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Prairie View State Normal and Industrial College

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# ALUMNI AND EX-STUDENT ISSUE

# THE PRAIRIE VIEW STANDARD

VOL. XXV.

Prairie View State Normal and Industrial College, Prairie View, Texas, January, 1934

NO. 5

## Response To Project Pleases President O. J. Thomas

### Ex-Students Heed Call of President

The Ex-Students' Relation committee of the Alumni and Ex-Students' Association is making splendid progress on the collection of funds for the Anderson Hall project. Already many alumni and friends have responded to the appeal for donations made in the last issue of this paper. I feel that many other loyal sons and daughters of our Alma Mater will heed the call.

I take this method in thanking those who responded so readily. I am also appealing to every ex-student and friend of Prairie View College to give your whole-hearted support in this effort to raise one thousand dollars (\$1000) for the purpose of furnishing the beautiful Anderson Hall Lobby.

Prairie View has so long enjoyed the reputation of getting along well or being able to weather her financial needs, that when an urgent call is made, the average Prairie Viewite does not sense the need as imperative, believing that Prairie View will come out of it alright without his help. As a result we have done a fine job of "passing the buck."

To my mind it would be a serious reflection on higher education generally and upon Prairie Viewites in particular to know that out of thirty thousand ex-students a thousand dollars could not be raised within a year.

Mail your donation to Professor J. M. Alexander, Secretary-treasurer, Anderson Hall Lobby Project.

O. J. Thomas, President

Prairie View Alumni and Former Students' Association.

### THE HARRISON-VALIEN STUDY

Two energetic students were yearning for a bit of creative activity. Prof. H. A. Bullock unwittingly suggested a satisfactory project. "I wish someone would determine exactly what should be taught students of Negro History," he said, "and include only these things in a text book."

Miss Bonita G. Harrison and Mr. Preston Valien set out to fulfill this wish. They would use the student group at Prairie View and relate their findings to the sex, training, classification, and initiative of these students. A suitable method was evolved. The entire project of preface, introduction, dedication, acknowledgements, notes, references, the tabulation and digestion of material was carried to completion.

They enjoyed this work, and you will enjoy their account of it. With tables and conclusions, of indifferent value, they have intermingled sparkling revelations of their reac-

### Educators To Meet At Prairie View

On March 2, 1934 the fifth Educational Conference will convene at Prairie View State College. This conference has been held annually since 1930 and always has a large attendance including many city and county superintendents throughout the state of Texas, other school officials and educational leaders in and out of the state.

The purpose of this conference is to acquaint as many state educators as possible with significant phases of Negro Education in the Southwest. It aims to give composite and adequate information which will stimulate a greater interest in problems of education through a thorough investigation of certain phases which deal chiefly with the Negro. Each year a specific phase of this great problem is studied and presented. The previous themes are as follows:

First Conference:—Facts About Negro Education.

Second Conference:—The High School Principal.

Third Conference:—The High School Teacher.

Fourth Conference:—Rural Education.

The theme for the fifth conference will be a special problem of Negro health with special emphasis on health of Negroes in Waller County. This particular investigation is the outgrowth of the study of Rural Schools in this county in 1933. A strenuous effort is being made to analyze the educational situation of Waller County so that it may become a typical county, and also to acquaint the student body and faculty of Prairie View of the nearby existing conditions.

The Bureau of Research has begun the study on health for Negroes in Waller County with the assistance of the State Department of Health. This department is giving the service of Miss A. M. Mathis, State Health Nurse for Negroes, to assist with this project. With her assistance much progress has been made to date.

It is believed that much valuable information will be compiled for presentation during the session of the conference. —R. L. Rush, '30

tions to it all. It is this poetic treatment, coupled with the style of a journalist, which lends real worth to the study.

"One part of the wish," they write, "has been fulfilled." Perhaps so. However, I should like to commend to them the other part. "When better histories are written," philosophizes Durant, "poets will write them." Here's hoping our young friends address themselves to this other task.

—Edgar Henry, '31

### Charles O. Rogers State Teachers' President

Professor Charles O. Rogers, principal of Jackson High School, Corsicana, Texas, and president of Colored Teachers State Association of Texas, has experienced a colorful career over the last fifteen years.

His educational training may be summed up in saying he graduated from the Prairie View State Normal College with honors; spent one year in the army attaining the status of sergeant major; completed the course at Fisk University leading to the A. B. degree in 1924 with honors; spent two summers at the University of Chicago in graduate study.

As a teacher he served as principal of his home town school, Jasper, Texas; taught mathematics in the Fisk University high school; taught two years science and mathematics and coached athletics in the Attucks High school, Carbondale, Illinois where he won the coveted A-1 rating from the examiner from the University of Illinois; was dean of Houston College, Houston, Texas one year; taught science and education in the summer schools at Prairie View State College, Houston Junior College, Paul Quinn College, and Samuel Huston-Tillotson Colleges; headed the social science department, Booker Washington high school, Dallas, under Prof. J. J. Rhoads; and for the last six years has been Principal of the Jackson High school, Corsicana.

Mr. Rogers has written many articles in the field of education for some of the leading journals. Also his articles have been accepted for general magazines and newspapers of wide circulation.

He enjoys a high reputation as a progressive teacher of Texas and in the meantime holds prominent positions in the religious, civic, and social activities of the state, as local advisor in emergency relief work giving aid and employment to colored people, Corsicana; member of executive committee of local community center work; statistician for the Texas Baptist Sunday School and B. Y. P. U. Congress; active member of National association and of the National Association of Teachers in Colored Schools; recently appointed a member of the Southwest Branch of the National Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. He was recently elevated to the position of President of the Colored Teachers State Association of Texas. He is going right to work, as is his custom, to bring to the teachers of Texas a worthy program. In order to carry this out the new president will attend the National Education Association, meeting in Cleveland, Ohio from February 23 to March 1, 1934.

—R. W. H.

### Principal's Message To Ex-Students

January, 1934

My dear Ex-Students:

In view of the fine and generous response coming from the Ex-Students, to the request of Mr. O. J. Thomas, President of the Alumni Association, that this organization raise \$1000.00 to purchase furniture for the lobby of our new Dormitory, Anderson Hall, it has been decided to give the Association an additional issue of the Prairie View Standard. I am pleased to state to you that the money is coming in nicely, and from every quarter, the ex-students are highly commending the movement and pledge within the next few weeks to send in their contribution. I am writing this letter to request that all contributions be sent in not later than March 15th, so that we may begin making plans to purchase and install the furniture by the close of the regular session. I want to assure you in advance that all funds that are contributed to this project will be properly applied.

May I take this opportunity to urge all Ex-Students that where there are from ten or more Prairie Viewites in one place, to organize themselves into a Prairie View Club, elect a local President and Secretary and send us the names of these officials so that we can mail to this group, from time to time, printed matter and information regarding the Institution.

I am hoping to visit under the auspices of the Alumni Association, many communities this spring, for the purpose of talking over the outlook of the School, and wherever possible, address the public. The Prairie View family joins me in extending to each one of you our best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Yours truly,  
W. R. Banks, Principal

### RALPH METCALFE VISITS PRAIRIE VIEW

Ralph Metcalfe, world's famous sprinter, made two visits to Prairie View State College during the holiday season while guest of Mr. S. J. Cullum, Jr., of Houston, Texas. He is at present a senior in the Liberal Arts and a freshman in the Law School of Marquette University of Wisconsin.

Mr. Metcalfe will be the guest of Prairie View State College during the session of the annual Interscholastic League which convenes April 19 and 20, 1934, and will give exhibitions during this meeting. We hope that all members of the League will avail themselves of the opportunity to see the world's fastest human being in action.



## WHY AN ALUMNUS SHOULD LOVE HIS ALMA MATER

(Continued on page 4)

velops talent. 2. It provides cultural development and increases the appreciation for better music.

**DRAMATICS**—1. Able expression is developed. 2. It encourages imagination. 3. It teaches self control and poise.

**LITERARY SOCIETY**—1. Educates students in oral expression. 2. Like dramatics it teaches self control and poise. 3. It widens and increases the range of interest in the world about us.

**DEBATING**—1. Gives one a great capacity to appraise and analyze modern affairs.

Example, (a) Resolved that the United States should agree to the mutual cancellation of inter-allied war debts.

(b) Resolved that the several states should enact legislation providing for compulsory unemployment insurance.

(c) Resolved that Great Britain should grant immediate independence to India.

2. It brings fluency of speech, and clear and logical thinking.

3. It develops intellectual capacities and good sportsmanship.

**PUBLICATIONS**—1. Give actual practice in moulding and influencing public opinion. 2. Foster school spirit. 3. Give opportunity for self expression and creative work.

Let us read a few extracts from *The Panther*, May, 1932. Miss Flemings, the editor wrote: "No doubt we have dreamed of tomorrow: that a future is calling us to some distant land, where we will join the teaching profession, forgetting that the field is already crowded and that an unusual ability is necessary to fulfill such a dream. Then what are we going to do?"

"Preparedness, the keynote to success, does not necessarily mean to own a degree, but ability to transform the knowledge that we have acquired to life's situation. . . . All through college we have talked about "Campus Problems, Social Problems, and all manner of problems." We've found problems, we've made problems, but now we must solve problems. . . . Tomorrow's a new day without mistakes. Keep smiling. Above all, be prepared."

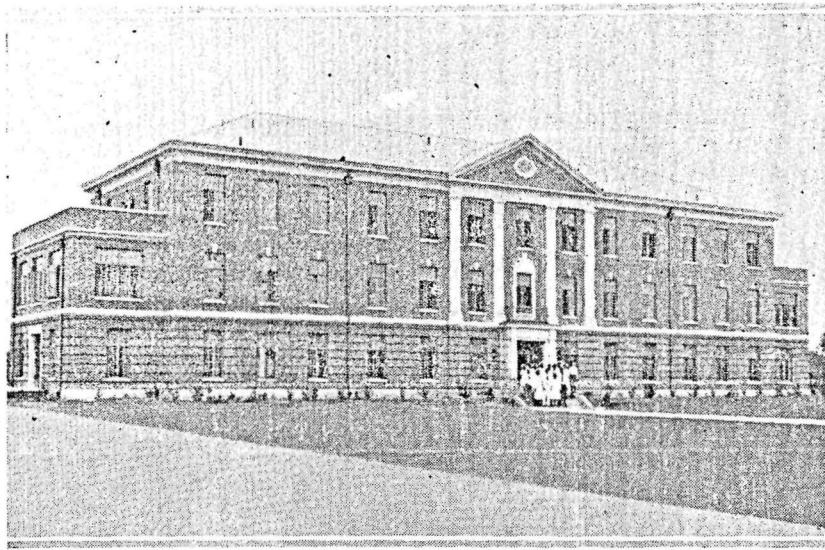
Another writer in the same issue says: "I have found that a college career is like a bowl of soup—if you only taste the top you will never know what lies at the bottom. Olera L. Mason '32."

**ATHLETICS**—1. Physical development. 2. Mental and social training.

**RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES**—1. The institution carries a regular religious program. In addition we have the "Y" organization which has as its symbol, a triangle. This triangle means physical, intellectual and spiritual development. The "Y" Forum clasps hands with the various departments of the curriculum.

And now let us discuss some benefits that may be derived from class affairs and organizations.

A.—The leaders of the classes soon find that: 1. In every cause regardless to how noble it may be there will be opposition. In time he learns to appreciate this opposition—it makes him think through every



The \$100,000.00 Prairie View Hospital which was given to the institution by the Rockefeller Foundation. The plans complete were drawn by a Prairie View graduate—Mr. L. E. Fry who is now teaching at Howard University, Washington, D. C.

situation thoroughly. It makes him plan his work in order to work his plans. 2. The class leader soon finds that class spirit is important because spirit makes men do beyond normal accomplishments. Consequently they sponsor class projects of various kinds—an effort to instill that "WE" spirit in the group.

With all of these interests some of us make the mistake of spending four years in college without identifying ourselves with any one of them. We feel that the world owes us something. An example:

I know a graduate who hated his Alma Mater because he could not get a job. This was six years ago when jobs were not quite so scarce. The school life of that individual (the life that a number of us believe that we can cut out later) revealed that he was the type who believed that he should be heard from one end of the campus to the other and that profanity was the basis for popularity. He was not true to himself—who could use him in their program?

We cannot afford to spend our time in a frivolous manner. We cannot live one way today and another after school. Our diary is being written each day. It is "up to us" to say what shall go into it.

To give more proof that there are values at college for us let's turn to the 1932 *Panther* again. The staff has an article headed DEPARTING: "This issue marks the end of volume four of the student publication. We feel that we have been fairly successful—We hope that the results of our efforts have met with the approval of all who have read the issues. The experience gained through the publication of this paper is indeed an asset."—An appreciation of values.

Another article by the class of 1932 reads: "As we reflect on the past we realize more fully the role Prairie View State College has played in preparing us for a better understanding of life. The rudiments of different courses that we have acquired are subordinate to a few fundamental principles inculcated in us.

"Prairie View College taught us to direct our thoughts along constructive channels. It outlined to us the meaning of a liberal education, gave us a fuller conception of our place in society and aided us to better understand and our fellowmen by developing growth. —R. W. H.

in us a consciousness of true values and tolerance.

"We leave with a feeling of gratitude toward the institution, and feel confident that what it has given us will prove its worth in life."—An appreciation of values.

And finally school is the birthplace of lasting intimacies. One month after graduation or discontinuation of school we realize that our dearest friends are those that we make while in school. Secondly—College treasures some of the most valuable experiences of our lives.

With the various values spoken of in mind how could an Alumnus deny the love that is due his Alma Mater. By that love one will seek to reflect creditably upon his Alma Mater. By that creditable reflection and resultant prestige the individual himself profits.

Honor and love thy school—it is a sane means of self-preservation and growth.

### WHAT THEY SAY

We have received numerous letters concerning the last paper and the Anderson Hall Project. We shall give several extracts from different points.

Miss Pauline Watkins writes from Los Angeles, California, where she is doing graduate work at the University of Southern California, "I sent my contribution to Prof. Alexander and am willing to do anything else for my Alma Mater. There is a large number of Prairie Viewites out here. I shall attend the next meeting."

Miss L. V. Bradley who is teaching in Hearne, Texas, writes: "In answer to your request I am enclosing my contribution. I am also enclosing a list of ex-students and graduates that you may not have. The paper was quite interesting. I wish to receive it regularly."

Mr. William Pigford is teaching in Georgetown, Texas, and writes: "I am very much pleased with the publication and am interested in the project to the extent that I am mailing my contribution now."

Mr. B. T. W. Bremby who is doing a splendid piece of work in Arkansas writes: "You can count on me for full support on anything where Prairie View is implicated. I shall send my contribution to Prof. Alexander immediately."

Mr. W. Marion Davis, president of

the class of '29 and principal of Beeville High School, Beeville, Texas, writes: "You may expect my full cooperation on the project. Call on me for any type of service. My contribution is being mailed separately."

Mrs. Teal who is employed at Booker Washington High, Houston, Texas, said: "The paper was full of the right type of information. My husband and I would like to give a beautiful lamp for Anderson Hall. Is that permissible?" To be sure, Mrs. Teal, it is. (Note: This is quite an expensive lamp that was hand made in the high school).

Mr. W. L. Davis of Houston, Tex., who is very prominent in educational, religious and fraternal circles, was among the very first to send in his contribution. He also was pleased with the paper.

We have scores of others who have written in and sent their contribution. Another cross section will be given in the next issue.

## VITAL TRENDS IN RELIGION AND PRAIRIE VIEW'S PART IN THEM

(Continued from page 3)

TREAT PEOPLE OTHER THAN OUR RELATIVES; and that to gain the whole world was an unprofitable bargain if one failed in building character in oneself."

Whether Jesus healed the body, taught the mind or inspired the spirit, or whether he attacked economic customs that exploited people, or risked his life against an ecclesiastical system that misguided them, he was motivated by one central principle—the supreme importance of people.

The religious life of Prairie View intends to give the students a dynamic faith in the value which survive. Its program is to prepare them for living fully and beautifully here, because it is a known fact that death will exact its toll and we are able to pay only in proportion to what we have put into life here.

This plan is carried out in our religious services every Sunday morning and the vesper service on Sunday evenings; the mid-week vespers on Wednesday evenings, and personal conferences dealing with the frustrations growing out of the seeming conflict between religion and science. Concepts of right and wrong are discussed, and the students are urged to take as the basis for their conduct those things which would be safe for society if they were made universal principles.

The religious program of Prairie View intends to make students say with Ernest Crosby when he said:

"I am homesick. Homesick for the land where I shall look horizontally into the eyes of my fellows. The land where men rise only to lift. The land where equality leaves men to differ as they will. The land where freedom is breathed in the air and courses in the blood. Where there is nothing over a man between him and the sky. Where the obligations of love are sought for as prizes, and where they vary as the moon. That land is my true country."

This is the spirit of the Christ. This is the objective of the religious leaders of Prairie View. Is there any religion in Prairie View?

—L. C. Phillip