

# Chalk Dust

By Mary Rhea Gardner

In rambling from school to school looking for an educational formula to put on the Blackboard this week, it suddenly struck that there really is no set formula for a "good" school. However, observations indicate that each school in this county tries to do its best job by adapting the school to the needs of the students and by utilizing all resources to reach the educational goal set for itself.

At one time or another, most of us have experienced the satisfying feeling of being singled out to serve as an example for others. Just knowing that you must have done something right, gives you that motivational urge to keep on doing your best!! White Oak Elementary has received such an honor, which certainly is worthy of mention. A request from the Gates County School Administration to the N.-east Regional Center in Williamston asking for suggestions of a good school to visit for observation led to White Oak's front door.

A group of early childhood teachers and administrators from Buckland School will be visiting at White Oak next Tuesday, in the interest of learning "how to make their classes more interesting and open and how to tailor their curriculums to the individualized needs of students." That says a lot for their little school, and for teachers, Linda Gosnell, Christine Flemming, and Caroline Banks, whose rooms, I am told, will be observed.

While the visitors are there, I hope they'll have an opportunity to visit the lunchroom and see the delightful mural of Walt Disney characters painted on the walls. Going over and beyond the call of duty, teacher aides Electra Hurdle and Nancy Noble took it upon themselves to "liven up" the institutional walls and boost the morale of all by putting their artistic talents to work. Who needs to go to Disneyland? There is a virtual parade of bigger than life drawings of the Sleeping Beauty, Cinderella, and many other fairy tale characters as well as their animal friends. Everyone should make the effort to go to White Oak and see these pleasant dining room surroundings.

I understand that there are, possibly, conflicting

meetings, but all White Oak parents are urged to attend the White Oak's PTA at 7:30 P.M. Monday, March 7. Gene Causby, the assistant state superintendent for personnel relations and public affairs, will be the guest speaker. Those who have heard Gene know him to be one of the most entertaining, anecdotal speakers with an educational message around. He's musically talented too—with a guitar as his favorite instrument.

New PTA officers will be nominated at this meeting, as well as making plans for putting hard earned money to school use. White Oak's PTA has been tremendous in helping provide travel monies for educational field trips for students. Now they are getting ready to make curtains for the teacher's lounge, help plan and give financial aid for the school's beautification project, put permanent flower arrangements in the library and cafeteria. A bake sale during the Biennial Pilgrimage is next on their fund raising agenda.

A thought by John Holt gave us something to think about when he said, "A really healthy, active living person, man or child, lives his life as a whole, and if you were to say to him at any second, 'Are you working or are you playing?' he would say, 'I don't know!'"

I think the attitude which is implied is marvelous!! This feeling often carries over into the classroom, where the lesson taught is seriously learned and remembered, but is a happy experience as well. For example, the 5th through 8th grade students in Kathy Segraves' gifted and talented classes have chosen to participate in the Norfolk "Ledger-Stars" Spelling Bee. Students are challenged in their classroom with words which they are expected to be able to spell on their grade level nationally. All of us can remember the sweaty palms and nervous stomachs when our word was coming up next, or the suppressed feeling of joy felt when the person next to us missed a word which we knew how to spell!! Then to be the grand winner in the class was something else!!

Chowan's winner, Bonita Ward, will go further than the classroom in their spelling bee. She has earned

the privilege of going to Norfolk and participating in the District Contest, where competition will really get stiff. We feel sure that Bonita, an 8th grader, will make Chowan proud. Also Marlin McClain, a fifth Grader, was 1st runner up. Lesson learned? A language arts experience that not only taught the mechanics of spelling, but required mental discipline, poise, composure, and instilled confidence.

Then there's the Soil Conservation Poster Contest sponsored each year by the Department of Soil Conservation. It's not always the best artist who wins these contests,—but that helps. Students who enter, first, have to think of creative ways to pictorially depict what they have learned through their environmental studies and reproduce their original ideas in poster form.

At Swain School, Tracie White (Fourth Grade) was the county second place winner, Karen Brown (Fifth Grade), the county second place winner, and Robert Coffield (Sixth Grade), the first place winner.

Rodney Saunders, fourth Grade White Oak student, won 1st place on the 4th Grade level. Good luck to you all as your posters go on to district competition, and thanks to the Soil Conservation Service for giving students the opportunity to be recognized for their efforts.

Going to the Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus at Scope last week was a first time experience for many of Frances Wilkins' and Lucille Stalls' sixth Grade students. As a follow up of their Cultural Arts educational TV series, "Remembering Happy Times," these students will apply their happy memories of this day through creative written reports, verbal reports, and artistic portraits of their experience. Anyone who has ever attended a three ring circus also realizes the need for developing keen observation powers.

By actually setting up their own store with empty cans, cartons, frozen food packages, etc., 7-12 grade Home Economic students at Chowan are getting a saturation lesson in Consumer Economics. They are studying labels to determine

if U.S. Government requirements and regulations are being met, learning to compare food values and prices by content and weight to determine the best buy, and learning to recognize gimmicks which food companies add, such as prizes in boxes and recipes, and look for other information not required. Once all the stock is on the shelf, these students will plan nutritionally balanced family menus and make their lists, on a given budget, for shopping. We might all do well to get Mrs. Daisy Bemby let us sit in on their special project.

If you've been reading news articles on the upcoming Student Council Convention being co-hosted by Edenton's five schools on March 19 and 20, you have some idea of how active these groups have become.

This past weekend, Mrs. Clara Boswell, SGA advisor at Chowan, and Gail Felton, a District Junior-High representative, attended their Junior High School Leadership Workshop in Reidsville, N.C. Both played key roles on the program, which was designed to provide leadership training, to increase awareness of the provision of the North Carolina Association of Student Councils, and to build better internal student councils.

Over at John A. Holmes High several good things are going on in the Human Relation area through the guidance department. There is a full article elsewhere in today's paper which I hope you'll read.

Music is truly a universal language, giving a feeling of strong human relation. I wish everyone could have been a Rotary Club member last week when the John A. Holmes Concert Choir gave the program. The blend of these students' vocals was thrilling, the program selection entertaining, and the audience most receptive.

It was obvious that Shelby Strother, director, loves her work and that the students give her their ALL. President, Richard Hines, said that in his years as a Rotarian, it was the first time a program had ever received a standing ovation. That statement warmed lots of hearts.

Congratulations to Mike Brown for winning the first place state trophy in the wrestling tournament in Winston-Salem last weekend. Holmes' five participants in this State event also put Edenton on the map by tying for 10th place in overall wrestling competition. Considering that approximately 100 schools competed, you'll understand the smile on Coach Gil Burrough's face. Someone just snatched the eraser out of my hand, and I can take a hint!

## Beeler Elected

ELIZABETH CITY — An Edenton Boy Scout executive has been installed as an officer of the Albemarle District Committee. He is Art Beeler who will serve as activities chairman.

Beeler also received the District Chairman's Award. James W. Bull, Jr., is district chairman; David Twiford, vice chairman, Edward Holcombe, Scout chairman; and Robert Horst, Explorer chairman.

Also, Edgar Parker, district scout commissioner; Edward Boneck, Cub commissioner; Francis Jackson, membership chairman; Lindy Cockman, manpower chairman; and Tom Campbell, partner relationships chairman.

The Employment Standards Administration of the U. S. Department of Labor enforces laws and regulations setting employment standards, providing workers' compensation to those injured on the job and requiring federal contractors to provide equal employment opportunity.

## Homemakers Hold Meeting

Paradise Road Extension Homemakers Club met at the home of Mrs. Minnie Summers February 21, 1977 with all members present except two.

Miss Theresa Turner, County Home Economics Extension Agent was in charge. Mr. Charles Hammond, Area Management Specialist presented a very interesting talk and slide presentation on "Estate Planning." The presentation was enjoyed by all. After the presentation the meeting was turned over to Miss Turner for business discussion. Afterwards, Mrs. Summers, the hostess served a delicious repast that was enjoyed by all.

## Biggs Assigned

FT. BRAGG — Army Pvt. Mack W. Biggs, son of Mr. and Mrs. Willie J. Biggs, Route 1, Edenton, was assigned February 3 to the 82nd Airborne Division at Ft. Bragg, N.C.

Pvt. Biggs, a petroleum supply specialist in the division, entered the Army in August 1976.

He is a 1976 graduate of John A. Holmes High School in Edenton.

## ECHSA To Meet

The governing body of the Eastern Carolina Health Systems Agency will meet March 9 at 6:30 P.M. at the Thomas Willis Regional Development Institute in Greenville.

Agenda items will include: 1) Discussion and recommendation from the ECHSA to the State Health Planning and Development Agency to amend the State Medical Facilities Plan to accommodate an additional bed tower for the Pitt Memorial Hospital and ECU School of Medicine and a 33 bed Regional Neonatal intensive care unit for the Pitt Memorial Hospital-ECU School of Medicine; 2) Regional Emergency Medical Services, status, goals and objectives. The public is welcome at the meeting.

## SUPPER PLANNED

The Mid-County Ruritan Club will hold a chitlins supper Saturday, beginning at 4 P.M. at the Skinnerville Civic Center. Proceeds will be used for club projects.

## Chowan Co. 4-H Horse Club Considers Coming Activities

With the words "The blessing of a beautiful country seen from the back of a quarter horse", the narrator of the film "Ride, Cowboy, Ride" described one of many trail rides taken on quarter horses each year.

Chowan County 4-H Horse Club members watched not only trail rides, but reining, and precise drills that reminded one of a marching band on a football field.

After the film, a discussion was held. A nominating committee was decided on and chosen. Mrs. Fran Ward appointed

Elizabeth Stephens, Debbie Jordan and Franklin Martin.

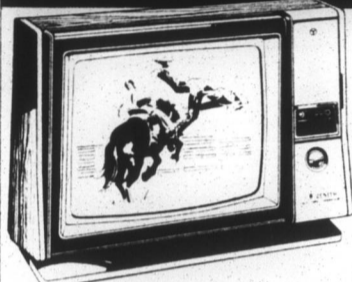
The District 4-H Horse Show will be held in May. Several members expressed interest in going.

The Horse Bowl was discussed and sources of information to study were looked over.

Debbie Jordan then gave a speech on "Systems of Breeding", after which the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be Saturday, March 5 at the County Office Building, 1:30 P.M. Interested persons are urged to attend.

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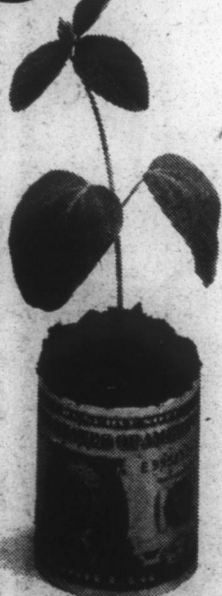
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