EDITORIAL COMMENT

The Greatest Need of Marlin High School

By A. C Ferguson

A school system usually grows somewhat with the same pace as the city in which it is located and of which it is a part. The Marlin schools have made progress equally as rapidly as other institutions of the city. And that is saying a great deal, for those who have thought about it realize that great progress has been made in Marlin in every way during the last quarter of a century.

About tweuty-three years ago, the school children of Marlin, no doubt, proudly occupied for the first time a new modern school building. This building was attractive, comfortable and commodious for the size of the school at that time. It contained fourteen good class rooms and in addition some small offices and three basemont rooms used for the beginning of Manual Training. Also there were some very comfortable play rooms. No auditorium was included in this first good buildiug.

Less than ten years later the enrollment had so increased that it was necessary to enlarge the plant, and the consequence was the addition of the present primary school quarters and the auditorium. This was a great step forward, for not only the relief in the crowded conditions by the addition of extra rooms increased the efficiency of the school organization but the auditorium has been the means of many happy hours for assemblies of the entire school and the scene of many graduation exercises and fine entertainments and community gatherings. The school as a social center began to function. Words cannot adequately describe the service that this has rendered in real education and the proper fostering of the school spirit for which Marlin is famous.

Within seven more years the High - School building was erected. The enrollment had become so large that the nooks and the corners of the present elementary school plant would not accommodate the classes. The basement rooms were called into service for classrooms. Many high school recitations were conducted in the auditorium. Not even these measures afforded enough space. and part day sessions were put on in some of the grades. The present home of the high school has been a joy to students, teachers and parents. It is an up to date fire proof structure. It is beautiful, well.kept, and well equipped.

In 1902, at the close of the first year of school in the first new commodious building referred to above, the superintendent's report shows that the property valuation of the schools was $40,000. The superintendant's report at the close of this session, 1925, will show the property valuation of the Marlin schools to be $190,000. In 1902, 570 white children were enrolled, 65 of whom were of high-school grade and 6 graduated, 2 boys and 4 girls. In 1925, 913 have enrolled; 303 of whom are of high-school grade and 50 will graduate, 21 boys 29 girls. In 1902, twelve teachers were employed, while in 1925 there were thirty teachers. In 1902, the high-school coruse included sixteen units, only a part of hem fully accredited, while in 1925 the High School is fully accredited in 32 1-2 units. This large number o accredited units distinguishes our High School, but the students are the beneficiaries. Of course it is well understood that the fundamental units of credits in English, mathematics, and history are required of every graduate. But when he has met the requirements in these subiects, it is a great privilege to every student to choose from a large list of other units to finish the required number for graduation in the direction of his tastes, interests, and ability. Marlin has gone the limit in providing this privilege for her children.

There is another comparison between the years of 1902 and 1925 that is even more striking than any of those yet mentioned. In 1902 the money from all sources provided for the maintenance of the schools was $1[illegible],3[illegible]6, while in 1925 it is $56,366. And too, it is interesting to note how much of this amount in each of the years was apportioned by the state. In 1902 the state apportionment was $4.520, while in 1925 it was $23,366. As Marlin has liberally provided funds to maintain the schools, so has the state been liberal in increasing her funds to assist in the progress of education for all her people.

But now look to the future of our schools. The question where are we going next is an interesting one. If the enrollment continues to innrease in the future as it has in the past, only in a short time the present buildings will be overcrowded. But few realize that the present high school building was originally designed for

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