

The Manassas Journal

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'MILKY WAY' AGAIN PAGEANT FEATURE

Airplane Exhibit Will Lend Color To Event

With dairy herd improvement, milk and health the keynote of the day, more than 20,000 people are expected to pay homage to the dairy industry in Manassas, Virginia, on October 2, at the sixth annual staging of the Piedmont Virginia Dairy Festival. The event will be the most colorful of the six "Milky Way" spectacles held since 1930. Every detail is being carefully arranged to make this the most successful festival yet.

Regina VI Queen of the Sixth Annual Piedmont Dairy Festival and her maids of honor will be chosen from Fauquier County this year, while 10 princesses will be chosen from each of the counties participating.

The festival will begin the night of October 1, with a ball in the Manassas gymnasium. The program on the morning of October 2, will begin with a band concert to be given at the Annaburg Estate, one of the show places of this section. After the coronation, Regina VI and her court will review a pageant of 1,200 students.

The benefit and use of milk will be portrayed by these costumed children. They will also participate in the great "Milky Way" parade to be held in the afternoon through the winding streets of this historic old town. The parade will include floats, military school and civic bands, public and private school children, civic and agricultural organizations, drum and bugle corps, 4-H Clubs and Future Farmers of America, Boy and Girl Scout troops and fire departments from throughout northern Virginia.

An aerial exhibition will follow the parade, when the Queen and her court will make an air tour of Manassas and the surrounding region, after which the closing event—the Queen's Ball—will be held in the gymnasium.

Mrs. Mary Calloway of Alexandria has again been chosen to write and direct the pageant which will be produced on the Annaburg Estate with a historical ivy-clad tower, trees and shrubbery as a background. Microphones will convey each word of the pageant to the audience and grandstands will be constructed to accommodate the spectators.

Officers of the festival are R. S. Hynson, president; Frank Cox, managing director; Mrs. Robert H. Smith, assistant managing director; George B. Coker, secretary; R. L. Byrd, treasurer.

SENATOR RUST TALKS TO LADIES

The Manassas Woman's Club held its monthly meeting at the high school yesterday with Mrs. W. L. Lloyd, president, presiding.

The program for the meeting was in charge of the legislative section with Mrs. W. F. Coker, chairman.

Senator John Rust was the guest speaker and was introduced by Town Manager W. F. Coker. He gave a brief resume of the activities of the General Assembly and also his personal actions on many questions. He also brought before the Club very valuable information in reference to the appointment of a welfare nurse in Prince William County, outlining the benefits that other counties have derived from this appointment having been made in those counties at an earlier date.

The various committees made monthly reports, and two new members were enrolled, namely Mrs. W. S. Athey and Mrs. Dudley Martin.

Mr. Harless, educational director of the C. C. C. appeared before the Club and made a plea for books and magazines for the C. C. C. boys.

Mrs. T. J. Broadus, chairman of the program committee for the incoming year, presented her yearly program which was highly accepted and endorsed by the Club.

It was announced that a very interesting speaker, Mrs. Walters, would be present at the next meeting of the Literary Section of the Woman's Club to be held September 29. Mrs. Walters has just returned from a ten month's stay in Spain at the American Embassy and will speak on the conditions there.

The hostesses were Mrs. John Broadus, Mrs. John Barrett and Mrs. Paul Arrington.

LEESBURG FLOWER SHOW

The flower show of the Leesburg Garden Club will be held at Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, Va., Wednesday, September 23, at 2:00 to 5:30 p. m. The benefits of this show will go to the Loudoun County Hospital vegetable garden and grounds.

Returns from the schools over the county indicates that there are approximately something over 2,200 pupils in the white schools and about 600 in the colored schools. Miss Ayres, rural supervisor, will have a more complete report to make next week.

COUNTY SCHOOLS BEGIN SESSION

Prof. Haydon Holds Annual Teachers Institute

The annual teacher's institute was held Tuesday at Manassas High School officially opening the 1936-37 school year. The day was devoted to discussions of plans for the coming year, talks by state supervisors and group meetings.

Dr. DeChant opened the meeting with a scripture reading and prayer. Mr. DeChant also mentioned that Miss E. Perkins is being engaged this year to carry out a program of religious education in the County Schools.

Mr. Haydon carried on the meeting by reviewing the school calendar and explaining various routine procedures. The meeting then divided itself into the elementary and high school groups. Miss Ayres led the elementary group in a discussion of the years plans while Mr. Haydon led the high school discussion.

The Prince William County Teachers' Association was called to order by Mr. R. W. Peters, President. Miss Muncey was elected to succeed Miss Thomasson as Secretary-Treasurer. It was voted to start a professional teachers library which is to circulate throughout the county. Delegates to the Virginia Teachers Conference were elected as follows:

Public relations committee — Mr. Griswold, chairman; Mr. Bittle, Mr. Sigman, and Mr. Haislip.

Educational committee—Miss Ayres, chairman; Mr. Patton, Miss Lowman, Miss Weatherman, and Miss Vaughan.

N. E. A. committee—Miss Lutes, chairman; Miss Broadus, Miss Chandler, Miss Irons, and Mrs. Jordan.

Music committee — Miss Ayres, chairman; Miss Eskridge, Miss Miller, Miss Blough, and Miss Baker.

The combined P. T. A. of Manassas provided a social note to the meeting with a delightful luncheon. The Institute expressed its deep appreciation to the P. T. A. with a rising vote of thanks.

Two very inspirational speakers next completed the program. Miss Henderson, State Supervisor of Elementary Education, very interestingly presented a talk on the function of Evaluation. Mr. F. A. Richman gave a very enlightening talk on the use of music in the classroom. His talk was interspersed with singing which made his visit with us very enjoyable.

During the afternoon the board of education, conducted an inspection of the school buses. Two new buses have been purchased and the fleet declared in the best possible condition for rapid, safe service.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30. Everyone left very enthusiastic to begin a banner year in education for Prince William County.

SCHOOL BOARD TRANSACTS ROUTINE MATTERS

The County School Board met last Wednesday with all members present.

Much routine business was transacted incident to the beginning of the school term. Three teachers were appointed in place of resignations; two being at Bennett, namely Miss Charlotte McCalley and Miss Ethel Cadmus, and Miss Virginia Talley at Aden.

One new bus assignment was made, the same being Mr. John Lunsford. Several minor transportation were made over the county. A deep well pump was ordered for Dumfries school.

The School Board adjourned to meet on Tuesday of this week for the bus inspection. This inspection was held with the State Officer Howe making the inspection. The fleet is in charge of Mr. Robert Vetter and all buses passed the test satisfactorily.

All school bus insurance for the year was awarded to Mr. R. Jackson as low bidder.

WONDER BEAN

Mr. W. H. Reid of Centerville sent in a wonder bean to the Journal office where it is now on exhibit.

It measures a bit under twenty-six inches, and Mr. Reid wants to know who has a bigger one.

Mr. Thomas H. Lion has been appointed Honorary Vice-President of the Virginia State Fair Association from Prince William County.

PITTS THEATRE OPENING TO BE GALA EVENT

PITTS' THEATRE AT COMPLETION OF CONSTRUCTION



Mr. Nicholas Roney, contractor, appears before his latest masterpiece

Owner Receiving Hearty Congratulations

New Theater Represents the Most Modern Designs Of Play House

Promptly at 7 p. m. on Monday evening next will begin the dedication ceremonies for the new theatre, erected by Mr. Pitts as another link in his chain of superior playhouses.

The premiere showing is advertised on another page of this issue and is rated as one of the season's best showings.

Hon. Harry P. Davis will make an address on behalf of the Town, indicating its appreciation of investment Mr. Pitts has made here. Mr. Pitts will reply and the show will start immediately thereafter.

The story of the exploits of Mr. Pitts in the movie field is given in other columns. His latest achievement here materialized with great rapidity. In the early spring the two lots at the southeast corner of North Main and East Church were purchased, Judge W. H. Brown, Jr., acting as legal intermediary on this occasion.

Construction began early in June and except for a brief rainy spell has gone ahead with remarkable progress under the expert supervision of Mr. Nick Roney who has been contractor on many other occasions for Mr. Pitts. Even work at night was used to speed completion which is now being wound up with placement of the chairs.

Stories have been circulated that Mr. Pitts would immediately boost the price of his seats. Mr. Pitts himself has denied this rumor and declares that he has no such intentions.

It is expected that his new playhouse will draw southward many who have heretofore been traveling into Washington where they have millions of parking worries. Mr. Pitts will undoubtedly later arrange the ample parking space to the rear of the theatre. The front of the lots on Main street will be attractively landscaped.

Thus comes to Manassas a new playhouse equal to any in Washington of which the citizens may well be proud, and one that will prove an excellent drawing card for outside business.

HOME DEMONSTRATION SCHEDULE FOR SEPT. 14 TO 19

September 14—Manassas 4-H Club will meet at the Home Economic room for their regular meeting. The demonstration will be "Curtains for the Bed Room," given by Miss Flora Bullock.

September 16—Woodside 4-H Club will meet at the school for their regular meeting and have a demonstration on "Curtains for the Bed Room."

September 16—Haymarket 4-H Club will meet at the school for their regular meeting and have a demonstration on "Curtains for the Bed Room," by Mrs. C. F. Sinclair and Mrs. W. S. Brower.

September 16 — Hickory Grove Home Demonstration Club will meet at Mrs. Walter Gardner's home for a demonstration on "Home Dying," by the agent. Plans will be made for the club exhibit.

September 17—Dumfries 4-H Club will meet at the school for their regular meeting. A demonstration will be given on "Curtains for the Bed Room," by the agent.

September 17—Bethel H. D. Club will meet at the home of Mrs. Lloyd. The demonstration will be given on "Use of Home Grown Vegetables," by Mrs. E. E. Payne, leader.

September 18—Bethel 4-H Club will meet at the school for their regular given of "Curtains for the Bed Room," by the Agent.

September 18—Occoquan 4-H Club will hold their regular meeting and have a demonstration on "Curtains for the Bed Room," by the Agent.

September 18—Hayfield 4-H Club will meet at the home of Mrs. E. L. Herring. The discussion on "Social Customs will be lead by Roy Wood, leader.

To our friends who are interested, the 4-H Club has on hand some very pretty pottery which is on display at the home of Miss Flora Bullock, the club leader.

BENEFIT TEA

A Musical Tea will be given at the Manassas Industrial School by the Manassas Branch of the Alumni Association on Sunday September 13, from 4 to 6 p. m. t. introduce and welcome the new principal and faculty. The public is cordially invited and urged to come. It is a benefit tea.

DEMOCRATIC CLUB NAMES DELEGATES

Successful Dance Held at Occoquan

The Young Democrats of the County enjoyed a very pleasant and successful dance at Occoquan High School last Friday night, and approximately fifty dollars was realized.

At a business meeting preceding the dance, a vote of thanks was extended by the Club to Mrs. Janie Abel and Mr. and Mrs. Willis Sisson for their untiring efforts in arranging for this dance.

The following delegates and alternates were elected for the State Convention at Roanoke the 11th and 12th: W. T. Sweeney, Mrs. Janie Abel, David Keys, E. R. Conner (Honorary), Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Holmes, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Davies, Miss Margaret Lynch, Rolfe Robertson, John Sweeney, Dudley J. Martin, Wm. H. Leachman, Mrs. Nellie Purvis, W. R. Free, Jr., Claude Hixson, Wm. Hill Brown, Jr., Harvey Janney, Frank P. Moncre, C. B. Fitzwater, Lester Huff, Fred Lynn, and Bradford Lowe.

In view of the fact that the Club is entitled to 15 votes, having 150 registered, paid-up members, it was voted to include as a delegate any active member of the Club who might attend the Convention.

The Club passed a resolution that the delegation vote as a unit at the Convention. It was also voted that the delegation be uninstructed and not bound to any particular candidate for the various State Officers.

A committee was appointed to confer with and assist the Democratic County Committee in any way possible in arranging for a joint Rally and Basbeque to be held at Brentsville on October 10th. (Report of this committee will be found elsewhere in this issue).

It was voted to hold the next meeting at Nokesville, at a date to be determined later.

CORNELL A. C. WILL PLAY MACS HERE

Another big baseball game of the season is expected this Sunday afternoon when the Cornell A. C. from Alexandria will meet the Manassas A. C. on the Swavely diamond at three o'clock.

"Doc" Driefus will be in the pitcher's box while Spencer Buckner will catch.

BRILLIANT CAREER OF MR. BEN PITTS

Remarkable Development of Moving Picture Theatres Reveals Unique Personality.

Ben T. Pitts was born in Fredericksburg and when quite young his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carolinus Pitts, moved into the country and stayed for a number of years. Ben was thus unable to go to school until past the average age at which children start and he soon found it necessary to pursue his studies at night. His knowledge of book-keeping gained in this way while he was laboring in the day time at \$1.00 a day, later, enabled him to secure a position as book-keeper for a prominent plumber in Fredericksburg.

Next, although just in his middle teens, Ben got in on the ground floor of the motion picture business, after he had witnessed the initial adventure which might be termed the first motion picture house in Fredericksburg. It was an odd affair with ordinary kitchen chairs for seats and pictures which showed scenes of trains running, waves rolling up on beaches, ships sailing at sea and persons walking on streets, if it showed at all.

The adventure was doomed to a sad end. It finally went out of existence. In the meantime, however, Ben had become interested in the show business and in occurred to him that it might be the way for him to secure enough money for his first college year.

He put the idea to work and got a second-hand picture machine and a conditional lease on the opera house which he had use of whenever a road show did not have prior rights. The pro-



MR. BEN PITTS

prietors of the opera house had no idea of letting him interfere with their better business. For this lease he paid the magnificent sum of \$1.00 a night, furnishing all the extras himself.

Ben has a unique way of referring to his initial venture which did not send him to college but it did furnish sufficient impetus to keep him in the business.

"My admission charges," he said, "were 5 cents and I gave four or five shows a night, each lasting about 30 minutes and consisting of two reels of different kinds of things. Sometimes

Continued on Page Eight

HIGH SCHOOL PATRONS' LEAGUE MEETING

The first regular meeting of the Patrons' League of Manassas High School will meet at the school at 2:30 p. m. on Thursday, September 17. Everyone having a child in school or interested in the school children, is urged to come to these meetings.

A series of interesting programs has been planned for the year. A splendid year is anticipated, working for the betterment of our schools, but we need the co-operation of everyone. A large attendance is expected to start off our first meeting.

KIWANIANS HEAR PHOTOGRAPHY CHAT

Mr. L. Ledman, chairman of the program committee last Friday night introduced as his speaker, Mr. W. H. Lamb of the Journal Office, who gave an entertaining discussion on the history of photography, displaying a number of various types of cameras and describing the luck of an amateur in his work.

Tomorrow night was set aside on motion of Mr. Coker, as a period to discuss the meeting to be held at Herndon next Wednesday night on the question of improving Route 234 in the direction of Point of Rocks.