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Newsletter - March 1940

Prairie View State Normal and Industrial College

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Mr O J Baker

PRAIRIE VIEW STATE COLLEGE - PRAIRIE VIEW, TEXAS

MARCH - 1940

NUMBER 7

CALENDAR -

- 1 State Basketball Tournament - Class AA High Schools - March 1-2
- 2 Fourth Post Graduate Medical Clinic - March 4-7
- 3 Conference of Librarians in Colored Schools - March 7
- 4 Eleventh Educational Conference - March 8
- 5 State Band and Violin Solo of High Schools - March 23

***** VOLUME IX ***** NUMBER 7 *****

VOLUME IX NUMBER 7

NEWS LETTER

MARCH - 1940

FRAIRIE VIEW STATE COLLEGE

Prairie View, Texas

There has been worked out and developed here, a well defined philosophy of education; a program that has been geared and meshed in such a manner as to advance this philosophy; and such regulations made as will appropriately facilitate this program in the path of judgment and experience. Every person who has been employed here was selected by virtue of his specific training and ability to cooperate sympathetically in carrying out the Purposes and Objectives of the institution. Consequently, every employee at Prairie View State College is here primarily to help carry out the sanctioned program of the institution in the light of its philosophy, under the regulations stipulated. There is no other logical recourse or choice that is, if it is our desire to work harmoniously with the program of the college.

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B - CONFERENCES -

In the month of March you will note that a great number of meetings are scheduled. There will be in attendance upward of 3,000 people, representing every walk of life, of both races. Prairie View will act as host to these fine people. It is going to be necessary that we go out of the way in seeing that every one is properly housed and his or her stay here is both pleasant and profitable. I have always been appreciative of the fine way our housewives have cooperated in helping us to house visitors.

C - RESETTLEMENT UNIT -

You have noticed in the Newspaper a release on a Federal Resettlement Project at Prairie View. This Project will provide for fourteen colored families and farms ranging from 125 to 150 acres. This makes possible two important things:

- 1 A model Negro community contiguous to the college
- 2 An opportunity for Prairie View to have a Community Laboratory for its program of instruction.

D - WHAT IS DESIRED OF ME?

What is desired of me as an employee at Prairie View State College is a pertinent question; a satisfactory answer can be found only in the adequacy of our knowledge and working understanding of the college's program, growing out of its philosophy of education. Our usefulness to the enterprise is effective or delimited, directly or indirectly, in proportion as we work cooperatively with all forces and programs that are essential in and to the successful furtherance of its Objectives.

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E MARCH WORKERS MEETING -

Because of the public assembly for the Physicians, the March Workers Meeting will be held Monday evening, March 4 at 7:30 P M. Please keep this change in mind. The visiting physicians will be the guests of the meeting.

F FORUM DISCUSSIONS

The unique feature of the March Workers Meeting will be a Forum Discussion of the subject - "WHAT FACTORS OTHER THAN SUBJECT MATTER EFFICIENCY SHOULD A TEACHER CONSIDER IN ASSIGNING GRADES TO STUDENTS." Participants are -

Dr F G Davis	Mr R L Jeffreys	Miss J L Terry
Mr J M Alexander	Dr A K Smith	Miss A L Sheffield
Mr C L Wilson	Miss E M Griggs	

G THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND -

- 1 Wild Life Reservation at Prairie View
- 2 Houston Y M C A pledges for Building Fund

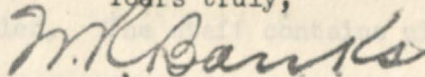
F AND FINALLY -

Prairie View State College believes -

"When the school accepts the role of a social agency the purpose of the curriculum changes to that of bringing about desirable changes in individuals and in the community. The new role makes it necessary for the school to discover community resources and problems and then provide a sequence of experiences to utilize and meet the revealed additions. The school program and resources and community program are fused in a continuous process of mutual assistance to meet common needs."

- Julius Youman

Yours truly,



W R BANKS
PRINCIPAL

P S - Workers Meeting MONDAY EVENING MARCH 4, 1940 at 7:30 -
usual place - WRB

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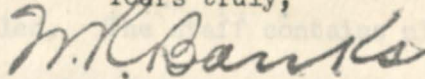
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Your admirable editorial on Negro Higher Education Jan. 26 is misleading unless one understands that its superlatives are valid only from a relative standpoint. For example, "the extremely liberal provisions made by the Texas Legislature to meet the needs of the ambitious Negro student" may be scrutinized.

You say correctly that "the Legislature provided funds for graduate work at Prairie View, the only state supported Negro College in Texas" But what funds? Twenty thousand dollars for two years. This sum would be considered wholly inadequate by any first-class college or university as the sole basis of its graduate work. Yet the school "is now offering graduate courses leading to the Master's degree. For these courses the institution is engaging the services of the strongest and best prepared men and women in the country" If that is true (quoted from Prairie View literature), then these experts are underpaid compared with instructors giving graduate work in our best schools. For work of that type is highly specialized, requiring not only special instruction but also research facilities.

From a comparative point of view the generosity of the state toward higher education for Negroes may be called in question. Here is the only state supported institution for higher education of Negroes in Texas, established in 1876. A thousand students are enrolled. The staff contains ninety men and women with Doctors', Masters', and Bachelors' degrees. Seventy per cent of Negro public school-teachers in Texas received training at Prairie View. The appropriation for 1940-41 is \$349,500. Now compare this with a white junior college, John Tarleton: \$553,406; or another, North Texas, \$445,260; or with the East Texas State Teachers College, \$815,950. I would not suggest that any school is receiving too much, but discrimination against the Negro is obvious.

C. S. Waller - State Leader

Upward of 700,000 men, women and children, more than the combined seating capacity of all the theaters in the world, were present at the meetings held by the 45 county agricultural extension agents during the biennium for out-of-state instruction. The figure is based on careful study and the appropriation was obtained after years of effort on the part of a number of individuals and groups, both white and colored. We are indeed making progress, but the goal is not yet reached.

JOHN C GRANBERY

Georgetown, Texas

(Taken from the Dallas Morning News - February 5, 1940)

The greatest portion of the activity of this group of men is around the Live-at-home program, and is the conservation of our natural resources to make the land we work produce the maximum amount of crops and products. As an example, the production of syrup for home use was almost a lost art; however, with the assistance of Mr. H. H. Thurston, syrup specialist, 4,000 additional acres were planted to oaks, causing it to be put back to use. Forty-eight idle mills and steaming vats all over the state produced 9,213 gallons of improved syrup with a value of \$38,744.90 to the farmers who were engaged in this work. The production of field crops, especially cotton, has attracted more attention more than ever before. This is probably the combined result of shifts, because of adjustment programs, the collapse of the cotton market, an intensification of our activities in getting more yields on the farm. 1,438 demonstrations involving 10,414 acres were conducted in teaching the new methods of handling old crops and the introduction of new strains and varieties. We believe these demonstrations are responsible for the farmers having large stocks of feed on hand, which will mean earlier and better preparation of land. The stocks of feed, especially rough feeds, offer very grave difficulties in marketing and as a result there is a definite increase in the number of livestock and poultry, many items of which will be slaughtered and consumed by the farmers.

One hundred and twenty-eight (128) demonstrations were conducted in beef cattle work, most of them were in feeding. Ten were in herd improvement in which pure bred bulls were used. These demonstrations involved 9,600 head of cattle valued at \$14,799.03. The outstanding factors in this program are that 39 of these demonstrations were conducted by farmers in dairy cattle. These demonstrations were designed to meet market requirements but mostly to increase and maintain the family milk supply. Twenty-two of these demonstrations were conducted by farmers who, for the first time, were milking pure bred or high grade dairy cattle on their farms. Two hundred and forty-one (241) demonstrations were conducted in poultry. This work covered a wide range and included exhibition, feeding, breeding and marketing. Seventy-seven farmers conducted demonstrations in selling paper-egg eggs and thirty-five home-made coolers were constructed. Forty-one removed roosters from the farms and twenty-six cooperated in grading and marketing. A total of 45,721 birds were involved in these demonstrations.

SUMMARY OF TEXAS EXTENSION WORK - NEGRO DIVISION 1939

C H Waller - State Leader

Upward of 204,468 men, women and children, more than the combined seating capacity of America's two largest stadiums, attended the 10,897 meetings held by the 45 County Agricultural Extension Agents who worked with eight thousand, one hundred and ninety-nine farm families during 1939.

Agricultural Extension Work is designed to aid farm families in obtaining things that make for better living in the fullest sense. Negro agents have not only found out what was the matter, but are doing something about it. To enable these men to reach and assist the greatest number of people, 497 clubs with a total enrollment of 9,876, and 391 4-H Clubs, with an enrollment of 5,503 boys were organized to carry out the Extension program. Not only the numbers are startling, but the results obtained were mere dreams ten years ago.

The greatest portion of the activity of this group of men is around the Live-at-Home program, and in the conservation of our natural resources to make the land we work produce the things we need and produce them more abundantly. As an example, the production of syrup for home use was almost a lost art; however, with the assistance of Mr M K Thornton, syrup specialist, more than eleven thousand additional acres were planted to cane, causing it to be put back to use. Forty-eight idle mills and steaming vats all over the state produced 91,213 gallons of improved syrup with a value of \$68,746.90 to the farmers who participated in this work. The production of field crops, especially those necessary to an increased livestock program, has engaged our attention more than ever before. This is probably the combined results of shifts; because of adjustment programs, the collapse of the cotton market, an intensification of our activities in getting more animals on the farm, 5,438 demonstrations involving 101,449 acres were conducted in teaching the new methods of handling old crops and the introduction of new strains and varieties. We believe these demonstrations are responsible for the farmers having large stocks of feed on hand, which will mean earlier and better preparation of land. The stocks of feed, especially rough feeds, offer very grave difficulties in marketing and as a result there is a definite increase in the number of livestock and poultry, many items of which will be slaughtered and consumed by the farmers.

One hundred and twenty-eight (128) demonstrations were conducted in beef cattle work, most of them were in feeding. Ten were in herd improvement in which pure bred bulls were used. These demonstrations involved 5,600 head of cattle valued at \$19,799.00. The outstanding factors in this program are that 39 of these demonstrations were conducted by farmers in dairy cattle. These demonstrations were designed to meet market requirement but mostly to increase and maintain the family milk supply. Twenty-two of these demonstrations were conducted by farmers who, for the first time, were milking pure bred or high grade dairy cattle on their farms. Two hundred and forty-one (241) demonstrations were conducted in poultry. This work covered a wide range and included sanitation, feeding, breeding and marketing. Seventy-seven farmers conducted demonstrations in selling number-one eggs and thirty home-made coolers were constructed. Forty-one removed roosters from the yards and twenty-six cooperated in grading and marketing. A total of 15,721 birds were involved in these demonstrations.

More and better cured meat was the slogan of many communities and they did something about their slogan. Two thousand, one hundred and seventeen demonstrations were conducted in swine, and 95% of these demonstrations were in an effort to carry out the aforementioned slogan. Two thousand and one families were assisted in butchering, cutting and curing pork, which will be used for home use and some for sale. The fact that 1,987,602 pounds of this meat was cured the A & M way means there will be more cured meat on exhibit this spring and that farm families will have meat to eat later in the year.

Livestock production cannot make much headway without additional pastures or improvement of pastures already in use. Work was done on 8,778 acres of pastures and this was divided between seeding on 2,011 acres, underbrushing and mowing, contouring and other practices; some agents report the carrying capacity of pastures doubled due to sowing of seed, moving, etc. Much of the feed produced was late in the season when curing was difficult and this stimulated the interest in storing and curing devices. As a result of this need, one hundred and twenty-three (123) trench or pit silos were constructed and filled with three thousand, two hundred and thirty-six (3,236) tons of feed. This feed makes a very substantial addition to that cured otherwise and it is extremely useful in dairy work.

No farm program can be any better than the soil upon which this program is founded and since most of the land now occupied by Negro farmers is either in need of terracing or drainage, or both. This constituted one of our major activities. Work of this nature was conducted on 596 farms; terracing complete with outlets was constructed on 22,007 acres of land, and 141 farmers carried out definite gully control which involved 3,553 acres, using wire, stone, shrubs, and other means to effect this control. The improvement on land terraced and gullies controlled was valued at \$83,279.00, and in some some cases was valued at \$13.00 per acre. We realize this has only scratched the surface and it will be necessary for us to work unabated to control erosion so that their fertility may be maintained to the point that profitable farming may again be conducted. Stumps were cleared.

The farm plot has presented a serious problem for many years and the expression "trees don't live long" has been one of our stumbling blocks. This expression is true but we have succeeded in many cases to "make them live longer" and these orchards that have lived have stimulated new plantings and during the past year 3,096 new home orchards, with 28,595 trees, bushes and vines were planted. This work has received a stimulus with the plan of getting farmers to produce their own fruit trees and bushes. As a result of this work 122,000 peach seeds were saved and planted.

Recreation is of major importance in breaking the monotony of the meeting and it is no longer used because it is recommended but the agents have learned that a little play helps with a lot of work and its use is growing year by year. It is indispensable in 4-H Club work. The nine father-and-son picnics conducted this year have proven that recreation has value that cannot be measured in dollars and cents. Negro County Agents render whatever service they can not only to rural schools and farmers but to various organizations such as the AAA, Soil Conservation, FSA, REA, TVA, and NFA. These organizations are working together in interest of Negro farmers. The agents do what they can to coordinate their efforts with those of these agencies in order that our people might share in the benefits to be derived from working with these agencies.

SUMMARY
 COUNTY AGRICULTURAL WORK FOR TEXAS 1939
 (Negro Division)

1	Number of agents	45
2	Number of Adult Clubs	497
3	Number of members	9,876
4	Number 4-H Clubs	391
5	Number members	5,503
6	Number of gallons of syrup made improved way	92,213
7	Value of syrup made	\$68,746
8	Number farms terraced	596
9	Number of acres terraced	22,007
10	Value of terraced land	\$168,908
11	Farms practicing gully control	142
12	Acres in gully control work	3,553
13	Value of gully control work	\$23,127
14	Number farms doing drainage work	291
15	Number acres	7,577
16	Value of drainage work	60,616
17	Farms doing irrigation work	48
18	Number acres irrigated	178
19	Value of irrigation work	2,314
20	Acres cleared of stumps or rocks	206
21	Value of this work	21,240
22	Buildings constructed	835
23	Value of buildings	66,424
24	Trench silos constructed (new)	123
25	Silage stored	3,266 T
26	Field crops (demonstrations)	5,438
27	Total acreage involved	101,449
28	Beef cattle demonstrations	128
29	Number of beef cattle fed	5,600
30	Value of these demonstrations	19,799
31	Number dairy cattle demonstrations	156
32	Number cattle involved	1,376
33	Value of dairy demonstrations	22,797
34	Number poultry demonstrations	241
35	Number birds involved	15,721
36	Number swine demonstrations	2,117
37	Number animals involved	14,126
38	Meat cured, beef and pork (pounds)	1,987,602
39	Number new orchards	396
40	Number bushes, trees and vines added	28,595
41	Number different farms and homes visited	8,199
42	Number method demonstrations conducted	4,892
43	Meetings at method demonstrations	65,198
44	Number result demonstrations conducted	8,392
45	Meetings conducted by County Agricultural Agents in all work	10,897
46	Attendance	204,468
47	Meetings by men supervisors	401
48	Attendance	86,224
49	Total meetings conducted	11,298
50	Total attendance	290,692

STATE PRISON REPORT

January 1, 1940

SEGREGATION BY COLOR:

White	3376 or 49.5%
Negro	2700 or 39.5%
Mexican	<u>755 or 11.0%</u>
Total	6831 or 100%

CONJUGAL CONDITIONS:

Married	2959
Single	2974
Widowed	313
Divorced	585

EDUCATION:

Fair to good	1524
Common	4462
Illiterate	845

SEX:

Male	6691
Female	140

HABITS:

Temperate	4707
Intemperate	2014

USE OF TOBACCO:

Users	6096
Non-users	735

AGES:

17 to 20	916
20 to 25	1794
25 to 30	1496
30 to 35	980
35 to 40	695
40 to 50	628
50 to 60	259
60 to 70	79
70 and over	11

SEGREGATION BY RELIGIONS:

Methodists	588
Baptists	2436
Christians	247
Presbyterians	74
Catholics	1092
Lutherans	46
Episcopaleans	20
Hebrews	5
Miscellaneous	173
Non-members	2150

CLASSIFICATION BY CRIMES:

Abortion	3	Perjury	1
Accessory to Murder	17	Rape (life)	25
Administering Poison	3	Rape (term)	159
Arson	3	Rec. & Con. stolen property	43
Assault to Murder	230	Robbery	387
Assault to Rape	75	Robbery by Assault	290
Assault to Rob	55	Robbery	302
Bigamy	9	Swindling	28
Burglary	1715	Sodomy	23
Burglary of Private Res	69	Theft by Bailee	14
Burglary of prires at night	135	Theft by conversion	6
Burglary of Railroad Car	75	Theft of cattle	160
Conspiracy	5	Theft of Hogs	48
Disposing of Mortgaged Property	17	Theft of Horses	13
Embezzlement	20	Theft of Fowls	36
Fence Cutting and Burning	6	Theft from the Person	76
Forgery and Passing	527	Theft Miscellaneous	709
Incest	32	Theft of auto	25
Keeping a Gambling House	3	Miscellaneous	38
Narcotics	214		
Misapprop. of Public Funds	1		
Murder	1230	TOTAL INMATES CONFINED IN SYSTEM	
Offering a bribe	3		
Pandering	1	AS OF DECEMBER 31st, 1939 - 6831	