GIVES LECTURE ON MOONLIGHT SCHOOLS

A very rare treat was given the students, faculty, and the State Teachers College Tuesday morning, when Mrs. Cora Wilson Stewart, principal of the school, resigned her position, and famous the world over as the “Founder of the Moonlight Schools,” gave a history of the founding of those schools.

In her opening remarks, Mrs. Stewart complimented very highly on her home-teachers, and did not except Valley City.

Mrs. Stewart, who is a very brilliant speaker, opened the evening with a story of the Moonlight Schools. When Mrs. Stewart was county superintendent of Brown County, Kentucky, a large group of women who were too busy to read and write their letters for them. Some of them came to her to learn how to read and write. Mrs. Stewart told the story of “the three men who bought the need of the school.”

The teachers asked Mrs. Stewart to co-teach in starting the Moonlight Schools, and they gladly consented to do all they could. On September 5, 1917, the first Moonlight Schools organized in Kentucky, and since that time, the schools have multiplied and have spread over Kentucky.

The teachers were expected to teach in the evening, and the children had to walk miles to school. The teachers worked through the night, teaching in their homes, over the rough mountain roads, all eager to learn.

The women who wanted to read their Bibles and learn to write to their children far away in different states. The men had to give up working during the day and study during the night. With the help of their neighbors, they accomplished this task in five days.

The next year, the attendance increased, and the number of children who were taught to read and write. A campaign was launched to eradicate illiteracy. Of the five and a half million illiterates in the United States, North Dakota is one of the states with the highest illiteracy rate. Let us keep the North Dakotans to read and write, instead of being illiterate, as it was in 1924. Let us teach the 93 to read and write. The address ended with an element of humor. This together with a good voice, salient did poise, and almost unbound enthusiasm, created an opportunity to make her appeal particularly successful.