

The Early Period 1901-1917

Will the reader try and turn the pages of time back about forty-two years and base his thoughts on the carpet of imagination? The carpet of imagination will be necessary if one is to try and trace this history from the early 1900's to the present. The author has searched all kinds of records and journals but none of them are able to give authentic data from such an early date. The most authentic information which can be produced is through an interview with one of the early settlers of the Wagoner community. Here is the information gathered from this interview.

In the early 1900's a school system was inaugurated in Wagoner for Negroes. The first classes were held in the old Methodist Church. After a few years there, the school moved into the First Baptist Church. Its first principal was Mr. Kidd. Little need be said of the inconveniences and hardships endured by Mr. Kidd and his faithful few. Many of the well-respected citizens of Wagoner at the present time attended school during this time. Following Mr. Kidd, some of the other principals were Mrs. Davis, Prof. Wallace, Prof. Daves, Prof. Smilie, Mrs. Rejor, Prof. Roberts, Prof. Pressley, Prof. Cathey, Prof. Hancock, Prof. Strickland, and Prof. Betram. These leaders faced many hardships also, but they were determined to give the Negroes of Wagoner a school. After having classes in the churches for a number of years, the present school site

was selected for the construction of a building. In 1904 this step was taken and was indeed heartily greeted by the Negroes of Wagoner.

This little red school will linger in the memories of many of the dutiful citizens of Wagoner today. Among those who attended the school were Bessie and J.H. Welch, Irene Walker Long, Lucy Walker Bush, George Long, who captained the great baseball team, Earlene Bruton Long, Earnest Wright Sr., Nathan Gordon, Maple Curry Gordon, Ruby R. Ragan, Walter Ragan, Earnest Ragan, and Lutistua Green Wright. May it be said here, all of these former students of Lincoln are residents of Wagoner and are leading well and respected lives.

One may picture the little red school house, but it was a castle to these students. No history would be complete without mentioning Ollie Halloway, Corlelia Halloway Rider, Etta Davis MacKnight, Madley Franklin Long, and Claudia Watson.

The little red school house met with a great diaster when it was destroyed by fire in 1914. Let it be understood that the 8th grade was the highest grade offered during this early period of development. But many of the above mentioned persons obtained this goal. Some even entered Normal School at Langston; Mrs. Earlene Bruton Long was one of them.

Baseball was the principal sport and Wagoner still boasts today of the great teams it had during these times. George Long, Nathan Gordon, Earnest Wright Sr., and Earnest Ragan were some

of the mainstays on the team. Almost unnoticed, the school was growing in its own way at this time. The people of Wagoner never lost confidence. They always dream of the school as it is today. They are satisfied but not contented, for they still are striving for more schools. This very attitude made the early period of Lincoln's growth a constant struggle to rise even higher.

With the coming of Professor Pressley, Lincoln seemed to take on a new grip of things. The developments during the next period were so noticeable until it may easily merit the title, The Middle Era, which will be given special attention later. Too much credit cannot be given the stalwarts who faced all obstacles in order that Lincoln may be the school it is today. These students, now men and women, are still faithful to the school in all its activities. They respond whenever called upon. They are respected citizens with nice homes and constitute the membership of the local churches which are ever ready to serve or help Lincoln when called on. May their cooperation continue.

The Middle Era 1913-1939

During this period events happened which cause Lincoln to take a sharp turn upwards. These events gave rise to the Middle Era. Professor Pressley's administration ushered in this new era. Many events and developments were inaugurated which caused Lincoln to take on more distinction as a school than ever before. It was very unfortunate for Lincoln and the community of Wagoner as a whole to lose its principal, Prof. Pressley. The World War I was experiencing one of its fiercest years. This struggle caused Prof. Pressley to answer the call to colors. He left Wagoner for the army in late 1918.

He was succeeded by Prof. Cathey, who piloted the school to a successful school year. Before the war was over, Prof. Smilley returned for the second time. The author feels safe in saying that the reader can recall Prof. Smilley's quiet and easy attitude. It was during his administration the school lost most of its boys to the army. J.H. Welch, Halloway, and George Long were among the first to be drafted to the colors.

Prof. Hancock succeeded Prof. Smilley as principal. With the foundations laid by the preceding principals, Prof. Hancock was able to make rapid strides in the growth of the school. Several changes were made which proved to be very helpful during the years to follow. The school has fallen off some in the enrollment but the progress of the school was

taking shape so one would be very certain Lincoln was on its way upward. During this period equipment and library facilities were inadequate and credit must be given Prof. Hancock for attempting to correct these faults. But before his task was completed, Prof. Strickland became the head of the school. He immediately took up the trail where Prof. Hancock had left. Through donations from Mr. Wiggins the library increased greatly. The school seemed to become the center of the community. The patrons had now begun to look on the school as a center of entertainment. The patrons of the community organized the first P.T.A. which proved a great help to the school.

Then Prof. Wallace came to assume charge of the school for the second time. One may recall Prof. Wallace had held the principalship in the early 1900's. Prof. Wallace came back with renewed vigor to steer Lincoln to new heights. He did make rapid progress and the school enjoyed quite a bit of success. Some of the young men, who are leading respectable lives as citizens in Wagoner, attended school during the Wallace administration. No one could ever forget that mischievous group including Earnest Wright Jr., Ellsworth Ragan, The Long Brothers, Bessie Smiles, George Deer, and others too numerous to mention. A hearty laugh always takes the conversation when the topic of 'the good ole school days' is discussed. His administration still is a fresh memory in the thoughts of the Negro populus of Wagoner.

Following Prof. Wallace came Prof. Betram, a well beloved educator whose deeds were very influential in Lincoln climbing to higher heights.

Prof. Betram served well his administration as principal, but failing health caused him to retire during his administration, which later proved to be fatal. His passing from this life was a heart-felt blow to the Negro citizens of Wagoner who loved, respected, and admired him. A faithful member of the Betram faculty was Mrs. Daisy Glass, a pioneer in the field of education for the Negro and still is casting her inspirational influence into the lives of the younger set. She is ever faithful to the school in all of its activities.

Mr. Frank Jones succeeded Prof. Betram as principal. Much criticism was given Mr. Jones' administration, but some of his achievements cannot be overlooked. It was during his administration that the school's first written records were kept. It was during his administration Lincoln started its marked ever upward in receiving credit for units. It was during his administration higher grades were added to the high school department. Can there be any justifiable criticism against the Frank Jones administration when one reviews these achievements? Mr. Frank Jones enjoyed the assistance of a well-trained faculty. Misses Young, Mayberry, Cophus, Dingus, T. Jonas, and Mr. Elliott were some of these capable helpers.

When one looks at these achievements during this administration, he cannot help but give a nod of praise because it was during this period Lincoln was really put on foot to start its jaunt to the position it enjoys today.

School came to an end in May 1939, but Prof. Jones had done well. His health was poor at times, even to a degree that his wife Mrs. Jones had to substitute for him. Despite all of the hardships and obstacles he had to face, it can be said he did his best for Lincoln. What more can any community and school ask?

The Modern Era 1939-Present

The period which is to be treated in this section may easily be called the Modern Era. The beginning of the school year 1939-1940, a complete change was witnessed in the school. A new principal, Mr. F.F. Alexander, assumed the responsibility of leading Lincoln into the limelight. Assisting Mr. Alexander in the accession of Lincoln to a new position of a better institution of learning, was the almost entirely new faculty. These new additions included Mrs. Jean Alexander, Elementary and Music, Miss Mildred Morton, Home Economics, and Mr. Lorenzo Sneed, Social Science and Athletic Director. Misses Alberta Young and Louise Mayberry were retained from the Frank Jones' Administration. They were English and Elementary teachers respectively. The Mathematics and Sciences were handled by Mr. Alexander.

The question in mind is naturally, 'What achievements were made beginning with this period to merit it being called the Modern Era?' Using the word modern in its truest sense as meaning pertaining to present or recent times, several new activities were originated at this time as well as additional units accredited the school by the State Department of Education. Some of the extra-curricula activities sponsored were basked ball and track, organized soft ball teams for both girls and boys, a high school chorus, under the direction of Mrs. Alexander, Queen's contest, the organizing of the Wips and Wops, a very faithful and helpful organization under the supervision of L. Sneed, the addition of the 12th grade, thus giving the school its first graduating class, the construction of

a new building, and last but far from least, the school was accredited for 11 units by the state high school inspectpr. Is there any doubt why Mr. Alexander's administration can so honorably claim the title of the beginning of the Modern Era of Lincoln School?

The reader may be inclined to smile in reading the above achievements, but they were achieved only through hard efforts. With the doctrine in mind that the school is for the pupil, extra-curricular activities were considered essential. These activities gave added pleasures to the students during school hours. To fulfill this doctrine, a careful well-planned athletic program was set up under the direction of L.W. Sneed. The basketball team played its first complete schedule, losing games only to Claremore, Vinita, Fort Gibson, and Haynes while winning nine games of their 14 game schedule. One game with Nowata was cancelled.

It is necessary to mention, at this point, the Queen's Contest, an activity which created a constructive spirit of competition between the different classes. This contest was won by the senior class under the supervision of Miss A.Y. Young, with the 9th and 10th grade running a close second. Fifty-six dollars was the result accomplished by the students of Lincoln in the contest. The proceeds, obtained from this activity, financed all the athletic activities. New basketball suits, balls, and all other equipment were able to be purchased. By these results too much credit cannot be given Mr. Alexander for organizing the Queen's Contest, which is now an annual affair.

No written history would be complete without mentioning the inauguration of a music department under Mrs. Jean Alexander. The greatest achievement in this department was the development of a well-trained accapelle choir. This choir furnished music for churches and other civic organizations as well as the school. The complete music department we have today owes its progress to the solid foundation which was laid during Mr. F.F. Alexander's administration.

It was during this period an organization had its birth with the sole purpose of development school spirit. This organization acclaim the name of the Wips and Wops, composed of the 9th and 10th grade students. Their appearance marks the first time in the school's history classes organized themselves into one organization. The deeds, programs, and new school spirit initiated by the Wips and Wops made them highly popular, not only in the school, but the whole community. The honor roll was dominated for two years by the members of this organization. Besides stressing scholarship, some contributions were: a hall clock, school sign painted in school colors, office table, mirror, and office curtains. This organization has representatives in several leading colleges, heading the honor list in their respective institutions of higher learning. It ceases to exist at the present time, but it continues under a new name, 'The Solid Senders'. This group, the Wips and Wops, was organized and sponsored by L.W. Sneed, as well as the present one.

Until 1939 the 11th grade was the highest grade offered to the students. This condition caused many students who

desired to finish their high school education to go to nearby large cities to finish, thus causing additional expense on their parents. This condition was remedied by the addition of the 12th grade. Many students, who had heretofore gone elsewhere to continue their education, returned to finish their 12th year at Lincoln.

The first class to have the honor of wearing robes as an emblem of their beloved school included Hazel Gordon, Ester Cole, Clarence Johnson, Herman Kelly, now in Africa with our armed forces, Coleman Anderson, also in the armed forces, Dillard Kenoly, Lenora Walder, and Annie Mae Jackson, now a student in Coffeyville, Junior College. Annie Mae Jackson carried the Valedictorian honor, while Ester Cole took the Salutatorian honors. May these students be always remembered for their struggle to obtain this honor of being the first class to graduate from Lincoln. May their deeds never be forgotten.

Now comes the explanation of getting the school additional credits so all of the above achievements may be considered valid. Only through the hard, never-tiring efforts of Mr. F.F. Alexander and his faithful faculty were the school able to commence on the road to its present rating. Among the items which were to be improved were the Library, Science Department, and equipments made for the Home Economic Department. With these improvements made, Lincoln received credit for 11 units. May it be kept in mind the school had received credit for 8 units under Frank Jones.

The reader may easily form the conclusion from the above mentioned accomplishments that the main function of the school stressed achievement in scholarship.

With this done the school's foundation was laid on which cooperative spirit of patrons of the community played a very important, as well as necessary, part in the school's development. Realizing the school and community must work hand and hand if either is to enjoy any degree of success, the friendly and helpful attitude of Mrs. Nellie Welch, Mrs. Ruby Ragan, Mrs. Vinna Wilson, Mrs. Ford, Mrs. L. Wright and others too numerous to mention helped to make the task of uniting the school and community an enjoyable one.

May the attention of the reader be shifted to the social side of the school program. Nov. 19, 1939, will always be an important day in calendar of the HI-Y. It was on this day the first Father and Son Banquet was held. The fathers who enjoyed the delicious menu prepared by Miss Morton and her Home Economic girls were Rev. Rowell, Mr. Huston Long, Mr. Earnest Wright Sr., Mr. Earnest Ragan, Mr. Bud Hill, Mr. Josh Kenoly, Mr. Floyd Spears, Mr. Carter Williams, Mr. John Ford Sr., Rev. Jarrett, and others not mentioned due to brevity of space. This gala affair proved such a success until it has now become an annual affair. The HI-Y was under the sponsorship of Mr. Alexander.

The Girl Reserves are due notable mention at this time due to the success of the constructive program. Misses A.Y. Young and Mildred Morton should receive a nod of congratulations in steering the Girl Reserves to the distinction they so rightly claim.

Both of the above mentioned organizations were represented at Langston University at their respective annual conferences. Clarence Johnson, now employed in the shipyards in California, was president of the HI-Y, while Annie M. Jackson was president of the Girl Reserves.

The beginning of the second semester saw the dreams of the Negro populus of Wagoner come true, the ground breaking for a new school. The school moved its classes into the First Baptist and St. Paul Baptist churches, another example of community and school cooperation. This change naturally brought about some hardships and suffering, but the pupils and teachers encountered these without complaint, their souls and hearts were set only on the new building and no obstacle would have been too much for them to endure. As a result of these hardships and inconveniences endured by the faculty and students, a modern five-room school building including library and office rooms are now enjoyed by the students of Lincoln. The building was built so as to have additional rooms added at any time.

Before the school was finished, the school year came to an end. The happy and proud seniors now had their robes, caps, and all necessary accessories which go with all high school graduations. May 15 at 8:00 P.M., the Baccalaurate services were held at the Union Baptist Church with the Rev. E. Johnson delivering the sermon. He spoke on the subject "The Necessity of Religion To Any Life's Ambition". The following Thursday night, May 19, 1940, the graduation exercises were held at the same church with Prof. Maurice Jones delivering the address.

It was this senior class which led the campaign to have the beautiful ballad, worded by Prof. L. Sneed, adopted as the new school song. They were successful for in May 1941, "Lincoln We Love Thee" was adopted the new school song.

With the closing of the school year, 1939-40, another epoch in the march of Lincoln on its way to a higher and more respected place among the Negro high school of Oklahoma came to an end. Programs, picnics, and numerous activities by the grade school were omitted due to the limited space. So the curtain is on the first school year of the Modern Era. A great school year indeed.

The W. T. Jones' Administration

By the end of 1940 Lincoln occupied a distinctive place among the small high schools of Oklahoma. It has started its march ever onward and upward toward a better life for itself and for the community of whom it is the servant.

The beginning of the school year 1940-41 found Lincoln with almost a new faculty to carry on the work thus far so nobly advanced by the Alexander Administration. Mr. F.F. Alexander accepted a similar position in the school system at Nowata, Oklahoma. Mrs. Alexander accompanied her husband there also. Miss A.Y. Young accepted a position in the Sapulpa School System, thus leaving Misses L. Mayberry, Mildred Morton, and Mr. L. Sneed as the only members of the 1939-40 school faculty. These vacancies were well filled by the efforts of the Superintendent, Mr. Hammonds, and the board members of the Wagoner City School System, who have always tried to give Lincoln a very efficient faculty. The principalship was given to Mr. W.T. Jones, a Langston graduate, who selected teachers to fill the vacancies already created by resignations. Those who were selected were Miss Mary Jane Tucker, Mrs. Viora Jones, and Mr. William Haynes. With this well-rounded faculty, Lincoln started on another jaunt toward its present position.

The incidents and activities of the W.T. Jones' Administration were many. A well-rounded school activity program was arranged. Included in this program was the inauguration of six-man football.

Again the Queen contest financed this activity. The contest being won by the Wips and Wops with Ollie Mae Jackson as their representative. The football team finished the season with two wins and two losses. Alvertus Mosley, Mathais Thompson, and Sudie Alexander were the mainstays of the team, the first in Lincoln's history. The team was coached by L. Sneed, who won his letter in this sport at Langston. Basketball was handled by Mr. J.W. Haynes, former Langston letterman. These athletic activities were strenuous at the beginning, but the spirit and sportsmanship gained by the participants were well worth the efforts.

The HI-Y was sponsored by Mr. Haynes. This organization was among the first to be registered with 100% membership. There were 17 who were paid up financially with the district office in Dallas. Among their activities were the Father and Son Banquet baskets for the needy and the big Turkey Rally held in the school auditorium. At the annual conference L.P. Terrell, President of the local HI-Y, was elected to the position as Assistant State Secretary, the first time a state position was ever held by the local HI-Y. Some progress there indeed.

The Girl Reserves were making excellent strides under the supervision of Misses Tucker and Morton. Their efforts were crowned with the election of Doretha Wright as State Reporter for the Girl Reserves at the annual conference held at Langston.

With the W.T. Jones' Administration came the first school bus system for the school. The principal's efforts cannot be

given too much praise for establishing the bus system. The school started with one bus, driven by Mr. M.T. Hill, which brought an additional number of students to Lincoln. To be exact, 73 students were transferred to this school. This added greatly to the enrollment.

The next task was to get the school accredited for additional units. Of course Mr. W.T. Jones had the cooperation of his faithful faculty, but there had to be some special efforts on his part. He shouldered this responsibility and acquired additional reference books for the Library; had the Home Economics Department rearranged; acquired additional equipment for the Science Department, and inaugurated the course in Public Speaking. As a result of these efforts, the school was accredited for 16 units by the high school state inspectors.

In keeping with the program of stressing scholarship, seven students were named on the State honorary list. These students were Calvin Abernathy, Doretha Wright, Lillian Harper, Cordelia Terry, Lois Harper, Lila Lee Smith, Helen Benson, Warnetta Bolton.

In the month of November, the first Lincoln Alumni organization was organized with L.W. Sneed as its organizer. The members were Catherine Wright, Katherine Watson, Dillard Kenoly, Annie Mae Jackson, Odessa Thompson, Clifford Ragan, John Ford Jr., Hazel Gordon, Lenora Walker, and Charlie Payne Jr. This organization made great studies during its infancy, but declined somewhat in efficiency due to its members leaving the city for college, jobs, and other numerous reasons. It is the hope of the author that this same organization will be revived at an early date.

The largest freshman class, now juniors, in the history of the school came to Lincoln this year, 1940-41. Among this group were Helen Benson, Bessie Horton, Owen Jones, Essie Reynolds, Flora Roberson, and others. These members are mentioned because they are very active in the school program at the present time. Essie Reynolds, almost unknown at this time, has become heralded as another Dorothy Maynard. Her soft, rich, deep and mellow voice thrills the Negro populus of Wagoner on every occasion she is presented in song. Much of her success is due to the carefully and constantly tutoring of Miss Elsie Blye, present music teacher.

Realizing social life of the school should be supervised as well as any other, W.T. Jones set out on the task of inaugurating supervised socials. In this he was successful. The Wagoner Hotel's Hall was secured for this purpose and with this acquisition Lincoln held its first supervised social November 11, 1940. The orderly and well-supervised social was such a success until the school was invited to return by the management. The socials became so popular with the younger set of Wagoner until they readily organized themselves into scholarship societies to see which group, due to its scholastic rating, would have the privilege of sponsoring the next social. What critic made the remark that social life and scholarship could not be woven into one definite aim? The author would like for him to read the accomplishments mentioned above.

The spring ushered in the regular period of activities. The patrons of Wagoner and nearby towns were thrilled night after night watching high school plays, grade school operettas, carnivals, and

entertainments of all kinds. "The Path Across the Hill", a three-act play directed by Miss M.J. Tucker, was one of the season's greatest plays. "In Dear Ole Southland", featuring the Wips and Wops and directed by L.W. Sneed, was the comedy of the year. Timothy Harris and William Harralson will never be forgotten for their performance in this comedy. The Grade School Operetta was a success, with some of the best performances being performed by Mary and ClarBell Deer, Bobby Loggins, and Louis Wright. Beside being a great deal of entertainment, these were also financial successes. The operetta was sponsored by Misses Blye, Mayberry, and Mrs. W.T. Jones.

With these entertainment past, the eyes of the school turned to graduation festivities. The Wips and Wops' picnic, and the senior's trip to Claremore to visit the Will Rogers' Memorial highlighted these festivities.

Sunday, May 22, 1940, at the Union Baptist Church, the Negro citizens of Wagoner heard the most inspiring Baccalaureate sermon ever delivered in Wagoner by Rev. Burkhalter of Claremore. The following Wednesday night the graduating exercises were held at the Union Baptist Church. The address was delivered by a former principal, Mr. F.F. Alexander of Nowata, Oklahoma. The audience was thrilled to hear the voice of Mr. Alexander and was grateful to Mr. Jones for bringing him here as the principal speaker.

Among the platform guest were Mr. D.C. Jennings and Mr. Friman, members of the Wagoner city school board. Mr. Jennings, vice president of the board, presented the diplomas. Those who received diplomas

were Onedia McHenry, Valedictorian, Alvertus Mosley, Salutatorian, Garnett Jones, Lizzie Mae Randles, Cara Cooley, and Marida Mayberry.

With the singing of "Mighty Like a Rose" by the choir, under the direction of Misses Morton and Tucker, the exercises came to a close thus pulling the shade down on the first administration of W.T. Jones, a success in itself.

September 9, 1941, marked the beginning of the new school year 1941-42. The faculty was revised by the addition of two more new members. These new additions were Miss Elsie Blye and Mr. David Ryan, both graduates of Langston. Miss Morton's resignation was a heartfelt blow to the faculty but she considered matrimony a better career. Mrs. V. Jones assumed the position as head of the Home Economic Department; Miss Blye Music and Elementary; Mr. Ryan took charge of Mathematics and General Science. The rest of the faculty remained the same as in 1940-41, with the exception of Miss Morton, as stated above. But with the new additions, the faculty, now eight in number, was ready to begin its jaunt on another prosperous school year.

The first official announcement revealed the 263 students who were registered in high school, and in the elementary department, the largest enrollment in the school's history.

Football naturally took the limelight during this season. The team enjoyed a mediocre season, losing two and winning two. Theodore Barnett and Jonathan Young led this young, inexperienced but inspired team through this season. Coach Sneed was well pleased with the performance of these small and inexperienced lads.

The basketball team experienced a pretty bad season, but the fundamentals drilled in the players and sportmanship displayed by the boys more than gave Mr. Haynes a great degree of satisfaction. Lack of equipment and having no access to a gym may be partly responsible for the results shown in basketball. May the author mention at this time Mr. Jones secured the use of the gymnasium at the White School for our use several times. All of the home football games were played on their field. The author wishes to take this space and express his appreciation on behalf of the school for the kind consideration given us in this matter to Mr. Hammonds, Superintendent, Mr. Eubanks, Principal, and the Wagoner City School Board.

The Christmas holidays ushered in another period of entertainment. Grade school plays, high school dramas, and the Christmas Tree took the spotlight. May it be mentioned here in order to save further space for more important details, the faculty always furnished the christmas tree and gifts for the smaller children. The singing of Holy Night, Silent Night, saw the entire convocation leave Lincoln to enjoy the Xmas holidays.

After returning from the holidays, the next event was the teachers' association held in Tulsa, which was attended by all the faculty members. The faculty of Lincoln has always been paid up one hundred percent with the Teachers' Association and the Alumni Association of Langston. Since they have always done this, a chapter was installed at the Lincoln High School with W.T. Jones as its president.

It is timely to mention at this time, three buses were now bringing students to Lincoln. Nineteen pupils were transferred from Mayes County, thus giving them an opportunity to finish their high school education. Credit must be given these students because in spite of their hardships they are making an excellent record in school. Students who this respect should be given are Nathan Harlin, Alloween Vann, Katherine Collins, Leroy Vann, and Helen Nealy.

The state inspector visited the school and commended the school for its fine work. So well did Mr. Jones have his program working and so impressed was the inspector with his results, he recommended the school to be accredited for its 18 units. These the school was granted. Prior to his visit, the school received as a gift a volume of Reference books. The donor is unknown to this day; but if he reads this, the whole school wished to thank him again and again.

Now let us turn our thoughts to the extra-curricula activities and see what program is being offered to keep the students keyed to such a high school spirit.

The senior class under the sponsorship of Mr. Jones was busily executing its class schedule. The Wips and Wops were trying to maintain their elevated position in school under Mr. Sneed. Mr. Ryan has a very conscientious group who held several unique affairs and Miss Tucker sponsored the juniors, who offered stiff competition with any group. The grade school was divided among Mr. Haynes, Misses Mayberry and Blye.

Abernathy winning the selected title. She was crowned at a Victory Social given in her honor, over which she reigned. The senior class held the distinction of being the largest graduate in the school's history. L. P. Terrell received the honored position as president of this class. The class was rather unique in that it had four groups of brothers and sisters within its ranks. They held many well-cultured programs and entertainments, which seem to display their well-developed character. One may consult the college registers of colleges in Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, and Oklahoma and he will find representatives of this class holding their own in their respective institutions of higher learning. Some of these students are Lillian Harper, Francis Delaney, Doretha Wright, Dillard Kenoly, Louise Watson, Marida Mayberry, and Cara Cooley.

The honor roll had become now all it implies and students were doing their best to have their name on this preferred list. Heading this list was Dorothy Thompson with a straight 'A' average, being followed by Gladys Burkhalter, Pearlle M. Blair, Garland Williams, Lillian and Lois Harper, Doretha Wright, Macy Smity, Helen Benson, Francis Delaney, and Alloween Vann. These students must maintain an average of B with no grade below B. If one has an average of B with one grade of C, he receives honorable mention. One should be able to see how such a high scholastic standing is maintained in the school.

Taking place during this time were numerous activities already mentioned, which had become annual affairs. These included HI-Y programs, Girl Reserves activities, presentation

of the chorus, and regular programs which brought patrons to the school in large numbers every Tuesday.

This year also saw the organization of a Boy Scout Troop No. 77 with L. Sneed as Scoutmaster. This troop had nine boyscouts and eight cubs, the first colored cub pack in the eastern part of the state. These scouts had a well-rounded program and advanced to Second Class Scouts with out any hinderance. Mr. Vandergraff, field representative, complimented the troop on its performance in passing the Second Class test, while a very impressive and elaborate program was set up for bringing in new scouts. The troop is well known over the state. Louis Wright and Bobby Loggin are the troop patrol leaders. Mrs. Jones is Cubmother with the responsibility falling on Mr. Jones as Cubmaster. This organization has functioned well and real boys are being developed from their moral and physical fitness program.

Of course every school has its sad moments and Lincoln is no exception. Quincela Turner, one of the school's favorite students, was run down by an automobile, breaking her leg in several places and had to be absent from school the remainder of the school year. Imagine the heartfelt sympathy of her schoolmates when this disheartening news was received. The writer is happy to relate that she is well and her smile is gladly received by the whole school. But one mishep the school will never live down is the passing of one of the tenth grade students, Elihue Cowan. He is missed but his quiet manners and pleasant smile will never be forgotten.

As a result of studying self-government in Civics, a student council was organized under the direction of L. Sneed and W.T. Jones. Limited powers were delegated this council by the principal. Under these two men the students acquired quite a bit of experience in self-government. Each class in high school was allowed two representatives. Ray Lee Nave received the honor of being its first president. The hall monitors, campus committee, and disciplinary committee saved the time and efforts of the faculty on minor cases of misconduct. The results of this council was two-fold. First, it taught the students the value of being governed by their own peers and secondly, it created among the governed students respect for those governing.

Next on the school calendar was the Seniors' Week of Activities. Some of these were Kodac parties, Senior Day in school, and the Junior-Senior Prom. It would have been a pleasant sight for anyone to have witnessed this affair. Soft music, beautiful costumes, and a delicious menu made the affair a success in its own. This prom was held in the spacious ball room of the Wagoner Hotel, which was secured by Mr. Jones. Lois Harper, Minnie Brady, Warnetta and Allene Bolton, Ray Lee Nave, Lila Lee Smith, Searcy Bailey, Elijah Randles, Ollie Mae Jackson, Sarah Ray, and Benjamin Tart composed the Junior Class which was host of the Seniors at this affair.

On Sunday, May 19, 1942, the Baccalaureate Services were held at the St. Paul Baptist Church with The Rev. Fortner delivering the sermon, a very appropriate one indeed. The

graduates, up to this time were proud, dignified, and stately in their actions around the school. But this sermon caused the seniors to come to grip with reality and a somewhat melancholy mood seem to come over these graduates. They had at last realized the days at Lincoln were almost over.

The last mile for this group came Thursday night, May 24, 1942, at the St. Paul Baptist Church, with Rev. B. Hill of Claremore delivering the address. Although the exercise was inspiring and uplifting, it carried with it a degree of sadness. The Valedictorian and Salutatorian addresses by Doretha Wright and Lillian Harper respectively were well-worth listening to. With the presentation of diplomas by Mr. D.C. Jennings, vice president of the school board, and the presentation of scholastic rewards, the school year came to an end. Beyond a doubt the greatest school year in the school's history. May the author extend his congratulations to Mr. W.T. Jones and his faithful faculty for the hard efforts to attain this position for the school. It is understood hard work, long hours, and some hardships had to be endured for this result to be achieved.

The present milestone had its beginning September 7, 1942. To the regrets of the students as well as the faculty two vacancies were created. Mr. D. Ryan who entered medical school and Mry. Haynes, who accepted employment in a defense plant, constituted these vacancies. But the author is pleased to relate that these vacancies were well filled with the acquisition of Miss Elizabeth Cooley and Miss Ozella Holman, graduates of Langston and Tuskegee respectively.

The author feels it unnecessary to mention that our nation at this time was in the midst of a great war. Just as other institutions were affected so was this institution. Older boys were drafted or secured employment in defense plants, families moved seeking employment, thus causing a decline in the enrollment as compared with the previous school year. The curricula had to be reorganized to meet the new demands created by the war. A definite physical fitness program was set up by Mr. Jones and Mr. Sneed for both girls and boys. Forums and panel discussions were held at regular intervals to enlighten the students of Lincoln High School on the affairs of a nation and world at war. This activity has been a great help to these students.

For the first time in the history of the school, we find the Senior Class of 1943 without any male members. It is comprised of six girls, namely, Ray Lee Nave, President, Minnie Brady, Vice President, Lois Harper, Secretary, Lila Smith, Asst. Secretary, Sarah Ray, Treasurer, and Warnetta Bolton. These seniors are making great progress on their activity program. They will be the first seniors to receive and wear their rings so early in the year. Only through hard work and sincere cooperation were they able to purchase and order the school emblems at such an early date. Miss E. Blye, class sponsor, should receive her share of credit for the classes' progress.

The junior class is sponsored by Mr. Jones, a very cooperative group. This class sponsored the first hot lunch drive for the school. The tenth grade has organized itself into a club under the assumed name of The Solid Senders. This group takes

the place left vacant by the Wips and Wops. Dorothy Thompson is president of this group. Gladys Burkhalter, Quinceola Turner, Pearlie Blair, Garland Williams and Ruth Barnes occupy the rest of the official positions.

This class is sponsored by the author of this history, Mr. L. Sneed. The freshmen class under the supervision of Miss O. Holman is one of the most active classes in the school. This conclusion is drawn from their hard and earnest efforts to publish the first school paper in the school's history. The first issue was published in February, 1943.

May the school year of 1942-43 be always remembered because it was during this year the school's first paper went to press, and the first written history was published. November 26, 1942, saw a sad incident occur in Lincoln. It was on this day the resignation of Miss M.J. Tucker was read in chapel. With the closing finishing of this pathetic reading, tears began to roll down the cheeks of the students. They at last realized that one of their most beloved instructors was leaving. The whole community feels the loss of Miss Tucker. Her personality and encouraging smile is certainly being missed around the school. The author takes this form to wish her luck wherever she may be.

At the present, Mrs. Margaret Sneed is substuting in the English Department until a regular instructor can be named by the principal. The present school year so far has been functioning very smoothly despite being hard hit by the war. The present faculty consisting of Mr. W. T. Jones, Lorenzo Sneed, Mrs. V. Jones, Mrs. M.J. Sneed, Misses Mayberry, Holman, Cooley, and Blye

have faithfully and solemnly vowed that this school year will be Lincoln's greatest.

The author will probably be in the armed forces soon, but regardless of where he will be, his hopes will be for those in charge of the school will lead Lincoln to her rightful place in the sun. Here is my personal message to the reader. If you have enjoyed this short history or if you have benefited any from the information narrated within, my task has been a pleasant one.

Thank you
L. Sneed
Social Science
Athletic Director
Lincoln School
Wagoner, Oklahoma

Honor Roll
Based on Yearly Average

1939-40	1940-41	State Honor Society
Cole, Ester	Delaney, Francis	Delaney, Francis
Delaney, Francis	Wright, Doretha	Wright, Doretha
McHenry, Onedia	McHenry, Onedia	Smith, Lila Lee
Jackson, Annie Mae	Mosley, Alvertus	Terry, Cordelia
Kenoly, Ollie	Harper, Lillian	Harper, Lillian
Wright, Doretha	Harper, Lois	Harper, Lois
Watson, Louise	Terry, Cordelia	Benson, Helen
Terry, Cordelia	Benson, Helen	Bolton, Warnetta
Smith, Lila Lee	Bolton, Warnetta	Smith, Macy
	Smith, Lila Lee	Burkhalter, Gladys
	Smith, Macy	Thompson, Dorothy
		Blair, Pearlle M.
		Sanders, Ida M.
		Williams, Garland
1941-42	1942-43	
Delaney, Francis	Harper, Lois	
Harper, Lillian	Smith, Lila Lee	
Wright, Doretha	Benson, Helen	
Thompson, Dorothy	Burkhalter, Gladys	
Benson, Helen	Thompson, Dorothy	
Burkhalter, Gladys	Williams, Garland	
Sanders, Ida Mae	Blair, Pearlle M.	
Vann, Velma	Turner, Quinceola	
Smith, Macy	Caruthers, Mae Lee	
	Vann, Alloween	
	Harlin, Natha	

GRADUATES
OF

LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL

1940

Jackson, Annie Mae - - - Val.
Cole, Esther Y. - - - - -Sal.
Walker, Lenora
Gordon, Hazel
Payne, Ida Mae
Anderson, Coleman
Johnson, Clarence
Kelly, Herman
Kenoly, Dillard

1941

McHenry, Onedia - - - Val.
Mosley, Alvertus - - -Sal.
Jones, Garnett
Mayberry, Marida
Randles, Lizzie Mae
Robinson, Thomas Lee
Cooleu, Cara W.

1943

Harper, Lois
Smith, Lila Lee
Bolton, Warnetta
Brady, Minnie
Nave, Ray Lee
Ray, Sarah

1942

Wright, Doretha - - - Val.
Harper, Lillian - - - Sal.
Newton, Myrtle
Newton, Myrtie
Abernathy, Selma
Abernathy, Melba
Abernathy, Shellie
Abernathy, Fredià
Stephenson, Henry
Stephenson, Georgetta
Payne, Augusta
Watson, Louise
Delaney, Mary
Delaney, Francis
Glover, Resetta
Terrell, Luther Page