

Supply Of Good Teachers Inadequate; NCEA Stresses

"Elected officials, candidates for office and citizens must become conscious of the inadequate supply of good teachers," Mrs. Ethel Perkins Edwards, executive secretary of the North Carolina Education Association, stated today as she announced the release of a survey of the teacher supply situation in which all North Carolina superintendents participated.

The report of the survey appears in a publication, "Teachers For Our Children," which includes statistical data and representative statements by the superintendents as to the actual conditions in the 174 administrative units in North Carolina.

"The survey was made, and the results published, because those of us who have been aware of the facts believe citizens do not realize the seriousness of the teacher supply situation. Conditions have reached the point where it is difficult to staff the schools with qualified teachers and indications point to a dangerous reduction in the future supply of qualified teachers," Mrs. Edwards said.

Mrs. Edwards pointed out that recently in Asheville Governor Luther H. Hodges told the NCEA convention that the responsibility for increasing teachers salaries is primarily that of the local units. O. P. Johnson, Duplin County superintendent stated in his inaugural address as NCEA president, "Seventy-five counties cannot afford to supplement the salaries of teachers."

"The results of the survey support Mr. Johnson's statement," said Mrs. Edwards.

"The Governor also challenged the teaching profession to be sure you are willing to keep mod-

ern to help get more teachers for math and science. The profession is willing," Mrs. Edwards declared, "but young people today measure the term 'modern' by the amount of money they earn in their chosen vocation. I believe that when salaries are modernized for teachers, we will attract an adequate supply of teachers for all fields, as well as math and science teachers."

Discussing the contents of the publication, Mrs. Edwards stated that "there are some counties in which the superintendents believe the critical point has been reached." The survey shows that something "must be done to improve the teacher supply, especially in rural North Carolina. Teachers and prospective teachers are concerned about the fact that the average salary in the United States for 1956-1957 will be \$875 above that of North Carolina, while in 1950-1951 the national average was only \$280 above North Carolina's."

"There is general agreement from many sources — the superintendents in this report, the White House Conference, and many national studies — that an increase in teachers salaries will do more than any thing else to attract and hold qualified teachers," Mrs. Edwards pointed out as she indicated the significant findings in the survey.

1. There are 2,540 teachers trained to teach high school subjects to high school age children who are actually teaching over 75,000 elementary children. The report states, "Many of these high school teachers teaching in the elementary schools are excellent teachers, but it is fair to say that great numbers of them lack the personal qualifications and the training for dealing with elementary students."

2. Though North Carolina ranks sixth in the nation in teacher preparation there are about 2,200 teachers holding nonstandard certificates. These teachers teach about 68,000 children each day. County units suffer most in this respect for there are almost ten times as many nonstandard certificate holders in the county units as in the city units.

3. More than 33,000 children are being taught each day by 1,126 teachers, who, in the opinion of the superintendents, should be replaced or retired. The report explains that many of the teachers "were called back into the profession at personal sacrifice and would welcome retirement."

4. "Teaching is no longer considered an 'old maid' profession in North Carolina," states the survey commentary, for of 174 units, 151 report over 50% of the teachers are married and of 174 units, 97 report over 70% are married. Since 1946 there has been a sharp rise in the percent of married teachers. County units have a larger percentage of married teachers, indicating that college graduates are attracted to city units.

5. The superintendents listed a total of 961 teachers who commute an unsatisfactory distance. These teachers teach about 29,000 children each day. "Teachers who commute an unsatisfactory distance and who do not reside in the



GOVERNOR HODGES' TOP CAMPAIGN STAFF — Headquarters for Governor of North Carolina Luther H. Hodges' campaign for re-election subject to the Democratic Primary of May 26 were set up recently at the Sir Walter Hotel in Raleigh. Seated is Mrs. Annie Cooper of Raleigh, head-

quarters office manager. Standing (l-r): Mayor Harold Makepeace of Sanford, campaign manager; Governor Hodges; and Hugh Morton of Wilmington and Grandfather Mountain, campaign publicity director.

community where they teach cannot assume their full responsibility and exert their best influence on the children they teach," the report states.

6. Of the 174 administrative units in North Carolina, 115 of them had a teacher turnover of from 15 to 100 per cent in their elementary schools between the close of the 1954-1955 school year and the opening of the 1955-1956 school year. In only 39 units was there less than 10% turnover of high school teachers. County units had a higher turnover than city

units. Unless the state salary schedule can be increased sufficiently to provide adequate salaries, I fear the small units will continue to have an acute shortage of teachers."

L. B. Leatherwood, Haywood County: "It has been almost impossible to fill some vacancies even with substandard certificates."

J. E. Huneycutt, Rockingham City: "We do not even know of even one qualified and properly certified teacher in the Rockingham City administrative unit who

is available for employment."

S. G. Chappell, Wilson City: "Most teachers who come to us do so because they want to help us in what we are trying to do."

Bethel Seniors To Present Play Thursday Night

The senior class at Bethel High School will present a three-act drama entitled "Love Is Eternal" in the school auditorium at 8 p.m. Thursday.

The play concerns four phases in the life of Mary Todd Lincoln, wife of Abraham Lincoln. The leading roles are played by Christy Bramlette as Lincoln and Margaret Sherrill as his wife. Others in the cast are:

Billy Leatherwood, Betsy Humphreys, Ava Jean Henson, Helen Ledbetter, Mary Kay Phillips, Vida Lee Green, Eugene Messer, Martha Pressley, Theima Cogburn, Hubert Pressley, Howard Metcalf, Max Shepherd, Neal Kelly, Pat Teague, Louise Pinkerton, Lewie Trull, Annette Lowe, Vincent Hall, Veta Reece, Hazel Henson, Barbara Messer, Dale Pressley, James Mease, Judy Wells, Bobbie Jean Blaylock, Nancy Davis, Marvin McDowell, Luther Packett, and Clyde Duckett.

Other members of the class will serve in the capacities of make-up artists, ushers, and doorkeepers.

Miss Melhannon and Mrs. Cathey, senior sponsors, will direct the play. Proceeds will be used to cover graduation expenses.

Iowa Is Warmer

DES MOINES (AP) — Winters just don't get as cold as they used to, says Jack Riley of the Des Moines Weather Bureau.

The winter of 1955-56 was the coldest in Iowa in 20 years. But during the 1880s and 1890s there were eight winters colder than 1955-56 and from 1900 to 1920 there were six. There was one colder in the 1920s and one in the 1930s, but none in the 1940s.

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Miss Gerringer's Poem Published At Mars Hill

Eileen Gerringer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Gerringer of Hazelwood, recently had one of her poems printed in "The Hilltop," student publication at Mars Hill College.

Entitled "Education" the poem reads: "Education . . . Unspeakable, yet dangerous, gift of God;

Preserver of great thoughts; destroyer of weak minds— Teach us the value of human life and of nature;

Acquaint us with the works of Ovid, Horace, and all the rest; Create in us an understanding of the heavens, the earth, and the sea; and Prevent a frivolous acceptance of the beauty and art of this world.

Education . . . Fulfiller of dreams, producer of a contentment otherwise unknown—

Unite the human soul with the majesty of life in its every phase;

Lead us from the calamitous bondage of ignorance; Tend only to magnify our knowledge-craving ambitions;

Enkindle the heat of a mighty furnace in our souls; and Fulfill the distant visions of an unlimited goal."

Miss Gerringer, an honor student at Waynesville High School, also has made every honor roll in the two years she has been at Mars Hill College. She plans to enter Woman's College this fall.

Street Cars Disappear

DETROIT (AP) — The city's 183 remaining street cars have been sold to Mexico City. The sale included 150 at \$4,000 each and 33 at \$3,000.

Buses already have replaced streetcars on all but two of Detroit's streets and they will be converted to buses soon.

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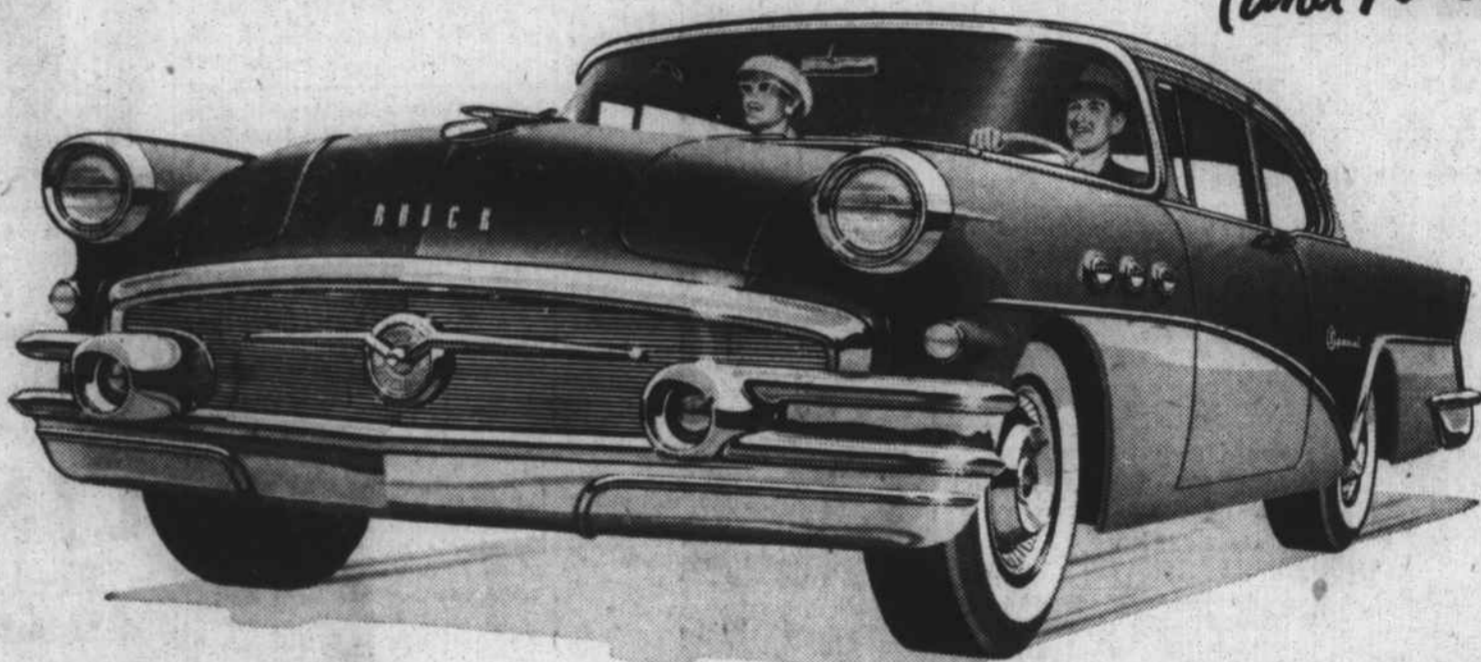
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