

Beckley High School -- Builder Of Champs



WOODROW WILSON HIGH SCHOOL . . . located at Beckley



C. G. PEREGO . . . principal



GLENN SALLACK . . . band leader



J. R. VAN METER . . . coach

High School's Record Major Pride Of City

Beckley Boasts One Of State's Top Bands

Teams, Band Win Acclaim

Woodrow Wilson One Of State's Largest

By JOHN HANCOCK (Of The Daily Mail Staff)
BECKLEY — Sprawling atop a large plateau in the heart of West Virginia's rich smokeless coal fields, this city of 20,000 — seat of historical Raleigh county — has much of which to be proud.

It can boast that it has produced a United States senator, two United States congressmen, two state attorneys general, a governor, a state university president, and the first clerk of the United States congress.

It can point with pride to Pinecrest sanitarium, a beautiful veterans administration hospital, and a new million-dollar airport. Founded in 1838 by General Alfred Beckley, this city is well known for its healthful climate and its important position in the realm of King Coal.

ALL THESE are fine. But what Beckleyans are most proud of is Woodrow Wilson high school — "a builder of champions."

One of the state's largest high schools, from standpoint of enrollment, Woodrow Wilson has consistently made a name for itself in education, athletics and music since its doors swung open for the first time in December, 1925.

Not only has it produced outstanding scholars, but it has mounted championship football, basketball and wrestling teams. The superb "Flying Eagle" band — now 125 members strong — has won both state-wide and national recognition.

Beckleyans are solidly behind their high school, too. When the athletic teams lose, the people lose. When the teams win, it is a victory for the city. When the band parades, most of the townspeople line the streets to watch and listen.

When Woodrow Wilson high opened in 1925, the enrollment was 350. Since then, it has grown until more than 1,200 boys and girls are students there each year in its three grades. The enrollment for the 1951-52 term which began in September is 1,266. From the enrollment standpoint, the school is among the upper six high schools in the state.

Its peak enrollment was reached in the school year of 1949-50 when there were 1,599 students registered. This was during the 1935-36 period when a portion of the ninth grade was quartered there.

HIGH SCHOOL work was begun here in 1900 when the Beckley Seminary was established. This was a private school under the direction of B. H. White, who headed that institution until 1907, when it was taken over by the Christian church and the name changed to Beckley Institute.

The Beckley Institute operated until 1918, when it was destroyed by fire. In 1918, the first public high school was established and the building now known as Beckley junior high school was constructed.

High school work was conducted there under the Town district board of education. It was soon evident, however, that it was not large enough to handle the steadily increasing student body and early in 1923 plans were initiated for the construction of another building.

A SPECIAL bond issue was voted, and in 1925 construction of Woodrow Wilson high school was

Woodrow Wilson's Champion Football, Basketball Teams



begun on Park avenue near Raleigh General hospital. When first opened, it also housed the Institute elementary school and continued to care for those students until 1928.

Continued growth in enrollment during the 1930's resulted in cramped conditions at the high school. Because of the crowded conditions at the school, membership in the North Central Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges was lost in 1940. However, with the addition of 12 classrooms in 1942, membership was regained and the school has been a member continuously since that time.

In its 27 years of existence, Woodrow Wilson has graduated 6,300 pupils, 5,500 of them since 1924. The school has an outstanding record in the number of graduates winning scholarships. An average of 14 a year have been awarded to graduates since 1946. An all-time high was reached last spring when 22 seniors received scholarships to various colleges.

At the helm of Woodrow Wilson is Clarence Gilbert Perego, a veteran educator, who has been principal since 1933.

Perego, who is in his twelfth year here, has been a prime booster of the high school and is constantly active in promoting school affairs and engaging in civic undertakings.

A native of Mount Carmel, Md., he was educated in Maryland public schools and received his A. B. degree from Washington college, Chestertown, Md., and his master's degree from West Virginia university. He did other graduate work at Johns Hopkins university and the University of Cincinnati.

PEREGO SERVED as principal of Eccles junior high school and was superintendent of the Shady Spring school district in Raleigh county prior to becoming principal of Woodrow Wilson. He is married and has two daughters.

When it comes to athletic prowess, Woodrow Wilson's "Flying Eagle" teams have the reputation for being able to hold their own with the best in the state.

ON THE gridiron, the Eagles have copped three state championships. The Woodrow Wilson basketball team has brought home the state championship bacon three times, and its wrestling team has won top honors twice. The school's baseball teams have always been tough to beat, although they have never won the schoolboy title.

At Woodrow Wilson, football and basketball are synonymous with the name of Jerome Van Meter, a quiet, unassuming man, who is in his twelfth year as head coach here. He had been here since 1929, except for a three-year absence for commissioned service in the army during World War II.

Van Meter's football teams have won three state championships — in 1947, 1948 and 1951. The Flying Eagles were undefeated during each of these seasons. So far this season, the team has won seven straight games without a loss.

Under Van Meter, Beckley elevens have won 134, lost 52 and tied 11 games. Van Meter is also famous for his winning basketball teams. Woodrow Wilson cagers have won state tournament honors three times — in 1946, 1951 and 1952. In 21 tourneys from 1932 to 1952, the Flying Eagle fives have partici-

pated 18 times, going to the finals five times and the semi-finals seven times.

The 51-year-old mentor brought further honors to Beckley when he was selected "coach of the year" in 1948 and 1951 by the West Virginia Sports Writers Assn. He has compiled an outstanding record since he started his coaching career at Point Pleasant high school in 1922. Only twice has he had seasons in which he lost more games than he won.

Woodrow Wilson has produced top-notch wrestling teams in recent years, winning state championships in 1949 and 1952 under Coach Vic Peellish. In track and baseball, the school has had top ranking teams for many years.

IN THE MUSIC world, Woodrow Wilson's Flying Eagle band, directed by veteran Glenn Sallack, is considered one of the best in the state.

For 16 consecutive years, it has won a superior rating at the State Band Festival in Huntington. The band's precision marching and excellent playing have earned it unanimous praise from music experts.

In 1946 and 1947, the band attended the Chicago Music festival and participated in the program in 1947. It won nationwide recognition for its performance. In 1949, the aggregation represented West Virginia at the international convention of Lions, and in 1951 was one of the top participants in a program during the annual American Legion convention in Miami, Fla.

On other occasions, the band has performed notably at the Mountain Festival in Elkins, the state basketball tournament, school football and basketball games, and other special events.

Beckleyans are strong boosters of their high school band. They consider Sallack as one of the best directors the school ever had.

PROOF OF THIS was demonstrated in the summer of 1950 when Beckley citizens and other Raleigh countyans petitioned the county board of education to give Sallack a raise in salary. The bandmaster had announced he was going to resign to accept a position which offered more pay. The citizens' request was approved by the board.

Sallack has been band director since his graduation from Syracuse

at Bluefield, Beckley's 1952 state championship basketball team is pictured below. The eagles ran up an amazing season's record of 25 victories against one defeat. A one-point victory over Fairmont West high school gave the Eagles the state championship. Van Meter also coached the basketball squad.

Woodrow Wilson high school's undefeated football team is shown in the top photo. Coached by veteran mentor Jerome Van Meter, the Flying Eagle eleven has won seven straight victories so far this season. Last year, the Beckley team won its third state football championship, defeating Gary high school 26-0 in a playoff game.

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Post Office Oils Machinery To Handle Yule Postal Load

Charleston postal workers already are getting in gear for the Christmas rush and the first item under consideration is mailing of Yuletide parcels to servicemen overseas.

Bookmobile Sets 5 Jackson Stops

The West Virginia library commission's bookmobile will visit two Jackson county communities Tuesday.

The scheduled stops are Mt. Alto (Mrs. Baler's store) from 10 to 12; Cottageville (D. O. McDermott's store) from 1:15 to 3:15 p. m.

The bookmobile will be at three more Jackson county communities Thursday, Oct. 23.

The stop will be at Meadowdale (Mrs. Estel W. Hill's Home) from 9:45 to 10:30; at Wiscoburn (Ronald State's store) from 10:45 to 11:30; and at Medina (P. L. Moore's store) from 12:45 to 1:30 p. m.

He formerly directed the Syracuse university band. He is past president of the West Virginia Music Educators Assn., and served two terms as president of the State Bandmasters Assn.

Woodrow Wilson aims to maintain its reputation as a builder of champions," says Principal Perego. "We have the spirit within our student body and the support of the townspeople. I don't see how we can lose with such a winning combination."

Due to the distances involved, Assistant Postmaster Fred Wiseman has suggested a number of mailing deadlines in order that soldiers, sailors and marines may be sure of receiving their parcels by Christmas morning.

Parcels intended for Korea and the Far East should be in the mail just as soon as possible. Some intended for the Near East and Africa can make it if mailed by Nov. 15; servicemen in Europe will have a good Christmas if their presents are sent off by Nov. 15; and South and Central American packages should be dispatched by Nov. 22.

Wiseman drew attention to the fact that mailers can save postage on parcels to some areas which come under "U.S.A. Gift Parcels." These parcels may be sent to Austria, Formosa, Italy, the Ryukyu Islands, the U. S.-British zone of the Free Territory of Trieste and the Vatican City State.

As an example of the monetary saving, Wiseman pointed out that the mailer saves eight cents on a one-pound package to Austria under the gift rate.

SOME SUGGESTIONS for packing and wrapping: Packages should contain sufficient cushioning material to prevent loosening or crushing. Heavy wrapping paper will help strengthen cardboard boxes. They should be tied both before and after the heavy paper wrapping.

"Gift-wrapped" parcels should be enclosed in a heavy container.

Students Seek Essay Prizes

State Handicapped Is Contest Theme

The fifth annual essay contest, sponsored by the governor's committee for the employment of the physically handicapped, is now underway in West Virginia's 286 high schools. It was announced by Charles L. Rolfe, chairman.

All 11th and 12th grade students are eligible to compete for state and national awards using the subject "The Physically Handicapped — A National Asset." Eight state awards, consisting of \$350 in savings bonds donated by state businessmen and industries, range from \$100 for first place to \$25 for the eighth place winner. In addition, the high school producing the first place winner will be presented a bronze plaque, and the English teacher of the same school a wrist watch.

The essay of the first place winner in West Virginia will be forwarded to Washington, D. C., and entered in competition with first place winners from other states and territories. National awards are cash prizes of \$1,000, \$500, \$300 and \$100 and an expense paid trip to Washington, D. C., where the awards are presented by the President.

This contest has added interest in West Virginia, as the State has produced two National winners in the past four years. They were, Howard R. Knight of Charleston high school and Billie Jean Fuller of Elkhorn high school in McDowell county. All state winners will be furnished transportation and expenses to Charleston by a local business man to receive their awards by the governor.

Sea Touches No Land

The famous Sargasso sea, a 2,500,000 square-mile area of floating seaweed in the Atlantic, which was discovered by Christopher Columbus, touches no land.

The Flying Eagle band of Woodrow Wilson high school is one of the top-ranking musical organizations of the state. The 125-piece band has won both state and national

recognition for its performances. It has received a superior rating for 16 consecutive years at the state band festival.

Rampant Polio To Require Greatest 'Dimes' Donations

The sharp, unexpected increase in polio cases this past summer has made urgent early organization to insure that the next March of Dimes drive will be the greatest in history, Alan A. Greenspan, Kanawha county director, declared yesterday.

Returning from a regional pre-campaign meeting of March of Dimes chairmen and directors from the states of Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania and West Virginia, held in Pittsburgh this week, Greenspan reported:

"We heard both good news and bad news at the meeting. A staggering total of 4,000 and more cases a week during late September and a slow decline in October has piled up a terrific number of new patients which are exhausting the epidemic aid funds of the National Foundation. There are indications now that 1952 will have from 50,000 to even more than 55,000 cases of polio. This is by far the worst year in all history.

"The Foundation is meeting the emergency with all of its resources. Medical care is available for all patients, with financial assistance provided for those needing a such aid. Drain on chapter funds, however, is terrific.

"Plans therefore have been made to recruit the greatest force of workers ever enrolled in the March of Dimes, so that the drive from Jan. 2 through Jan. 31, will raise the added funds which must be contributed this year. We must continue to care for the thousands and thousands of victims who have known the tragedy of infantile paralysis and at the same time pursue the now-promising search for polio preventive."

THE BAD news reported is that polio is rolling up a much higher total of cases than in 1951. The

figures are, as of October 4; a total of 42,373 cases, compared with 21,775 for the same period last year. The total for the week of October 4, was 3,227 cases.

On the brighter side of the picture it was reported that National Foundation headquarters is assisting hundreds of chapters that have exhausted their funds. To date this year, funds to aid chapters total \$5,700,368. Emergencies have been met with 1,167 iron lungs and 456 hot pack machines. 1,167 nurses have been sent to critical areas, with many more needed.

The crippling effects of the disease have been greatly reduced, due to prompt diagnosis and improved treatment sponsored by the March of Dimes.

Other encouraging news reported was that the fight against polio at last seems on the road to scientific success. Antisera-ments are an important nature in the field of research may be expected soon.

Speakers at the meeting were enthusiastic over the success of the drive last year, and there was unanimous expression that many more workers will join the March of Dimes of 1953. Millions of dollars are needed to care for patients and to keep up the caseless program of research and professional education, it was said.

One of the features of the 1953 campaign will be a greatly expanded "Mothers' March on Polio" in which over two million women are expected to participate.