

Administration

and Supervision



Principal
F.M. RICHARDSON



ODILE C. WARD
Jeanes Supervisor
Natchitoches Parish



M.C. STERLING
Director of Elementary Division



ALBERTA B. HARRISON
Assistant Jeanes Supervisor
Natchitoches Parish



Prof. J. W. Thomas, a native of Baton Rouge Parish, is the founder and principal-Emeritus of Central High School. He is a graduate of New Orleans University-Class of 1896. He is a retired teacher with 45 years of experience.

In the past Prof. Thomas has served in the following capacities. Grand Secretary of M. W. Eureka Grand Lodge for the state of Louisiana; W. M. of Dawn of Light Lodge number 22 and Patron of W. L. Carroll Chapter #4, O. E. S.

He is now an ordained minister of the A. M. E. Church and District Religious Instructor of the Central Louisiana Conference of the A. M. E. Church. Prof. Thomas is the father of four daughters and one son.



Our Founder



Dr. E. A. Johnson, M.D., has practiced medicine in Natchitoches for twenty years. He is the director of Health at Central High, president of the N. A. A. C. P., a member of the southwest Regional Executive Board N. A. A. C. P., an active civic worker and leader, a 33rd Degree Mason, Past Master of Dawn of Light Lodge #22, a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and former Commissioner of The State Industrial School For Colored Youths established by the former Gov. Earl K. Long. He is married to the former Crittie W. Carroll. They have one son, Edward A. Johnson, Jr.

Our Doctor



Mildred Butler
Naomi Collins
Isaiah Combest



Mary E. Adams
Geneva Barrow
Beatrice Breda



Cyril Cross
W. R. Darville
Albertha Johnson



James Emanuel
Luther Gair
Crittie Johnson



Melvin Johnson
Mabel Joseph
Virgie Joseph



V. M. Lathon
Roberta Leroy
Ruby Lewis



Portia Pantallion
Pearl H. Payne
Essie Pruitt



Lillian Martin
Doris Martinez
Frank Martinez





Virginia Ratliff
Eliza Jones
Evelyn Gair

Annie B. W. Leon
Edwina Lewis
Zelma' Moffett



Paul Morgan
Sallye E. Pierce
Gracious
Prudhomme



Meryland Robinson
Clarence Snowden
Essie P. Taylor

Alcee Vaughn
John Winston
Betty B. J. Wong



Rebecca Walker
Ada D. Jackson
Illie Delphin



Gethsemane Hall
Inez Hall Harris
Mildred Tatum
Vaughn Lewis



Cornelius Delphin
Joseph Dupree
Louise Edwards



George Ellis
Joseph Ellis
J. D. Garrett

Roby Helire
Nancy Philyaw
Frankie R. Jackson



Robert Jackson
Samuel Jackson
Steve Jackson

Mildred Richardson
Lillian Taylor
Bennie Thomas



Robert Torry
Mary
Westmoreland
Hamp Williams



Bobbie Anderson
Lusetta Anthony
Hyams Baptiste

Jim Barrow
Dora Combest
Virginia Dean

1940
NATCHITOCHE PARISH TRAINING SCHOOL
FACULTY-STAFF

Principal
Mr. Gaddis C. Hall
B. S., Florida State University
Graduate Studies, Atlanta University

Mrs. Maggie Aldridge
Supervisor of Negro Schools
A. B. Southern University

Mrs. Amelia Lewis
Home Demonstration Agent
B. S. Southern University

Dr. E. A. Johnson
School Physician
Pre.Med., Columbia University

Harriet Alice Robinson
A. B. Strait College
Wilberforce University

James S. Peters, II
B. S. Southern University

Constance L. Marcelle
A. B. Southern University

Odile Cage Johnson Ward
B. S. Southern University

Theresa B. Donison
B. S. Southern University

Vivian Van Buren
B. S. Southern University

Mildred N. Richardson
A. B. Southern University

Valeria S. Foster
A. B. New Orleans University

Mary E. Stewart
B. S. Tennessee State College

Ada Douse Jackson
Southern University

Naomi Fulgum Collins
A. B. Southern University

Dorothy L. Green
A. B. Southern University

Crittie Carroll Johnson
Williams Institute

Elizabeth Farrar
Louisiana Rural Normal

Etta Rose Jordan
B. S. Southern University

Joseph Britton
B. S. Southern University
M. A. Iowa State College

Beatrice L. Breda
Strait College

Alcee Vaughn
B. S. Southern University

John Leroy
B. S. Southern University

Frank Martinez
B. S., A. B. Southern University

Onelia Bazanac
A. B. Xavier University

FORMER LNC EDUCATORS

Etta Pearl Banks
Rev. Eddie J. Barnes
Doris Beard
Sandra Bloodworth
Etta P.H. Brew
Pearl Burton
Carrie L. Canady
Ezora Cross
Artie Davis
Teresa Donaldson
Henry Essex
Cora Listach Fitch
James Friedman
Alta Gant
Booker To Hawkins
Mildred Jameson Johnson
Gene Ray Jones
Pearl Kirkland
Elaine Goins Payton
Eric Rutland
George Sarpy
Ocie Smith
Leonard Turner
Lovell Walker
D. Wallace
Cecilia L. Watkins







Hugh School



Class—AA

Department of Education

State Approved Negro High School

DIPLOMA

THIS CERTIFIES THAT

Myrtis Daris Britton

has satisfactorily completed the Course of Study required by the State. This Diploma is awarded as evidence of scholastic attainments and good character and as a testimonial of graduation from N. P. Training School at

Natchitoches Louisiana.

Given this 31st day of May 1946

Approved:

J. E. Williams

State Supervisor of Negro Education

R. R. Ewerz

State Director of Elementary and Secondary Education

Geo. E. Cox

State Superintendent of Public Education

Alfred

President Parent School Board

Free

Superintendent Parish Schools


F. M. Richardson

Principal

8th Grade Graduation
1954



Second Championship For City and Barrow



Coach Henry J. (Jim) Barrow---known to many as "Big Jim, the singing coach" because of his golden tenor---may have brought an unseen extra something with him when he came to the Natchitoches School two years ago.

Coach Barrow made his debut in Natchitoches Parish as the coaching staff of Central High School in 1955. He proved he favored no one particular sport at Central that year, as he served as athletic director, football, basketball, and track coaches, all by himself.

A graduate of McKinley High of Baton Rouge, Barrow attended Southern University, lettering at fullback for the conference champions. After a three and one-half year hitch with the Army, he received his diploma from Southern in 1955.

Barrow brought to Natchitoches the first of two state championships in athletics when the Central High Golden Gophers won the state championship in Class AAA basketball. They beat Boston High of Lake Charles in his hometown, Baton Rouge, in what Coach Barrow

recollects, "Couldn't have won it in a better place."

Now an assistant coach in football and basketball and a physical education instructor, Barrow worked with head coach Jim Bruning and others who brought the same fame to Natchitoches High last week. The school won its first state Class AA championship in football when the Red Devils trounced Tallulah 27-7 to cap an undefeated year.

"It couldn't have come to a better bunch of youngsters. They were easy to work with, and I'm only glad to be part of it," said Barrow.

Coach Barrow got his title, "the singing Coach" from the various radio programs and concerts on which he starred over the years.

His wife, Mrs. Geyer Barrow, also works at Natchitoches High as an instructor of girls' health and physical education and is co-sponsor of the Girls Athletic Association, a state organization.

Their daughter, Mrs. Anita B. Roberson, is a junior at Northwestern State College.

COACH JIM BARROW

A SALUTE TO LNC 100TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY 1912-2012

One hundred years is a mighty long time. Once again, the Lord has allowed us to assemble to enjoy and share experiences. These experiences shaped our lives. Let us not forget who we are and from where we came. Let us take a few moments to reflect on the past.

Years ago, students walked or rode long distance, lived with relatives and friends, or even lived in boarding houses to attend school. Some students had to attend school part-time and work in the fields chopping and picking cotton. During these years, we had what is known as "One Room Schools", or "Community Schools." Students came from various communities in Natchitoches Parish: Allen, St. Luke, Gooch Bayou, Powhatan, Creston, Ashland, Pointe, Chestnut, Greengrove, Campti, Clarence, Marthaville, Provencal, St. Matthew, Derry, Cane River, Cloutierville, Bermuda, Melrose, Natchez, Bethel, Pan Am, Grand Ecure, Shady Grove, Gayville, New Town, Jackson Square, The Hill, Bailey Heights, Breda Town, Doodle Dump and East Natchitoches and other surrounding areas. Students attended school three to seven months of the year.

In the early years, students received training through the use of The Blue Back Speller. If you could read and spell or master this book you were given a position to teach. Later, students completed elementary school at the 7th grade level. Because there was such a great thirst for knowledge, many students continued their education to high school. Good students often had to stop attending high school and were given teaching positions since teachers were scarce at that time. Schools did not open or start on the same date of the year. Students had to wait later in the school year until a teacher was available and given a teaching position. Upon the completion of high school, the 11th grade students were eligible to attend college. Later, the 12th grade was added to the high school curriculum. After completing the freshman year of college, students were given a teaching position

to teach under the supervision of a parish supervisor and a college supervisor in education. Teachers attended college on Tuesday Nights and Saturdays to complete their degree.

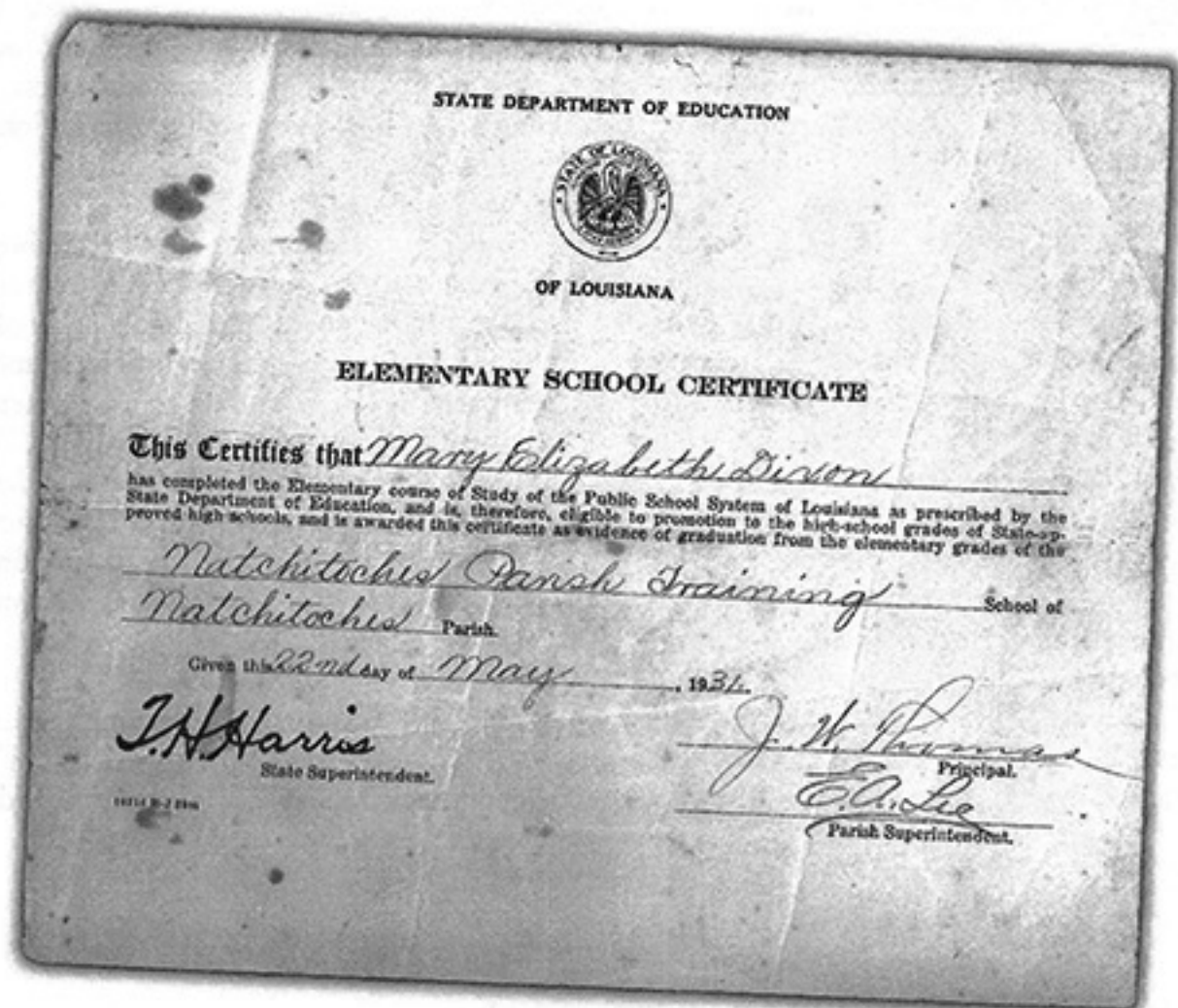
Teachers taught from used and out-of-date textbooks and materials. Chalk and blackboards were used without equipment or visual aids. There were not enough textbooks, so students had to share textbooks. All assigned class work had to be done during school hours because students were not allowed to bring textbooks home. During the winter, the classrooms were cold, so teachers and students gathered wood and made fires in the wood heater or fireplace. There was no lunchroom, so teachers and students brought their lunch to school. Later, lunches were prepared at school and sent to the classroom. Not all students were able to pay for lunches. Students came to Natchitoches to compete. They were competitive in Academic Rallies/Scholastic Rallies, Speech and Drama /Plays, Choral Music, Rhythm Bands, Instrumental Music/Band, Industrial Arts, Agriculture, Business and Vocational Home Economics. Competition was important and showed sportsmanship within the community schools. Sports played included basketball, and events included field day/track & field and wrapping of the maypole on May Day. After World War II, many veterans and parents desired a better education. Many of the community schools started Adult Education and Veteran Education with a state approved curriculum.

Though there were many struggles, great trials and challenges we still succeeded. Thank God who giveth us the victory through Christ Jesus, we have preachers, missionaries, doctors, nurses, judges, lawyers, teachers, artists, painters, musicians, architects, carpenters, engineers, etc.

**WE MADE IT! THANK GOD ALMIGHTY
WE MADE IT! And MUST CONTINUE** to pave the way for future generations.

LNC: OUR STORY

Prof. J. W. Thomas arrived in Natchitoches from Baton Rouge sometime around 1910. It was through his leadership and vision that the Lincoln Institute formed. This school differed from other African American schools in the parish because it was supported entirely by the parents of the students. Dubbed the first private school for blacks in Natchitoches, it later gained financial support through Rosenwald funds. Philanthropist Julius Rosenwald created Rosenwald Schools to help improve the quality of the education for African Americans in the early-20th-century South. Shown here is James Blakely, who owned the land on which the Lincoln Institute was built. (Courtesy of Lincoln Natchitoches Parish Training School/Central High School Archives.) ►



REFLECTIONS OF SCHOOL LIFE

In 1912, a committee headed by Professor J. W. Thomas bought a portion of land located on Jackson Square to build a school for African American boys and girls. The three-room frame building was completed in 1913. The private school was named Lincoln Institute. The Board of Trustees of Lincoln Institute deeded the property to the Natchitoches Parish School Board in 1919. One more room was then added to the school and another teacher was hired, bringing the total number of teachers to four.

In 1925, a new seven-room structure was built by the NPSB with the aid of the Rosenwald Fund and the teaching staff was increased to nine. The first high school work began. Lincoln Institute then became Natchitoches Training School.

In 1930, the board hired teachers who were college graduates to help improve the quality of education. Some among the group were Merton Sterling, Mrs. Lola M. Carter, Miss Bessie Britton, Mrs. Portia Conrad and Frederick M. Richardson.

Several new services were provided for enhancing education in 1934. The first Jeanes Supervisor, Dr. Kara Vaughn Jackson, was hired; the first career education project, maid's classes, were started by Beatrice L. Breda; and a 12th grade class was added which was taught by Odie Cage Johnson (Ward). The 12th grade class was considered the first year of college work for Louisiana State Negro Normal, now Grambling State University.

In 1935, an old theater across the street from the school was bought and converted into an industrial workshop for boys. Frank Martinez was hired as the instructor. During that year, extra activities were initiated. A marching band, football team,

basketball team, and other athletics were coached by Alcee Vaughn. The first school paper "*The Tash*," was published.

The elementary building was erected in 1938 by the NPSB with funds from the Public Works Administration. By 1939, 22 teachers were hired to accommodate the increased enrollment and the new building. Gaddis Hall became the principal. (The J. W. Thomas Apartments are presently located on that site.)

In 1952, a building of brick and acme blocks was constructed and entered in 1953. The Natchitoches Parish Training School was renamed Central High School and F. M. Richardson became the principal. He had been the principal of the former school for many years. The enrollment increased greatly because African Americans were now riding buses to school and more emphasis was placed on the need and value of a high school education. This building is now the location of the Ben D. Johnson Educational Center.

After the 1954 Supreme Court Decision, the NPSB erected a modern round brick structure for African American students. The new school was opened in 1969 as Central High School and the former building was changed to an elementary school for African American children. This situation only lasted one term. By court decree, the new Central High School and Natchitoches High School were integrated in 1970, marking an end to an era in the educational history of Natchitoches Parish.

The graduating class on 1970 became the last to grace the hallowed halls of the institutions that now hold treasured memories for many individuals.

LNC: QUICK FACT

In 1940, Natchitoches Parish Training School was selected as one (1) of sixteen (16) of the most distinguished Black high schools in the United States. The experimental program examined the administration and instructional practice of the school.

37,675

STATE OF LOUISIANA.

PARISH OF Natchitoches.

HERON Mr. Chas. LeBlanc

a Notary Public, duly commissioned and qualified in and for the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, and in the presence of the witnesses hereinafter named and undersigned,

PERSONALLY CAME AND APPEARED J. Delmonico Dugas, an unmarried man

resident of Natchitoches, Parish of Natchitoches, State of La. who declare that, for and in consideration of the price and sum of Three hundred (\$300.00) Dollars, cash in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged and the good acquittance and discharge given for the same, he did and do hereby these presents, grants, bargains, sell, assigns, conveys, set over and deliver unto Mr. Theodora Taylor, Charles LeBlanc, Jessie Shannon, L. J. W. Thomas, Trustees of the Natchitoches Colored Public School

the premises, accepting and purchasing for themselves, in their representative name and assigns, all and singular, the following described property, to-wit:

one-fifth of that certain lot of ground, this day purchased by the under wherein from J. Theodor Dugasale & the Heirs of J. J. Desourgen Jr., being described as follows to-wit: Having a front of 100 ft. on Eight and running back a depth between parallel lines 320 ft. bounded on the by Touline St., On the South by part of the property heretofore later to be sold to Chas. B. Britton, On the East by Eight St., and On the West by Sale & Desourgen Heirs, and nearborough & Carver. All of which will be fully shown by reference to diagram hereto annexed, and made part hereof.

No 27675

Filed Aug 10/71

Attest
By [Signature]

TO

Trustees of Natchitoches Colored Public School - J. B. Britton

Filed for Record this the _____ day of _____ 190__

CLERK AND RECORDS DEPT. FILE

PAID BEFORE

By order of Clerk No. 128 - [Signature]

Attest
[Signature]

By [Signature]

NATCHITOCHE PARISH TRAINING SCHOOL

FACULTY PICTURE AND IDENTITY

1943



Row 1, Left to Right:

Prof. J.W. Thomas, Mrs. Ada Douse Jackson, Mrs. Mildred N. Richardson, Mrs. Dorothy Green Taplin, Gaddie C. Hall, Mrs. Maggie Aldridge, Mrs. Constance Lemast Marcelle, Miss Onelia Buzanac, Joseph B. Britton

Row 2, Left to Right:

John Leroy, Miss Needham, Mrs. Mary E. Steward Emanuel, Mrs. Odile Cage Ward, Mrs. Elizabeth Farrar, Vivian Van Buren, Mrs. Valeria S. Foster, Frank Martinez

Row 3, Left to Right:

Mrs. Crittie Carrol Johnson, Mrs. Harriet A. Robinson, Mrs. Naomi F. Collins, James S. Peterson II, Mrs. Amelia Lewis, Mrs. Beatrice L. Breda, Mrs. Theresa R. Donison

Not Pictured:

Alcee C. Vaughn, Merton Sterling, Miss Mary E. Severe



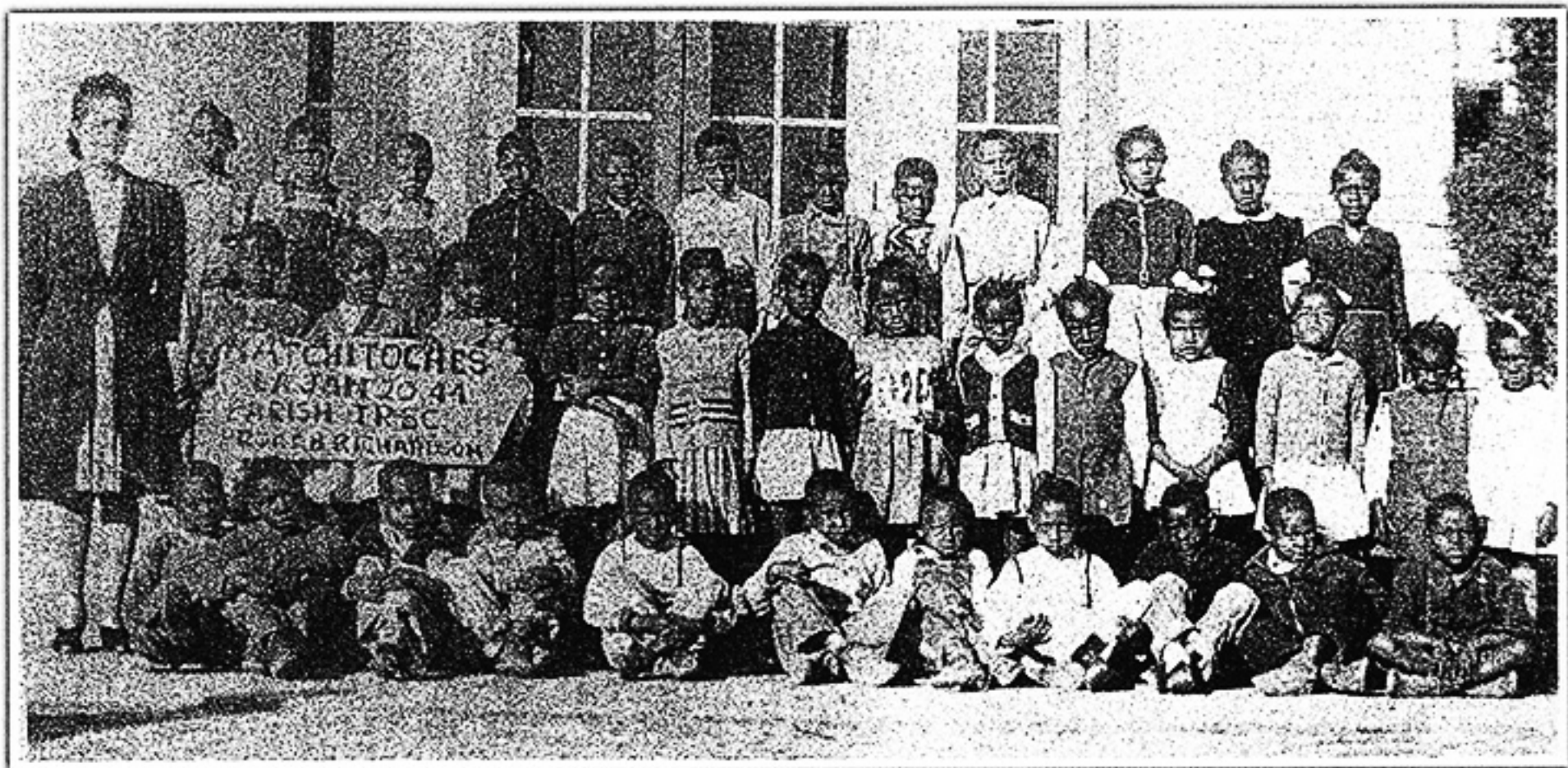
1965 STATE AAA CHAMPION GOPHERS

Bottom Row Kneeling Left to Right:

Lee Madison (*Deceased*) "Poopy", Freddy Ray Ward "Gator", Leroy Hayes "Gabby",
Ortha Lee Bernstine "Bean", Ronald Presley "Tiny" "Quack"

Top Row Left to Right:

Assistant Coach Joseph Dupree (*Deceased*), Sam Cole Jr. (*Deceased*) "Butch",
Charles Ray White "Rooke", Herman Small, Charles Bloodworth "Blood",
Howard Green "Chin", Dennis Wright (*Deceased*), Wilmer Monet "Sonny",
Johnny Earl Alderson "Head", and Head Coach Jim Barrow (*Deceased*)



NPTS - FIRST GRADE CLASS - 1944

Mrs. Mildred Normand Richardson, Teacher
Six Decades - Can you identify these diamonds?

8th Grade Graduation
1955





