



The Manassas Journal



PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY SCHOOLS

by
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Editorial Note: The following account is taken from Professor Haydon's thesis, "An Administrative Survey of the Public Schools of Prince William County," upon which he was awarded his Master's Degree at the University of Virginia earlier in the year. The facts presented and many other important aspects of our local school problems are contained in this valuable contribution to the science of school administration.

Historical Background. Secondary school work was introduced in Prince William County as early as 1900 by two sisters, Mrs. Fanny Osbourn Metz and Miss Eugenia Osbourn. They opened a private secondary school known as "The Manassas Institute" in which they offered a strictly college preparatory course. This school enjoyed certification rights to such institutions as the University of Virginia, Washington and Lee University, Goucher College, Cornell, etc. In 1905 it had adopted the system, still in use by the school, of standardizing its work by using the standards and examinations of the College Entrance Examination Board.

In 1905 a campaign was conducted throughout Virginia known as the "May Campaign." It had for its purpose that of increasing secondary school opportunities throughout the entire state. As a direct result of this campaign as conducted in Prince William County, its first public high school was established at Manassas in the fall of 1906. Mrs. Metz and Miss Osbourn were employed to take charge of the new high school and it thereby became the beneficiary of the standards and recognition of its parent institution, "The Manassas Institute," which standards and recognition it has fostered and enjoyed ever since.

Following the establishment of high school work at Manassas, a desire sprang up in many parts of the county for similar advantages for the children of other sections. In 1925 when the writer became superintendent of the county schools, there was accredited work being offered at Haymarket for the first time and unaccredited work of from one to two years being offered at Greenwich, Nokesville, Aden, Dumfries and Bethel. The board has been successful in consolidating these schools so that there are only four schools doing white secondary work and all four accredited by the State Board of Education. The work in the lower end of the county was consolidated in 1927 by transporting the pupils from Bethel and Dumfries to Occoquan, and in the west central part of the county in 1928 by transporting pupils from Greenwich and Aden to Nokesville.

For many years no public assistance was offered the negroes of the county towards secondary school work. Those who desired the advantages for their children and could afford it, sent them to a private Industrial School at Manassas. In 1930 the local School Board in co-operation with the State Board of Education worked out an arrangement with this school whereby high school advantages could be furnished to the negro children who desired to continue their studies beyond the elementary grades. This arrangement is still in force with the result that there are now 44 county negro children enjoying the advantages of this school.

Location. The locations of the high schools have been selected with a view to both geographical convenience and density of population. Their locations place them within easy reach of a large majority of the people and yet no section of the county is so remote from one of them as to seriously handicap any children who wish to attend high school.

Haymarket High School is located in the town of Haymarket in the northern end of the county and is designed to serve all of the territory in the upper end of the county. Manassas High School is located in the town of Manassas and serves the town, all of Manassas District and a large section of Coles District or that section which may be termed the east central section of the county. Nokesville High School is located about one-half mile from the village of Nokesville and serves all of Brentsville District and that part of Coles District adjacent to it or that part of the county known as the west central portion. Occoquan High School is located about half way between the town of Occoquan and the village of Woodbridge and serves all of Occoquan and Dumfries Districts and the southern end of Coles District or that part of the county gen-

erally spoken of as the lower end. Transportation routes are arranged so that with a very few exceptions, pupils from all parts of the county may live at home and enjoy the advantages of good high school instruction.

Due to the low percentage of negro population in the county it is not practical to offer high school work for negroes at more than one point. As indicated above, this work is being offered at present at the Manassas Industrial School at Manassas. It is the center of negro population, very near the geographical center of the county and is about as good a location for a single county school as could be found.

Enrollment. Since the beginning of high school work in 1907 the enrollment has been rapidly increasing until for session 1933-34 the total high school enrollment for the county was 478 white and 44 negro, or a total of 522. Referring to annual reports of Superintendent of Schools for 1926 and 1934, it may be found that high school enrollment increased from 269 to 522 over the period of eight years. This represents an increase of 253 pupils or a percentage increase of almost 100 per cent. The enrollment for each of the county high schools during session 1933-34 was Haymarket, 66; Nokesville, 109; Manassas, 172; Occoquan, 131, and Manassas Negro Industrial School, 44.

Personnel. The teaching personnel of the white high school departments numbers 24 in all, 8 men and 16 women. They are distributed as follows: Manassas, 7 full-time and 3 part-time teachers including principal and librarian; Nokesville, 3 full-time and two part-time teachers; Haymarket, 3 full-time teachers and 1 part-time teacher, and Occoquan, 5 full-time teachers. The experience of these teachers ranges from 1 to 30 years, with the average number of years ranging between ten and eleven. A majority of them have served from five to ten years in the Prince William County high schools.

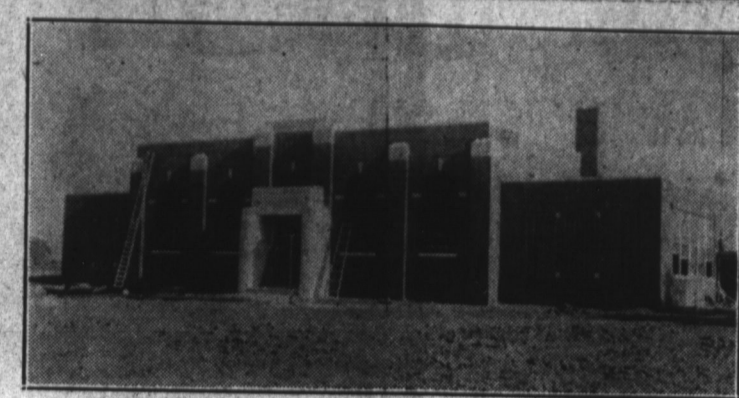
All teachers are certified by the State to teach the subjects they are offering except in two cases where special permission has been granted for one year to take care of adjustments. In every case the teacher is teaching his major subject as his chief work and where possible, his minor subject to take care of adjustments. Twenty-one of the teachers are college graduates, two having Master's degrees and three are not college graduates but hold special certificates in the subjects they are teaching. These teachers are completing the work for their degrees by summer and extension work. This is in the main an excellent group of teachers, hard working, progressive and ambitious and they are accomplishing a high degree of success in the work being attempted.

Supervision. The supervision of high school instruction is being carried on chiefly by the principals. Each principal has a minimum of two fifty-minute periods per day scheduled for this purpose. The superintendent who is a former high school teacher and principal assumes personal charge of the secondary school supervision. He visits the schools as often as possible and personally observes the work of the various teachers. The principal and superintendent have conferences after these observations and any recommendations developing from them are put into practice by the principal either through his faculty meetings or by direct contact with the teachers.

Once each month a meeting of the principals is held at the Superintendent's office. This meeting serves as a clearing house for the exchange of ideas, for the formulation of general plans and policies, and for carrying out the routine for administration applicable to all of the schools. The information thus gained is used as a basis for the improvement of instruction, assisting teachers to grow in service and as a basis for recommending teachers for future placement and promotion.

Curriculum. All five of the schools offer the basic academic or college preparatory course and the general

REGINA V IS CROWNED WITH ANCIENT RITES



THE GAINESVILLE DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

Nearing completion of its first unit, this splendid addition to our school facilities represents the very latest in design and reflects great credit upon the progress of upper Prince William County.

or elective course. Manassas, Nokesville and the negro school offer courses in Agriculture and in Home Economics and Manassas and Occoquan offer the Commercial Course and the Intensive Commercial Course. These courses have the same requirements in all schools and a transfer may be made at any given report period without material inconvenience to the pupil or school.

Upon the completion of the requirements in any of the above courses a four-year high school diploma is awarded. The minimum number of units required for graduation is 16. An ambitious pupil may exceed this number by special arrangement with the principal.

Libraries. The libraries in all of the schools meet the state requirements as to number and distribution of volumes. The one at Manassas is the largest, having over 3,000 volumes, while that at Haymarket is the smallest with about 750 volumes. A special room is provided at Manassas, Haymarket and the negro school, while Nokesville and Occoquan are obliged to use a corner of the auditorium for this purpose. A full-time librarian with special training is employed at Manassas, while the other four schools have a part-time teacher librarian, who in each case has taken some special training in Library Science. The books in each of the schools are catalogued and adequate records are kept of books loaned, etc. The Community and Junior Leagues and School Board work co-operatively to add new books to the libraries each year and to as far as possible keep them up so that the needs of the pupils will be taken care of.

Guidance. The size of the schools makes the employment of special counselors or deans for boys and girls impractical. Counseling duties must be performed by the principals aided by members of the faculty.

1. Each of the home rooms is organized for a certain amount of guidance service. Each teacher has the same group for one year. In addition to a daily ten-minute period for checking up in routine matters, one of the five weekly thirty-minute activities periods is devoted to home room activities. Each of the home room teachers has oversight of the social conduct and general discipline of her section, and assists the principal in guidance as to quality of work and to some extent in curriculum guidance.

A tentative program for home room guidance as outlined by the Virginia State Director of Guidance is being used during these home room periods. This provides objectives, topics, and bibliographies for a one-period-a-week program with three weekly periods to be allowed under each of the following topics: (1) Vocational guidance, (2) educational guidance, (3) avocational guidance, (4) social civics guidance, and (5) moral civics guidance.

2. Guidance by principal: Individual interviews with pupils; testing; group conferences; special senior conferences for explanation of college requirements; and securing outside speakers in varying fields for talks to special and general groups.

3. Guidance in the classroom: With the installation of the Revised Curriculum a great amount of occupational guidance is being weaved into nearly all courses of the school. Here also a great opportunity is afforded for general guidance work.

Student Activities. Student activities are fostered and encouraged in all of the high schools. Each school participates in athletics in the form of soccer, boys' and girls' basketball, baseball and tennis. Regular schedules are arranged in the first four

CORONATION SERVICE Queen of the Piedmont Virginia Dairy Festival FORM AND ORDER OF THE SERVICE

SECTION I

U. S. Marine Band Trumpeters Announce the Coming of the Queen
The Entrance to the Balcony

Order of the Procession
Dance—Autumn: Miss Margaret Eddington.
Coronation March—Band.
Military Escort—5th Battalion Fleet Marine Reserve.
Princesses of the Queens Court.
Crown Bearer—Barbara Lynn.
Maids of Honor—Miss Jean Bready and Miss Dorothy Dodge.
The Rector of Dettingen Parish—Rev. A. S. Gibson, M. A.
Hon. James H. Price, Lt. Gov. of Virginia.
Her Majesty Queen Regina V—Miss Rebecca Rice.
Train Bearer—Anne Frances Haar and Nancy Trammell.

The Queen, passing by the Throne makes humble Adoration and then occupies chair before and below the Throne.

SECTION II

THE RECOGNITION

The Queen, standing up by her chair, turns and shows Herself unto the People "at every of the four sides" of the Balcony as the Rector speaks thus to the People:
"Sirs, I here present unto you Queen Regina V, the Undoubted Queen of this Realm. Wherefore all you who are come this Day to do your Homage, are you willing to do the same?"
The People and the Attendants signify their Willingness and joy by loud and repeated Acclamations, all saying with one voice, crying out thrice:

"All Hail the QUEEN"

Then the Trumpets Sound.

SECTION III

THE OATH

The Rector goeth to the Queen, and, standing before Her, says to the Queen:
Is your Majesty willing to take the Oath?
And the Queen answering, says:
I am willing.
The Rector ministereth these Questions; and the Queen, standing, having a copy of the Form and Order of the Coronation Service in Her Hands, answers each question severally as follows:
(Adapted from the Oath of King Ethelred)
Bishop. Will you solemnly promise that you shall always preserve true peace under your auspices?
Queen. I solemnly promise so to do.
Bishop. Will you to your Power interdict rapacity and all iniquities in the realm?
Queen. I will.
Bishop. Will you to the utmost of Your Power command equity and mercy in all judgments?
Queen. All this I promise to do.

SECTION IV

The Investing with the Royal Robe and the Delivery of the Golden Symbol

Then the Queen having thus taken Her Oath, the IMPERIAL MANTLE of cloth of Gold is by an Officer of the Wardrobe delivered to the Rector and by him put upon the Queen, standing. The Queen having received it sits down and then the GOLDEN SYMBOL is brought by the Train Bearer, Anne Frances Haar, and delivered into the Queen's Right Hand as the Rector pronounces this blessing:
"Receive this Imperial Robe and Golden Symbol and the Lord your God endue you with Knowledge and Wisdom. The Lord clothe You with the Robe of Righteousness, and with the Garments of Salvation. And when you see this Golden Symbol remember to pray for God's blessing upon all our labors, that we may gather in the harvest and ever rejoice in His Goodness."

The Queen delivers Her Golden Symbol to Anne Frances Haar, to be by her passed to the Queen's Maid, Jean Bready.

SECTION V

Train Bearer, Nancy Trammell, receives the Sceptre and delivers it to the Queen's Right Hand, as the Rector saith:

"Receive the Royal Sceptre, the Ensign of Royal Power and Justice. Be so merciful that you be not remiss; so execute Justice that you forget not Mercy."

SECTION VI

THE CROWNING

The Rector taketh the Crown from Barbara Lynn and layeth it into the Hands of Hon. James Price, who reverently putteth it upon the Queen's Head, as the Rector said:
"In the Name and for the Realm of the Piedmont Dairy Festival with Friendship for our State we place this crown, emblem of royalty and dignity, upon your head, Praying that the great King of all Kingdoms may replenish His handmaiden with the blessings of the fruits of the earth of the heavens, of the dews, of the depths from the heights of the ancient mountains and from the eternal hills that whatever may be typified by the brightness of silver and the splendor of gems may shine forth in your life; that in this world you may be crowned with Success and Honor and when you have finished your Course receive the Crown of Everlasting Life."
Royal Anthem—Fredericksburg State Teachers Glee Club.

SECTION VII

THE ENTHRONIZATION

The singing being ended, the Queen will "ascend and be lifted up into her throne" by Hon. James Price and the Rector. At the sight whereof the Attendants and the People with loud and repeated Shouts, cry thrice:
"LONG LIVE THE QUEEN!"

The Trumpets.

SECTION VIII

THE HOMAGE

All who have part in the Coronation turn toward the Throne and bow to the Queen.
(Presentation of Gifts)
The Solemnity of the CORONATION being thus ended, Queen, wearing Her Crown, and bearing in Her Right Hand the Sceptre, goeth in the manner appointed to witness the Pageant.