

Teaching Profession Becomes a Realistic Experience As Student Teachers Fill Varied Positions in Local School Situations

By **MARJORIE BLANKENSHIP**
 Christmas is for the young and for the young in heart. Ask any fortunate education major who is embarking on a premature second childhood through her student teaching in the Raleigh elementary schools. If you doubt the validity of this statement, think back over your own pig-tailed days. Remember the calendars, pictures, verses, clay ash trays and popcorn strings that flowed from your own busy, nine-year-old fingers?

"No, it's not a new experience," laughed Barbara Stallings, thinking back over her gaily decorated class room at Sherwood Bates. Crossing over to the desk she picked up a large folder smelling strongly of crayons and manila construction paper. "This is proof of my fourth grade's Christmas spirit," she explained, opening the original Christmas cards, pictures and presents. "When I think of how I struggle to get new ideas, I renew my admiration for the healthy imaginations of those fourth graders. Right now the projects are cleaning up old toys to give to charity, and studying the inevitable 'Christmas in Other Lands'."

Letter

She opened an original letter home from an avid boy named Mike who was attempting to describe his adventures in the desert.

"Dear Mr. Pee-Wee-McPeeny Pincher,

The class is in Cairo and are we having fun since we came here! Right now I'm eating desert fruit."

When asked about her December project in the junior history class at Hugh Morson High school, Martha Holland answered readily.

"Our project was given December 7. It was a solemn experience; in fact, quite a few celebrities were present in the class room, including George Washington and Benjamin Franklin." With a twinkle in her eye, she proceeded to explain.

"We held a Constitutional Convention, with each member of the class participating as a delegate. The students made a research report on the delegates they represented. The most important issues presented were the Virginia and New Jersey plans for government and the slave issue. The Convention was

conducted by strict Parliamentary procedure and was climaxed by a move that delegates recess for lunch."

"I guess my story is much the same as Martha's," said Marie Edwards, "only the setting is different. I teach a junior history class at Broughton High school. Everything runs along pretty smoothly, except for the 'off days'—like the one when I found myself teaching the 'Neutralization Laws' instead of the 'Naturalization Laws'. After much tireless effort, it's slightly disconcerting to find answers on your test papers that define the Republican party as 'a party made up of Republicans'."

Although the overall routine of teaching is similar in all classes, amusing situations have come out of them . . . like the morning Jean Joyner's dad mistook an eleventh grade English student to be a current admirer.

"We were sitting at the Sir Walter eating breakfast," Jean explained, "When Otis Johnson, my only problem child, walked in. Otis is a good-looking problem child, I might add. When he headed toward our table, Dad stood up, mentally calculated him as a 'nice kid,' and turned on the charm. Imagine his bewilderment when Otis replied to Dad's afforts with a deflating, 'Is that your pop, Miss Joyner?'"

Dicipline

Discipline problems in the form of little tow-headed six-years-olds also enliven the student teaching job. In Lou Griffin Hale's first year class at Fred Olds elementary school, Larry is already showing the characteristics of his sex. Lou, disturbed over his apparent lack of interest in his boy playmates, noticed that he was spending all his time on the girls' playground. However, the little rendezvous came to an abrupt halt when Larry was heard to be chasing a girl with the plaintive wail,

"Sometimes you will and sometimes you won't."

Larry, still undaunted, has since sidled up to the teacher's desk on every opportunity with the unwavering belief that "only sissies sit in those silly little chairs, Mrs. Hale."

If you ask a student teacher how she likes her job, she'll give you a tired smile and say enthusiastically that there's nothing like it. Then she'll resume correcting her numerous themes, "weekly readers," multiplication problems or history notebooks while you wonder how she can feel so happy about the situation.

"Of course she's right," assures Harry Dorsett, a member of the education faculty. "Anyone with a love of young people and a knack at teaching should consider education as a major or minor. There's satisfaction in the work along with a good salary if the student holds grade "A" certificate. The salary ranges from \$2,200 to \$3,100 for both high school and elementary teachers. Besides the other advantages of teaching, students can answer a definite need for teachers—especially elementary teachers. Only recently in North Carolina, only two-hundred elementary teachers in comparison with eight-hundred high school teachers entered the profession, when as a matter of fact the ratio should be reversed. At Meredith we are now emphasizing the need for elementary teachers."

Mr. Dorsett continued by saying, "I want to urge all freshmen who are considering a major or a minor in education to arrange

special conferences with Miss Lila Bell, elementary supervisor at Meredith, B. T. Tyner, head of the education department, or me immediately so that we can plan their four year courses. In this way students could save much summer school work."

Certificate

"At this conference, the student would receive specific information regarding her major." "She could learn that education majors carry pretty much the same load as other majors. She would learn that after graduation she would have to renew her certificate every five years, either by attending school or by means of approved travel, and thus keep abreast of educational developments.

"The relationship between the Raleigh City School system and Meredith is extremely good. We have Meredith students teaching at Cary, the Methodist Orphanage, Broughton, Hugh Morson, and Hardbargers Business School. Within the school the girl must observe and teach a minimum of 45 hours, attend all school activities and participate in the Parent Teacher's Association, which is very active in Raleigh. During the teaching periods which lasts one semester, she is observed by members of the education department, the school principal, the general supervisor, and a member of Meredith's academic department."

It is believed that many potential education majors do not understand the requirements that must be met for a grade "A" certificate. If a girl plans to enter high school teaching, she can minor in education, using a preferred academic subject as her major. However, a major in education is required for all elementary teachers. Those preparing for elementary education must take all individual methods courses, such as reading, spelling, children's literature, art, music, arithmetic, principles in education, and child psychology. In high school the student need only take the one method course in the subject which she is planning to teach. Other requirements beside the Praticum include two subjects in three fields, two courses on the pupil, and two on the institution. For an "A" certificate, the student must have completed at least 18 hours in education.

In addition to planning schedules, members of the education department assist majors by holding special conferences, giving them the opportunity to select the grade and school in which they wish to teach, arranging for summer school work, and placing them in accredited schools upon graduation.

Students who are doing their supervised teaching during the first semester include:

Jane Luther Compton, Marie Edwards, Jean Johnson, Jean Joyner, Zeta Morton, Martha Holland, Virginia Price, Ruth Ann Simmons, Janet Tatum, Mary Jo Shaw, Molly Britt, Anne Creech, Nancy Cheek, Rosalyn Poole, Metta May Spence, Lou Hale, Dorothy Helms, Peggy Poole, Barbara Stallings, Barbara Ballenger, Barbara Bone, Barbara Harper, Jean Miller, Jane Slate, Betty Jo Smith, Louise Stewart, Linda Swann, Liberty Wilson.

CIVIC MUSIC ASSOCIATION

(Continued from page one)

American concert tour, Miss Bachauer in three and one half months, will travel from coast-to-coast to fulfill a schedule of over fifty concerts.



Martha Snow, of Raleigh, N. C., models a black wool jersey blouse and an Ibis white pinwale corduroy skirt in "Autumn Plumage," a fashion show sponsored by the Simplicity Pattern Co. Inc., and reported by Miss Olive Berry.

American Birds Serve As Basis For College Fashions

Miss Olive Berry, college fashion adviser for the Simplicity Pattern Co., Inc., presented a fashion show entitled "Autumn Plumage" on December 6 in the Meredith College auditorium. The bright new colors of the outfits were keyed to the plumage of American birds, since this year is the observance of the centennial anniversary of John James Audubon, the renowned artist and naturalist. Each costume had been given a name that was associated with birds, such as the bluejay plaid rayon which was made up into a cape stole outfit called "V-Formation."

Not only were the colors in the wardrobe planned for the college student new and exciting, but the texture story was also full of news. Poodle cloth, taffeta, corduroy, jersey, and suede cloth presented many interesting contrasts in the different articles of clothing.

Throughout the collection the skirts were very full, held out with petticoats of taffeta, crinoline or plastic screening. The skirts were fourteen to fifteen inches from the floor. All of the outfits and many of the accessories shown by Miss Berry and modeled by Meredith home economics students were made from patterns which should have been great inspirations to the one who enjoys sewing.

Miss Berry, who brought the fashion show to the campus, has

been visiting colleges for several years and is well aware of the needs of college girls. She styles a wardrobe for on and off the campus with an eye toward suitable clothes for careers after graduation. Miss Berry also talked to the home economics club on opportunities in the textile field.

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