

## ROBERT O. HARRIS

1909-1979



**M**r. Harris was a native of Mecklenburg County, born in Red Oak, VA. He received his elementary and secondary education from local schools and earned his college degree in Animal Husbandry from Virginia State College in Petersburg, VA. Upon completion of college, he returned to the county where he and other concerned citizens conceived and implemented a plan to build a high school to meet the needs of Black students. At that time, there was no high school education provided for these students by the local school board. In 1939, the school was accredited and in that same year, it held its first graduation. He served as the principal and as the only teacher from 1935 until 1938. At that time he resigned as principal and assumed the position of Vocational Agriculture Instructor at the high school. Mr.

Harris retained this position until his retirement in 1969.