

The Laurens Advertiser.

24 PAGES. SECTION 2, PAGES 9 TO 16

VOLUME XXVIII.

LAURENS, SOUTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 1913.

NUMBER 37

STORY OF THE PROGRESS MADE BY THE RURAL SCHOOLS OF LAURENS COUNTY LETTERS FROM DIFFERENT SCHOOLS

Telling of the Improvements Made in the Past Few Years and of their Present Activities, Showing the Interest Developed in Better Buildings, More Teachers, Longer Terms, Better Attendance, Corn and Tomato Club Work, in Oratory and School Improvements of Every Nature.

Prospect School.

This is one of the oldest schools of the county. We know there was a school at old Prospect as early as 1840 and "as the crow flies" the present location is just one mile from the original site. The school was moved from the church grounds to its present location near Boyd's Cross Roads in 1893. The Prospect and Rosedale schools were united under the leadership of a young and enthusiastic teacher, Prof. E. Y. Culbertson, and the length of term changed from three to eight months. Prof. Culbertson with the co-operation of trustees and patrons succeeded in building up a very creditable school. In fact at one time there were four teachers.

With the exception of two years when Mr. Bates was teacher, Prof. Culbertson was principal from 1893 to 1911. Mrs. McFadden taught in 1911-12. The past summer a very neat and well arranged school house was built. In point of construction and equipment, it is superior to any of the Prospect schools preceding it. The present teachers are: principal, Miss Ida C. Turner, assistant, Miss Carrie Langston; number of pupils enrolled, 64; number of grades, 8; length of term 8 months. Officers of School Improvement association: president Mrs. Cleo Wofford, treasurer, Mrs. Ida Dean, secretary, Miss Bennie Proffitt. Amount raised and expended for general improvements, \$45.00. School Journal, 12; Tomato club, 4; Corn club, 7; perfect attendance, 1.

Myra Wofford.

Cross Hill High School.

This building has not always been our "school-house" until about five years ago, the building was situated about a mile from the present site, near old Cross Hill. It was not until the present building was erected that we had five teachers and ten grades. The building is made of concrete. It has four well lighted rooms on the first floor, and a large auditorium on the second floor.

Cross Hill school has five teachers, namely: Prof. F. S. Smith, Miss Irene Dillard, Miss Lucie Miles, Miss Wilma Ramey and Miss Lizzie Griffin. We have ten grades and one hundred and twenty-one pupils. The length of our school term is eight months. This year we have raised sixty-two dollars, twenty-four dollars of which has been spent for enlarging our library. The remainder has been spent for

other improvements.

Those joining the Tomato club are: Ojelia Harmon, Josie Griffin, Nellie Hitt, Vivian Nance, Eleanor Dial, Helen Hitt, Louise Thompson, Virginia McSwain, Willie Wells, Grace Hitt and Ruth Goddard. Those joining the Corn Club are: Simmons Pinson, Wade Hill and Ray Chandler.

The prevailing spirit of our school is enthusiasm, though it sometimes breaks through in mischief, yet when there is a good cause at stake, every pupil supports it heartily.

Annie Rasor,
Tenth Grade.

Trinity-Ridge High School.

About thirty years ago there was a one-room school building about a half mile from Chestnut Ridge church. A few years later, a new house was built on the church grounds and the old house was abandoned. The people in the upper part of the district, thinking the school too far down, decided to build a school house and one was erected at Trinity church.

Five years ago these two buildings were rolled together on half way ground. At that time Trinity-Ridge began its career. From an enrollment of thirty-five, it has grown to ninety-five. Today we have ten grades with three teachers, school running eight months. The teachers this year are: Mr. J. Pierce Coats, Misses Mae Roper and Annie Putnam. The officers of the School Improvement association are: Mrs. Scott George, president; Mrs. G. A. Fuller, vice-president; Mrs. Marion Cain, secretary and treasurer. This association has done excellent work both for the school and homes.

Nineteen children are subscribers to the School Journal; two boys have joined the Corn club; fifteen girls are members of the Tomato club; and several pupils will be entitled to library certificates and perfect attendance buttons. We have one pupil, Minnie Irvin, whose attendance has been perfect for six years.

J. Pierce Coats.

Mountville High School.

During the summer of 1907, the trustees and patrons of the Mountville school, realizing the need of further progress in the education of our community, complied with the requirements of the high school act, and the session of 1907-08 began with high school work, as a result of their enthusiasm. The whole time of one

teacher, and half the time of another were employed in the high school department, and the same in the primary department, with an enrollment of seventy six pupils. Professor W. P. Culbertson, who had served our school very acceptably for several years previous, was elected principal of the high school, with Miss Marie Stokes as assistant, and Miss Frankie Culbertson as teacher of the primary department.

So well did our school succeed that during the next session, another teacher had to be added, as well as another recitation room. Miss Mary Martin was elected to fill the place of the extra teacher, and the other three teachers were reelected.

Four years have passed. Our school has kept its same teachers, and has been steadily growing better, year by year. At the end of the fourth year Mr. Culbertson, who had served our school faithfully for thirteen years, resigned. Miss Martin also resigned. The fifth year began with Mr. E. A. Fuller, principal, and Miss Mary Dillard successor of Miss Martin. These two, with Miss Stokes and Miss Miller, make up our present teaching force.

Our pupils are taking much interest in all the departments of school work this year. There are twenty-five of the eighty-eight pupils enrolled that will probably get the library certificates. The boys manifested much interest in the preliminary declaimers' contest; one boy has joined the corn club; the girls from all the grades are very busy in getting their fancy work ready for the county fair; the boys are interested in making axe handles, potato mashers and other wooden articles; and the boys are taking a great interest in the track team, recently organized.

In addition to the five maps, dictionary and holder, and a nice globe, given to the school by the trustees, the School Improvement association is going to supplement the library, buy some song books, and probably subscribe for some standard magazines for the school with the proceeds of a home talent play that will be given in a few weeks.

Jayne B. Hudgens,
Eighth Grade

Hendersonville School.

The first school established in this community was known as the Tumbling Shoals academy. The house was built before the Confederate war.

In 1867 Mr. W. D. Sullivan built a

new school house near his residence. In 1892 a new log house was built by the people opposite the present site of Hendersonville school. It was called Violet Branch school. The school was given the name of Hendersonville in 1897 when a new house was built on a lot donated by Mr. W. N. Knight. It was moved in 1909 to the present site and a new room was added. An assistant was employed for the first time for 1910-11 session.

The teachers at present are Misses Carolyn Smith and Ethel McDaniel, who are employed for a six month's term. We have nine grades, sixty-seven pupils have been enrolled. Eleven will probably receive the perfect attendance buttons. Gillie Sumerel, J. Furman Thomason, Sebastian Tumbler and Jimmie Lee Kellert have joined the Corn club. Maye Roper is a member of the Tomato club. Ten pupils are subscribers to the School Journal.

We have a live Improvement association which has raised twenty dollars. This was spent for teachers' chairs and desks. The officers of the association are Mrs. J. K. Thomason, president; Mrs. L. C. Abercrombie, vice-president; Mrs. J. L. Baldwin, secretary and Mrs. W. E. Wilson, treasurer.

Maye Roper,
Eighth Grade.

Lanford Graded School.

The first school house near Lanford, of which we have any information was built in the first part of last century. The building was known as Liberty school house and was built of hewn logs.

About the year 1886 a new house was built near where the present Baptist church now stands.

In 1910 the neat, modern and up-to-date building which you now see, was erected, the school district having voted bonds to defray the expenses. Many improvements have been made during the last three years. Almost every convenience is now afforded the children.

The teachers for the present term are Prof. F. B. Woodruff, principal and Misses Bessie Brown and Etofia Lanford, assistants. Enrollment 109. Number of grades taught, ten; length of term, eight months. Officers for School Improvement association: Miss Etofia Lanford, president; Miss Bessie Brown, vice-president; Mrs. C. D. Cox, secretary; Miss Carrie Lou Higgins, treasurer. We have thirty-six



LAURENS COTTON MILL SCHOOL.

members and have raised \$38.10. Have bought books for library, water coolers, framed pictures, paints, etc. We still have money in treasury which we will use later on. Quite a number are taking the School Journal. Samuel Drummond has joined the Boys' Corn club this year. Several girls will join the tomato club. About fifteen will get perfect attendance buttons.

Bess Etofia Lanford.

Mt. Bethel School.

For the last four years Mt. Bethel has had three teachers, Miss Ethel Sharp taught the school terms of 1909-10 and 1910-11. The first term she enrolled thirty-five and had from the first to the seventh grades; second term she enrolled thirty, in grades one to seven.

Miss Kate Ramey taught 1911-12 and enrolled thirty-two and from first to seventh grades. Miss Maud Sharp 1912-13 and has enrolled forty-five in grades one to seven.

We have one girl in the Tomato club. Two will get the perfect attendance buttons, two will get the library reading certificates, and three pupils are taking the School Journal.

Felicia Stone,
Seventh Grade.

Friendship School.

Before our present building was erected we had a very poor school house. It was very old and was not even painted. Part of the weatherboarding was off and the room leaked and the rain beat in from the walls. The teachers were Miss Emma Dial and Eva Martin. The improvements that year were some new blackboards, maps, and library. In the last part of the year we made the greatest improvement and that was a new school house. The house was not built before we needed it, I am sure. The men in the community made up the money and built it in the year 1910.

In the years 1911-12 the teachers were Misses Friday and Harris and Miss Martin was assistant both years. We got a teacher's desk, chair and a dictionary for the school these years. Our teachers this year are Misses Attaway and Harris. We have seventy pupils on roll.

Our School Improvement association was organized in January with Miss Gray's help. The officers are: president, Miss Lee Henderson; vice-

president, Mrs. W. G. Henderson; secretary and treasurer, Miss Josie Cox. We had a box supper and raised \$16.18. We got a teacher's desk, water sprinkler, brooms, two pictures and are going to add \$15.00 worth of books to our library. Five of us are reporting on our books so we can get library certificates. We have had three boys to join the corn club.

Anna Dial,
Sixth Grade.

"The Ora School."

The school now known as the Ora school was, in the earliest recollections of our grandparents, known as the Old Fields school. How this name originated we do not know. The first recollections of the institution date back to the year 1815. The teacher for that year was a Mr. John Simmons, whose school was, as people thought then, the most noted of any taught previous to the war. Not less than fifteen, or twenty young men and about as many young ladies were in attendance. The closing exercises of this school was truly a wonderful occasion. During the next three years the school gradually wore away, and the patrons were so dispirited that for two years there was no school at Old Fields.

The school house at that time was about twenty by fifty feet, built of large logs, hewn on two sides, the intervening spaces filled in with split staves and red mud in the winter time to keep out the cold, and in the summer this filling was pushed out as a means of ventilation. In contrast to this, we now have a comfortable two room building with patent desks and blackboards. For the past nine years two teachers have been employed. The average enrollment has been about fifty. The attendance for the past two years has been good. Some improvements in and around the building are being made. A few trees have been planted and some pictures placed on the walls. We think our patrons and trustees are awakening to the fact that the school is the social center of the community and to get the best results therefrom, must have all the modern equipments.

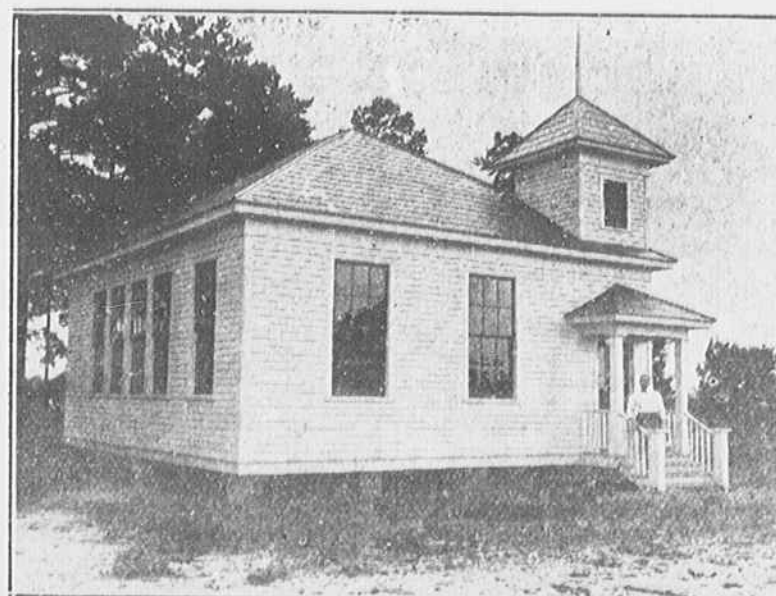
Miss Bessie Byrd is principal of the school, with Miss Regina Williams, assistant.

Miss Bessie Byrd,
Principal.

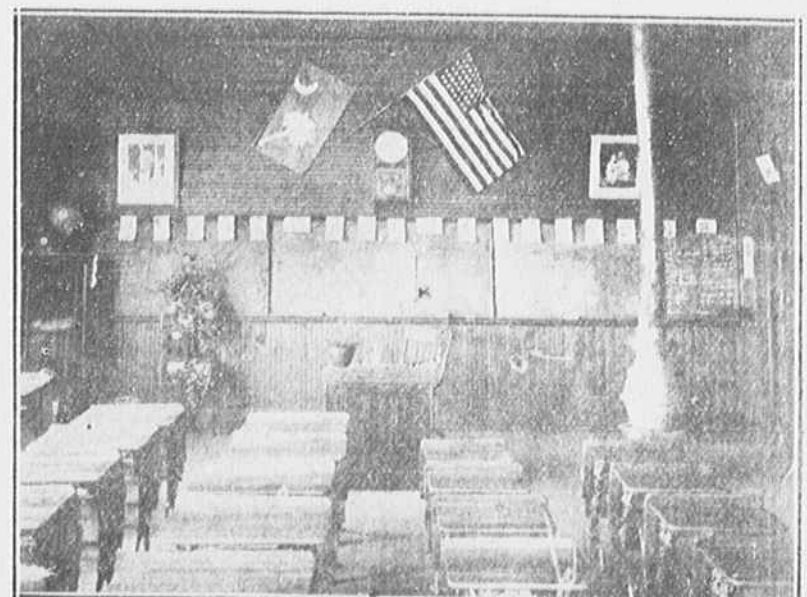
ONE EXAMPLE OF THE PROGRESS OF LAURENS COUNTY SCHOOLS



PROSPECT SCHOOL (Old Building).



PROSPECT SCHOOL (New Building).



PROSPECT SCHOOL (Present Interior View).