



This is a front view of the new telephone exchange building at Cherokee recently completed to house the new dial system exchange installed by Western Carolina Telephone Company. The building is of rock and located on Highway 107 near the Tribal Council building.

## Your Child And The School

By Miss Lucille Hunt

The National Education Association meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, was its 88th Annual meeting and the 29th meeting of its Representative Assembly. There were 3403 delegates registered from 48 states of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Philippines, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and seventeen foreign countries—the largest number in NEA History.

In addition to business sessions, general assemblies, and departmental meetings, there were one-day clinics, information sessions, and three-day discussion groups which gave every delegate an opportunity to participate. These smaller meetings were under the direction of representatives chosen from local and state associations to act as discussion leaders, recorders, observers, and resource consultants.

One of the significant thoughts projected in this meeting came from the discussion group on Procedure for Democratic Practices in the Development of School Policies: "Democratic participation can be brought about through use of conferences, workshops, welfare committees, advisory committees, boards of managers, student councils, PTA's and ques-

tionnaires." Whatever technique is used representatives from faculties, students, councils, administrators, lay and civic groups must be included.

Complete democratic participation exists only when all fears are erased and the extent of it is determined by the need and readiness of the area.

In other words democratic procedures in school practice come only when all peoples of the community can share the problems of the schools and solve these problems to the best advantage of the group rather than to individuals. This year there was more discussion about the education of the gifted child than at any previous meetings. It was agreed that there should be no neglect of the retarded or handicapped. They should be advanced as rapidly as possible and helped to accept a healthy attitude toward their handicaps. At the same time the gifted child should be urged to even greater accomplishments. He should be stimulated in the use of his talents to the point of earnestly working to accomplish something that is a real challenge to him. Because we have such an abundance of everything in America, we have been

wasteful. The waste of mental ability is perhaps the worst of all wastes. Our American society needs its ablest members in positions of leadership and influence. The gifted child needs social as well as intellectual development. Segregation into groups of gifted children is not recommended. They should be given challenging tasks in their own groups with own friends. The public must realize that such a program cannot be provided without funds for materials and teachers to develop the rich resources found in the gifted child.

The group felt that a nation with America's wealth could find adequate revenues to support its schools. To do so requires, first the acceptance by people generally of forward-looking educational goals, and, second, the evolution of a tax structure which will tap our economic resources at all three levels: national, state, local. It was clearly recognized that technical discussion of taxation and school finance was relatively futile if the teaching profession lacks understanding and unity. This is particularly true in view of the reckless assertions and ruthless methods of the nationally organized tax fighting agencies operating within most of the states. America's parents and teachers will establish common goals and develop procedures of common action in spite of the handicap of these national organization of tax fighting agencies. Many timely problems of Education were studied and discussed but there was still time to know your neighbors from other States and Nations.

Social activities during the week included a night at the St. Louis Municipal Opera where "East Wind" was the attraction; the

## PERSONALS

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Snyder and family, Memphis, Tenn., left for their home in Tenn. after a week's visit with relatives in Addie.

Rev. W. C. Reed, Mrs. Reed, two daughters, Marcella and Mary Nell, son, Olen, and wife and daughter, Ann, of Kingston, spent the past week-end in Sylva with Mr. Ed Reed and family and other relatives. Rev. Mr. Reed, who has been superintendent of Kennedy Home in Kingston, will soon be located in Thomasville at Mills Home as general superintendent of all Baptist Orphanages in the State.

Miss Carol Hamilton of Bryson City is visiting her grandmother, Mrs. L. J. Hamilton and friends of Cullowhee. Miss Hamilton is formerly from Cullowhee.

Mr. and Mrs. John O'Kelly and two children, Doris Ann and Johnny, of Morganton arrived Sunday to spend the week with Mrs. O'Kelly's son, Mr. Clyde Rector, and family.

Mr. Dillard Wood had twenty-two members of his family as guests for the week-end. The group gathered at Mr. Wood's residence for homecoming. Among the guests were: Mr. and Mrs. B. T. Tracey and children, New York City; Mrs. Carol Loosier and son, Memphis, Tenn.; Mr. T. E. Campbell, Greenville, S. C.; Mrs. Wyatt Bryant, Greenville, S. C.; Baxter Wood, Greenville, S. C.

Mr. and Mrs. Carol Seay and baby of Nashville, Tenn., were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Velt Wilson for the week.

Mrs. Anna Kendig of Germantown, Pa., is spending some time with her cousin, Mrs. J. C. Weider, and Mr. Weider in Dillsboro. Mrs. Weider, who has been quite ill, is much improved.

President's Reception where the Hawaiian delegation distributed leis and orchids to guests; the Friendship Evening, when delegates had an opportunity to meet the candidates for next year's NEA offices. There were as well numerous dinners and lucheons, the largest of which was the Class Teacher dinner on Tuesday night when some 2,000 teachers enjoyed an Independence Day Program of music and folks dancing. State groups socialized with one another at their headquarters, rooms, and at special breakfast meeting. Even the weather man cooperated and it was clear and pleasant all the week. All of us enjoyed the air conditioned meeting places over the city as well as the lovely Keil Auditorium with its comfortable committee rooms and opera house. The City of St. Louis really went all out for the comfort and convenience of its guests and we enjoyed and appreciated all its efforts for our convenience and comfort.

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