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## Newsletter - January 1941

Prairie View State Normal and Industrial College

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### Recommended Citation

Prairie View State Normal and Industrial College. (1941). Newsletter - January 1941., *Vol. X No. 5*  
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*Mr. O. J. Baker*

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VOLUME X

NUMBER 5

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N E W S L E T T E R

January - 1941

PRAIRIE VIEW STATE COLLEGE  
Prairie View, Texas

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A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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## A CALENDAR -

- (a) Football - Prairie View vs Alabama State - Houston - January 1
- (b) Religious Emphasis Week - Dr Charles D Hubert - Atlanta, Georgia -  
January 2, 3, 4 and 5, 1941
- (c) Negro History Discussions -
  - 1 Dr T R Solomon ----- January 9
  - 2 Professor H A Bullock ----- January 10
  - 3 Dr F G Davis ----- January 23
  - 4 Dr R P Perry ----- January 24
- (d) Teacher Training Conference - Dr Lane - January 10-11
- (e) Institute of Philosophy - January 23, 24 and 25
- (f) Faculty Debate - January 26
- (g) End of first semester - January 31

## B TEACHER TRAINING CONFERENCE -

The participation of Prairie View State College in the program of Improvement of Teacher Education, under the sponsorship of the American Council on Education, is making it possible for us to have some of the outstanding men and women of educational thought to visit the campus. In the Teacher Training Conference, scheduled for January 10 and 11, there will be present the following:

- a Dr C L Cushman - Chicago University (Now with the American Council on Education)
- b Dr Troyer - Washington, D C - American Council on Education
- c Dr H A Lane - Northwestern University - Evanston, Illinois
- d Mrs Dorothy Olendoff - Northwestern University Laboratory School

## C THE INSTITUTE OF PHILOSOPHY -

Under the sponsorship of the Division of Program and Discussion, of the Federal Department of Agriculture, we shall have a three days Institute of Philosophy with 100 Rural Workers in Texas, January 23, 24 and 25. The following distinguished persons will serve as guest lecturers:

- 1 Dr W E B DuBois - Professor, Atlanta University - Atlanta, Georgia
- 2 Dr Charles S Johnson - Professor, Fisk University - Nashville, Tenn
- 3 Dr F D Patterson - President, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama
- 4 Dr James O Howard - Specialist, Federal Bureau of Agricultural Economy
- 5 Dr T Lynn Smith - Professor, Louisiana University - Baton Rouge, La
- 6 Dr Carl F Tausch - Specialist, Federal Bureau of Agricultural Economics

## D POLL TAX

It has been the policy of the institution to encourage employees to pay their poll tax. A poll tax receipt is the only symbol one has in Texas evidencing citizenship. Besides, Prairie View State College is a tax-supported institution and it is reasonably expected that employees will at least pay \$1.75 poll tax. We want to urge everyone to pay their poll tax on or by January 31, 1941.

E DRIVE FOR "Y" SECRETARY -

We are happy to report the drive launched in October to get \$1000.00, of the colored citizens of the Southwest Area, comprising the states of Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas, to meet a conditional gift of \$2600, that the sum of \$1030 has been raised. We want to take this opportunity in expressing our grateful appreciations to those civic-minded people who made this signal achievement possible. Especially, do I want to thank the staff for its generous response of nearly \$90.00.

F THE BAND TO HOUSTON -

In accordance with the vote of Faculty, the Faculty Community Chest will pay the expense of one bus to carry the Band to Houston on January 1, 1941, the occasion of the Prairie View-Alabama State game. The vote was 87 to pay the expense of one bus, while 7 were against the proposal.

G ARBOR COMMITTEE -

Professor C L Wilson, Chairman, Arbor Committee, desires to request the inhabitants of the Prairie View Community to cooperate in planting shrubbery and flowers during the month of January and February. Let every one who occupies a home, plant at least two trees and some shrubbery.

H COTTON MATTRESS PROGRAM -

The Negro Extension Service, headquarters at Prairie View State College, has just released the significant information to the point that, in 1940, there were 18,631 cotton mattresses made for Negro farm families in Texas, in 378 centers, with 21,660 people actively participating in making mattresses. This work was in the charge of Agricultural and Home Agents of the Negro Extension Division.

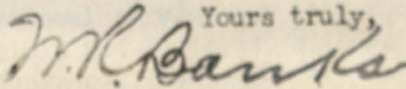
I THE BANKSES -

It has been our practice for 28 years, to have the members of the staff and their wives together at Christmas time for two hours of wholesome fun and genuine fellowship. Due to the sudden illness of Mrs Banks, we were denied this customary privilege this year, and, in consequence, you were denied the usual invitation from "The Bankses."

J AND FINALLY -

Prairie View State College concurs in the statement growing out of the White House Conference, held in Washington, D C., January 18-20, 1940, that -

"The Principal objective of sound economic life in a democracy is that people shall be able to earn and administer their own income. Opportunity for every family to earn an adequate income is basic to the preservation of the democratic life and to the acceptance of its ideals by American Children ..... A function of government in a democracy is to safe-guard the economic opportunities of the families of the nation."

Yours truly,  
  
W R Banks  
Principal

P S - Meeting usual time and place.

WRB

TYPES OF SCHOOL ROOMS IN TEXAS  
(Based on the "Law of Averages")

By

STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
L. A. Woods, State Superintendent  
Austin, Texas

The first school room presented for your consideration is built of brick or stone; it is well lighted and ventilated; the walls are tinted a light color, easy on the eyes, and are adorned with pictures, maps, and charts. In the back of the room in a sunny corner there are bookshelves filled with carefully chosen supplementary reading books or books which will fill the need of the pupils for recreational reading. There are comfortable chairs around a large table where the children may do their reading and really enjoy it. This room, with its adjacent halls, was built at an original cost of \$6,642, and has equipment valued at \$636. This is the average white classroom in the independent school districts in Texas.

Every day there are twenty-seven children present in the room, but five others who have been enrolled are absent because of illness, because of lack of proper clothing, or because they are forced to be out working, while there are two more who should have been enrolled who have never appeared.

More than 78% of the 26,181 teachers who have charge of these rooms are women. Each of these classroom teachers has had at least 3.8 years of college training and 10.9 years of teaching experience. Each one has experienced a degree of security in employment, having had an average of 7.6 years' tenure in the present position. The salary for the year's work is not particularly attractive to skilled artisans when compared with those paid in other professions; in fact, it is very low, averaging only \$1,236. That is \$6.98 per day for each of the 177 days actually in the school room, or twenty-five cents for each child in actual daily attendance.

Five of the children in this room are transported daily at public expense; the other twenty-two walk from their nearby homes or furnish their own transportation.

These rooms are gathered together in buildings, there being one superintendent to every twenty-eight teachers and one principal or vice-principal to every sixteen teachers. There are 126 library books in each of these rooms; however, in many instances, these books are collected in rooms specially prepared for library purposes, one such library, with a librarian for at least half-time, being available for the pupils of each group of twenty-nine teachers.

These 26,181 school rooms with their teachers are located in 1,030 different localities in Texas. In 1930 there were 170 of the towns which were designated by the Federal Government as urban centers, because they had a population of 2,500 or more; the other 860 towns were called rural centers or communities. We have continued to think of them in this way during the last decade. The average number of teachers in these 1,030 districts is 26, but in reality the number varies from 1 to 1,714.

There was spent on the instructional service for this room, including teacher's salary and teaching materials and supplied, \$1,384, or approximately \$51.25 for each child in actual attendance. The state of Texas paid about \$26

of this amount, the Federal Government gave \$1.50, and the balance was provided by the local community. In addition to this, the building was kept clean, repairs were made when needed, library books were purchased, the five children had their transportation provided, health services were furnished, insurance was paid on the building, and the proper supervision was supplied. These additional services amounted to about \$10 per pupil or \$270 for each room maintained.

You have enjoyed this picture. It has color, lights, and shadows; hope prevails in all of its parts. It is made beautiful because it provides that which is satisfying.

Now, there is another room to be seen. It is located across the track or on the other side of town. It is dingy and drab; its unpainted walls and its sagging roof give some idea of what will be found within. It is poorly lighted, meagerly equipped, and not very warm on cold days, with perhaps a section of pipe stuck through a broken window pane providing the only avenue of escape for the smoke from the coal fire in an unjacketed stove. This room was built at an original cost of approximately \$2,900, and has equipment valued at \$194. This is the average negro classroom in the independent school district in Texas.

Every day there are thirty-two children present in this room but there are seven others who have been enrolled who are not there because of illness, indifference, or economic conditions, while there are three who should be there who have never reported for school attendance. Again, 78% of the teachers are women. The entire number of teachers in these rooms is 3,609, each one of whom has 3.5 years of college training and 11.3 years of teaching experience. These teachers have a feeling of security in their positions, too, since each one has an average tenure of 8.5 years. The salary for the year's work is meager, indeed. The highest type of persons from the negro race can not be expected to go into the school room for a year for \$753, which is the annual salary paid. That means \$4.40 per day for each of the 168 days, or about fourteen cents a day for each in actual daily attendance.

Three of the children in this room are transported at public expense; the other twenty-nine walk or furnish their own transportation.

These rooms, in some few instances, are joined together into buildings, but the great majority of them are one-room, one-teacher schools. If the white school has a superintendent, he is usually charged with the administration of the negro school, also. There is one principal to every sixteen teachers.

There are forty-six library books in each of these rooms, the greater number of them supplementary readers out of adoption or discards from the libraries of the white schools. A half-time librarian, usually supplied by the WPA, is available for the pupils of each group of fifty-four teachers.

These 3,609 school rooms with their teachers are located in 592 localities in Texas. There are 152 of these localities which are designated as urban centers, and 440 of them are rural communities. The average number of teachers in these 592 districts is six, but in reality the number varies from 1 to 374.

There was spent on the instructional service for this room, including teacher's salary and teaching materials and supplied, \$813 or approximately \$25.40 for each child in actual daily attendance. The state of Texas paid

\$23 of this amount (per capita plus Rural Aid), the federal government paid twenty-five cents, and the local community paid the balance. In addition to this, other services, supplied in a very limited way, amounted to approximately \$2 per pupil, or \$64 per room.

You have not enjoyed this picture. It has color, to be sure, but the colors are dark. There is little light, but much shadow. It is not a beautiful picture, because it is not satisfying.

Great emphasis has been given to educational equality. Through the exercise of this democratic principle this picture may be made more pleasing from year to year.