

1903

Virginia State School for Colored Deaf & Blind Children

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This Clipping From
NORFOLK, VA.
VIRGINIAN-PILOT

FEB 25 1955

**Colored Deaf and Blind
School Sees Pay Rais**

Richmond, Feb. 24 (P)—Dowell J. Howard, State superintendent of public instruction, received permission today to work out a pay raise for teachers at the State School for the Colored Deaf and Blind by about \$200 a year.

The State Board of Education empowered Howard to draw up the new schedule, which would provide comparable raises for supervisors, principals and educational directors at the school.

The school is located at Newport News.

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Cl. ID 99,877)

This Clipping From
RICHMOND, VA.
NEWS LEADER

OCT 21 1955

**School Costs
\$1,250 Per Pupil**

Virginia operated her two schools for deaf and blind children during 1954-55 at an average per capita cost of \$1,250, according to the State Department of Education.

The Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind, at Staunton, spent \$528,835 for operations in caring for an enrollment of 462, giving it a per capita cost of \$1,219.

The Virginia State School for Colored Deaf and Blind Children at Newport News reported operating costs of \$272,632, with an enrollment of 179, resulting in a per capita cost of \$1,523.

Per capita cost figures were computed in a report to Dowell J. Howard, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, from the education department's division of rehabilitation and special education. In each case, the computation excluded money spent for capital outlays.

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Gr. (D. 10-119)
This clipping from
NEWPORT NEWS, VA
TIMES HERALD
MAY 21 1956



COMMENCEMENT PRINCIPALS—Today's finals at the Virginia State School for the Deaf and Blind in Hampton were piloted by Dr. Howard Thurman, main speaker; Dr. W. M. Whitehead, school superintendent; Dr. J. Dett Marshburn, Peninsula pastor; Dr. C. Waldo Scott, Newport News School Board member, and Dean Thomas Hawkins of the State school.

Toledo Day-School.—The Toledo Day-School has been divided into separate units. Three classes for the totally deaf, 26 pupils and three teachers, are maintained at Lincoln School Building. The other units have been moved to various parts of the city, one in the Franklin School, another in the Harvard School Building, and a third in Robinson Junior High School. All of these classes are under supervision of the state department of education.

✓ *Virginia School for Negro Children.*—The Virginia State School for Colored Deaf and Blind Children in Newport News—the new post office address is Hampton, Virginia—will be staffed with an all-Negro personnel at the close of the current school year. This change has been voted by the State Board of Visitors. Mr. William H. Whitehead, personnel dean and secretary on admissions at St. Paul School, Lawrenceville, Virginia, was recently named by the state department of public instruction to succeed the present incumbent, Mr. Stahl Butler, as superintendent, when the present school year closes.

Vol. 85 1940

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TELEPHONE 1118-18TH ST.

Intended for *Deaf News*
15 "O wad some power the giftie gi'e us
To see oursel's as ithers see us."

HENRY ROMEIKE, Inc.

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TIME DISPATCH

From

Address

Date

TH RICHMOND, VA.
NOV 29 1903

A Neglected Duty.

The House Finance Committee on Friday last considered a bill offered by Mr. Cumming to establish the "Virginia State School for Education of the Colored Deaf and the Colored Blind." A number of prominent citizens addressed the committee on the subject, but no conclusions were reached. The bill will have another hearing at the meeting of the committee to-morrow.

William C. Ritter, president of the Virginia Association of the Deaf, has by investigation ascertained that there are in the State of Virginia 281 negro children who are either deaf or blind, and the State makes no provision for their instruction. The proposal to establish a school in the interest of these afflicted children has been approved by the Board of Visitors of the Institution for the Deaf and Blind at Staunton, by the Methodist Conference, by the State Baptist Association and by a large number of prominent citizens throughout the Commonwealth. It is hardly creditable to Virginia that no provision is made for colored children who are thus afflicted, while she is spending \$40,000 a year for the deaf and blind children of the white race.

No persons are more entitled to our pity and sympathy than those who are deprived of their sight or their powers of speech and hearing. It is bad enough for a white child to be thus afflicted. It is even worse for the negro child, for such a child has no chance in Virginia to get an education, and must almost inevitably grow up a pitiful dependent upon somebody's bounty, or a public beggar. This is especially true of the blind.

Virginia cannot afford longer to neglect her duty in this direction. Her finances are now in good condition, and provision should be made at once for the education of negro children who are dependent of sight or the power of speech and hearing.

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REPUBLIC

From

Address

Date

TH ST. LOUIS, MO
OCT 31 1903

CONTRACTS FOR MODEL SCHOOL.

Committee to Demonstrate Methods of Educating the Deaf and Blind.

It was announced yesterday that the Exhibit Committee of the Convention of American Instruction of the Deaf has approved contracts for furnishing the model schoolrooms in the Educational building at the World's Fair, and the dormitories where the children who take part in the exhibit are to be cared for.

In the rooms will be a model kitchen, in which food will be prepared for the deaf and blind pupils. Other paraphernalia, such as pipe organs, lathes, printing presses and relief maps, used in the system of education, will be installed.

"Helen Keller Day" at the Exposition will be especially devoted to the deaf and blind exhibits and demonstrations. A general invitation has been extended to all deaf-blind pupils to be present on that day.

The committee intends to make its exhibit one of the most interesting on the grounds. Visitors will be able to see the different classes in operation, illustrating the ingenious methods used to teach the "unusual child."

It will be possible to see how the deaf are taught to speak, the blind to read, and to inspect the industrial classes where the children are prepared for their life work.

An interesting feature will be the music programme given by the blind. Chorus of deaf girls will render songs in the sign language, keeping time with the music by reading the lips of the blind girls, who are singing the same songs.

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SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

THE BLIND,

Staunton, Virginia.

MARCH 15, 1904.

D. EURITT, Editor.

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THE BILL appropriating \$250,000 to renovate and enlarge the Virginia State Capitol has been signed by Governor Montague, and the dignified old building will soon be dismantled. Only the historic associations that cluster around the venerable pile have preserved it thus far unchanged, but now, at last, sentiment must make some concessions to modern requirements.

In the improvements that are to be made the outlines of the present building are to be preserved as far as possible, but the interior will be rearranged, and two wings will be built for the Senate Chamber and the House of Delegates. The present Capitol is a modified reproduction of the Maison Carree, at Nismes, France, and the design was suggested by Thomas Jefferson. The plain old building has often suffered by comparison with the more costly and more showy capitols of other states, but the more one studies its classic style of architecture, and the perfection of its proportions, the more he sees in it to admire. The Capitol was begun in 1785 and was not completed, until 1792, though it was occupied by the General Assembly on the 19th of October 1789, the eighth anniversary of the battle of Yorktown. In the rotunda can be seen the celebrated statue of Washington by Houdon; the famous French sculptor of that period, which is considered by critics the finest effigy of Washington in existence.

The walls of the old building have echoed the oratory of Webster and Clay, and in the chamber of the House of Delegates John Marshall presided during the trial of Aaron Burr. It was the Capitol of the Southern Confederacy, and there General R. E. Lee received his commission as commander of the Virginia troops.

In 1870, while the Legislature was in session, a disaster occurred in the building which shocked the whole country, and carried grief into many Virginia homes. The chamber of the Supreme Court of Appeals was then above the hall of the House of Delegates, and while the court room was crowded with people interested in the trial of a contested election case, the floor gave way and fell with its burden upon the assembled House of Delegates. Sixty-five persons were killed and about two hundred wounded.

Commission For Colored Deaf and Blind School.

There will not be a school for the colored deaf and the colored blind children in the State of Virginia for three more years at least—not unless there is an extra session of the Legislature next year or at any time before the next regular session in January, 1906.

Since November 10, 1904, three different measures have been introduced in the State's legislative halls looking to the establishment of a school. Two of these have died in committee and all efforts to resurrect them have been unavailing. It is true the first of these measures did

succeed in getting a hearing before the House Finance Committee, and whose meeting there appeared Hon. J. H. Lindsay and Mr. Samuel H. Miller, a committee representing the Board of Visitors of the Staunton white School; Prof. John E. Ray, Superintendent of the North Carolina white blind, and colored deaf and blind institutions; and the writer, besides Hon. S. Gordon Cumming, of Hampton, the original patron of the bill, who had it in charge and made heroic attempts to push the matter along. The committee set another date for further consideration of the matter, but two years' work of the session called by the Constitutional Convention had worn out most of the legislators, and there were no further hearings on the measure.

At the convening of the new Legislature, January 13th last, a new course was decided upon. Mr. Cumming was no longer in the body, and Hon. J. N. Stubbs was prevailed upon to become the patron. A few days after the opening session he introduced a resolution calling upon the committees on schools and colleges and public institutions and education to investigate and report upon "the expediency of establishing a school for the colored deaf and the colored blind." Efforts to get a hearing on this resolution have all been unavailing.

Ten days ago—aware of the fact that the session of the Legislature was rapidly drawing to its end, and fearing nothing would be done in the colored school matter for another two years—after a long conference with Mr. Stubbs, it was suggested to him that an attempt be made to get the two branches to agree upon the appointment of a special commission to investigate, report and recommend to the next session—extra or regular—the matter as they find it to exist. He agreed with the suggestion at once, and in a couple of days introduced the third measure in the form of a resolution, the provisions of which are that the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, appoint from the respective bodies three members, the six to constitute a special commission to investigate the needs of the school for the colored deaf and blind of the State, to recommend a location for for same and the probable cost of the necessary buildings, and the number and amount of bonds to be given the school.

The resolution was advanced to the calendar of the House and will no doubt pass. It will then go to the Senate, where it will likely be able to get through also. This is the last week of the legislative session, and business is congested in both branches, but is being pushed along on fast schedule now. There is hope now that Virginia, within three or four years, at the longest, have a creditable institution for training the colored deaf and blind, independent of our white school—not a "department" and a mere "shack," as a gentleman who recently traveled through the South told me he found

the majority of colored deaf and blind schools to be. North Carolina has the best colored school of all the States. Virginia will make her look to her laurels.

RITTER.

Hampton, March 7, 1904.

Items of Interest to the Deaf.

Miss Lula B. Mankin's many friends will sympathize deeply with her when they learn that her mother died February 17th very suddenly—after an illness of only about two hours. Miss Lula and her father and mother were visitors in Staunton last October.

Mr. Elmer Akers and Miss Alma Dickerson, ex-pupils of the School, were married in November. Mr. Akers is doing well as a farmer in Franklin county. A deaf brother of his was killed on the Chesapeake & Ohio railway in 1883. The two boys having just been admitted as pupils, started out one foggy October morning to walk home, as they thought they could do—selecting the railroad track, of course. The surviving brother suffered severe injuries, the other being instantly killed.

Mr. Homer P. Flaherty now holds a case in the office of the Clifton Forge *Review*. Homer learned the tailoring trade at school and when he left "picked up" the printing trade.

Miss Marie Hart, of Richmond, has a good position in the extensive book bindery of L. H. Jenkins, on West Broad Street in Richmond—a position she has held since before Christmas.

A Hampton gentleman who recently visited Roanoke saw a deaf young lady among the force in Hammond's bookbindery in that city. His recollection of her features enables her friends to conclude that she is Miss Sadie Skeggs, a former pupil of the School.

Miss Susie Hart, of Fauquier county, has been spending the winter with her sister in Portsmouth, and has been an occasional visitor to Newport News and Hampton.

Miss Nora Horton, who went to Baltimore just before the holidays, remained at Franklin Hospital only two weeks, but in that time her general health improved greatly.

Mr. George Davis has moved his family to Newport News from Norfolk, he having secured a good position in the shipyards.

Miss Jessie Guinn, of Newport News, is in Danville, visiting her brother and friends. She will remain there a month and expects to take back with her Miss Binford, a former schoolmate.

Miss May Barrow is back at her place in Meyers Bros' department store in Newport News. She was away on a visit to her father and sisters in Farmville at the time of the illness and death of Miss Lavinia Argabright.

J. W. Allen, who completed the course at the Staunton School in 1901, is now employed as mechanical engineer by Lane Brothers Company, Contractors, and is at work near Strasburg, Va.