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SUNDAY MORNING. THE PHILADELPHIA TIMES. FEBRUARY 23, 1896. 5

MISS NELLA RIDGEL
Principal of Wenonah School.

A GALA DAY FOR WENONAH

PRESENTATION OF THE TIMES PRIZE PIANO TO THE SCHOOL.

BEAUTIFUL EXERCISES HELD

The Piano Won by the Wenonah School in the Recent Times Contest Was Presented Yesterday in the Picturesque Wenonah Inn—All the Inhabitants of the Place Attended the Exercises—Darwin G. Fenno, Managing Editor, on Behalf of The Times, Presented the Piano, and It Was Accepted on Behalf of the School by Charles M. Wilkins, President of the Board of Directors—The Other Addresses.

If there was ever a happy, pretty, expectant gathering of school children in the State of New Jersey they were the pupils of the Wenonah Public School, yesterday afternoon, as they assembled in the picturesque Wenonah Inn to take part in the presentation exercises of The Times prize piano, won by them in the recent contest. Every face was wreathed in smiles and the little voices looked proud of themselves, their teachers, their Board of Directors, their school, their pretty town and particularly of their handsome prize piano. They were amply entitled to the pride they enjoyed, too, for they had created an occasion which will not only remain long fresh in the memory of those who were present, but which will stand as one of the most important and enjoyable events in the history of Wenonah.

The presentation of the piano had been joyfully anticipated ever since the contest closed and Wenonah was announced the victor. Nor were the pupils of the school alone in their expectations, for their parents, friends, the city officials, and in fact every resident in the beautiful New Jersey suburb shared the pleasure and pride that the winning of the prize carried with it, and all joined in making the presentation exercises impressive. Their efforts were a grand success.

The Picturesque Inn.

The day selected for the presentation was not only one of the most perfect in the nation's history, but an ideal winter's day. The sun shone brightly and while the warming rays of the sun counteracted the effect of the chilly blasts and sent the blood tingling through the veins. When The Times special car arrived at Wenonah shortly after 2 o'clock the party on board was met at the station by Mayor William J. Dawson and others, who escorted them to the Wenonah Inn. This delightful summer hotel is reached from the station through a picturesque park laid out with flagstone walks, and its boundaries are marked with carefully-kept shrubbery, while the walks are prettily dotted with trees and vegetation. The Inn itself is an ideal summer resort. Surrounded on all sides by undulating lawns, which in the summer are strewn with artistically-shaped flower beds, in numerable small fountains, and shaded by beautiful trees, it affords attractions said not to be found combined.

Riding through the pretty park the visitors were taken across the broad veranda that surrounds the Inn and ushered into the handsome rotunda where the exercises were to take place and the presenting of the exercises. Log wood fires crackled merrily in the open fireplaces, and seemed to extend a cordial welcome.

The Scene Before the Presentation.

The uncommon room where the presentation took place was both artistically and patriotically decorated. At either end of the room, and directly in the centre, were draped gracefully to the middle so that the folds at the ends extended almost from floor to picture ceiling. On the capital of each pillar in the room small American flags were crossed, and the windows were similarly decorated. A platform was erected at the western end of the room, and to the north of which stood the prize piano, a handsome cabinet Knox upright from the warerooms of C. J. Heppe & Son, which was covered with an American flag. On the face of the piano case there was artistically carved "The Philadelphia Times," and below was the word "Wenonah."

The most attractive feature of the occasion, however, was the happiness of the children, and their pleasure was unbounded. They were seated facing the platform, every boy and girl having pinned on their breast the insignia of their school, a piece of crimson and gold ribbon, which, by an odd coincidence, are the colors of The Times Eight O'Clock Club. They were attended by Miss Hilla Ridgel, principal of the Wenonah School, and her assistants, Miss Taylor and Miss Hemphill. Behind the children were their parents and friends, who occupied every available space in the room.

Those on the Platform.

On the platform were a score or more chairs occupied by men and women prominent in all walks of life, and although many of them were in no way identified with the Wenonah School or the pretty suburb, they shared the happiness of those who were, and evidenced their interest by their presence. Among them were Stephen Greene, the well-known printer; Wm. L. Webb, supervising principal of the George W. Schlegel School of the Second section; W. J. Cooley, supervising principal of the M. Hall Lee, supervising principal of the M. Hall Stratton School; Miss Elizabeth Cooley, supervising principal of the Carnell School; Miss Elizabeth Hamilton, Miss Caroline H. Hamilton and P. L. Dennis, representing the Palmyra School, who also won one of the pianos in the contest; C. M. Wilkins, president of the Wenonah School Board, together with the following members: William J. Dawson, E. L. Farr, H. Arthur, Dr. H. A. Stout, Mrs. Frank Cook son, Mrs. J. K. Scholtz, Mrs. J. M. Johnson, Jr., and E. C. Ballenger; Professor and Mrs. H. Hughes, of Woodstown; F. W. Hurff and T. W. Andrews, of Woodbury; Charles Peddle, John R. Peddle, Thomas Peddle, Jr., and Miss Peddle, of Camden; Florence J. Heppe and William J. Stiver, of Philadelphia; George X. Cross, of York; Vincent McLaughlin, Dan Swain, G. Fenno, D. B. Waggoner, T. Cooke Wanamaker, W. E. Holland and Frank M. Taylor.

Opening of the Exercises.

William J. Dawson, the Mayor of Wenonah and a member of the Board of Education, acted as chairman of the meeting. The audience was quiet even before he rose to call the house to order. "The object for which we have assembled," he said, "is so well known that it seems unnecessary that I should make any extended remarks, especially as our time is limited and there are a number of distinguished speakers present to address us. We will therefore proceed at once to the programme as outlined. Up to the last moment we had hoped that Governor McClure might be with us, but other engagements have prevented. I am sure that you will agree with me, however, that he is ably represented and I have the pleasure of introducing Mr. D. G. Fenno, the managing editor of The Philadelphia Times."

THE PRESENTATION

The Time Limited Over to the School in a Speech by Mr. Fenno.

Mr. Fenno was warmly greeted, and bowed his acknowledgments. After addressing the chair he spoke in substance as follows:

"Whenever a man is required to make a speech about New Jersey, or comes to New Jersey to make a speech, I believe he is considered the proper thing for him to be witty, and I shall try to be. I have been much entertained by your beautiful coast to-day, sometimes, the worst blind sickness I have ever encountered in many years. I have been a genuine Pennsylvania without wings—but I am told that I am now in New Jersey and I suppose I must look for the mosquitoes and Jersey mosquitoes are said to be very large. I have seen mosquitoes that have been the greatest Pennsylvanians