

*Merigold Again Ties for Third in Academic Contests
in State Field Meet*

For the second year in succession Merigold High School has tied for third place in the literary contests division of the State Field Meet. Results announced at State College, April 22, show that Merigold students scored a total of 19 points to earn a tie with West Point. This score is four points greater than the number earned in 1937 when Merigold shared third place honors with Kosciusko and Winona. The literary division of this year's meet was won by Columbus, with 30 points; and Greenwood, with 20 points, finished second. Among the schools that finished in the upper group, but behind Merigold, are: Greenville, 15 points; Holly Springs, 13 points; Kosciusko and Starkville, 12 points each; Cleveland, 11 points; and Houston, Water Valley, and Yazoo City, 10 points each.

Students who won places in their respective contests are as follows:

JOHN BURRUS	- - - -	<i>Advanced Civics</i>	- - - -	First
HAROLD GORDON	- - - -	<i>Elementary Civics</i>	- - - -	First
VERGIL REDD	- - - -	<i>Biology</i>	- - - -	Third
PURVES McLAURIN	- - - -	<i>Plane Geometry</i>	- - - -	Fourth
MARTHA CAROLYN COATS	- - - -	<i>Latin I</i>	- - - -	Sixth
EDNA MOODY	- - - -	<i>General Science</i>	- - - -	Eighth
THELMA McGARRH	- - - -	<i>English IV</i>	- - - -	Ninth
HENRY PARK HITER	- - - -	<i>World History</i>	- - - -	Ninth

Students, faculty members, and Merigold citizens are justly proud of the showing the school made in the contests. The literary examinations provide one basis for comparing the work done in the school with the work done in approximately 400 other schools that participate. Although there is no award given for the place, Merigold's 19 points rank the school as the champion of the smaller schools of the State Athletic and Literary Association.

Still another significant point in reviewing the contests is that eight of the nine Merigold contestants eligible for consideration in the state grading won points. Of the 16 original entrants taking the examinations at Clarksdale, March 26, nine placed in the Delta, thereby entering the state competition. Students in every academic department except one scored in the Delta and the state-wide contests.

DELTA LITERARY MEET

Merigold scored 35 points in the Delta Literary Meet, the preliminary of the state contest. Those who were victorious in their respective examinations are:

JOHN BURRUS	- - - -	<i>Advanced Civics</i>	- - - -	First
HAROLD GORDON	- - - -	<i>Elementary Civics</i>	- - - -	First
VERGIL REDD	- - - -	<i>Biology</i>	- - - -	First
PURVES McLAURIN	- - - -	<i>Plane Geometry</i>	- - - -	First
CLEA WHITE	- - - -	<i>Home Economics</i>	- - - -	Second
THELMA McGARRH	- - - -	<i>English IV</i>	- - - -	Third
EDNA MOODY	- - - -	<i>General Science</i>	- - - -	Third
MARTHA CAROLYN COATS	- - - -	<i>Latin I</i>	- - - -	Third
HENRY PARK HITER	- - - -	<i>World History</i>	- - - -	Fourth

DELTA ATHLETIC

Merigold High School participants who placed in the Delta Athletic Meet at Cleveland, April 12, are as follows:

CURTIS HUTCHISON	- - - -	<i>Pole Vault</i>	- - - -	Second (Tie)
EDWARD PEEPLES	- - - -	<i>High Hurdles</i>	- - - -	Fifth
EDWARD PEEPLES	- - - -	<i>High Jump</i>	- - - -	Fourth (Tie)
SYLVIA SMITH	- - - -	<i>Hurdles</i>	- - - -	Fourth
VERGIE MAE REDD	- - - -	<i>Broad Jump</i>	- - - -	Fifth (Tie)

Merigold Elementary School Given "AA" Rating

The Elementary School Commission of Mississippi has announced that the Merigold Consolidated Elementary School is one of the 12 in the state that has been given a "AA" rating in this year's classification. The significance of this rating is emphasized by the fact that there are approximately 1400 elementary schools in Mississippi. In addition to the 12 "AA" schools, 177 are in the "A" group, 659 are classed "B", and 659 are in the "C" and "D" classes.

"AA" rating for an elementary school is comparable to membership in an "A" classification by the Southern Association for the High School Department, and is the highest rating that can be given to an elementary school. To achieve this rating, a school must not only have a well trained, experienced faculty and the best instructional equipment and library facilities available, but must also develop an excellent, progressive school program. The emphasis is placed on the functional uses of the equipment and teachers, rather than the mere possession of the facilities.

This honor is a worth while recognition to the community which provides the instructional materials and support for the school, as well as to the members of the faculty and the pupils who make up the personnel.

Biology students at M. H. S. have won first place in the Delta Literary Meet two years in succession. In 1937 Willis Frances Malley was the winner, and 1938 Vergil Redd took first in the competition.

Two of M. H. S.'s graduates are honor students at Ole Miss this year. They are Claude Coffman, a senior law student, and Willis Frances Malley, a freshman.

Miss Nell Wynne, Class of 1931, is now an instructor in music at Delta State Teachers College. Another graduate who is teaching in a college is John Sabine, Class of 1927, now at the Missouri School of Mines.

BUILDING PLANS ARE MADE

The authorities of Merigold Consolidated School are realizing the great need of expanding the school plant and facilities to meet the needs and requirements of a progressive educational program. For a number of years the school has been forced to use frame buildings on the campus and adjacent to the campus for its Commercial and Science Departments. Approximately ten high school classes are taught daily in buildings which, although they are comfortable, are in reality little better than plantation cabins.

In spite of this condition, however, the school authorities have felt justified in waiting until the bonds on the present school plant are expired before incurring additional obligation. The bonded indebtedness of this district will be paid in 1939, thereby completing the last obligations on the present plant.

An expansion program can now be launched without adding any heavier burdens on the taxpayers, because the present tax levy for bonds and interest will pay for this new expenditure within a few years.

The school needs adequate and well-equipped laboratories for the Science, Home Economics, Commercial, and Agricultural Departments. Agriculture has not yet been added to the curriculum, but it will be as soon as adequate facilities can be obtained for teaching it.

Another need of the school is a gymnasium for its physical educational program and for the general educational activities in the elementary and intermediate grades. No school which is without a gymnasium can justly claim the most progressive school program. Contrary to popular belief, a basketball court is only a small, incidental use to which a gymnasium can be put. It is not necessary that Merigold's gymnasium be as large as those of some schools of the Delta, but it should be well-equipped, comfortable, and built in such a way that it would blend harmoniously with the rest of the school plant.

Depressions will come and go frequently in the future, just as they have in the past. Several depressions and recessions have occurred since the obligations for the present school plant were incurred. It would have been foolish for the citizens of the community to have waited all this time to build our present plant, merely because a depression was always just around the corner. By borrowing the money and spreading the payments over a five or ten year period, a loan of \$35,000 could be acquired on a lower tax levy for bonds and interest than we have ever had in the past. Such an expansion would put the school facilities of Merigold up to a par with those of Rosedale, Shaw, Cleveland, Pace, and Shelby, Bolivar county schools that have expanded their plants during the past few years.

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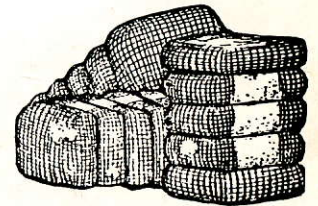
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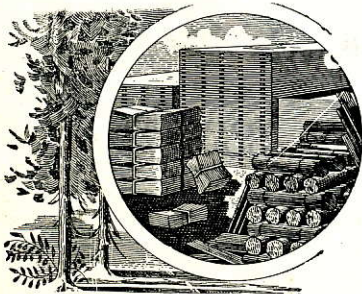
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