

The Hoothills View

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NEWS OF TRAVEL

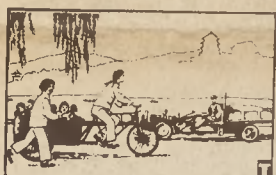
Nearly a quarter of the world lives in a country the rest of the world has seen very little of for over a quarter of a century, but things are changing. An increasing number of Americans and other travelers are now experiencing the sights, sounds and excitement of China.

If someone you know is fortunate enough to be traveling to that exotic land on business or pleasure—or would just like to pretend to—a new book can be a big help.

It features a country map, 17 city or site plans (including the nine cities that have just been opened to westerners), a basic English-Chinese tourist vocabulary and many translations. It has the only restaurant listing of its kind for China, and the latest on shopping, hotels and transportation.

Also included are charts and diagrams of how the government works and how the Communist Party works, all as they affect the tourist and businessperson.

There's even a large section just for business planning, including samples of official documents, plus a comprehensive guide to business dining in China, with an etiquette of dining out.



An ancient land of fascinating contrasts, China is being visited by an increasing number of Americans.

The book was written by a long-time resident of Peking and features some fascinating glimpses of the people of the People's Republic. For example, the book explains that when you tour a school, factory or farm, the people there are likely to applaud your approach. It suggests you respond by applauding back.

Boiling Springs Police Chief And Two Policemen Resign Following Executive Session Held By Town Commissioners

The Boiling Springs Town Commissioners met June 2, at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall. Present at the meeting were Mayor James E. Greene and Commissioners Jerry Bryson, Albert Glenn, Max Hamrick and John Washburn, Jr. Commissioner Graham Hamrick was not present for the meeting.



BOILING SPRINGS Police Chief, Bill Ingram, left, Sgt. Jerry Patterson, second from left, and Gary Benton, right, resigned from the Boiling Springs Police Dept. following executive session to the regular monthly meeting of the Boiling Springs Town Council. Remaining on the force is James Clary, third from left, Dan Ledbetter, second from right, and Auxiliary Policewoman, Gwen Gaffy.

Sgt. Jerry Patterson was present at the meeting and recognized by Mayor Greene. Patterson discussed with the Board members that one week each month the police officers worked 48 hours. He asked that they be given a relief day for this day. The Board unanimously agreed effective June 12, 1981, the officer working the 48 hour week be given Friday as a relief day.

Marion Packard reported he had taken the informal bids on the sewer line extension for Charles Mack. John Washburn made the motion to accept the bid from Wellie Hamrick to run approximately 255 feet for \$1275.00. Albert Glenn seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Packard also reported the water and sewer line to Heritage Hill has been completed. Also the cost to run a new water line from the existing well to the tank would cost approximately \$19,000.00. The Board agreed it may be better to dig a new well. They agreed to study and decide on the best solution.

Albert Glenn reported the maintenance shed has been completed with the exception of some wiring.

The 1981-82 proposed budget was submitted to the Board by Max Hamrick. The General Fund was figured using the same tax rate of .26. This fund is up approximately 11% over last year and Commissioner Hamrick discussed each department with the council. In the water and sewer dept. Hamrick recommended to increase the sewer charge on gallons above the minimum to .60 per thousand gallons. The move will increase revenues approximately \$10,000.00. The total budget is \$400,812.00.

Hamrick made the motion to increase sewer service charges for all usage over the minimum to .60 per thousand gallons effective June 15 and with the August 1 billing. John Washburn seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Hamrick also made the motion to increase water and sewer charges on all non-resident patrons from 1 1/2 to 2 times the normal rate. Washburn seconded and the vote was unanimous.

John Washburn made the motion to go into executive session at 8:35 p.m. to discuss will sites and personnel.

The Councilmen returned from executive session at 10:45 at which time a letter of resignation from Gary Benton, a town policeman, was received. Max Hamrick made the motion to accept the resignation effective immediately. The vote was seconded by Jerry Bryson and carried unanimously.

Max Hamrick then made a motion to accept Police Sgt. Jerry Patterson's resignation effective immediately. The vote was seconded by Albert Glenn and carried unanimously.

Max Hamrick then made the motion to accept the resignation of Police Chief Bill Ingram effective immediately. The vote was seconded by Jerry Bryson and carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 p.m.

Academic Ability Slowly Declining

New UNC-CH Study Shows Brightest Teachers Leave The Classroom First

BY DAVID WILLIAMSON

CHAPEL HILL--The academic ability of new teachers in North Carolina is steadily declining, and the best qualified teachers are most likely to leave the profession first.

Those were the conclusions drawn in a University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill study of more than 30,000 teachers who entered the N. C. public school system between 1973 and 1980.

The findings were based on employment records and scores the individuals received on the Common section of the National Teachers Examination (NTE).

Authors of the study are Dr. Philip Schlechty, associate dean of the UNC-CH School of Education, and graduate student Victor S. Vance. They say preliminary data from a long-term national study of 1976 college graduates indicates the trend in not unique to North Carolina.

"It is likely that this report will be the subject of considerable controversy," the researchers say. "Defenders of teachers will argue that the NTE Common score is an irrelevant measure and says nothing about the quality and competency of those who remain in the classroom."

"Many critics of teaching and teachers will view the date as confirming what they have known all along -- that those who can, do, and those who can't, teach."

Schlechty and Vance, who find both positions suspicious, say there is considerable evidence from past studies that persons who graduate from teacher education programs are, as a group, among the least academically able of college graduates. Other studies have shown that individuals who actually teach are among the least academically able of education graduates.

Their report, the first of its kind in the nation, addressed the related question of whether the brightest teachers leave the classroom at a faster rate than teachers who are less bright.

They found that race and sex of the teacher corps hasn't changed much between 1973 and 1980. In 1973, for example, 87.4 percent of teachers in the state were white, while in 1980, whites comprised 85.8 percent of the total. Throughout the period, approximately 20 percent of any group of entering teachers were male.

"There has been, however, one striking shift in the profile of entering teachers in North Carolina," they say. "There is a consistent pattern of decline in the overall ability of white females entering teaching."

During the seven-year span, NTE Common scores for white females entering the profession declined by 17 points, from 610 in 1973 to 593 in 1980. No comparable decline was found among white males or blacks of either sex.

In addition, those who scored highest on the test left state classrooms sooner than those who scored lowest. By the beginning of 1980, for example, only 37.3 percent of the white females who had scored in the top 10 percent on the exam in 1973 remained in education while almost two thirds of those scoring in the bottom 10 percent remained.

Almost three fourths of the lowest scoring white males in 1974 continued as teachers in 1980, but only 39.7 percent of the top scoring white males remained. A similar, although less pronounced, pattern was observed among blacks of both sexes.

The net effect of this, the authors say, is to decrease the ability of the remaining teacher population.

"Whether the condition bodes good or ill for the future of public education in North Carolina depends

upon the view one takes of the meaning of tests or academic ability and the relationship between academic ability and teacher competence," they say.

Although the National Teachers Examination Common score was not specifically designed to measure ability, it corresponds closely with such indicators of potential as grades and scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).

Schlechty and Vance call themselves "teacher advocates and advocates of the professionalization of teaching" who have released their results with a great deal of concern.

"Our concern is that teachers and teacher education are convenient targets for any who would criticize the education received by children. Data like these can give the uninformed ammunition to launch one more attack on an already beleaguered group."

On the other hand, they say, the information also should provide evidence for those who call for improving the quality of public education in North Carolina and elsewhere.

That improvement cannot come solely by changing the way teachers are selected and trained, the authors say. Raising standards without addressing other problems may result in a teacher shortage.

"Teacher selection and training may be important matters, but much more important perhaps are the factors that pull teachers from education and drive them out of the classroom," they say.

Among those factors are low pay, an increasing educational bureaucracy, the declining prestige of the profession and new opportunities in other fields, particularly for women.

Southwestern District Craft Camp Slated June 23-24

Handcrafts are one of the best leisure activities to provide mental and physical therapy. The Agricultural Extension Service is sponsoring a District Handcraft Workshop, June 23 and 24 says Nancy Abasiokong, Associate Home Economics Extension Agent.

The two day workshop will be held at Wingate College, Wingate, N.C. Fourteen different workshops will be held simultaneously. Participants will enroll in one class to develop expertise and indepth training in one skill.

The classes being offered this year and taught by are: Handsplit Baskets, Bob Williams; Weaving, Jane Rechtewald; Chair Seat Weaving, Paul Reairs; Handbuilt Pottery, Betsy Collins; Candlewicking, Margaret Curry; Handtied Fringe, Mrs. Russell Henson; Quilting, Mrs. Paul McGinnis; English Smocking, Jackie Scout; Batik, Freida Terrell; Jewelry, Evelyn Conley; Tatting, Mamie Whisnant; Native Materials, Betty Jean Bowers; Doll Making, Vera Carpenter; and Tole Painting, Wanda Ritchie. Classes will be held from 10 a. m. - 4 p. m. on June 23, and 8:30 a. m. - 3 p. m. on June 24.

Each student will pay a \$6.00 registration fee. Some supplies will be furnished by the teacher for which students will reimburse them and some supplies will be furnished by the students. Mrs. Abasiokong, Associate Home Economics Agent, has registration forms, cost of supplies and other information needed. Call her at 482-4365.

Meals will be paid for on an individual basis at the college cafeteria. Students will spend the night in the dorm at a cost of \$6.00.