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Verda High School Dedicated

Handsome Two-Story Brick House Recently Completed is Turned Over to Parish School Board With Appropriate Ceremonies.

April 1, 1915, will go down in the chronology of the village of Verda as one of the most auspicious events in the history of the place. That date was the occasion of the dedication of the magnificent two-story brick school building just recently completed at a cost of \$20,000.00.

The outpouring of the people of Verda and vicinity on this most happy occasion was typical of the citizens of that vicinity on occasions of this kind. They are noted for the way in which they celebrate any event, and at this time they showed they were proud of the magnificent and lasting monument they had erected to education in Grant parish. And justly so, too, for the edifice is not to be surpassed in beauty of architecture and symmetry of arrangement, not only from an exterior view but from the interior as well. The interior in particular is deserving of special mention.

The first story of the building contains six classrooms, with a corridor running through from east to west, and an entrance corridor from the north running only half way through to the main corridor. Four of these rooms are for class recitations, one for the domestic science cooking department and one for the sewing department. Arranged conveniently are cloak and hat closets.

In the basement is to be found the lavatories, the steam heating

plant and the water supply. A gasoline engine pumps water from a deep well in the basement, which is conveyed by air compression to all parts of the building.

The upper story has five classrooms and an auditorium with a seating capacity of 400, exclusive of the large rostrum. Three of these rooms are for class recitations, one is occupied by the commercial department and one contains the chemicals for laboratory experiments.

The walls of the entire building are finished in a harmonious green, blending splendidly with the excellent lighting arrangements.

Throughout the entire building there is not a foot of surplus space, every corner and every nook having been designed for some particular service.

The dedication of the building and presentation to the parish board of school directors was made by Mr. H. L. Brian, as chairman of the building committee. Mr. Brian recited the struggles of the Verda community in their efforts for better educational advantages from the time of the crude arrangements of several years ago, giving the history step by step as the community outgrew old conditions. He stated the necessity became apparent for a commodious building to take care of the constantly increasing attendance of pupils.

The necessity being apparent, a movement was launched to erect the present structure. Mr. Brian recited the obstacles that had to be overcome, the opposition that developed to the proposition of taxing themselves to the law's limit, the difficulties arising after the tax was carried for the building and the final consummation of the hopes and ambition of himself and associates, on the building committee. Just here, and without detracting from the part taken by others in the struggle for the completion of the building it is but just to say that to Mr. Brian belongs the lion's share of the praise for the monument erected to education by the sturdy yeomanry of Verda school district No. 31.

Supt. J. N. Warner followed Mr. Brian with a speech of acceptance on behalf of the Grant parish board of school directors, and as representative of the parish board of directors he turned the building over to the Verda local board of trustees as custodians and charged them with its care. The local board of trustees are Messrs. H. L. Brian, P. W. Lofton, R. E. Barror, P. J. Fletcher and D. I. Payne, who were also the building committee, supplemented by Messrs. J. C. Wilson and D. H. Wallace.

The morning's program was closed by Prof. V. L. Roy, president of the State Normal School, in a speech that showed how it took with his hearers by the continued applause and rapt attention throughout his talk.

Prof. J. M. Johnson, master of ceremonies announced that the good people of Verda had prepared a basket dinner, and the noon hour having arrived a recess was taken until 2 o'clock. The dinner was spread on a table about 150 feet long, victuals being piled high the entire length of the table, and the crowd of about eight hundred people feasted to their heart's content.

The ladies of Verda do not do things by halves, and they seemed to have outdone themselves in preparing dinner for this occasion, the supply of viands being sufficient for more than twice the crowd present.

Immediately on assembling after dinner, following a song, "Dixie," by the high school class, Prof. W. J. Avery, principal of the Winnfield high school, was introduced and made a short and happy talk fitting to the occasion.

Last on the program came Hon. T. H. Harris, State Superintendent of Education, who in a masterly address of an hour paid a glowing tribute to the taxpayers of the Verda district, who by their self denial and public spirit made it possible to erect such a magnificent structure for the education of their children. Mr. Harris is a forceful and logical speaker and held the rapt attention of his hearers during his talk. He reviewed the educational work in the State, and outlined what he considered was needed to bring about more ideal conditions for the educational interests of the State. In another place we reproduce an article headed "Changes in Louisiana Educational Laws Recommended," which contains the gist of Mr. Harris' speech, and we refer the reader to that article for his concluding remarks.

Straightened Him Out.

J. P. Jones, Boothe, Ark., writes: "I had a severe case of kidney trouble and could do no work at all. Foley Kidney Pills straightened me out at once. The same story is told by thousands of others; weak back, rheumatism, kidney and bladder troubles yield quickly. Safe and effective. J. W. Duncan Co.—Adv."

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L. R. & N. Project is Viewed at Iberia by President Edensborn.

New Iberia, La., March 29.—Wm. Edensborn, president of the Louisiana Railway and Navigation Co., spent Sunday in New Iberia and went over the New Iberia and Northern, between Port Barre and New Iberia, and its eastern extension to Shady-side.

Mr. Edensborn is considering the proposition to connect the L. R. & N. with the New Iberia and Northern and the completion of the latter road from Shady-side to Berwick, making that point an export port. If Mr. Edensborn's plans carry, both New Iberia and Berwick will benefit immensely.

Told That There Was No Cure for Him.

After suffering for over twenty years with indigestion and having some of the best doctors here tell me there was no cure for me, I think it only right to tell you for the sake of other sufferers as well as your own satisfaction that a 25 cent bottle of Chamberlain's Tablets not only relieved me but cured me within two months although I am a man of 65 years, writes Jul Grobier, Houston, Texas. Obtainable everywhere.—Adv.

Notice to the Public at Large. Colfax, La., March 24, 1915.

Notice is hereby given that the new school building at Verda, La., has been completed and received by the building committee, and any party or parties holding any claim or claims against the building for labor or building material will please file said claim within the next fifteen days, as after that time it will be null and void.

J. N. WARNER, Parish Supt. of Education.

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