

The Superintendent Reports

Controversy is a part of the American educational tradition, a tradition that American education shares with the total democratic society. As it relates to education, controversy has played an influential role in the growth and development of education from its meager beginnings in Colonial times until today.

The next few columns will attempt to focus on issues which may not, on the surface appear controversial. However, beneath the outer layer are some basic questions which all of us, as citizens of Chowan County, must ask with regard to education.

It is hoped that those who read this column will view these next few articles of facilitating their reflective or thought processes.

One thing about an American community is this: "The residents get the kind of school program they want." This quote from George Leonard which appeared in a June, 1958, "Look" magazine article is just as appropriate today. And, as this question is analyzed, there are, at least, three underlying questions which might be asked. These concern the quantity and quality of education, the quality of education and the kind of education.

With regard to the quantity and quality, as well as the kind of education, all of us must make the most painful expenditure of all - sustained, serious thought about our community and the education of its youth.

Your school board has been engaged in deliberating these three areas of concern over an extremely lengthy period of time.

Paramount in these thoughts have been what the education of our youth is and what it ought to be. Answers to both these questions plus deliberations about quantity, quality and kind of education in Chowan County have led your school board to project a plan for the reorganization of the school system through the elimination of Swain and White Oak Schools, and the building of a new school. Needless to say, it has evoked controversy!

While not trying to be philosophical or trite, it would be appreciated if each reader would reflect upon the questions below, discuss them with his friends, children or individually.

-What is the role of education

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in a democracy?; in Chowan County?

-Where are we now with regard to the education of our youth?

-What type of education do we want for our youth?

-Are we willing to admit that we presently have quantity, quality and kind of education we would desire for our youth?

Controversial or not, it is the school board's role to convey to the citizens the educational needs of the youth as they see them, based on a philosophical, factual, and reflective basis.

If the schools are to be in partnership with communities in meeting the education needs of youth, the community, as well as the school, must philosophically and objectively, not emotionally, face these questions.

It is hoped that the above thoughts, will serve as a basis for each citizen to question in his own mind what type of education he wants for the youth of Chowan County.

Next week's column will examine other facets of this controversy.

New Books At Library

New books received at Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library include the following:

Adult Fiction
"The Lion's Cub" by H. M. Hoover; "Storm's End" by Rebecca Saltsbury James; "Blood Red, Sister Rose" by Thomas Keneally; and "The Iceberg Hermit" by Arthur Roth.

Adult Non Fiction
"All the Bible's Men of Hope" by Edith Deen; "The American Heritage History of Seafaring America" by Alexander Laing; "And the Bride Wore" by Ann Monsarrat; "The Joys of Beekeeping" by Richard Taylor; "Country Furniture" by Aldren Watson; "The Art of Colonial Flower Arranging" by Jean C. Clark; and "Contemporary Square Dancing" by Patricia A. Phillips.

Juvenile Fiction
"The Woman With the Eggs" by Hans Christian Andersen; "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" by Ronald Dahl; "Little Owl, Keeper of the Trees" by Ronald Himler; "The Alligator Under the Bed" by Joan Lowery Nixon; and "The Boy Who Had Wings" by Jane Yolen.

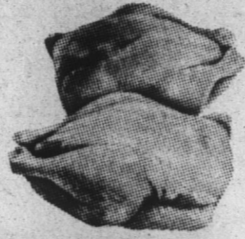
Methodist Sermon Topic Is Given

"United We Stand" is the topic chosen by Rev. E. L. Earnhardt for the 11 A.M. service Sunday at Edenton United Methodist Church. His text is Ephesians 4:11-15 and Psalm 133. The 7:30 P.M. service will be conducted by the youth of the church.



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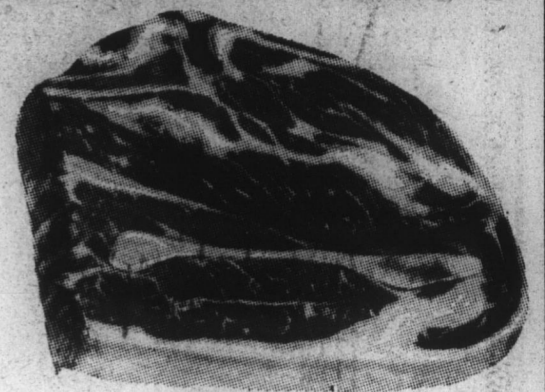
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TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

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