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"Tis neither birth, nor wealth, nor state, but the 'get-up-and-get' that makes men great

VOL. 10. BAIRD, CALLAHAN CO., TEXAS FRIDAY, JULY 16, 1897. NO. 32

DEEP CREEK DOTS.

July 13.—The private school of Miss Annie Harris at the Cedar Grove schoolhouse closed last week, and from all sides we learn that the lady introduced herself as a teacher of superior ability in this community.

The candidates for the different schools are just getting out thickly and in abundance. Trustees, take your time and remember the standard even for the average teacher has changed materially these last years. Don't go by recommendations, not even from the father of the girl. You know the best way to get rid of a fellow is to give him a recommendation. In this way he is unloaded upon another community. Now would you favor a kind of practical test that is to sum up a dozen scholars and have the candidates all together. You would find out quickly how they can handle their pupils. Another point in the public school business: I don't think that the trustees have the right to delegate their right of selecting a teacher back to the community. You elect the trustees especially for this purpose and every body knows that three men will make a better choice than a crowd of 20 or 25 voters with all kind of personal, special and individual interests.

D. J. Rowden and Jeff Green moved their dwelling houses last week to a more convenient location. "Phi-Morgan" bossed the job with H. B. Brantley as an able assistant and as usual the neighbors were there.

Miss Annie Harris who holds a first class certificate of the state of Arkansas is attending the Normal at Baird.

Prof. Thos. Dawkins left Sunday for Merkel where he is going to act as one of the instructors (mathematics and physics if I am not mistaken) at the Normal.

Burr Asherbranner, of Cottonwood,

is one of the pupils at the Baird Normal.

Born unto Mr. and Mrs. John Tatum on Friday last a girl. We congratulate.

Now I have to confess to something. It is exactly 10 years since I blacked my shoes in the evening to attend a social entertainment. Last Friday I did it again and went to the party at the R. J. Harris place, and never felt sorry about it. You know my natural bashfulness with the fair sex is a kind of a drawback for your humble scribe, but among the genial and pleasant surroundings of that evening I overcame it. Having taken a general survey of the premises I said to Geo. S., my brother in the line of single blessedness. "Suppose we were 20 or 30 years younger would we not pitch into the business and give the boys some pointers?" Now George is one of the best boys in the county and really a plum in the matrimonial market—only second to Jim and Henry L.—and then and there he hugged his fiddle and smiled a smile that has to go on record. It reminded me of the fox who after craning his neck and smacking his tongue suddenly found that the grapes way up in the tree were sour. Nothing daunted I plunged into the wave of pleasure and high temperature, but I have to confess again that in nearly every case I made some advance I found very soon that I was one too many. Never mind it really did me good to see the sparkling glittering eyes of the girls, who seem to take to sparking like a duckling to water. Hurrah for the youth, the glorious happy youth, with all the bright prospects or light but hurrah also for the people in advanced years who have kept their youthful feelings. And don't you forget it: the only way to live long is to never get old.

Several gentlemen went from Baird to Cottonwood to attend the memo-

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rial day of the I. O. O. F. We noticed Dr. Ramsey and his interesting family also C. J. Wilson, the ex-editor of the Prodigal or editor of the ex-Prodigal don't know really which is which.

As you are advertising yourself as the only paper in Callahan County please let us have a paper that fills the bill in every direction. You can not please every body and you never will do it but you can and will keep up a high standard for THE STAR.

Our mountains are covered with an abundance of plums and the ladies are after them for preserves. Our mountains harbor some nice gardens also and that kind hearted and esteemed young lady who brightened the home of the lone bachelor by an exquisite collection of flowers with understanding when I say from the depth of my heart. Thank you. H. B.

On July 4th, the Spring Gap Singing Society—Prof. T. H. Branscum leader—made its first bow before a greater public and allow me to say right here that the members of the

class and the whole neighborhood can and feel justly proud over the success of the day. Every house in the valley was represented by a full delegation and a number of friends from Cottonwood, Cross Plains, Baird etc were welcome and honored visitors. A very conservative estimate places the number of people on the grounds at 500 at least and it was the most orderly and best humored assemblage of that size in Callahan County.

At about 11 o'clock order was called and Rev. H. C. Martin opened in the true and good old fashion with prayer. Then the singing began and as it would too much time to go in specialties in suffices to say that the whole programme was rich and well selected and generally well executed. When we consider that the singing was an open air singing that the arbor was nearly overcrowded and that grave acoustic difficulties were to be overcome we heartily and sincerely congratulate the performers upon their skill and their manifest devotion to the noble art. Here are the names

of the gentlemen who led the different numbers and to whom is due full credit for their energetic co-operation: Prof. T. H. Branscum, A. L. Golightly of Tecumseh, Prof. Ross Norton, of Cottonwood, Oscar Taylor and A. J. Matthis. Entitled to especial praise are all the lady singers indeed I doubt if there had been any success without the active interest shown by the fair sex. But the ladies who presided at the organ deserve the highest praise. Here are the names: Misses Annie Harris, May Weeks, Pearl Smartt and Emma Dawkins, and may your shadows never grow less.

Shortly before dinner Prof. Cape Griffin made upon request a few appropriate remarks in honor of the occasion and of the day. I acknowledge it most cheerfully that the Professor was not loaded with the cheap oratorical fire crackers of the professional fourth of July speaker and these remarks he made about the educating and elevating influence of music were heartily indorsed by his hearers.

As to the dinner—well this community is never anything by halves and when the whole crowd had done full honors to the temptingly prepared viands there was left enough to feed another crowd of the same size and appetite.

It is my duty to give also the names of the young men who cleaned and fixed up the arbor prepared the seats etc: Messrs Branscum, John, Thos. and Joe Harris took a conspicuous part in the work of arrangement and also Mr. H. Finch, Sr. while Messrs Rowden and Smedley endeared themselves to their neighbors by their care for an abundant and nice water supply.

And now I beg to call attention to two points.

1st, By all means let us keep up the Singing school. You know country life is sometimes somewhat dull; the

work is partly monotonous and tedious and therefore we ought to cultivate and encourage anything that would give to our life the charm of refinement and higher aspirations. Besides the mixed choir brings the young men and ladies together, and who can deny that the subtle and noble influence of true womanhood is a great factor in ennobling the character and elevating the general standard of mankind? Let us keep Prof. Branscum who revived the interest in singing, served faithfully and without hardly any recompensation and the progress will be still more satisfactory.

2nd, Last Sunday has shown again that our accommodations for a larger meeting are not adequate at all. Even divine worship is suffering under this disadvantage as the young men and boys have to stay outside of the meeting house and you know how boys are. The Lord's grace is again smiling upon us. Then why not go to work and erect a commodious and substantial building with a seating capacity for at least 400 people on a well selected spot with plenty of shade trees for the teams etc? The writer subscribes \$50 toward it and that public spirited citizen, R. J. Harris is willing to follow with the same amount and donate grounds. F. J. Walker offers some of his land also to have a nice and convenient lot with plenty shade and fresh air. Everybody to whom I spoke to about it is willing and ready to do his share. The last Sunday has shown what this community can do and success will never fail if there is a little goon will and hearty cooperation of all.

H. B.

Baird will endeavor to wrestle the championship of West Texas from the Midland base ball team next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Attend and you will see the best games of the season. Admission 25 cents. Ladies free.

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