Through Looking Glass

Very few New Bern citizens have availed themselves of the opportunity to visit Caswell School at Kinston, although the State has operated it as an institution for the mentally retarded since 1914.

In the beginning it was known as Caswell Training School, but through a legislative act in 1959 the word "Training" was dropped. Originally there were only two or three buildings, but it is now an estate valued at approximately 14 million dollars.

The school has a capacity of 1,975 residents, and serves 43 counties in eastern North Carolina. The oldest resident is 74 years old, and there are over 200 who are beyond 50 years of age.

Maximum charge per resident is \$60 per month. In many needy cases, these charges are prorated according to the ability of parents to pay. There are approximately 575 employees on the payroll, including the superintendent, cottage parents, and others necessary to carry out the functions of an institution of this size and nature.

The school campus is a big one, beautifully kept at all times. Of the 1,200 acres belonging to the school, there are 800 under cultivation. The recreation department has a comprehensive physical education program, and stages parties and dances to supplement its intramural sports. Included is a modern swimming pool.

After an educable child has completed his academic training, he is referred to rehabilitation for additional training and simple vocational work, homemaking, agriculture, shop work, and other vocational jobs before placement in society. Seventy percent of the rehabilitation funds come from the Federal Government and 30 percent from State funds.

The Cottage Life Department is the largest department on the campus. The staff maintains constant supervision of residents in the building 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In the living units, the cottage parents provide a happy atmosphere for the boys and girls, and train them in manners, respect, how to care for their personal belongings, personal grooming, and ways to live as a group.

Each group living unit is equipped with television. Most units have record players and ample toys, magazines and other things to keep the residents busy and happy. All who are able to participate have recreation either in the building or through the recreation program on the campus.

In the fall of 1959, a new 90-bed hospital was opened. In addition to a new hospital, there are a Crippled Children's Hospital and an out-patient clinic. There are medical wards and clinics in each of the colony units. There are three full-time doctors, 17 registered nurses and 27 licensed practical

Caswell School offers religious services for all of its residents. The services are nondenomination al, and three are held each Sunday. One Sunday each month the chaplain takes a group of the pupils to one of Kinston's churches.

Feeding 1,975 residents is a tremendous operation. There is a staff of 118 employees under the supervision of one food service director, with two college graduates in home economics as assistants. All food is prepared and cooked in the central kitchen and served in 20 different areas. Approximately 900 residents are served in a large central dining room, while the two colony buildings contain 16 dining rooms.

Food is carried from the kitchen in sterilized vacuum containers by a panel truck. It is arranged on carts in a serving kitchen and (Continued on Page 8)

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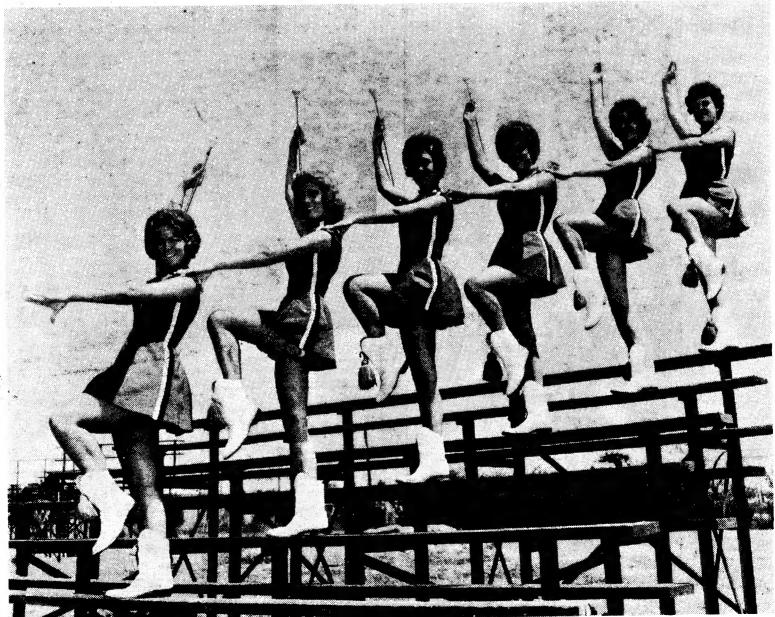
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PREFERS SUMMER-Hubert Glenn Tolson, III, hates to see the warm days give way to Autumn, and it's easy to understand why. Although he is just 4½ years old, he is already an accomplished water ski performer, as he demonstrates at Trent Pines here. His parents, Hubert and Teensy Guion Tolson, are quite proficient themselves, and with Wimpy Barwick gave him the instruction that started him off.—Photo by Sara (Jonny) Green.



STEPPING HIGH—New Bern High school's majorettes chose this vantage point on a set of stadium bleachers when the man with a camera arrived to snap their picture. Left to right are Head Majorette Nancy Masters, Jesse Ruth

Arthur, Karen Higgins, Marthanette Pate, Laural Cox, and Mary Beth Armstrong. They will be on hand with the band Friday night, when the New Bern Bears play host to the Jacksonville Cardinals.—Photo by John R. Baxter.