

STATE OF GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Certificate

Thomas

County



Ochlocknee

School

This Certifies That

Wesley Benton

has

completed the Course of Study prescribed for the Elementary Schools of Thomas County, Georgia, and having passed a satisfactory examination, is entitled to this Certificate and Admission to the High School Department.

In Witness Whereof our signatures affixed this

31st

day of

May

1946

W. H. Rehberg
County Superintendent of Schools

E. L. Evans
President County Board of Education

M. D. Collins
State Superintendent of Schools

Ernestine Clark

Teacher

J. Graham Garrison
Principal

Thomas County Schools

Ochlocknee



Georgia

This Certifies That

Wesley Gordon Benton

Has satisfactorily completed a Course of Study prescribed by Thomas
County Board of Education and is therefore awarded this

Diploma

Given this fifth day of June, nineteen hundred and fifty.



James J. Brown
Chairman Board of Education

E. L. Evans
Chairman of County Board

J. H. Massengale
Principal

W. H. Roberg
County School Superintendent

April 5, 2007

Ms. Charlesy Davis, Media Specialist
Thomas Co. Central High School
4686 U.S. 84 Bypass
Thomasville, Ga. 31792

Re: Gifting of Ochlochnee School 1963 Indian Yearbook.

Dear Ms. Davis:

Regarding my offer referenced above, I was in town yesterday prepared to complete the transfer. However, with spring break in progress, we could not meet.

In order to continue the process, I met with Tammi Mott at the newspaper office and left with her the basic details about our previous meeting. She made a photo showing me giving the yearbook to you on behalf of Central High School.

Enclosed are the following items:

Original copy of 1963 Yearbook

Letter dated 4-2-06 about Ochlochnee School and my position.

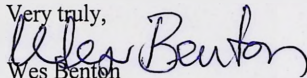
Copy of 9-1-1960 news article and copy of the 1950 OHS Graduating Program.

Copies of my graduation certificates--1946 and 1950.

Please contact Ms. Tammi Mott, A.E., Thomasville Times-Enterprise, 229-226-2400 , ext. 224 and she will help you coordinate the newspaper coverage and other photos that you may desire.

Thanks again for your interest in helping to preserve a small portion of the history of Ochlochnee School and the community of Ochlochnee, Georgia.

Very truly,


Wes Benton

1212 S. Binion Rd.
Apopka, Fl. 32703
407-886-0909

April 2, 2007

TO: Charlesy Davis
Media Specialist, Central High School
Thomasville, Georgia

FR: Wes Benton
1212 S. Binion Rd.
Orlando/Apopka, Fl. 32703
407-886-0909

Re: Donation of a copy of the OCHLOCHNEE SCHOOL INDIANS 1963 ANNUAL.
To the Central High School Library

The 1963 ANNUAL was compiled by the school faculty and is now offered as a memorial to the Ochlochnee School and its former faculty members and students.

Ochlochnee High School and Ochlochnee Elementary merged into Central High School and Garrison/Pilcher Elementary School starting in the late 1950s.

The Ochlochnee High School graduating class of 1950 was the last class to graduate with eleven (11) years of training. There was no class graduation in 1951. 1952 and thereafter, 12 years was required.

Wes Benton is the only Ochlochnee School graduate to later return as principal of the school from Sept. 1960 thru. June, 1963.. He is a graduate of Ochlochnee School (Elem. May, 1946 and High School June, 1950) Baldwin Jr. Col., Tifton, Univ. of Ga. 1959, BS, and Florida State Univ. 1960, MS.

He is the son of the late Henry Paxton and Elizabeth Benton of Route 2, Ochlochnee.

After his tenure at Ochlochnee School, he relocated to Orlando, Fla. Where he taught in the Orange County School System one year. In 1964, he transitioned into the real estate business and is still active as a real estate investor.

GRADUATING EXERCISES

Ochlocknee High School

Monday June 5, 8:30 P. M. 1950

Prelude — "Flower Song" Lange
 Processional — "Grand March" (Aida) Verdi
 Invocation The Reverend J. Gorham Garrison
 Welcome Myrtle Sellers
 Solo Joyce Griffin
 Introduction of Speaker The Reverend J. Gorham Garrison
 Baccalaureate Address The Honorable Herman Talmadge
 Class Song Senior Class
 Awards Lions Club, American Legion, Kiwanis
 Presentation of Diplomas J. W. Massengale
 Farewell Virginia Wills
 Recessional — "Grand March" (Aida) Verdi

USHERS: Elizabeth White, Frances Pippin, Jean Burt, Charlie Nixon, Carolyn Futch.

CLASS ROLL

Atkinson, Neyrone	Davis, Ann	Stewart, Delores
Barwick, Nancy	Griffin, Joyce	Turner, Leon
Benton, Edward	Hicks, Peggy	Wadsworth, Turner
Benton, Wesley	Hicks, Ted	Warren, Charles
Chambers, Gerald	Lewis, Joy	White, Joyce
Chastain, Joe	Nixon, Dora Belle	Wills, Virginia
Cogland, James	Reneau, Horace	Ziegler, Donald.
Cooper, Dianne	Sellers, Myrtle	

La. Governor

Schools Ready To Open Friday At Ochlochnee

OCHLOCHNEE—The teachers of Ochlochnee Consolidated School are making ready for the opening Friday, when all classes will be organized for the fall term.

A new principal, Wesley G. Benton, is in charge this year, succeeding Miss Lilla Clifton who has accepted a position as high school teacher at Central High School.

Benton, a native of Thomas County, is the first graduate of the local high school to become its principal. He holds a Master's degree from Florida State University and taught last year in Thomasville High School.

The faculty, besides Benton is: Lavon Hayes, eighth grade; Mrs. Lowell E. Clark, seventh; Miss Lillie Mae Luckey, sixth; Mrs. Myrtle Chastain, fifth; Mrs. Erene Singletary, fourth; Mrs. C. Roy Groover, third; Mrs. Almeda Wills, second; Mrs. Jerry Thompson and Mrs. Marie Utley, first.

All high school students, grades nine to twelve, of the Ochlochnee district are transported to Central High School.

Students indicate they are pleased with the instructional services and facilities at the county high school at Central.

9-1-1960