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EDUCATIONAL NUMBER

PICKENS—THE GEM OF THE FOOTHILLS

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WELCOME TO PICKENS, TEACHERS OF PICKENS COUNTY

Many New School Buildings Being Built in Pickens County

Although hard times have been felt in Pickens county, and almost every kind of business has been holding back, yet the school districts have decided that the harder the times the greater the effort they must make in giving their children the best educational advantages. They also realize that the proper kind of an education, in a way, makes people immune from hard times. Therefore they have set to the task of improvement with a vim and determination that knows no denial.

The following is a brief account of what the different school districts have done during the past year:

Grove School District was conducting a two-teacher school and was doing very well, yet they were not satisfied. About this time a fire destroyed their school building. They immediately set to work and built a beautiful three-room school house, voting a small bond issue, and now they are conducting one of the best schools in the county.

Maynard School District has probably done the greatest amount of work of any, that is, as far as the amount of money spent is concerned. They had a small two-room building which, when it was built was considered the best in the county. This building was overcrowed to such an extent that good work was impossible. The patrons of the district saw that something must be done. As a result a $6000.00 bond issue was voted and a two-story building has been erected. It consists of four class rooms and a large auditorium.

Rock and New Town School District came in next. They had for consideration the question of consolidation. As the two districts are very mountainous it was decided that consolidation would be impractical. Therefore it was decided to build a good two-room school house in each of the districts. Accordingly a bond issue of $1500.00 was voted in each district and the buildings will soon be under construction.

Holly Springs School District was having to teach part of its children in the school house, a small one room building, and the rest of the children in the Holly Springs church. Seeing that this condition could not be satisfactory they also voted a bond issue of $1800.00 and are now building a nice two-story building. This will consist of two class rooms on the ground floor and an auditorium up stairs. It will soon be necessary for an additional class room, consequently the auditorium will be converted into two class rooms. One commendable thing about Holly Springs people is that in all the elections that have been held for school purposes, there has never been a dissenting vote. It has been unanimous from the beginning.

Hagood School District until this past summer had only two mills for school purposes. Seeing that they could not give their boys and girls what they deserved they voted an additional six mills for current expenses and a bond issue of $3500.00, and in the near future they will be equipped with all the teaching space that they need.

Ruhamah School District some years ago built a very creditable building. The mistake that was made was in putting the building within a quarter on the northern line of the school district. The population has shifted now and it has become necessary to place the school building near the center of the district. Accordingly a bond issue of $2000.00 was floated and a three-room structure is now under construction.

Town Creek School District until this past summer had never voted any mills for her school. Consequently there was a very small one-room building which reminded one (when school was in session) of the old woman who lived in a shoe. However this was remedied and now as you pass through that district you will see one of the best three-room school buildings in the county.

Shady Grove School District after much wrangling came through with flying colors A modern two-room building is now under construction and will supplant the little one-room building. They also increased their mills to eight for current expenses in addition to the bond issue of $1200.00.

Bethlehem School District is another district that deserves great praise. For many years they tried to do something for the betterment of their children, but something was always in the way. At last they got together and increased their mills to eight, which gave them a seven-month school term guarantee, and a bond issue. Now they have a beautiful three-room building which is a credit to the community.

Several school district lines have been changed during the present year. Keowee School District did not have the required nine square miles as required by the Constitution of the State. A survey was made and enough was added to make a legal district. Another change which was made was that of the Easley School District. The lines of Easley were extended so as to include the boundry lines of Lenhardt. This will make Easley one of the largest schools in the State, as well as helping the school facilites in the old Lenhardt District.

Hampton School District was not satisfied with her school facilities. They did not have the necessary room for an up-to-date school. As a result of finding this out they voted an $800.00 bond issue and now have one of the best two-room school buildings in the county.

Twelve Mile School District likewise has made wonderful progress. Having a small one-room building and more children than they could possibly accommodate in it, they set to work and now have under construction a fine three- room building. To build this they voted a $2000.00 bond issue. Their location is fine and with the new building their community should be justly proud.

On account of the compulsory attendance law so many children have been returned to school that many of the schools of Pickens county have had to add additional rooms to their buildings. Among those doing this are Wolf Creek, Kings and Palestine. Others have had to do remodeling. These are Ambler, Dacusville, Mica and Pickens.

Pickens county is very proud of the fact that she has made this record in spite of the fact that things have been better and times easier. Probably the reason for this necessary improvement can be attributed to the compulsory educational law. This law has returned many children to school who had stopped, and a great many who had never attended.

If Pickens county can continue to progress as she has in the past ten years we have no doubt that she will be at the top of the ladder in the Old Palmetto State in a few years.

HONOR ROLL OF WOLF CREEK SCHOOL

First Grade—Osie Lee Nix, Dunerad Durham, Eulistis Patterson.

Adv. First Grade—Helen Lewis, Ercel Brezeale, Marie Snider, Evie Kay, Clarence Stephens.

Second Grade—Asa Whitmire, Freemma Gillespie, Artie Mae Nix, Elanina Clements.

Third Grade—Lloyd Stephens, Mabell Hughes, Johnie Cameron, Arthur Grant Jesse Reece.

Fourth Grade—Rula Brezeale Grace Brezeale, Ressie Turner, Ola Patterson.

Fifth Grade—Fletcher Durham, Orah Hughes, Pauline Cooper, Waliace Thomas, Pauline Brezeale.

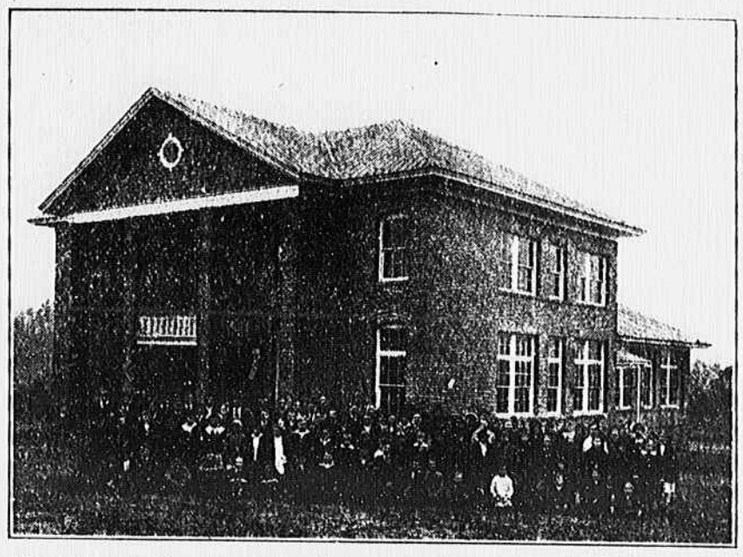
Sixth Grade—Oliver Hughes, James Brezeale, Ruth Stephens.

Seventh Grade—Louise Brezeale, Edna Durham, Ruth Grant.

Eigth Grade—Marshall Hughes, Gertrude Man, Gertrude Lewis.

Ninth Grade—Frances Lewis.

The Calhoun-Clemson School



About twenty-five years ago there existed in this vicinity two small "one teacher" public schools, one in the town of Calhoun and one on the road between Clemson College and Cherry's crossing. These schools were open about three months each year and were poorly attended. Soon after Clemson College opened a private school was started on the college grounds which was supported by private funds.

This very unsatisfactory condition of affairs existed until about twelve years ago when the college trustees erected a school building on the college grounds for the use of the public school and which accommodated many of the children of the two school districts. Old Stone church No. 32 nd Calhoun No. 8.

This school ran for five years and was a big improvement over the former arrangement, but it was far from adequate or satisfactory.

The patrons of these school districts began t realize that their only hope for expansion and growth was to consolidate, as they were limited in territory and financial ability consequently the districts were consolidated and the necessary bonds were voted to erect the present school building.

We now have a first class high school which is doing splendid work as is evidenced by the excellent stand which the pupils from this school are taking at the various colleges and the further fact that for the past two years girls from this school have made the highest marks on the competitive examinations for Winthrop college.

This school will maintain a nine months compulsory term this year.

We had a very active school improvement association which is rendering fine service and the whole community is proud of the school and the work it is doing.

LOCALS AND PERSONALS

The Improvement Association of the Liberty High school has purchased a beautiful curtain for the stage in the auditorium. The Association is to be congratulated on their interests and get-up-and-get spirit.

A large number of the Pickens County Teachers have applied to the State Department of Education for Life Certificates. This means that they have taught school for ten years and have given entire satisfaction as a teacher.

Mr. M. D. Earle who holds the chair of Mathematics at Furman University is attending the Teacher's Institute this week.

The Constitution of the Teachers Association will be read before the teachers Thursday afternoon at 3:30 P. M. and discussions will follow as to its adoption. Every teacher is expected to be present.

Mr. H. T. Cox, Professor of Chemistry at Furman University is also attending the Teacher's Institute. It is a pleasure to have these gentlemen from Furman and other Colleges and Universities with us.

Pickens county is proud of the fact that considering both races she has fewer illiterates than any other county in South Carolina.

Miss Minnie McFeat of Winthrop College will also be at the Teacher's Institute. She will be in charge of the Primary Department. Miss McFeat has had very wide experience in the primary work and her discussions will be of great benefit to the teachers.

All teachers attending the institute are requested to register at the Supt. of Education's office and be assigned to homes. This registration is important whether you have already secured a home or not.

The teachers of Pickens county will complete their organization of the Teacher's association on Wednesday afternoon at 3:00 p. m.

Miss Mary Morris one of the Pickens High school teachers has returned from Columbia. She was maid of honor in the Dove-English wedding.

Mr. Fulton Childress, formerly superintendent of the Six Mile Baptist Academy has accepted the principalship of the Mile Creek School. We are glad to have Mr. Childress back in the public school work of the county.

Dr. Shayer with the Public Health Department of South Carolina will be present at the Teacher's Institute this week. He will give a most interesting lecture on Public Sanitation.

Mr. Hubbell professor of history at Furman University will be at the Teacher's Institute for a discussion of how history should be taught in the public schools of the State.

The ladies of the town are giving an informal reception to the teachers attending the institute on Thursday at 8.00 p. m. All the teachers are cordially invited to be present and get acquainted with the men and women of the town of Pickens.

Mr. H. C. Davis who holds the chair of English at the University of South Carolina has been secured to discuss before the teachers of the county in their institute the question of English and how it should be taught. Mr. Davis is one of the best on this subject in the south and even in the United States.

The person who took the set of chain springs out of the Overland car on the streets of Pickens will please return same at once and save me the trouble of sending an officer after them. Just leave them at the Sentinel office.

School Attendance in Pickens County Shows Large Increase

The fact that Pickens county realizes fully the importance of educating her youth can best be proven by statistics showing what she has done, and the fact that she intends continuing her efforts in this direction, by what she is doing at present.

Last year there was 7,135 white children enrolled in the schools of Pickens county and from this number there was an average attendance made of 4,482. This is an average of 62 4-5 per cent of the total enrollment.

From present figures available it appears that the enrollment and average attendance for the present scholastic year will be a great increase over the year past, possibly reaching a 20 per cent increase for enrollment, and 75 per cent for average attendance.

Last year Pickens county had twelve one-teacher schools. This number has been decreased this year by half. A one-teacher school is only an excuse, and must be remedied. Until Pickens county eliminates this seemingly necessary evil, she will not be able to keep apace with her sister counties, nor give her youth what they deserve.

Besides her one-teacher schools she had sixteen two-teacher schools, fifteen three-teacher schools, and ten three-or-more-teacher schools. This is in a way encouraging, yet it is only necessary to look casually about to see how much better things could be made.

The aim of Pickens county in the future must be toward consolidation and the establishing of centralized high schools. This will enable the school children to receive the necessary attention, and give them the advantage of a high school education. Until we do this we will not have done all we could, and may as well consider ourselves as standing in the way of the educated manhood and womanhood of tomorrow.

Those in charge of the schools of the county numbered last year 183. Of this number 112 held first grade certificates, and 18 third grade cercertificates, 53 second grade certificates, and 18 third grade certificates. This is another thing that must be improved upon. If the teaching profession wishes to do their best for their schools and their school children, they must be constantly on the job of self-improvement. The aim of every teacher should be 100 per cent proficiency in the class room, and this will require almost constant application to self-improvement.

The average length of our school session last year was 131 days. The minimum length should be 140. Until we reach this, we can hardly call ourselves accomplishing much. Of course we can not run schools without money; therefore, we can not expect something in return for nothing.

Last year the total receipts for the schools of Pickens county were $164,446.71. The total amount expended was $156,011.32, the remaining amount going to retire the different bond issues throughout the county.

The average amount expended per pupil was $21.14; and the average salary paid to teachers was $635.00.

From these figures we can plainly see the situation. We are expecting something for nothing. Can we educate our boys and girls on $21.14 a year? Can we expect a teacher to live twelve months on $635.00?

Another item of interest is the valuation of the school property, including grounds, houses and apparatus This estimate which is not exact, yet as near so as possible is $1,023,465.00.

The above does not include the negro schools. A brief summary is given here for the negro schools:

Enrollment, 1,714.
Average attendance, 1,106.
One-teacher schools, 14.
Two- teacher schools, 8.
Three-teacher schools, 2.
Number teachers employed, 36.
Average length term taught, 54 days.
Amount expended per pupil, $3.03.
Salary paid teachers, $144,00.
Value of grounds, buildings, apparatus, etc, $31,350.00.

CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

The educational leaders of the United States in 1869 decided that if the public school system of the different states of the union met the requirements of the people the small schools would have to consolidate. The consolidation of the small schools have been carried on continuously ever since, and where it has been accomplished more than 80 per cent of the people are pleased with the change. It is a progressive step step among any people.

There are many advantages that a consolidated school possesses. It increases the revenue for the school; it gives a larger teaching force; an incentive is given to make permanent improvements, to beautify the school grounds, secure modern sanitation and provide ample school room equipment.

The large number of children assembled in a centrally located school makes possible graded classes and a better division of the school day studies can be introduced which require special equipment and specially trained teachers, such as agriculture, home economics, manual training, music, advantages almost unattainable in small district schools.

It will form a social center and will encourage literary sociaties, social and agricultural clubs, and entertainments of various kinds. Good roads have caused many communities to convey their pupils to school by truck.

The consolidated school helps by retaining attendance in the grammer grades, facilitates and encourages the entrance into high school of those who cannot hope to go to college.

It is properly called "The peoples college."

It encourages permanency of residence of teachers and makes possible the formation of long-time plans, the teachers often taking the lead in social and literary activities.

Frequent change of teachers reacts infaverably upon pupils, owing to changes of methods of instruction and changes of discipline.

Better qualified teachers are more easily secured and retained. Supervision is facilitated and many other advantages could be enumerated in favor of the consolidated schools, as against the old system of one, two three or more teacher schools.

CORN AND PIG CLUB MEETING.

A free hotel dinner and free moving picture show will be features of a meeting of the Pickens County Pig Club and Boy's Corn Club to be held in Pickens next Saturday, December 10th.

Every member of these clubs in the county is expected to attend this meeting. An excellent program of entertainment and instruction has been arranged.

Each club member is expected to bring his record book and each member of the corn club will be expected to bring ten ears of corn. Five dollars in gold will be given the boy who brings the best corn exhibit, regardless of what he made on his plot.

The free dinner at the hotel will be for club members only, but the free moving picture show at the Alexander theatre will be for everybody. Parents of the club boys are especially invited.

PICKENS HIGH SCHOOL CARNIVAL GREAT SUCCESS

The Pickens High School Carnival was a grand success. In spite of the bad weather there was a large crowd out, and about $100.00 was realized. We wish to congratulate the high school children on their efforts as well as the teachers who was instrumental in getting up the affair.