## Highlights On Poverty Project Presented

By Evelyn Marie Faucette

The North Carolina Volunteers are an experiment in the mobilization of college students for service in community agencies in those areas where the North Carolina Fund is conducting comprehensive programs in community development. Originated as part of the North Carolina Fund, the volunteer program was initiated to

## Letters

(Continued from Page 2) dent among us has found the solution that will erase this problem completely.

Sincerely,
Daphne Diane Page

By Phyllis A. Harris

Editor, the Echo:

Neither rain, sleet, nor snow will deter the United States' mailmen from the completion of their appointed rounds, but almost anything will keep a letter from promptly reaching a student through North Carolina College's post office. The service is slow, inefficient and discourteous.

Students who have mailboxes in the post office sometimes receive mail postmarked two to three weeks prior to the date received. Sometimes letters with return addresses never arrive at their destination and are never returned to their senders either. When a letter is placed in a box, it is usually for almost anyone except the owner of the box. Students who have mailboxes with combinations are being imposed upon by the former occupants of the boxes who still remember the combinations to the locks and are retaining the use of them. As if this isn't bad enough, quite frequently a student must ask at the window for a letter which bears his name and box number but was called at mail call instead of being placed in his box.

Little or no courtesy or consideration is given to a student when he approaches the window. When there are two people on duty in the post office, both of them are usually at the same window, regardless of the number of students who await service at the other window.

We admit that with the large amount of mail handled by our post office and its small staff, perfection cannot be expected. But, can't we come closer to it than we are?

Phyllis Harris



work actively rather than passively in North Carolina's impoverished areas. Directors of the North Carolina Volunteers purposely chose college students rather than professionals because of their useful idealism.

Early last spring a recruiting program was begun throughout the state to choose the 100 college students who would work for the summer. I was very honored and delighted to be chosen as one of the final 100 out of 750 applicants.

My summer's work began on June 14, when all volunteers reported to Duke University for a brief, but informative, training session. Lectures were given by professionals representing various agencies such as welfare, health, recreation, and education. During the training session all 100 volunteers were divided into ten teams which would work in ten counties in various sections of North Carolina which had been designated as impoverished.

I worked in Craven County which is in the Eastern part of the state. My team, of which I was the only Negro member, included seven girls, two boys, and two supervisors. I lived in a beautiful summer home on the

Neuse River ten miles outside of New Bern, North Carolina. The members of the team worked in public health, recreation, welfare, and pre-school areas. I worked in a pre-school readiness program. This preschool program was operated by the State Board of Public Instruction for six weeks on an experimental basis. Twenty-four children from culturally and economically deprived homes were chosen to participate in this program. They were taught safety, manners, the ability to discriminate, the manipulation of objects, how to follow directions, and simple songs and rythms. I also took the children on trips to places such as the postoffice, grocery store, fire station, and to other places which they had never seen. All of these activities were carried out in an attempt to bring each child culturally up to a common level for the first grade in September.

At midsummer, all volunteers returned to Duke University for a midsummer evaluation session. During this period volunteers in the areas of recreation, welfare, health, etc. got together to exchange ideas and experiences.

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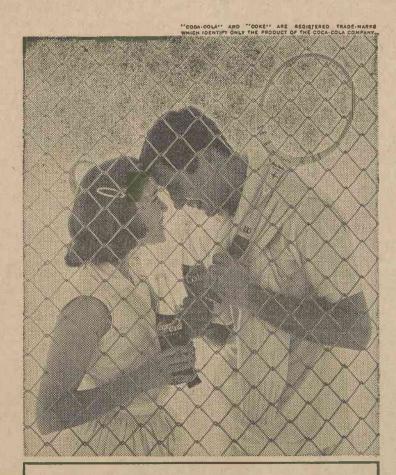
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