

The Normal Eye

"WATCH THE EYE"

Vol. 2. No. 3.

Bowie, Maryland, March Edition

Ten Cents

Vesper Services

Isie Randall, '35

Is the Negro inferior to the whites? This has been the much discussed question for the last three weeks. It was found that there is no inferior race due to the fact that no race is genuine; by that is meant that there has been so much intermingling and inter-marriage that no true racial group remains. It seems that when something outstanding has been done by a mulatto, the whites say he should accomplish great things because of the white blood that is in his veins; but when a black Negro accomplishes something, he surprises the whites in that they feel that a black Negro is too ignorant, too backward, and lacks the initiative to do anything worthwhile.

We have found Mr. Horace Mann Bond, who is the author of "Education of the Negro in the American Social Order," is quite an authority on the Negro. Out of his book the capacity of the Negro was discussed. Some of the things brought out in this discussion was as follows: A test was given to a small group of whites, Indians, and Negroes to determine the quickness of their wits. The Indians were the quickest, the Negroes the median, and the whites the slowest. A memory test was given to two groups, the whites and Negroes. The outcome of this test was that the Negroes excelled the whites. Of course the whites didn't like this and stated that the Negroes that took the test were much older than the whites. We find that if all Negro children had pleasant environments and a good background and brought up where culture and refinement prevail, like most white children the Negro children would, without a doubt, equal or exceed the whites as to brilliancy any time. The children of our race need more cultural surroundings.

The Negro race as a whole is not inferior but it is the feeling of inferiority that he has. We as a race need to lose this feeling of inferiority and have more confidence in one another. When these two things are done, our race will accomplish great things that will cause the white race to sit up and take notice.

Bowie Recognized In Farm Conference

Wilmore Maddox, '35

The Country Life Farm Conference which met at Hampton Institute, Hampton, Va., in 1934 welcomed Bowie's contribution as outstanding. To represent Bowie Mr. Oliver Travers was the selected delegate.

According to reports from Mr. Finley, director, as to the results of his visit, a very active social as well as educational part in the conference was his contribution.

While at the conference Mr. Travers attended an informal reception where he expressed his appreciation of the trip and sang "Trees" as only Mr. Travers can sing it. On Saturday morning, the conference was opened with the reading of a paper by Mr. Travers defending the crop control policies of the A. A. A., which stimulated a lively discussion.

I am sure that I can voice the sentiment of the entire institution that we do appreciate the extended invitation for 1935. Messrs. O. Travers, H. Holland, J. Davis, and Miss H. Beard constitute an advisory committee for the 1935 Conference.

Nursery School Advancement

George Digges, '35

Since the opening of the nursery school on the campus, the parents and faculty have been very cooperative in making it a great success.

In the January issue of "Virginia State Teachers College Bulletin," under the column on "F. E. R. A. Nursery Schools for Negroes," the nursery school located at our own Maryland Normal School was rated the best in the country.

Efforts are being made to better prepare its teachers. Miss Martin, head instructor of the nursery school, has just returned from a recent study in Washington, D. C., accompanied by Miss King who is to assist her during the absence of Miss Edna Brown, Bowie, '34.

Misses Myrtle Johnson, '34 and Edna Brown are now taking a course in research at the school in Washington.

An Opportunity

We hear much these days concerning the need for developing within Negro boys and girls a deep appreciation for the race to which they belong. A very noble beginning has been made toward this development through the annual celebration of Negro History Week. For the opportunity to bring before the race as a whole its achievements by this yearly observance, we render thanks to that never-tiring, staunch defender of his race, Dr. Carter G. Woodson. During Negro History Week we expend our energies presenting plays and pageants depicting certain phases of Negro life. These and other activities, we deem necessary for the development of race consciousness in our girls and boys. Much of value is derived from this general celebration.

Granting that there are gains made, we must also admit that in order to have our attempts become as effective as possible, there must be some means of supplementing and reinforcing those impressions gained. What are some possibilities at the teacher's disposal for accomplishing the desired aim?

Beginning in the primary grades the teacher has at her command opportunities for acquainting her children with those facts concerning the race that will surely be instrumental in helping to develop within them a type of appreciation which one might term basic to the greater appreciation that is to follow. The morning devotionals might be used as a possibility for presenting stories of some outstanding characters whose lives should serve as a torch to those citizens in the making. The illustrious names of Washington, Lincoln, Franklin, Columbus and a few others are usually well known to the children prior to their entering the intermediate grades. Why not add to the list of names those of our own Frederick Douglass, Harriett Tubman, Phyllis Wheatley, Sojourner Truth, Countee Cullen, or Roland Hayes? The morning devotions by no means exhaust the supply of possibilities in this connection. The story hour period and days set aside for the special observance of noted characters may also be utilized. Surely, if such a plan be

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THE NORMAL EYE

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The Needs Of Bowie

Joseph Taylor, '35

We are facing critical conditions. Conditions which we and our predecessors faced in the past no longer exist. These new conditions challenge our best efforts.

To carry on successfully, we need adequate appropriations. The refusal of the state to give us a budget large enough for adequate appropriations has put our educational facilities in great danger. We are in dire need of a larger girls' dormitory. There are four living in a room among the students in addition to seventeen other people. This makes a total of about ninety people living in a building built for fifty-eight.

An architect's estimation of the cost of a building twice this size, by extending the old one, is \$45,000. This would give twice the number of rooms we already have plus a social room and boiler room.

The sewage system has been condemned by the health department. Yet, when we asked for \$4,000 to repair this system, we were denied this nominal fund for such a necessity.

We do need larger appropriations. It is estimated that during normal times, one million or nearly one-third of all Negro pupils of school age are out of school, which condition is partially due to the inadequacy and inaccessibility of Negro educational facilities.

Suggestions

Marie Hawkins, '35

Please pass in Devotional Plans.

Be sure you come to study.

Do not wear high-heeled shoes.

Wear galoshes when it is muddy.

Come to conference every day,

And please do not be late.

Now, when you teach young boys

and girls,

See that they sit up straight.

The bus leaves at 7:45;

Always be there on time.

Go to your breakfast and hurry back

If you don't want to be left behind.

Much depends on what you say—

Do not say "cheer" for chair;

Don't say "git" for get and the like,

For the Critic is sure to hear.

State the question, call the name,

Make all the children think;

But never repeat your answers

Or the Critic'll make your heart sink.

Now Practice Teaching is over,

No more of these things we'll hear.

Our faces will be cheerful and happy

From now to the end of the year.

Girls Quartette

Ella Richardson, '35

On Sunday, February 17, it was "Bowie Day" at Princess Anne. The school was represented by Principal L. S. James, Mrs. Mary W. Law, and the Girls Quartette consisting of Misses Randall, Hall, Elzey, and Turner.

The quartette made a very creditable showing and have already been assigned for an engagement in Fairmount on April 14 and they have accepted.

There is one thing that parents can do to help greatly and that is to write to your representative in the Assembly and ask him if he will ask for the budget which the Bowie Normal School has requested.

We cannot develop to our fullest capacities as individuals equipped to get all that is good and worthwhile out of life except through education. Dependent as we are upon our schools to prepare us for maturity as individuals, we are even more dependent upon them to maintain and develop our democratic form of government. Thus, more adequate appropriations are needed to produce an individual of the society we want—indicating those specific skills, ideals, and attitudes of mind so necessary for getting on in this ever changing world.

An Opportunity

(Continued from page 1)

adopted in the beginning grades when early impressions gained are so significant, one should feel hopeful concerning future achievements.

How shall the work which has been so nobly begun in the primary grades be strengthened as the children advance? Let us not begin building up a defense by declaring that there are no provisions made for teaching Negro History in either the intermediate or upper grades. Even though this be the existing situation, it need not be regarded as an unsurmountable barrier. By means of the history courses that are taught in these grades an ambitious and interested teacher will find it possible to present some essential facts of Negro History to her children. According to Dr. Woodson, the Negro has been connected with nearly every phase of this country's development. As the various periods are being studied in history classes, why not have the children realize then and there that Negroes, too, have made their contributions? In connection with the Period of Exploration and Discovery acquaint the pupils with the fact that Negroes accompanied nearly all of the Spanish explorers to the New World, that they braved the Canadian wilds with the French explorers and Jesuit priests, that a Negro, Estevanico, or Little Stephen, is said to be the rightful explorer of Arizona and New Mexico. Although the present tendency is to place very little emphasis on wars in our teaching of history, there is an opportunity, as these are being briefly discussed, to reveal to the boys and girls that the Negro, too, has always been brave, that he, too, has shed his blood to help avenge the wrong done his country. It would be quite helpful if at the beginning of the school year the teacher would consider the facts that she wishes to include in her units of American History and insert them in the outlines that she intends to follow.

The success, then, of instilling within Negro boys and girls that high regard for the race to which they belong depends largely on the teacher. Realizing the importance of this development, seize every available opportunity to teach your boys and girls that the Negro, too, is a man among men.

Josephine H. Brown
Teacher of History

As The Spotlight Falls On Freshmen I

Nina Honemond, '37

I see Miss Mae Jenkins step out; she is dribbling, now she is passing the ball to Miss Lola Elzey; then Miss Edna Black receives it and—she has made a goal. Although this is their first year at Bowie Normal School, these three members of Freshman I have reached the girls' varsity basketball team. Mr. Allison Claggett has also been able to become a member of the boys' varsity basketball team.

The next number on the program is Miss Myrteal Brown who, I think, will be one of our leading soloists in the near future, as will also Miss Esther Archer who won a prize at the Gay Nineties party for her typical Gay Nineties costume.

Now, Mr. Vaughn Anderson, director of the symphony orchestra, steps out and summons each member of his orchestra to play his respective parts. Then they bow and egress.

The last but not least number is the chapel program on the history of Maryland, which was very commendable. I hope, as a member of the Freshman Class, that they will continue to display their talents.

Nursery School

Under the FERA, a Nursery School has been set up at the Bowie Normal School. The staff members are: Miss F. Martin, head teacher; Miss E. Brown, assistant teacher; Miss M. Goodwin, nurse dietitian.

There are fifteen children enrolled in the Nursery School. Those that are eligible for enrollment are the children whose parents are on the relief fund.

The children are gathered up by the school bus every morning, but not until they have first been looked over by the nurse who goes with the bus to make sure they are well enough to be in school and with other children.

Even though the children come from widely scattered families, those families know what is going on at the nursery school for they are urged to and do visit the nursery frequently. And there are home visits made by members of the staff.

The Nursery School is to serve a four-fold purpose:

1. Care and development of children.
2. Parental education.
3. A demonstration center for the Normal School Students.
4. Limited research.

Football Boys Feted With Annual Banquet

Henry Holland, '35

On the night of Friday, January 18, the heroes of the Bowie gridiron were given an excellent banquet in the B. K. Bruce Hall, for their outstanding work during the fall season.

During the different courses of a most palatable dinner wonderful speeches were given by Professor Davis, Department of Athletics of Howard University; Dr. E. H. Allen, University Physician of Howard University; Oliver Travers, one of the acting captains; and by the Bowie honorary captain, John Davis. The theme of all of these speeches was fight in the aspects of both physical and mental fortitude. From the rounds of applause that were given it was an unquestionable fact that all the speeches were enjoyed.

After the dinner Professor Davis showed the movies which he had taken at all of the major Howard games. Needless to say these pictures received an outburst of applause and comment at various times during their showing.

I am sure I am voicing the sentiment of the group when I say that the banquet will be one to be remembered for many, many years to come.

Illnesses

Esther Archer, '37

The members of the Bowie Normal School are very happy to see Misses Ruth Elzey, Emma Hall, Grace Watson, Marion Shields, and Charlotte Brewer completely recovered after undergoing successful operations for the removal of their tonsils and adenoids.

It seems that after the return from the Christmas holidays the students had to acclimate themselves to the Bowie surroundings once more. It is good to see the following in school again after spending two or three days in the school infirmary: Misses Janie Ross, Gertrude Bowser, Mary Floyd, Matilda Fuller, Rose Thomas, Dorothy Waters, Florence Shelton, Virgie Ridgeley, Winifred Green, Esther Archer; also three faculty members, Misses B. O. Hill, M. Dockett, and Mrs. Law.—Which was it, illness or too much Christmas?

Just a word of loving cheer
To our friends and schoolmates dear,
In your hour of woe and sadness.

Dedicated to the bereft—Mrs. Mary Law, who lost her uncle; Miss Jane Brightful, her grandmother; Miss Josepha Randall, her sister; Mr. Horace Cromwell, his mother; and Mr. Oliver Travers, his father.

Alumni News

George Crawford

1925— Norwood Brown this year completes nine years of successful teaching in Queen Anne County. He is now principal of one of the best graded schools in the county. Mr. Brown is also a very popular young orchestra leader. His orchestra plays for many of the fashionable dances given on the Shore.

William Dorsey, for several years janitor foreman at the Platoon School No. 122 in Baltimore, has recently been transferred to a similar job at school No. 107.

1926— Samuel Mackall was a member of the class of 1926. Most of us remember him as a long, lanky, and jolly fellow. He has been working at the Sheppard Hospital for four years. It is reported that he is one of the most dependable men at the institution.

Aifred Waters, B. S., Morgan College '31 and M. A., Columbia University '34, is principal of the Junior High School at Frankford, Delaware. He is making plans to matriculate at the University of Chicago this summer to begin study on his doctor's degree.

1927— Ralph Waters, B. S., Morgan College '31, has accepted a teaching position in St. Mary's County at Jarboesville. He is principal of the graded school there. His wife, Mrs. Luella Nutter Waters, of the Class of 1928, is his assistant.

1928— Bessie Harris is one of the few Bowie graduates teaching in Cecil County.

1929— Joshua Gregg, formerly a teacher at Westminster, Md., is now located at Sparks, Md., Baltimore County.

Leon Taylor has a teaching position in Queen Anne County. He is working for his degree at Pennsylvania University in Philadelphia.

1930— Talbot Davenport, for several years a teacher at Winfield, Md., Carroll County, is now working as a janitor at a Towson Apartment.

Sterlyn Brown is taking extension courses at Morgan College for credit toward the advance teacher's certificate.

1931— Elmer Myers is principal of the Johnsville graded school. It has been reported that he is one of the strongest elementary school principals in the State. He attended summer school at Hampton last summer.

1932— Miss Gladys Sheppard is taking extension courses at Morgan College for credit toward the advance elementary teacher's certificate.

My Aim

Carrie Bowser, '37

To always do the best I can
What e'er my task may be;
To show to each and every man
The good that lies in me.

To help some comrade on his way
When he hath fallen low;
A sunny smile from day to day
To help him onward go.

I'll always try to do my part
When hours may darkest be;
To lighten some one's heavy heart
So day-light he may see.

This old world is broad and great,
'Twas made for every race of man.
So friends, don't let it be too late
To airways do the best you can.

Jokes

Morgan Jones, '35

The Eye Sees All—Knows Nothing
M. S. and M. F. were studying at
the same table.

M. S.—Have you finished at this
table?

M. F.—I didn't say I was.

M. S.—Since you are so bright, your
mother should have named you sun-
shine.

English teacher—Why do we use
the form "we" instead of "us" in the
sentence, "I am going down town to
get the track shoes that we fellows
ordered"?

Vaughn Anderson—Because the
verb "to be" doesn't take an object
and "we" is a part of the verb "to be."

Mrs. Law—What are the forms of
the verb "to be"?

R. F. B.—Am, were, was been, is
been, and were been.

Miss Dockett—where do the earth-
worms come from?

G. G. B.—It rains earthworms.

J. F. D. while reading in English
was asked by the teacher to stop at
periods, please. Mr. J. D. answered
by saying, "I didn't see them periods."

Miss Lewis, our geography teacher,
asked R. P. H. what was the outstand-
ing iron center in the State of Illi-
nois.

R. P. H. responded by saying
"Detroit"

J. F. D., in seconding a motion,
stated that "I move that in the sec-
ond motion."

Teacher—What signature on Amer-
ican pottery signifies quality?

Bright Joseph Taylor—"China."

Teacher—There is a place in Africa
where we get the very best leather
and the leather has the same name as
the place from which it comes. Where
is the place and what is its name?

Oliver Travers—"Congo."

Hampton Institute Honors Bowie Graduate

The following is a copy of a letter
received by Mr. Joseph A. Wiseman
from Mr. Wm. Anthony Aery, Direct-
or of School of Education at Hamp-
ton Institute.

Dear Mr. Wiseman:

It seems entirely proper, in
view of the very good record which
you made during the first half of
the year, that I express my appre-
ciation of your effort to help us
improve the quality of scholarship,
not only in the school of Educa-
tion, but in the entire Collegiate
division of Hampton Institute.

Cordially yours,

Wm. Anthony Aery

Senior III's Outstanding In Social Activities

Russell Lowell Hayward, '35

To foster better social activities
in the school the Senior III class gave
a Musicales and Tea that can't be
beaten. The tea was given on the 24
of January.

The program consisted of selections
from the most famous soloists of the
campus, accompanied by Miss Robin-
son. These were as follows: Miss Laura
V. Turner, Miss Virginia James, Mr.
Oliver Travers, Mr. George Diggs,
Jr., Mr. Randolph Brooks, and Mr.
Rogers Spry. Other participants on
the program were Mr. Jennings and
Mr. Butler. The program was arrang-
ed so as to permit dancing between
selections. To put the icing on the
cake, Miss Charlotte B. Robinson, the
music director, sang a solo, accom-
panied by Miss Mary E. Law.

To add to the entertaining efficien-
cy of the program there were twelve
tables located in the auditorium with
chairs placed around them. Each
table held a horoscope for one par-
ticular month. On entering each per-
son went to the table that held the
month in which his or her birthday
occurred and discussed it with others
falling under the same sign.

In voicing the sentiment of the
program committee I would like to
thank the participants from the bot-
tom of my heart. The program was
very enjoyable and as a result every-
one had a fine time.

Second Year Senior Class

Emma D. Hall, '35

The Senior class of the second year
has organized the 4H Club. The offi-
cers are as follows: Miss Emma D.
Hall, President; Mr. Rogers Wormley,
Vice President; Miss Ruth Elzie, Sec-
retary; Miss Sarah Brooks, Assistant
Secretary.

Shadows Of Charm

Waverly C. Jennings, '35

A caravan of charm is heading its
way through the school, destined to
leave in each place of contact seeds
of enjoyment and appreciation. Under
the glamour of its pageantry and the
glitter of its trappings are concealed
the forces that create love and in-
spiration.

This caravan is the orchestra, the
organization which supplies the
melodic momentum and scintillating
rhythm to make your day sublime.

For several Sundays the augmented
orchestra has added the finishing
touches to vesper programs.

Music speaks a universal language.
Ralph Butler has used its extensive
vernacular beyond realization in his
original composition, "My Dream
Last Night," with lyrics furnished
by Oliver B. Travers and the arrange-
ment in the capable hands of Miss C.
B. Robinson, this selection is a super-
feature.

The orchestra added the compli-
mentary closing to Negro History
Week on Friday, February 15'h. The
repertoire largely included selections
by colored composers.

In the minds of you who, fortunatel-
ly, heard this program there has been
perpetuated a feeling of love, confi-
dence, appreciation, and racial under-
standing that will linger a little
longer than all you have seen or
heard.

Teacher- Student Party

John Davis, '35

The biggest movement to bring the
teachers and students at Bowie Nor-
mal School together socially, was a
birthday party given Wednesday
evening, January 30, in the auditor-
ium for the teachers who have had,
or will have, a birthday in the school
year of 1934-35. The party was very
enjoyable with the presence and par-
ticipation of the entire faculty in the
plays and games.

To Give You Better Work

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