

## Highland Park News-Letter

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RALPH L. LEE, Manager

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SATURDAY, MAR. 9 1907

### Reply To An Open Letter

DEAR MR. EDITOR:

I wish to commend the purpose of the writer whose communication in last week's issue of the NEWS-LETTER, signed "Patriotic Citizen," called attention to the importance of instilling respect and patriotism into the minds and hearts of children. His statement, however, as to the non-observance by the schools of the birthdays of Lincoln and Washington and the a parent neglect of the flag so unfairly represents the situation that I am sure he will be pleased to have his communication supplemented by a correct statement of what is being done here.

The Grammar School regularly observes four patriotic occasions: Lincoln's Birthday, Washington's Birthday, Decoration Day, and Flag Day. The school exercises are held in the afternoon immediately preceding each of the above days except the last, because the rules of the Board of Education make each of those days a school holiday.

The approach of Lincoln's Birthday this year as usual, was marked in various rooms by the study of important facts in the life of Lincoln. Then on the afternoon of February 11th all the pupils of the school assembled in the auditorium to sing patriotic songs and listen to an illustrated talk. The principal told the pupils how Lincoln's great work of freeing the negro was being continued by such men as Booker Washington and his associates, and he threw on the screen and carefully explained nearly one hundred views of Tuskegee and its student life.

On the afternoon of February 21 the pupils again assembled in the auditorium, this time to listen to recitations by some of the pupils of material appropriate to the occasion, this including Lincoln's Gettysburg address and selections from Lowell's the Old Elm. Then the principal threw on the screen in succession forty colored views of points of interest in and about Mount Vernon and the city of Washington. The lantern slides were the property of Rev. R. A. White of Englewood, who had himself used these same slides on the morning of that day in a lecture in Chicago.

Besides observing Decoration Day in the usual manner last May, the school sent a chorus of twenty voices to Fort Sheridan and furnished all the music at the services there. Flag Day was celebrated on the school lawn and with due ceremony, another star was fastened in the blue field of the flag in anticipation of the incoming of the state of Oklahoma.

Patriotic Citizen will no doubt be pleased to learn that the flag is very much in evidence every day the school is in session. For instance all the pupils that are in the building, at the time of noon dismissal march down to the main entrance with flag bearers at the head of each group. When the last landing is reached the flag bearers pause with their flags at salute while their room

mates file out between the double row of flags, an avenue, as it were, of the stars and stripes. A similar ceremony attends the assembling of all the pupils at exercises in the school auditorium and gala occasions are invariably marked by the flag parade at dismissal.

JESSE L. SMITH.

The territory, of which Mr. R. G. Salyards, the oldest Marble and Granite dealer in Lake County, will be that of Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky, in which he will solicit his orders. Excepting small orders which are manufactured here, the large monuments are shipped direct from the quarries.

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8-3w

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