

Betsey Guerrant "Miss Student Teacher", Will Represent Salem

Representing Salem at the spring North Carolina Education Association convention will be Betsey Guerrant.

She, Lina Farr and May Terry were chosen by SNEA to compete in the annual selection of Salem's representative at the spring meeting.

Betsey taught at James A. Gray High School under Miss Clara Field. She instructed five classes of tenth-grade biology and was in charge of one study hall. Betsey lectured every day and kept a simple running outline on the blackboard, adding each day's material to it. The main problem she found in changing from college to high school biology was the inadequate laboratory equipment, with only six microscopes for an average of 35 students. She found that visual aids and other emotional approaches—"anything you see, feel, draw or touch"—got the best responses. Betsey said, "I really learned that this theory was the most effective teaching method I had."

Betsey used "clearing-up" periods once a week. These promoted scientific interest and more objective discussions. She cleared up common misconceptions and fallacies as "If you hit a Pekingese on the back of the head, his eyes will fall out." She also brought up current events in science. In fact, Tuesday afternoon three students visited her in Bitting to discuss their project on incubated eggs. Trying to reproduce an experiment in a current magazine, they had to put 30 eggs into the incubator and turned the heat up to 160 degrees. Betsey was offered their 30 baked eggs.

Her students were naturally interested in things which involved them directly. For example, she used parasitic worms to tie in the theory of scientific evolution from lower to higher forms.

Betsey plans to teach in Atlanta next year, "Whether I'm married to Russ then or not." She will

teach biology or general science in junior or senior high school.

She feels that the new education program is "very adequate." She said "I thought during the methods course that a lot of it was over-idealistic, but I found that I used most of it." She approves of the combination of the methods course and practice teaching because "We concentrated and got it over with." She said "If possible I would like to have been observed more and had more criticism of my teaching."

Now an accredited teacher upon her graduation, Betsey says "I really feel like I could go into any classroom. I'm not at all skeptical about teaching now."

Lina and May both taught at Ardmore Elementary School. Lina's teacher was Mrs. Frances Groat and May's was Mrs. Louise Clark. Both girls are majoring in history. To bring history into her second grade discussion, Lina took advantage of the story on Ike's tour in the **Weekly Reader**. She asked how many knew who the first president was. She was horrified when only three children raised their hands. "So from that day forth, my first question was, 'Who was the first president?'" From this she began discussing "what a capitol city was and that although Eisenhower was president, other people made rules, people from other states who went up to Washington." Lina says "Believe it or not, they were interested."

Then one day an air raid siren went off. Lina began explaining, "We don't like Russia, because Russia will not let you discuss. They are trying to make us like them and if we have a war, we will have to have a place to hide and this (the siren) is the warning."

Lina plans to teach in Greensboro next year. She says she "hopes to get married within the next three years, but will continue teaching for a few years."

Lina also approves of the new education program because she feels



May Terry, Lina Farr, and Betsey Guerrant play college professors.

you "Learn by Doing", especially by teaching all day for two weeks. But she says, "I do feel you should take another education course such as elementary art, instead of a regular course. I don't feel I got full benefit from this course."

May brought in her major, history, into her first grade classroom by discussing Armistice Day and why it was a holiday. She explained to the children "It was the day a big war ended." She also got a vigorous discussion of why the two new states, Alaska and Hawaii, were different, especially when she brought out a map.

May felt the hardest thing to do in teaching the first grade was to "get on their level without talking baby talk." She says, "you have to be sincere because they can catch you. First-graders, she feels, "are really better judges of human na-

ture than adults are."

She found out that she had to be sincere the hard way. One day, to control a noisy class, she declared that she had a "two-way radio to Santa Claus and that she would tell him when they were bad." Her first-graders laughed at her and from then on she had to control her imagination.

May will be married in August to Don Drummond but plans to teach "wherever my husband is, probably in Spartanburg."

Commenting on the education programs, she liked the fact that practice teachers can go directly from the methods course into actual teaching without a summer intervening.

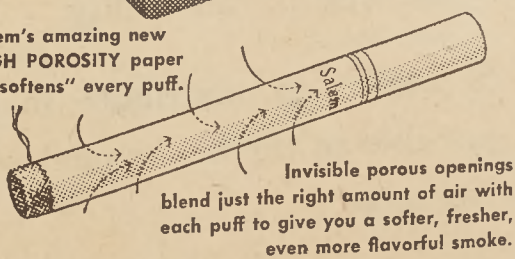


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