

**A BRIEF HISTORY OF
ATHENS COLORED
HIGH
SCHOOL
ATHENS NEGRO HIGH
SCHOOL
AND
HILLCREST HIGH
SCHOOL**

Trudy Walker-Clark, Editor

HISTORY OF ATHENS COLORED HIGH SCHOOL, ATHENS NEGRO HIGH SCHOOL, AND HILLCREST HIGH SCHOOL (They are the same school. The name was changed).

The beginning of Athens Colored High School, Athens Negro High School and Hillcrest High School goes back to 1936, when Mr. John Lopo was assigned to the position as principal of Athens Colored Elementary School. He was a dedicated servant to the entire community. After serving seven years in this capacity, he like others seeking a higher salary, decided to go west. He returned in 1948 with more money, more knowledge, and a dream that Athens could move forward.

Mr. Lopo's first goal was to get the community together as one large family. With his personality, professional, and leadership ability, he organized a strong P. T. A. and began to work toward accomplishing better means of education for the pupils of Athens.

Finally, a bond issue for a high school was passed. The Athens Negro High School was completed in 1953. Students came from St. John, Mayflower, New Friendship, Calhoun, Mt. Olive, some students from Homer Colored (Negro) High School and other elementary schools in the parish were bussed to the new school. Six school buses with one bus making two trips daily brought

the students to school.

The school claims grounds consisting of 21 acres and an enrollment of 619 students. The school had separate baseball and football fields, study hall, library, principal's office, gymnasium, cafeteria, home economic department, and 11 classrooms.

In November, 1953, an open house and "appreciation" barbecue was attended in honor of the official opening of the new Athens Negro High School by over 1,000 people including 400 whites.

Speakers of the evening program were: G. C. Jones, Supervisor of Negro Schools; J. B. Lopo, principal of the new school; H.W. Whatley, principal of Athens school for the whites; F. A. Davis, Reese Van Hooser, Conway Gandy, and E. B. Buckner. Music was provided by the girls' chorus under the direction Mrs. Lois Williams, music instructor.

The first teachers who taught at Athens Negro High school were as follows: Mrs. Morgan Martin, Mrs. Lula Candler Crawford, Mrs. Daisy Darrett, Mrs. Lizzie Banks, Mrs. Mary Slaughter, Mrs. Vivian Lopo, Mrs. N. B. Jones, Mrs. Dorothy White, Mrs. Louise Houston. Mrs. Vera Walker, Mrs. Pearlie Wright, Mr. J. E. Williams, Mrs. Lois Williams, Mrs. Wilder, Miss Annie Lee White, Mr. Walker Evans, and Mr. N. A. Jones.

Mr. Lopo was principal for one year. On July 1,

1954, he took on the role as Supervisor of Instructions in Claiborne Parish Schools. Mr. J. E. Williams, who was the eight grade teacher, became principal for four years. Upon his death, Mr. Shirtee Evans, Sr., who was teaching eight grade became principal for the rest of the school years leading up to 1970 when the schools began intergrating.

There have been many, many more teachers who taught school at Athens Colored High School, Athens Negro High School and Hillcrest High School. They are as follows: Mrs. Louise Bursey Lewis, Mrs. Florence Jones, Mrs. Anna Cooper, Mrs. Louise Nellam, Mr. Shirtee Evans, Sr., Mrs. Verdell Ventroy, Mr. Lonozo Green, Miss Lurlean Thomas, Mr. Joe Copes, Mrs. Mary Thomas, Mrs. Margie Canty, Mrs. Merdis Holyfield, Mrs. Ruthie Rhodes, Mr. James Rhodes, Mrs. Arnette Buggs, Mr. Daigo, Mr. George Kinsey, Mrs. Mary Thomas, Mrs. Lavern Smith Milner, Mr. Otto Turner, Mr. P. J. Anderson, Miss Bobbie Kimble, Ms. Helen Knowles, Mr. Alvernon Smith, Ms. Mary Bell Beene, Mrs. Annie Ruth Green, Mrs. Hattie Graham, Mr. Cullen Jackson, Mr. Palmadge Graham, Mrs. Ethel Todd Dansby, Mrs. Rosie Saulters, Miss Lillie Corbin, Mr. Willie Ramey, Mr. Norris Brown, Mrs. Bertha Winzer, Miss Trudy Walker, Mrs. Mary Manuel, and Miss Sylvia Cato.

**PRINCIPALS OF ATHENS COLORED HIGH
SCHOOL, ATHENS NEGRO HIGH SCHOOL, AND
HILLCREST HIGH SCHOOL**



Mr. John B. Lopo



M. J. E. Williams



MR. S. T. EVANS

Alma Mater

Old, Hillcrest High
Dear Hillcrest High,
We love you one and all.
We'll always be so proud of you
No matter what the cause.

We're loyal to thee
Our Dear Old School.
We are proud of our Black and Gold.
We raise our banners oh so high
For Dear Old Hillcrest High.

YELLOW JACKETS' YELL

We're the Yellow Jackets of Hillcrest,
And proud as you can see, the old team
A honey will keep you to your knees.
We'll fight, fight, fight for Hillcrest on
Land or on sea for our name is the Yellow
Jackets and we are busy as can be!

Senior Class Night Program

Hillcrest High School

May 17, 1953

8:00 P. M.

S. T. Evans, Sr., Principal

Address of Welcome. Charles Winzer Salutatorian

Skit "Flight to New Horizons" Senior Class

Scene: Courtroom Trial of Class of 1963 vs. Outer Space

Characters:

Judge Chester Harold Burns

Bailiff James Robert Jenkins

Court Reporter Milton Walker

Plaintiff Lawyer Jimmie Copeland

Defendant Lawyer. Willie J. Moore

Witnesses and Clients . . . Senior Class Members

Jury Mildred Abbott, Jimmie Amos,

Robert Bradford, Nelson Flucas, Eddie Drake, Margaret

Johnson, Readell Moore, Gertha Shyne, and Benjamin Burks

Newspaper Reporter Bobbie Jones

Class Song Senior Class

First Witness Milton Walker Class History

Second Witness Johnnie Jenkins Class Poem

Third Witness Bobbie Jones Individual Achievements

Fourth Witness , Andy Brown Solo

Fifth Witness Ella Murphy. Senior Alphabet

Sixth Witness Trudy Walker Class Will

Seventh Witness Charles Winzer Class President

Last Witnesses Curtis Emerson & Curlie Moore Class Prophecy

Raye Burns & Willie Cooper Giftorian

Class Song The Winding Road

Farewell Address Bertha Thomas Valedictorian

**THE LOWER ELEMENTARY GRADES
ATHENS COLORED HIGH SCHOOL
PRESENT
THEIR
ANNUAL CLOSING PROGRAM
May 14, 1958 --- 8:00 P. M.**

- I. Opening Song-----
II. Play----- Cinderella In Flowerland

* SCENES*

SCENE I

Prince Sunshine's invitation to May-day Ball.

SCENE II

Godmother Nature sends Daisy off to the ball.

SCENE III

The May-day ball, and the shower

SCENE IV

The Princess of Sunbeam Castle

Cast of Characters

Cinderella-----Helen Louise Houston

Proud Sisters-----Betty Faye Winzer

Pasty Lorana Thomas

Godmother-----Dorothy Jean Dawson

Butterflies-----Betty Charles Hampton

Juanita Jones

Robin Red-----Rudolph Shyne

Prince Sunshine-----John Thomas Jr.

Guests at the Ball

Poppy-----Linda Faye Winzer

Buttercup-----Mary Fannie Shelton

Shirley Ann Oguin

Penny-----Betty Jean Davis

Daffodil-----Ruby Lee Shyne

Violet-----Dorothy Jean Manuel

Sweet Brier-----Joyce Elaine Harris

Mignonette-----Patricia Ann Pickens

Lily Bell-----Virginia Moody

Sweet Pea-----Pearlene A bbott

Synopsis of Play

In this play, there was a very selfish old woman who had three daughters. The youngest was very beautiful. The older daughters were jealous of their sister's beauty. They treated her badly and made her do all the hard work. Because she spent much time among the ashes and cinders these wicked sisters called cinderella and made fun of her.

It happened that the King of the land was going to give a ball in honor of his son, the prince. The selfish sisters were invited to the ball, but no one thought of inviting little Cinderella.

Now let's see Cinderella in Flowerland.

Closing Song-----

Remarks-----Principal J. E. Williams

Sponsors: Mrs. Morgan Martin, Mrs. Lula B. Crawford, Mrs. Daisy Darrett,
Mrs. Lizzie G. Banks, Mrs. Annie M. Cooper, Mrs. Mary Slaughter