

STEPPING STONES TO SUCCESS



Opportunities for success are all around you—they lie not alone in large cities and communities adjacent to famous metropolitan centers, but wherever you go out to find them. Such fact has proven itself right here in our own little community, and the story, one of several, dates back to 1944.

During that year, plans were formulated to start a children's music project for the purpose of providing musical education for talented children of our employees. It was on October 16, 1944, that the first Ecusta children's music project actually got under way with an enrollment of nearly sixty eager and conscientious 'kids.' You will recall that our start consisted of a chorus and music study group.

Through 1945, individual band instrument in-

struction was given to many of the children. One of these was a girl named Virginia Edmundson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herschel Edmundson of Mills River. Herschel Edmundson, is an employee in our Maintenance Department and a member of our Ten Year Service Club.

Choosing the clarinet, Virginia began her studies and eventually became one of the original members of the Ecusta Children's Band. Following her graduation from Mills River High School, she attended Brevard College, where she became a member of the Glee Club and the College Band. However, she continued her association with the Ecusta Band as first clarinetist until August 1947.

In the fall of that year, Virginia enrolled in the Western Carolina Teachers' College for her remaining two-years' college work, graduating from that school in 1949. In addition to all the other duties Virginia had at WCTC, she was also a member of the Glee Club, Band, Chorus, McDowell Music Club, and Music Appreciation Club.

Today, Virginia holds a North Carolina Teacher's "A" Certificate in music and science, and is a teacher of public school music, band, and glee club at the Valley Springs High School in Buncombe County. At the Valley Springs High School, and incidentally, during her first year on the faculty, Virginia organized a band of twenty-seven members and a glee club of forty members. Both of these organizations have made several public appearances during the past twelve months. Carrying her knowledge and music appreciation still further, she has, among her other duties, that of teaching public school music to students from the first through the eighth grades.

It is our hope that past, present, and future members of the Ecusta Band will have an opportunity to read this article and from it understand that "stepping stones to success" can be found right here in Western North Carolina.

We know that, in time, we will be able to bring you more of these success stories. WE ARE JUSTLY PROUD OF MISS VIRGINIA EDMUNDSON.



VIRGINIA EDMUNDSON