

Chalk Dust

By Mary Rhea Gardner

Many things parents have not learned from experiences, they can now learn from their children! Getting an education can be an exciting experience for students especially when, like asking a riddle or catching us in a mistake, they know the answer and we don't. Do you know how many kilograms you weigh? Get your fifth grader to help figure it out. More than likely you'll like the deceiving sound of the answer.

In December, 1976, the N.C. State Board of Education adopted a resolution calling for the International Metric System of Weight and Measure to be taught in public schools as the primary system of measurement beginning with the 1981-82 school year. Like Mrs. Hollowell's fifth Grade students at Swain School, many classes have already started getting acquainted with the metric way of measuring. In order to familiarize students with the basic terms and to create an understanding of the three basic measurements, these students brought in food, drink, and medicine labels containing the metric measurement.

From the Metric Kit purchased for Swain, the novelty of using centimeter rulers and kilogram scales to measure everything and weigh, everybody made their lesson more meaningful. Just ask any of these students and they'll probably tell you if you can count to ten you can learn the metric system of measurement! The words? metric - litre - gram - Celsius.

It's not polite to tell company names and tales too, but alert students in Mrs. Walker's sixth Grade math class at Swain discovered a mathematical error in their textbook. Naturally, they wrote to the company informing them of the mistake. They received a gracious "thank you" from the company acknowledging the mistake and commending them for being such astute students.

The most thrilling honor to come out of our school system in a long time was bestowed on Joel Hylton, a John A. Holmes High senior.

He has been named a Morehead Scholar and will receive a full four-year scholarship to attend U.N.C. at Chapel Hill. Reliable sources have indicated that he was head and shoulder above other nominees from this district for the scholarship award. You only have to go to Holmes High, be a relative, or just know him personally to understand why a more deserving and capable person could not possibly have won.

Chowan County athletic department did well in all areas of winter sports this year. Those who sing the athlete's praises the loudest often have theirs unsung - so I will. Congratulations to Denise Phthisic and Sharon Holley, Holmes cheerleaders for being two out of 13 named All-Conference Cheerleaders. In performing their vital and vigorous duties of keeping up team morale and unifying students and other fans, those girls and their cohorts prove to be more than decorations in the arena.

The Edenton-Chowan Band Parents Association continue to meet, and members have no doubt that there should be another Peanut Festival next fall. Robert Harrell, who so ably chaired the last festival, has already started the machinery for a bigger and better 1977 festival. The \$6,000 in proceeds from last year are being well used for the purchase of uniforms, instruments, band clinics, and band related travel expenses. Tomorrow (March 11) the Junior-High band students will participate in the Eastern District Junior-High School Band Clinic at Atlantic Christian College. Students from Edenton are: Susie Keeter, Martha Gibson, Lynn Dail, David Hibbard, Steve Lane, Terry Drew, Allen Parker, Allen Perry, and Bonner Litchfield. From 33 participating schools, three bands will be formed and a concert given that afternoon. Band clinics, such as this, afford students with the experiences of playing in large groups, the opportunities of learning new techniques, and of working under other band directors.

Education begins with doubting and questioning. It's when no interest is shown that problems develop, whether it be in the classroom, at home, or in the community. The response of the community at public meetings and the request of clubs and organizations to have the slide-tape information on possible alternatives for reorganizing the school system has been most rewarding. So far Dr. John Dunn and board members have been graciously invited to discuss this information at the Ryland Ruritan Club, Providence Baptist Church, the D. F. Walker P.T.A., the Edenton Woman's Club, the Chowan High School Student Council, the Rotary Club, the Presbyterian Men's Breakfast groups, the Jaycees, the American Legion, and the Chowan Ruritan Club. It will be presented during the Presbyterian Family Night soon and at the Fannie Parker Woman's Club.

The suggestions, opinions, and benefits of knowledge and experience from these laypeople is extremely useful to the school board members and school administration as they make tentative decision and plans. Company's coming and Walker and Swain are putting their best foot forward. Next week, both schools are up for re-evaluation for continued membership in the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The Southern Association sets certain standards - physical, academic, and service oriented - which schools have to meet to become accredited. Accreditation by the Southern Association represents a measure of excellence over and above the minimum standards required by the State. It means that the individual school staff is constantly trying to improve and extend their service to children.

A voluntary effort on the part of the school staff, accreditation requires a self-study using standards and criteria designed by the accrediting agency. For over a year, the teachers and staff at Swain and Walker have been meeting weekly in evaluating their schools' strengths and weaknesses. Visiting teams of highly respected educators and educational consultants will visit both schools next week to see if, in fact, these schools continue to measure up to their high standards which gained their original accreditation seal 10 years ago. It has been a strenuous effort on the part of dedicated school personnel - all for the benefit of students.

Mrs. Twines' second graders at Walker really communicated with the public last week when they visited WCDJ radio station and the post office. In addition to explaining a disc jockey's career role and how sound waves are transmitted, and giving the students a tour of the

station, Tommy Privott won their hearts by inviting them to perform on tape and "live"!

James Bond, postmaster, also reinforced their unit of study on communication with his interesting and informative tour of the post office. The schools are indeed grateful to these community resources for patiently and unselfishly giving their time to these and other school youth who come through during the year.

The Chowan High Chapter of Future Farmers of America is having its annual parent and member banquet tonight (Thursday) at 7 o'clock. Everette White and the FFA members have worked closely with parents in planning this fellowship banquet. Glenn Rogerson, former Chowan student, who won the American Farmer Degree in Kansas City this year, will keynote with a report on the National FFA convention. This plus parents, students, teachers, and good charcolled steak practically guarantees a successful evening.

Charcoal smoke may be getting some people's eyes - chalk dust, or something is getting in mine.

New Books

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

Adult Fiction
"The Porcelain Pagoda" by F.N. Monjo.

Adult Non-Fiction
"Life After Life" by Raymond Moody; "Warning to the West" by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn; "The Organization and Functions of the Counties" by Henry Lewis; "Busing" by Thomas Cottle; "Folk Medicine" by Frances Kennet; "Customizing Your Van" by Allan Girdler; "The Canning and Freezing Book" by Dee Munson; "Simple Appliance Repair" by Ross R. Olney; "Made With Oak" by Jeffrey Friedman-Weiss; "Working with Copper" by Zena Elliot; "Superstars of the 70's"; "Racing Stock"; "It All Started With Eve" by Richard Armour and "Before Liberty: Their New World Made the North Carolinians Different" by Roy Thompson.

Juvenile Non-Fiction
"The Days of the Week" by William Keyser; "How to Turn Lemons Into Money" by Louise Armstrong; "Fold, Paste, Whittle, Paint and Hammer" by Robert Pierce; "Soup With Quackers" by Mike Thaler; "Franco Harris" by S.H. Burchard and "Sports Star, Jim 'Catfish' Hunter" by S.H. Burchard.

Pettigrew Regional Library will hold its quarterly staff meeting all day Wednesday, March 16, with your library, Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library, as the host library for this meeting. The library will be closed the entire day but all patrons can put their books down our chute, and we'll be back on duty at 9:30 Thursday morning.

Music In Schools

"Music in Our Schools" week is being observed March 6-12 throughout North Carolina and at John A. Holmes High School activities are sponsored by the Modern Music Masters Club.

At Holmes School the public address system each morning distributes different type songs to every part of the facility along with facts about the selections and the composers.

Today (Thursday) there will be a concert by the chorus classes as well as the Stage Band. On Friday, during the four lunch periods, there will be a jam sessions outside the school building.

Also on Friday a Dance-a-Thon will be held in the gymnasium from 6:30 P.M. until 12-midnight with couples competing for a gift certificate for an album. Registration is at 6:15 o'clock and the cost is \$2 per couple.

The Music Masters perform once each month at the extended care unit of Chowan Hospital and proceeds from the dance will go toward the purchase of song books and a piano.

Mrs. Shelby Strother directs music in Edenton-Chowan Schools and along with her husband, Otis who is band director, have arranged the week's activities.

The chief aims of Modern Music Masters are to foster greater interest in band, orchestral and choral performances and to encourage wider opportunities for personal musical expression.

Death Claims Eddie Nixon

George Edward (Eddie) Nixon, 84, Route 3, Edenton died Monday morning in the Chowan Hospital.

A native of Chowan County, he was the husband of Mrs. Mattie N. Nixon and the son of the late John W. and Virginia N. Nixon.

He was a retired farmer and a member of the Evans Methodist Church.

Surviving besides his wife are two sisters: Mrs. Mary N. Cahoon of Norfolk, Va.; and Mrs. Ida Goodwin of Hampton, Va.; and one brother, Reuben Nixon of Tyner.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock in the chapel of the Swindell-Bass Funeral Home with Rev. Daniel Forbes officiating. Burial was in the Nixon Family Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Murray Nixon, Earl Nixon, J.C. Nixon, Thomas Nixon, Leroy Nixon and J.D. Parrish.

Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., proclaimed "Music in Our Schools" week to call attention to the importance of music as an integral part of every child's education.

This year's theme: Music: Harmony in the Arts, depicts music as a harmonizing influence for millions of Americans who perform and listen to music every day. "Education in music is basic to the development of sensitivity, aesthetic awareness, and intellectual powers for all young people," the proclamation read.



ADDRESSES PTA - Gene Causby, left, recently addressed the PTA at White Oak School. Shown with Mrs. Sarah Tynch, president, and John Guard, principal.

White Oak School PTA Hears Interesting Talk

The White Oak Elementary School PTA, in a meeting March 7, was treated to an entertaining and informative presentation by Gene Causby, assistant state superintendent with the State Department of Public Instruction in Raleigh.

Causby, a widely-acclaimed speaker, presented a challenge to the audience of approximately 200 in a speech which was spiced with humorous anecdotes. He pointed out that even though the state spent approximately \$180-million on public education, K-12, during the past fiscal year on the approximately 1,180,000 pupils in the public schools, this was not sufficient to meet the challenges which have been thrust upon the schools by society.

He warned that parents as well as educators must work together to secure the programs and services which are needed for their children and to combat rising criticism of the public schools. At the conclusion of his remarks, Causby an accomplished guitarist and singer entertained the audience with his rendition of a couple of folksongs.

Other highlights of the meeting included a presentation of the LAP reading program, a project emphasizing home-school cooperation, by Mrs. Gladys White and Mrs. Janice Hobbs representing the Chowan County Extension Homemakers; comments by Melvin Howell, speaking as a citizen and urging support of the Edenton-

Chowan Board of Education's decision to reorganize the county's school with a new high school being the number one priority; remarks by PTA President Sarah Tynch and Vice-President Sylvia Bunch on current and upcoming projects of the White Oak PTA; and a presentation by Jake Boyce, counselor at Chowan High School on plans for a proposed summer enrichment program for children ages 5-10 in the White Oak-Chowan attendance district.

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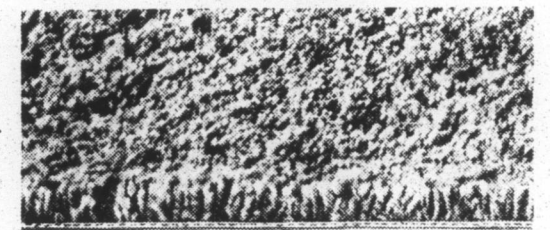
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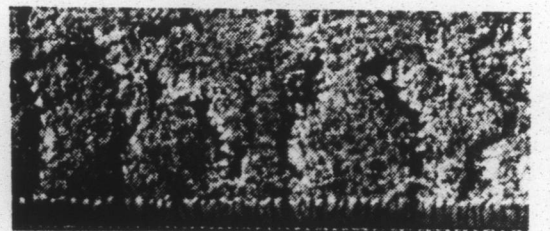
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