

CLAUDE H. HARSHBARGER

ROACHDALE, INDIANA.
DECEMBER 29, 1889.

DANIA, FLORIDA.
APRIL 3, 1927.

Claude H. Harshbarger was born near Roachdale, Indiana, December 29, 1889. He received his early education in the schools of Putnam County, and graduated from the Roachdale High School in 1908. During the following years he taught in various schools, was cashier in a bank, and was for a time City Clerk of Roachdale. In the meantime, as circumstances permitted, he was slowly making his way through Indiana University, from which he received the A. B. degree in 1924.



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August 7, 1913, he was married to Alma Barnard, who, with two children, Lena Faye, aged 10, and Richard Barnard, aged 6, survives him. In the summer of 1925, after a serious illness, he went to Florida in search of a more favorable climate, and made such improvement that he was able to assume full duties as principal of the schools of Dania in September. After a successful year he felt much encouraged and was just beginning a second year's work when the hurricane of September, 1926, reduced his school plant to a wreck and almost entirely destroyed the town. His final illness is attributed by his physicians to the overwork and exposure incident to the storm and the rehabilitation of the town and the rebuilding of the school.

Mr. Harshbarger was just approaching the best years of his life and his loss is felt most keenly by this Academy and by the community in

which he lived. His qualities of citizenship and his popularity among those who knew him are attested by the fact that he was a member of the Christian Church of Hollywood, Florida, the Roachdale Lodge, No. 602 F. & A. M., the Scottish Rite and Shrine of Indianapolis, and the Rotary Club of Hollywood.

I visited him in the fall of 1925, only a few weeks after he began his duties as principal of the Dania schools. Florida was at the height of its period of prosperity; the enrollment in the Dania schools had doubled since the beginning of the term; temporary buildings were scattered over an acre of ground, and more were being built. It is seldom that a teacher going into a new community meets with such difficulties of organization and administration; but the system was moving smoothly, and plans were being made for permanent facilities to take care of the children of the large winter population that was reasonably expected in the years to come.

I visited Dania again in April, 1927, only a week after his death. The hurricane had done its work with a thoroughness that can be realized only by those who knew the lower east coast both before and after September, 1926. On the site of the old school building of Dania a new one was nearing completion, and in it were embodied the ideas that Mr. Harshbarger had worked out. People with whom I talked told of the fight he had made, in the face of discouragement, wreck, and financial disaster, for the kind of school that the town should have, and no one seemed to be sorry that he had won.

Mr. Harshbarger's major work in his undergraduate days was in botany. He did no graduate work, and had published no papers. His later interest and efforts were chiefly in another field, and, both in his home community and in Broward County, Florida, he will long be remembered for his constructive citizenship and his professional ability as an educator.

PAUL WEATHERWAX, Indiana University.