

# Faison Features -

## 'A LOOKIN' UP

By: A. M. DAVIS

Too often we are prone to forget the important things in our lives that mean so much to our well being and happiness. In our struggle for material gains we are inclined to forget the things that we accept as matter of fact assets to our community. Most of all we are inclined to forget those who have in the past made those assets possible.

This column was not intended as a means of reminiscence of the past history and glory of Faison and its community. It is intended as a column of construction. Our constant endeavor should be to take what we have and build from that to greater and greater heights. But in building it will at times be

necessary for us to go into the past and elaborate somewhat on the past history of our town. In doing this credit should be given wherever and to whom it is due.

We can think of no better time than the present to recognize one, or I might say, the most distinguished son and benefactor the town of Faison has ever produced. Friday, March 17th, marks another milestone in the life of our most distinguished son and benefactor, John Sprunt Hill. On Friday he will have reached the rich age of 81 and can honestly feel that he has merited the approbation of those who delight to honor him.

Many of us, newcomers to Faison, have never had the pleasure of knowing John Sprunt Hill as a man. We, however, feel that he is one of us and look about us and realize that fact more and more each day the longer we live here. It is not possible for us to give to

him the acclaim we know he is due. Something that many of us did not know was brought to my attention by a newspaper clipping from the "Duplin Record" of 19-26 and was written by Mrs. M. McD. Williams. We think many people of this community will be interested in this article so we will reprint it as Mrs. Williams wrote it at that time.

"Last spring when Mr. John Sprunt Hill of Durham, visited Faison, he was so well pleased at the handsome appearance of our \$65,000 school building that he was moved to send the school board a substantial check, to enlarge, by several acres, the school ground.

"The board drew up beautiful resolutions of appreciation which were read at commencement last June and were placed upon the minutes.

"Mr. Hill is a great advocate of attractive grounds and play equipment. He says that childish impressions are the most lasting and beautiful, and that happy surroundings implant the desire for beautiful homes.

"The simplest homes can be made attractive with lawns and flowers and the school building with lovely setting will establish in the child's mind a desire for the beautiful.

"It was here under the big oaks, Mr. Hill, as a boy, dreamed dreams which have materialized and made him a valuable citizen in town and state.

"The library of the University of North Carolina has been enriched because Mr. Hill loved history. As a state highwayman, Mr. Hill has given untiring zeal in helping build permanent roads.

"The village of Faison has always stood for higher education. The land this new building is erected on was the gift of the late Mr. I. R. Faison over 75 years ago.

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for a school which was built many years ago.

"Mr. Hill, after graduating at the University, taught school here for two years and then left for Columbia to study law. When men like Mr. Hill and Mr. Duke remember the "home folks", it encourages them to go forward and warms their hearts, and only the future can read the great influence that will radiate from such gifts."

There is very little that we might add to Mrs. Williams' story that would express the true John Sprunt Hill to his "home folks" more forcefully. Our column of last week pertaining to the accomplishment of Faison High School will adequately show his generosity was not in vain. He, himself, was graduated from Faison High School at the age of 12.

The school gift was only one of the many we are indebted to Mr. Hill. Although he would not want us to feel we are indebted to him for anything. The very hub of our social and civic existence depends on the most generous donation several years ago of our Community Club Building and a considerable sum for the improvement and beautification of the building and grounds. The Lions Club, Sesame Club, Garden Club and many other social groups and individuals make this their meeting place each month. The bonds of friendship, so necessary to a small community, are constantly cemented closer together by the gatherings within the walls of this beautiful little building. Results of these meetings can often be seen in the activities of those who meet there and plan and socialize one with another.

Very few small towns can boast of a library comparable to the "Emily Hill", named in memory of Mr. Hill's sister, Miss Emily Hill. This library is located in the Community Building and affords good reading to the people of Faison community.

We could go on and elaborate in detail about the numerous gifts and service Mr. Hill has contributed to Faison community. The Presbyterian Church, community enterprises, as well as commercial enterprises have benefitted to no small extent from the endeavors and generosity of this great statesman and humanitarian.

A contemporary of Mr. Hill's speaking recently of his young days said something to this effect: His teachers liked him because he was studious and conscientious, his parents liked him because he was obedient and thoughtful, the girls liked him because he was courteous and gentle, the boys liked him because he was fearless and independent, everybody liked him because he was truthful and kind which brings this tribute to a fitting close.

Congratulations to Mr. John Sprunt Hill and we wish him many happy returns of the day.

## Suttontown News

### Birthday Dinner

Mr. and Mrs. Percy Sutton honored their son Percy James Jr. and daughter Edna Earle Vann Sunday with a barbeque dinner on their birthdays.

The table was laden with barbeque and all the trimmings. Those enjoying the meal were Mrs. Lee Stewart of Louisburg, grandmother of the children; Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Grady of McCall, S. C.; Mrs. Georgia Patrick of Laurinburg, great aunt of the children; Mrs. Mabel Bremer, Concord; Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Sutton and boys of Hamlet; Mr. and Mrs. Huoert Vann and children of Mt. Olive; Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Sutton and Lena and Miss Anna Lee Cooke of Smith Chapel section.

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**Birth**  
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Harrell of Faison, N. C., announce the birth of twin daughters Sunday, March 12th at the Clinic in Roseboro.

There will be preaching at the Hicks Methodist Church Sunday March 26 at 11 A. M. Besure and be out for the occasion. Don't forget prayer meeting each Thursday night at the church at 7:30 o'clock.

## Highschool News

The 8th grade gave a chapel program in the auditorium on Friday, March 10 consisting of a play entitled "Girl Trouble", three clarinet duets by Marion Kalmar and Brooks Cates, and several songs. Mrs. H. T. Ray is 8th grade teacher.

The intramural tournament, to be held on March 9th and 10th, has been postponed indefinitely because of sickness in the school.

### News Items

The young people of the Burning Bush Church will meet with the pastor Friday evening at 8:00 o'clock for the purpose of organizing the Y.P.H.A.

The Pastor's Aid club met Thursday evening at the home of Mrs. Annie Mae Smith.

Rev. Midyett and the Junior Choir of the Burning Bush Church conducted afternoon services at the Holy Temple Church, Calypso, on Sunday afternoon.

The Usher Board held its monthly meeting Friday evening at the church.

Rev. William Fryar gave the Bible lesson at the weekly prayer meeting.

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