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September-October, 1946

## ALUMNI AND EX - STUDENT ISSUE DEDICATED TO DR. W. R. BANKS

# The Prairie View Standard

Vol. 37

Prairie View University, Prairie View Branch, Hempstead, Texas, Sept.-Oct., 1946 Nos. 1 and 2

# DR. EVANS ADDRESSES FACULTY

(Excerpts from Dr. Evans first address as Principal, September 4, 1946)

"MR. BANKS, MR. CHAIRMAN AND COWORKERS:

"I address you this morning with mingled emotions. Rather I talk to you as friends and co-partners in a great enterprise-the business of implanting in young lives light and knowledge, power and skill, social consciousness and character.

"The great responsibility which falls from the shoulders of my noble predecessor to mine makes me humble. Out of that deep humility I speak to you and invite you to press on in that adventure.

"This is a significant hour in the history of Prairie View University and a significant day in your life and mine. Like a few of you, I have been associated with this institution for twenty-nine years. It has grown and I have tried to grow with it and you who aided in this growth. As was true of some of you, its problems were mine, too. Whenever there was work to do, we put our shoulders to the wheel. We gave ourselves unselfishly, willingly, never counting the cost. I say these things because I count it a privilege to have served so great a cause and to find so rich a reward as the faith and respect the Board of Directors, the President, the students and faculty and friends of Texas have shown me.

"But this occasion is great not because of my election to office it is the occasion of a great man leaving a position he has made great with his gifts, his unparalleled service and his devotion to the cause of education.

"Like any other great institution, Prairie View University reflects the lengthening shadows of a great man. He vitalized the institution with a functional philosophy that Prairie View College should serve the people of Texas at the points of their greatest needs, and that the College should help them earn a respectable living and live a respectable life.

"To accomplish this functional program, he began encouraging teachers



DR. W. R. BANKS, Principal Emeritus

to advance their training to enlarge their social horizon and join him in a great adventure. He assembled during the first decade of his administration teachers of great mental and social stature: R. B. Atwood, R. P. Perry, F. A. Jackson, G. L. Harrison, O. A. Fuller, H. A. Bullock, S. E. Warren, A. K. Smith, M. E. Suarez, L. A. Potts and a number of others, all of whom served Prairie View well and justified his wisdom in selecting men, and his art of organizing and directing a great team. He built well for he built within the hearts and imagination of the

"In the next decade he selected you and made you a part of a great copartnership. With you he pushed the frontiers of training and service into areas of which he and his pioneers had dreamed. What had been for them the work of vision, daring and love of all mankind, became the day to day tasks of specialists. Departments became definite; detailed courses were provided to satisfy increasing major and minor requirements. New agencies were set up and services were extended to teachers, farmers, homemakers, and community organizations.

(Continued on page 5)

# Pillars of Prairie View

the Houston Post, September 6, 1946

As the principal of Prairie View State Normal and Industrial College for the past 20 years Dr. W. R. Banks the cause of education. He has sent thousands of students into the world equipped for useful careers and indoctrinated with the philosophy of life which he expresses in four words: "Be honest and work."

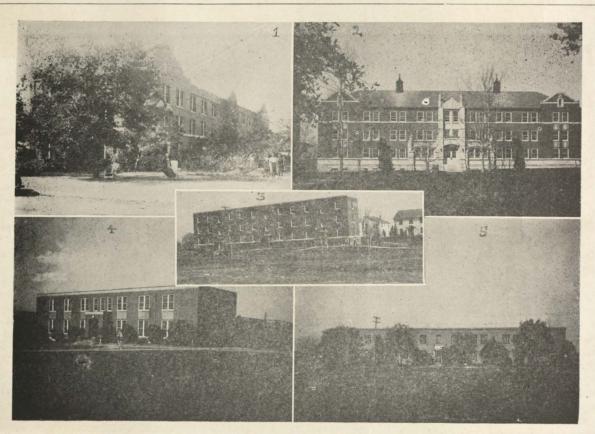
Reprint of Editorial appearing in living that formula. Doctor Banks himself has made it his guiding light, and he has attained a rank among the foremost Negro educators in America.

Now at the age of 65, he is going has rendered distinguished service to on modified service, a step toward his ultimate retirement at the age of 70. It is a pity that he is nearing retirement age just as Texas is about to enter upon an era of real higher education for Negroes. Educators of Doctor Banks' ability and character are needed to inaugurate and conduct he will have the best wishes of all No one can go far wrong or fall the Negro university which the incom- friends of education for the realization far short of success by following and ing Legislature in all likelihood of the dream.

will provide for. His experience and his counsel may be available in getting it started.

In the conduct of Prairie View a worthy successor takes his placenamely, Dr. Bertram Evans. He has been a member of the faculty for 28 years, and has proved his capacity to administer the school's affairs.

It is Principal Evans' hope and aim to see Prairie View developed into "one of the greatest Negro land grant colleges in the United States." He has the vigor, the qualifications and the vision to supply the leadership, and



Some of the buildings constructed during Mr. Banks' term: (1) Evans Hall, (2) Anderson Hall, (3) Schuhmacher Hall, (4) Dining Hall, (5) Mechanic Arts Building

#### The Additions to the Physical Plant Under D. W D Danles

Dr.	w. R. Banks	
1926	Blackshear Hall 35,28	5.43
1926	Woodruff Hall 32,359	9.89
1926	The Warehouse and	
	Filling Station 6,24	2.13
1926 .	Dairy Barn 13,55	2.33
1926	Athletic Club House . 1,62	1.03
1928	Evans Hall 99,35	1.31
1928 .	Farm Shop Building . 1,56	2.11
1929	The Hospital 80,96	9.73
1930.	The Industrial Engi-	
-	neering Building 88,21	5.04
1931	Education Building : 66,19	3.26

ng.	
1933	Anderson Hall 54,741.59
1934	The Greenhouse 1,217.60
1932	Hermitage 2,477.74
1932	Bellaire 2,477.73
1935	Alta Vista 2,770.10
1936	The Incubator House 1,688.60
1936	The National Youth
	Administration Dorm-
.:	itory for Girls 10,000.00
1937	The National Youth
	Administration Dorm-
	itory for boys 10,000.00
1938	The Gymnasium-Aud-
	itorium 51,487.50
1939	The Dining Hall 90,907.38
1940	Farm Project Unit (2)
	3,718.43

1941	Schuhmacher Hall 50,223.00		
1941	Filling and Fire		
	Station 4,481.38		
1941	National Youth Ad-		
	ministration Dormi-		
	tory No. 3 12,000.00		
1942	New Farm Shop		
	Building 2,297.71		
1943	Sandwich Shop		
	Building		
1944	W. R. Banks		
	Library 175,228.76		
1926-1945 Cottages Appr. 60,000.00			
	961,391.33		
The \$140,000.00 N.Y.A. building and			
tools are not included. They were giv-			
en by the N.Y.A. project.			

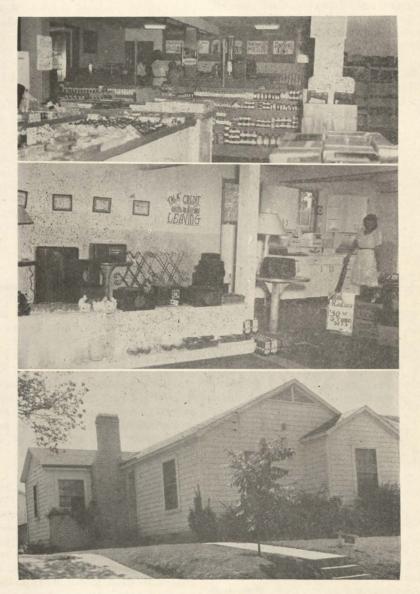
#### The Wedgeworth Drug Store and Home

Mr. and Mrs. Talton Wedgeworth of Paris, Texas are proving that business on a big scale will pay. They have a business which is rated \$30,-000.00 by Dunn and Bradstreet. They can loan up to \$2,500 on home improvment. They advertise daily in Paris News and have "spots" on the local radio station. Their advertising costs \$125 per month. They do not use "Negro" or "colored" in their ads, sales are to and for all comers. American

September-October, 1946

Express Money Order and Postal Stamp service as well as a public telephone booth are some of the services arranged for customers 365 days

Eleven persons are employed daily. All types of electrical supplies are sold by the North Side Drug Store. The store solicits credit business. Mr. and Mrs. Wedgeworth are Prairie View-ites. Mrs. Wedgeworth is the former Miss Annie Bell Rand.



#### Mrs. Nanie Bell Aycox

The newly elected President of Paul Quinn College is Mrs. Nanie Bell Aycox. She hails from Trinity, Texas and is the daughter of Mrs. Hattie M. Jenkins and the late Mr. A. R. Jenkins. Mrs. Aycox is rich in experience and well trained. She has studied at Prairie View, Hampton (B.S.), Tuskegee, University of Illinois, (B.A.) and the University of California (M. A. M. E. Church.

A.). She has received a fellowship from Southern Education Foundation and three scholarships from the General Education Board. She has taught in the public schools of Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas, and has taught in Tillotson College. Samuel Huston, Bishop, Wiley, Prairie View, and Paul Quinn. Her husband, Rev. I. S. Aycox, is a very successful minister in the



#### Mrs. Lottie C. Davis

Mrs. Lottie C. Davis is a graduate of Prairie View in 1931. She was a Homemaking teacher in Columbus. Texas and later a Home Demonstration Agent in Waller County. In 1934 she was married to Mr. Ben H. Davis, of Columbus, Texas. She is a real partner to this outstanding business man. She received a diploma from the Southern School of Embalming in 1937. They own and manage the Davis Drug and Grocery Store, Funeral Home and Burial Association, a Tailoring Shop, a Realty Company, a Cafe and eight rent houses. They employ sixteen Negroes. Twenty-six persons work part time with the burial association's 1000 members. Mr. and Mrs. Davis participate in all civic movements in and near Columbus, Texas.



MRS. NANIE BELL AYCOX

#### The Prairie View Standard

Published monthly during the school year except July and August by Prairie View University, Prairie View College Branch, Hempstead, Texas.

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E. B. EVANS, Managing Editor R. W. HILLIARD, Businses Manager

Acceptance for mailing at special rates of postage provided for in Section 103, Act of October 3, 1917; authorized July 13, 1918.

Subscription Rate-50 Cents Per Year

#### Alumni Association **Elects Officers**

The Prairie View Alumni and Ex-Students Association elected the following officers in the May, 1946 meet-

R. W. Hilliard President Mrs. Jesse Robinson, 1st V. President 2nd V. President I. B. Kemp A. C. Herald Executive Secretary Mrs. Lulu M. White

Corresponding Secretary R. T. Tatum Treasurer Miss Mable Kilpatrick Pianist D. W. Martin Sergeant-At-Arms William Batts Chaplain A. W. McDonald Parliamentarian

The new President praised his predecessor-Mr. H. S. Estelle and called for a drive to organize clubs and increase the membership.

Mr. O. J. Thomas was again named Chairman of the Membership Committee. Dr. Ira T. Hunter was named Chairman of a Committee on Athletics.

#### Homecoming Program

The Prairie View Panthers and the Texas College Steers will hold forth on the gridiron November 9, 1946 at Prairie View. The day will be interesting:

11:00 A.M. . Dedication of Library 1:00 P.M. Parade 2:00 P.M. Kickoff 6:30 P.M. Alumni and Ex-Students

Meeting — Library Auditorium 7:00 P.M.—9:15 P.M. Student Entertainment-Gymnasium 9:45 P.M.—11:55 P.M. Alumni, Ex-Students and Visitors Entertainment, club. Gymnasium

The Local Alumni Club, headed by Dr. E. M. Norris, is sponsoring the parade and the 9:45 P.M. entertainment. The General Alumni Association, headed by Mr. R. W. Hilliard, is sponsoring the 11:00 A.M. and 6:30 program.

#### VARIETY

By R. W. HILLIARD

As is the case each year, the October Standard is dedicated to that throng of Prairie View-ites over the world. Dr. Evans was happy to continue this practice which had its origin under Dr. W. R. Banks.

THE PRAIRIE VIEW STANDARD

We are planning a real old fashioned Prairie View Homecoming here November 9, 1946 when Prairie View meets Texas College at 2:00 P.M. on Blackshear Field. You should arrange to be one of those who witness it. The

program is in this issue.

Dr. Evans has plans for additional Alumni participation in Commencement season. You will hear more about it later.

Beginning with our New Year's program January 1, the Alumni Association will issue membership cards. This will prove to be more satisfactory than the receipt slip.

Organize that city, town or county Prairie View club now. Why wait? We will have a space on our Homecoming Program for you to tell about

Mr. Eugene Jackson and his son, Mr. Raymond Jackson were the first two to pay the 1947 Alumni dues. They are real Prairie View boosters in Fort Bend County. In short they are the first of the 1500 members that we hope to enroll by May, 1947.

In this issue we are featuring a few of Prairie View's tall trees in various fields and various parts of the country. We plan to do this again in April, 1947. In general, these are people whose names and pictures have not reached the press very much.

\* \* \* \* Dr. E. M. Norris has returned from his year's leave and now heads the Local Alumni Club. He headed the Washington-Prairie View club last year. Mr. W. P. Terrell is one of the live wires in that very progressive

Did you know that Mr. Banks awarded 4045 of the 4212 degrees that have been given out in Prairie View's history?

Prairie View has awarded 93 masters degrees.

Speaking of wide awake clubs, the New York Club gave \$60 on the Library Book Drive last May. Some of the officers of that club last year were: Mr. S. H. Fowler, Sr., President; Mr. R.W. Coss (now doing graduate work here)-vice president; Mr. Elmo Hainey, businses manager; and Mrs. Alice P. Shields, assistant secretary; Miss Myrtle Fatherree, secretary; and Dr. W. P. Howard, treasurer. Miss Fatherree is a famous designer. Some of her creations sell for money passing the \$1,000 mark. She plans a trip back to Prairie View soon, I am told. Mr. James D. Brown, Principal and teacher at the Yoakum Colored High School, accepted a new position as Field Scout Executive, after fourteen consecutive years with the said institution. Brown, a graduate of Prairie View, taught hundreds of boys and girls at Yoakum. His new position carries him to the East Texas Area Council Boy Scouts of America. with headquarters in Tyler, Texas. The Veteran teacher is a recent graduate of the 116th National Training School, Mendham, New Jersey.

Mr. A. E. McMillan, former Y. M. C. A. excutive at Houston, will transfer to Waco to head the Y. M. C. A. there. Mr. and Mrs. McMillan are graduates of Prairie View. He was an outstanding tennis star while in college.

Mr. George Lacey, the first secretary for the Port Arthur "Y" is doing an excellent job according to citizens of Port Arthur. He has a broad program which cares for much of the spare time of boys.

Mr. Carl Owens, one of the best musicians ever graduated from Prairie View, accepted a post as assistant to Mr. Bertram Adams at Samuel Huston College. Mr. Owens is one of those rare individuals who plays several instruments, composes and arranges. He graduated in August, 1946.

See you Nov. 9 at 11:00 A.M. when we dedicate the library.

Homecoming will be November 9, 1946. Kickoff at 2:00 P.M. Prairie View and Texas College.

Principal W. R. Banks and Dr. M. L. Edwards were the first two Negroes to serve on a committee for the Governor. This is done quite freely for whites but seldom for Negroes.

#### Dr. Evans

(Continued from Page 1)

September-October, 1946

For example, the Educational Conference became an institution within an institution and thousands came to study and understand what they could see and hear in no other place in the State.

"Without extending his accomplishments further, I must say that I have been enriched and honored to be a subordinate, a fellow servant and a friend. My only regret is that his middle age ran into certain chronological provisions of our retirement act and that he had to move over in order to make room for me.

"Mr. Banks, you have been my adviser, my co-worker, my friend as you have been for so many here and elsewhere. What I have said of you is true because you have had the love, the loyalty, the informed advice and the intuitive wisdom of an exceptionally fine wife and a splended woman, Mrs. Virginia Banks. May you two live long to serve people who admire you for your contributions to character development, to education, to social pride and advancement, to citizenship and to community and national improvement. With you I have become a journeyman in educational study and planning. After my most fruitful contacts with Land-Grant College Presidents as well as Presidents of the leading private colleges for Negroes. I accepted appointment to the Principalship of this institution. I did it with the advice of friends. I did it out of my deep obligation to the Board of Directors and President, to my friend, and to the people of Texas. I did it out of faith in my own ability, in the cooperation and loyalty you employees would show and in the determination of Prairie View students to get a thorough training for the kind of service the expanding Prairie View Community needs."

"... Social economic and educational trends will modify for some time to come, the higher education for Negroes in this country. Prairie View University cannot escape the effects of these national trends. Reconversion. economic and military demobilization, price recontrol and decontrol. efforts to achieve peace on industrial as well as global fronts as well as the nations worst housing shortage will all have their effects.

"... The institution's philosophy will continue that of serving the people of the State and the nation at the points of their greatest needs and of enabling them through general specialized and cultural education to earn

### Prairie View-Dallas Club Royal To P. V.

The Prairie View-Dallas club, headed by Mr. C. A. Walton, prominent citizen of Dallas, gave a royal reception to the Miss Prairie View party of seven and the Prairie View

The Miss Prairie View party went to Dallas, October 13, and were met at the station by Mr. O. B. Lawrence. The party was dined at the Vag Cafe. At 6:00 P.M. they were given a reception at the home of Mrs. Jimmie Ruth Dykes Fields. They also participated in the annual fashionable A. K. A. Ball.

At 8:15 A.M. October 14, Mrs. Charlie L. Brittain-Richardson and Mr. Felix Wilson had a high powered car (with a uniformed chauffeur) call for the Miss Prairie View party (Misses Dorothy Brailsford, Imogene Hill and Lillian Marie Brown and Mrs. B. J. Jordan) and drive them in the parade. At 4:45, the group met the Prairie View special and at the half in the Wiley-Prairie View game, Mr. C. A. Walton crowned Miss Lillian M. Brown, "Miss Prairie

a respectable living and live a respectable life.

"That philosophy accepts change as a natural constructive way of life. It is the opposite of a do-nothing program. It recognizes the existence of grave problems of local, national and global import in each Texas community. Soil erosion, land depletion, poor crops, faulty farm and home management, waste of natural and human resources, inadequate training and placement facilities, low income and poor housing, health, nutritional and recreational provisions. If these are needs the philosophy of Prairie View University is to provide the training and character for socio-civic competence in the leaders and followers in each community.

"... That policy is not one of over expansion or retrenchment. It is one of more efficient utilization of that growing facilities and funds for the realization of sound educational

"... Let us put faith in work. Let us coin love with conduct. Let us match promise with performance. Let us for God's sake and the sake of His people, work together!"



#### Mr. Dee Hodge

Texas and Prairie View are important names at Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Company of Los Angeles, and native son and '30 alumnus Dee Hodge is much of the "reason why." One of the most popular and essential men in his company, he is supervisor in Los Angeles, heading one of the two agency divisions in the city. He has under his supervision five field managers and more than fortythree agents who handle monthly accounts in excess of \$50,000. This necessitates the supervision of two sub-district offices in outlying sections of the city to service clientele in the company's first and largest dis-

Mr. Hodge has held his present position since July, 1944. He joined the firm in 1931 and has risen through progressive steps. Beginning as an agent, he was first made an inspector and then promoted to superintendent in Los Angeles in 1937. His outstanding work and unusual ability in promoting and maintaining harmonious relations among large groups of workers earned the important assignment within his organization. He aided in developing patterns of agency management which resulted in six similar positions in other branches of his firm.

He is married to the former Helen Beavers, sister to Chairman of the Board George A. Beavers, Jr..pnsa Hodge is a junior officer in the firm. holding position of assistant to the president and comptroller.

HOMECOMING Prairie View vs Texas College Saturday, November 9,1946



#### Rev. Ira Benjamin Loud

Ira Benjamin Loud entered the Methodist ministry by joining the West Texas Conference in October, 1933.

Rev. Loud was born in Somerville, Texas, April 3, 1910.

In the Conference he has served as pastor of Cogswell Chapel, Fort Worth, 1933-35; St. Paul's Methodist Church, Calvert, 1935-39; Scott Chapel, Kingsville, 1939-42; District Superintendent of San Antonio District since 1942.

During the four years on the District he has added three new congregations to the District. He has increased the membership of the District from 3,800 to 5,000 members. The salaries of 23 pastors have lifted from \$13,000 in 1942 to \$33,000 in 1946. The General and Annual Conference benevolence has been increased on this wise-in 1942 total giving was \$2,300 -there was a steady increase so that during the Crusade year total benevolence giving from the District was \$30,000.

Rev. Loud is Chairman of the Commission on World Service and Finance for the West Texas Conference. He is also President of the Council of District Superintendents of the New Orleans Area.

The San Antonio District is one of the two in Texas to measure up to the requirements necessary to compensate the employment of a Religious Social Worker, the credit for which goes to Rev. Loud. This District was the first to purchase a District parsonage due to his practical foresight.

Rev. Loud is a leader of great vision and is endowed with a will so fervent and sincere that his personality is contagious to his followers as they champion the work of God. He is a loyal Prairie View-ite.

#### Prairie View Alumni Elects Officers

THE PRAIRIE VIEW STANDARD

The local Alumni Club at Prairie View met September 24, 1946 and elected its slate of officers for the 1946-47 schoole year.

The past President, Mr. R. Hilliard, disqualified himself since he is president of the General Alumni Association. He had served that body 13 of the past 16 years. Mr. J. Clarence Davis, Mr. J. J. Abernathy and Mrs. E. B. Evans served three years of the time. Mr. L. C. Mosley was again elected Treasurer running his string of years to 16 unbroken ones.

The officers of the year are:

President	Dr. E. M. Norris
Vice-President	Mr. M. V. Brown
Secretary	Faye W. McClellen
Assistant	
Secretary	Miss Gertrude Elder
Treasurer	Mr. L. C. Mosley
Chaplain	Mrs. C. E. Carpenter
Pianist	Mrs. C. L. Wilson
Assistant Pianis	t Mrs. T. P. Dooley

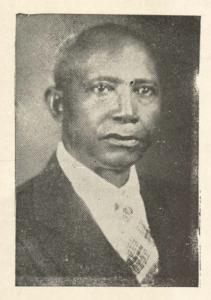
The organization is beginning plans for a gala Homecoming November 9, when Prairie View plays Texas College on Blackshear Field.

#### Prairie View Alumni Writes New Head

The officers of the Prairie View Alumni and Ex-Students Association unanimously pledged support to Dr. E. B. Evans, new principal and expressed confidence in him, according to Mr. R. W. Hilliard president of the Alumni Association. The officers signing the letter were: Mrs. Jessie Robertson, Miss Mable Kilpatrick, Mr. I. B. Kemp, Mr. W. D. Martin, Mr. A. C. Herald, Mrs. Lulu White. Mr. William Batts, Mr. A. W. Mc-Thomas and Mrs. R. W. Hilliard.

The same group sent a letter to Dr. W. R. Banks, expressing their appreciation for his 20 years service and the magnificent job done at Prairie

Originally the plan was to dedicate the September issue to Dr. W. R. Banks and the October issue to exstudents. Shortage of paper delayed the September issue, consequently the two issues have been combined.



#### Prof. W. L. D. Johnson

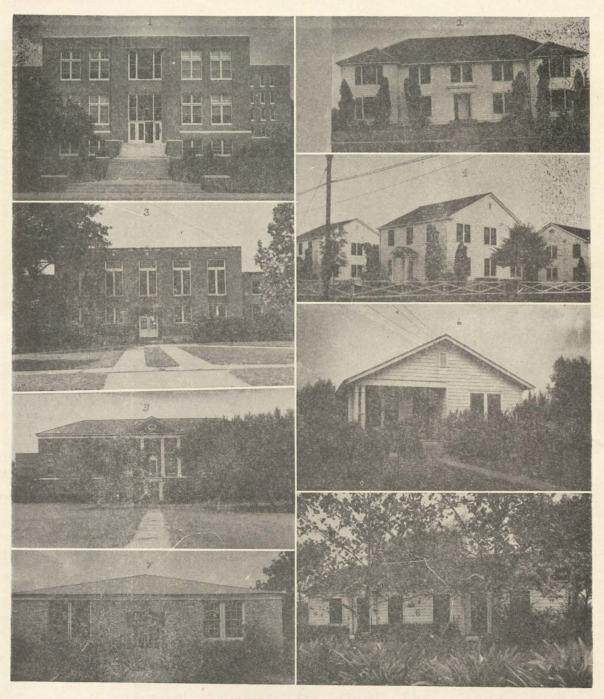
Professor W. L. D. Johnson is principal of E. L. Blackshear Elementary School, Houston, Texas. He is a native of Robinson County, Texas, born on a farm near Calvert. He went to Blackshear school in 1917 when there were only ninety-four pupils and four members of the faculty. At present the school boasts of being the largest school of its kind in the entire city. The present enrollment is thirteen hundred seventy-five pupils. The teaching personnel consists of thirtyfour trained and efficient teachers.

Mr. Johnson is deeply professional and firmly believes that teaching is the noblest of professions and therefore approaches his work with that idea uppermost in his mind. He has been Secretary and President of the Colored State Teacher's Association of Texas.

Mr. Johnson served as Acting Dean of the Houston Colored Junior College following the death of Dean J. T. Fox. He holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from Prairie View Universtiy. He is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and for the past two years was region-

#### Twenty Years With Principal W. R. Banks

In 1926 W. R. Banks became the seventh principal of Prairie View State College. Prairie View has developed along several lines in the past decade and a half. The physical plant has doubled its size, now having four one-hundred-thousand - dollar buildings-the Dining Hall and the Hospital, three apartment houses for men teachers, three dormitories for women, a green house, an incubator



More buildings constructed under Mr. Banks' administration: (1) W. R. Banks Library, (2) One of three N.Y.A. buildings, (3) Gymnasium, (4) Apartments for men employees, (5) Hospital, (6) One of a dozen homes for employees, (7) Farm Shop, (8) One of eight duplexes.

house, a class room building, a new Auditorium-Gymnasium, a new Mechanic Arts Building and over sixty cottages for college families.

A corresponding growth of educational emphasis at Prairie View has taken place in the last fifteen years. One of the significant studies of the period was an exhaustive examination of the objective and purposes of Prairie View College in 1933-34. Out of this study emerged Principal Banks' most often quoted statement: "Prairie View College must serve the state of Texas at the points of her greatest

needs." The establishment of the Prairie View Conference of Education in 1931 is an important event in the history of the College; it illustrates one of the attempts to serve the state at the points of greatest needs. In the twelve years that the Conference has met Prairie View has been host to educators, ministers, business men and women, housewives, social workers, farmers, men and women of Texas from all walks of life. These citievery phase of Texas life, from the facilities for educating Negro citizens to the training of domestic servants.

In the establishment of the Division of Graduate Study in 1937 Prairie View College added another page to its expanding history.

In 1936 when the first of a series of buildings was built to house the N.Y.A. residence center at Prairie View, a new chapter in Vocational Training for youth was opened. The project was originally designed to aid both boys and girls in getting work experience in some desirable field of zens have met together and discussed work. The project was enlarged and made a training center for Negro boys in critical occupations for sup-

(Continued on next page)