

Teacher of 'Road of 99 Fords' Fame Finds New School Post at Ocracoke

Raleigh—The red-haired mountain schoolmarm who dared to fight for her pupils is moving to the Coast.

Nora Edmondson told Governor Scott last week she is going to teach this fall at Ocracoke. She had stopped in Raleigh hoping to deliver her message personally. The Governor was out of town, so she dashed off a note on a sheet of hotel stationery.

"Thanks for all the nice things you have done for Lower Elk children," she wrote. "I do appreciate it. I hope some day you will go down there. Those kiddies want to see you."

Until Nora Edmondson came to Lower Elk School, the only path to the schoolhouse and the mountain community around it was the meandering road of the 99 Fords. In fair weather, an experienced driver could make the trip by jeep. In winter, Nora Edmondson traveled on a mule-drawn sled.

Last winter, Miss Edmondson, doughty and 70-odd-year-old former Georgia school principal, decided conditions needed attention.

She tried to get action from local and Watauga County authorities. Finally she wrote directly to Governor Scott. The Governor and the State Highway Commission sent road machines. North Carolinians who read a copy of her letter in their newspapers sent school supplies, clothing and toys.

By the end of the school year last Spring, school buses and automobiles could drive in Nora Edmondson's schoolyard. A community isolated for years, finally became a part of the North Carolina family.

The last month, Nora Edmondson received her reward. Watauga county authorities announced they were closing the Lower Elk School and transferring the pupils to a consolidated school in the area. And they told Nora Edmondson she wouldn't be needed.

The children, confused, asked the Governor and the State Board of Education to let Miss Edmondson stay. But the laws governing schools brooked no interference. Nora Edmondson decided her work in Lower Elk was done.

She will do her fighting now for the boys and girls of Ocracoke.

Thanks Walker
County Superintendent W. H. Walker has received a letter from W. W. Shelton, superintendent of the Hyde county schools, in which appreciation is expressed to the local official for his assistance in getting Miss Nora Edmondson for the Ocracoke school. Mr. Walker had recommended the former Elk school teacher for her new position.

Bookmobile Schedule

Wednesday, September 20:
Aho, home of Mrs. Marion Coffey, 9:15 a. m.; Blowing Rock school, 10:00 a. m.; Blowing Rock, home of M. Dorcas Cook, 2:00 p. m.; Mistle Fork, home of Perry Ashley, 2:30 p. m.

Thursday, September 21:
Watauga Consolidated School, 9:15 a. m.; Lovill Postoffice, 10:30 a. m.; County boarding home, 11:00 a. m.; Hodges Gap, home of Mrs. Frank Brown, 12:00 noon.

FEDERAL TAXES GAIN

Internal revenue collection in July, 1950, of \$2,283,000,000, surpassed those of a year ago by the small margin of \$10,000,000. While individual income and corporation income taxes dropped, employment, alcohol, tobacco, automobile and motorcycle and gasoline taxes increased.

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FIGGY-BACK AMBULANCE ... South Korea soldier carries wounded buddy to first aid station near front after he had been felled in battle against Communist North Koreans.

News Items Of Appalachian High

Citizenship
During the past year and up to the present time this year Appalachian High school faculty and students have been putting more emphasis on the educational objective of citizenship. All during the past year special faculty-student committees have been studying the best ways of developing good citizenship traits in high school students.

During the summer a committee composed of Mr. Hollis, Mr. Leek, and Mr. Randall of the faculty, and Jo Anne Aldridge, Dixon Qualls, and Jerry Troutman of the student body worked out a suggested program for this school year. This program is being put into effect on a temporary basis and will be used during the present semester. The new citizenship grading program will be subject to change at the end of the present semester.

This new program has put emphasis on developing citizenship in every class, in study hall, and in extra-curricular activities in which the student participates during the school day. Students will be rated on citizenship by each teacher that they come in contact with and these citizenship ratings will appear on their report cards. Students who receive unsatisfactory ratings on citizenship will automatically become ineligible for all school privileges and will be ineligible to participate in all inter-scholastic contests. Before any teacher can give a student an unsatisfactory rating in citizenship the teacher must have a conference with the student concerning his general conduct and the principal's office or the guidance department must have been notified of the pupil's difficulty. After these preventive measures have been taken and the student still fails to respond then he or she may be given an unsatisfactory rating in citizenship.

Parents are also being asked to participate in this program. The guidance department of Appalachian High and the individual teachers will contact the parents of any child who shows signs of becoming a poor school citizen. It has been proved in the past that co-operation between the teacher and the parent will usually prevent the pupil from becoming a poor citizen.

This new method of rating citizenship will replace the detention hall and bad and good citations which have been used in the past. In place of detention hall and good and bad citations emphasis will be put on personal conferences with those students who show signs of becoming a poor citizen. If a teacher finds it necessary to keep a student in after school it will be the responsibility of that teacher to remain with the student instead of having the student report to the general detention hall which, in the past, was under the supervision of one teacher who usually had no idea of why the time was given or why the student was sent to detention hall.

Already many of the high school classes and homeroom groups are working out a list of the characteristics of what makes a good high school citizen. Miss Adams' civics class has just completed a list of characteristics of a good school citizen and the characteristics of a good teacher. In the near future a school-wide list of characteristics will be developed by the faculty and the student body.

Football

The 1950 A. H. S. football team is hard at work preparing for its season's opener with the Wilkesboro High Ramblers this coming Friday night at 8 p. m. at the A. S. T. C. field.

A pre-season game was played with North Wilkesboro on August 23, in which the local went down to defeat by a 14-0 score. Joe Edmisten, Dixon Qualls and Paul Richardson were outstanding for Boone. A highlight of the game was David Hodges' 60 yard return of a pass interception.

Windy Gap News

(Too late for last edition)
Mr. Dan Moody and family of Mountain City were visitors of Mrs. Moody's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Harmon last Sunday.

The young peoples' BTU of Zion Hill Baptist Church went on a picnic trip to the Grandfather Mountain last Sunday.

Mr. Ray Harmon is working near Canton, N. C. on a road project.

Windy Gap school has been consolidated with Cove Creek without a murmur of discord. The parents and children think they have one of the best schools in the county.

Mr. and Mrs. Ira Edmisten were callers here last Sunday.

We are glad to learn that Mr. Hard Thomas is improving. Mr. Thomas is at the Glenn Clinic at Mountain City, Tenn. Mr. Thomas has been mailman for several years.

Mr. Marlin Hicks has returned home from Watauga Hospital.

Miss Hazel Harmon is expected home from Watauga Hospital this week.

CHIEF ERRS
Columbus, Miss.—A man came in to pay off a traffic ticket fine recently—for parking too close to a fire plug. The man was Assistant Fire Chief Rowan Dashiell.

Class Officers
After a week of becoming acquainted and making friends, Mr. Jenkins' homeroom elected its class officers for the present year. These officers are: president, Judy Lee Sherrill; Tony Winkler, vice-president; Catherine Stevens, secretary-treasurer; and James Tait, reporter. These officers were elected for a one semester term.

Mr. Beaty's senior homeroom has elected the following officers to serve during the current year: President, Jack Hardie; vice-president, Lloyd Rogers; secretary, Romona J. Hardie; treasurer, Mary Willis; reporter, Betsy Hughes.

Red backing of Vietnam in Indo-China is called ominous.

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