schools of the county.

W. C. Manning was called on and greeted old friends in a two-minute talk.

James L. Coltrane spoke for the local committee and commended the day when the educational spirit took deeper root in the community and laid a foundation for such vast improvement the last decade had brought.

He then introduced R. J. Peel, a former teacher in the community. Mr. Peel talked for a while on the progress of education.

H. S. Ward, of Washington, the speaker of the day, was then introduced, and for an hour he dealt on the fundamental principles of government and illustrated its influence upon the people of various occupations.

He compared country life to the clear pure spring, uncontaminated by miasma and filth, which it gathers as it rolls down the hills forming brooks, branches, swamps, creeks, and rivers, gathering the filth of the hills and valleys as it rolls along.

Just so with the purity of country life as it bumps up against the modern touch of the city; it may become a mass of ruins unless it is trained and educated to withstand the trials, troubles, and temptations.

The labor problem and farm incomes were discussed at length and with much interest. One of the sad things given was the report of moving from the farms of the country last year of half a million young men, all because the income at the farm held no promise for them.

At the close of the address dinner was spread on long tables provided on the campus, and everybody gathered around and enjoyed an excellent dinner. When all were through the dinner was still not half gone.

After a social period of an hour, when the young folks played games, the next set courted a little, the farmers talked about the late spring and backwardness of farm work, and the mothers had cleared up the tables and had a few seconds to discuss a few such things as they are naturally interested in—it may be her garden, her chickens, but more likely an occasion of this kind it is the hope that her boy or girl may win in the recitation or declamation contests.

All were then called to the auditorium to hear the declamations. There were eight girls and five boys on the platform, and it was a real treat to see the splendid youth of our land and hear them speak and recite so well. It was not a paint or a powder display nor an exhibition of big-legged breeches; just plain honest healthy youth, the type that will be the real figures in the life of the next generation.

Prizes were awarded the winners, and several prizes were given for attendance, scholarship, etc.

As the day was nearing its close, the baskets were reopened and the tables again lined with the good things and the entire crowd ate again, all declaring it to be a day of joy.

The school has met the approval of the community. Mr. John D. Lilley, principal, and his splendid corps of teachers have done a good work.

Local Ministers Are Guests at Fish Fry

Revs. T. W. Lee, R.-L. Shirley, C. H. Dickey, and A. J. Manning drove to the Jamesville Fishery Monday, where they enjoyed a fish fry, and were the guests of the Jamesville Baptist Church held at the home of Rev. A. Corey, where a number of Baptist preachers were attending a monthly conference.

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Roy Vanderford Dies Of Pneumonia Attack

Mr. Roy Vanderford, of Gold Point a 17-year-old young man, died after a long siege of pneumonia Monday.

He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Vanderford, a native of Pitt County, the family having moved to Gold Point a few years ago, where they have engaged in farming.

Commencement to Begin At Bear Grass Thursday

The commencement exercises of the Bear Grass school will begin Thursday evening, April 15th, at 7.30 o'clock. It will open with the primary program, which will consist of an operetta, "The Enchanted Wood." This will be followed by the grammar-grade program, which will be a pageant, "America in the Making."

Friday night at 8 o'clock the high school will give a play, "The Wren." The public is cordially invited to attend these exercises.

STATUS OF SCHOOL AT ROBERSONVILLE

Classified by State Department of Education as Group 2, Class A; Highest Rating in County

At the present time the Robersonville school is classified by the State department of education as group 2, class A, the highest classification of any school in Martin County. This status is a direct result of the increased number of volumes in the library; an addition of a complete and full laboratory facilities, costing over \$800, for the teaching of general science and biology; an average daily attendance in the high-school department of over 104; physical equipment, and the certification of teachers averaging above the high school teacher's class A certificate. All other accredited in the county are classified as group 2, class B.

Home economics will probably be added next year. There are 73 prospective girl students for next year's high school work; out of this number all have signed for home economics.

The honor roll of the Robersonville school for March follows (Requirements: 90 per cent on department, 90 per cent on studies; one tardy and one absence allowed, or two tardies or two absences allowed):

First grade: Vera Grimes, Rachel Johnson, Frances Stalls, Virginia Smith, May Wyatt James, Carrie Dell Ross, Frances Ward, Halford House, Carl Edward Norman, William Smith, Nun Everett, jr., Needham Whitehurst, Magdaline Rawls.

Second grade: Early D. Moore, Alie Everette, Marjorie Edmondson, Nolie Keel Higham, Cleo James, Evelyn Sumner, Doris Thomas, Margaret House.

Third grade: Clifton Everett, Philip Keel, Evelyn Roberson, Magnolia Roebuck, Garner House, J. W. Taylor, Dixie Roberson.

Fourth grade: Walter Elliott Ward, Elizabeth Keel, Hettie Ray James, Margaret Norman, Lovie Louise Rawls.

Fifth grade: Hattie Mae Bullock, Mary Everette, Marjorie Gurganus, William Warren Taylor, Curtis Smith.

Sixth grade: Selma Gurganus, Selma James.

Seventh grade: Brownie Roberson, Margaret Taylor, Elsie Reid Roberson, Lena Jenkins.

No student in the high-school department made the honor roll in the month of March.

Luther Burbank Died Early Sunday Morning

Luther Burbank, known the world over as "the Plant Wizard," died early Sunday morning at his home in Santa Rosa, Calif.

He was a native of Massachusetts and had just passed his 77th birthday, on which day he declared he expected to live five years. He also addressed a message to the children of the world declaring himself an infidel and proclaiming science as his savior.

The first great feat in his plant breeding was an Irish potato, which was called the "Burbank," and which is still grown throughout the world. He has planted hundreds of thousands of various fruits and flowers, but only about 350 of them were ever given to the world as successes.

Many of his varieties multiplied the yield many fold, and some of them increased the beauty and sweetness of the plants.

Mrs. Kader Rogerson Entertains Philatheas

Mrs. Kader Rogerson entertained the members of the Baptist Philatheas class at her home in New Town last Friday evening.

The meeting was opened by the president, Miss Sallie Harris, followed by a Scripture reading by Mrs. Anna Harrison. The roll was called and the minutes read and approved. The business of the class was then transacted.

The hostess, assisted by Miss Mattie Lou Rogerson, served ice cream and cake. The class adjourned to meet the first Friday evening in May with Mrs. Lina Martin.—Reported.

Dr. Poteat Spends Sunday In Town

Dr. W. L. Poteat and wife spent Sunday night with their daughter, Mrs. Wheeler Martin, and Mr. Martin.

Dr. Poteat left Monday morning for Goldsboro and several other eastern Carolina towns, where he will work in the interest of the library fund of Wake Forest College, which is to be much enlarged.

Dr. Poteat says the people have the money, but you have to approach them and impress the need for it before you can separate it from them.

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POOREST FISHING SEASON IN YEARS

Various Reasons Being Advanced for Scarcity of Herring; Low Water Gets Most of Blame

Fishermen on the Roanoke are having the poorest season in many years. Many of the "wise fellows" say they are not coming this year, as Easter Sunday has come and gone and dog-wood are in full bloom and still no fish.

Another thing that strengthens their position is the low water in the river. Fishermen claim that the mouth of the Roanoke River is so narrow where it enters the Albemarle Sound that unless the water is strong enough to send its current out into the sound that the fish never find it.

At any rate the fish have not come so far; the seines are catching only a few thousand herring per day, and some days less. They catch more rock in proportion than any other fish.

The up-river fishermen say that the strings of fish nets reaching from the ocean to the upper end of the sound account for the scarcity of shad, just as they have almost destroyed the seed of the sturgeon.

News Notes From Oak City School

(Special To The Enterprise) Oak City, April 13.—The first group center commencement met with the school at Oak City Saturday, April 10. There was a large crowd of school people present. The young and old all gathered to note the progress of the different schools. This proves the school spirit of Martin County, for which Superintendent Pope deserves commendation. Each chairman directed his contest in a very satisfactory manner.

Oak City School lost in two contests, spelling and arithmetic, and won in story-telling, dramatization and singing games. There is no criticism; the contests were conducted fair to all. Our losers did their best, but will do better next time.

The school being closed for several days on account of the flu epidemic made it more difficult to compete. Oak City School motto being "Working for the achievement of a common good rather than seeking selfish ends."

The school thanks the patrons and friends for the splendid interest and noble response to Principal H. M. Ainsley's request for a basket picnic.

The senior class won the prize, a box of nut chocolate, offered by Mr. Ainsley to the grade making the highest score in bringing lunch baskets for Saturday's picnic. The class made a hundred per cent with 18 baskets.

The senior class has entered the annual high school contest for mathematics and French, as conducted by the University Extension Division of North Carolina. The French will be given on April 29th and the mathematics on May 6th.

Carolina Playmakers Here for Short While

Sunday eighteen students of the University of North Carolina, comprising the members of the cast of "The First Year," a Carolina Playmakers' production, stopped over for a short while on their way to Chapel Hill.

They were traveling in a large bus, which carried all the stage equipment, scenery, trunks, etc., as well as the 18 young men.

The playmakers have been touring eastern North Carolina, where they have presented several productions of typical North Carolina life, past and present.

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