

Chalk Dust: New Policy Backs Free Education Idea

T.S. Elliott, noted author, once quipped, "If we spoke as we write, we should find no one to listen, and if we wrote as we speak, we should find no one to read." Hopes are that this is not entirely true; for CHALK, lacking in both eloquence and journalist abilities, is guilty of combining a little of both in getting a DUSTY message across.

How one looks at a situation usually determines whether or not it's considered as good news or bad news. Many have been wondering when the three days of school, missed because of snow, would be made up. School Board members decided at their meeting Monday night to have the days made up during the Easter vacation time. Instead of getting four days as originally planned, schools will only be closed on Easter Monday, a legal holiday. Considering past criticism over school getting out so late in the summer, this decision was reached. Barring no other unforeseen obstacles, June 2 will still be the last day for students and

Evangelist Sets Sunday Service

Evangelist James C. Gant of Pinehurst will conduct a service at John R. Page Masonic Lodge on Oakum Street this Sunday at 5 P.M. He can also be heard Sunday morning at 10:15 over WCDJ.

the earliest dismissal in many a moon. Schools are getting a little closer to the idea of a "free public education." In other action, the Board also voted to purchase High School Diplomas for graduating seniors, beginning with this year.

Some interesting figures have recently been made available to school systems, comparing the State's average expenditure per student and percentages of funding sources with counties. Chowan County is \$201.00 above the State's average of \$1209.65 per student with its \$1410.35 figure. 58.6 per cent of our funds are supplied by the State, with the state average from the same source being 66.4 per cent. The state average for federal funds is 13 per cent, while Chowan County's is 25 per cent. On the state average, local governments contribute 20.4 per cent of per pupil expenditures. Local government contributions from Chowan County is 16.4 per cent. Federal funds are often refined to as "soft monies," because generally, there's no guarantee of refunding each year. However, it would appear in Chowan County's case that federal funds go a long way in taking up a slack and putting our students out front in per pupil expenditures as compared with state averages.

Nothing makes you feel quite as good as someone

else seeking your advice on how to do something. Aside from being flattering, it provides an opportunity for one to take a good look at what is actually being done. Such was the case recently when fourteen staff members, including the superintendent, reading supervisors, principals and

teachers from the Clinton City Schools, visited in grades 1-6 at White Oak and Chowan High School. These educators came to observe how Chowan County teachers are managing the system of teaching the continuum of reading skills on 16 different reading levels possible within a

single classroom situation. Through a series of diagnostic tests taken by students to determine what basic reading skills they need to master and on what level, the PEGASUS reading program being used in grades 1-6 and in remedial reading labs throughout the county leaves nothing to the imagination or assumption of the classroom teacher as to a student's reading needs. Clinton City Schools adopted the Pegasus program two years ago, as did Chowan County. However, they have felt that it was not working as it should. After visiting in classrooms all day, they were able to see how our teachers have blended the Pegasus program of teaching reading skills into the entire reading program, not as an isolated or pigeonhole subject. The basic promise behind Pegasus is that because reading skills not mastered by students are identified through testing, teachers know exactly what needs to be taught and mastered before the child is allowed to move on. Those that already know a given skill are ideally motivated and challenged by the teacher to master the next skill in the continuum. How back to basic can you get.

Cultural Arts and the promotion of creativity in students is an important aspect of education. While the school system doesn't have it all, we can be proud of what we've got and we're willing to share at any time. In the central office this month, there is a sophisticated display of charcoal drawings, silk screen prints, wood constructions, and wood block prints representing the John A. Holmes High School art department. Mrs. Jane Jewell, art instructor at Holmes, is doing a great job of instructing and developing the talents of students in her charge. White Oak School doesn't have the benefit of an art teacher per-se, but it is no less proud of students' work, which is now on display in the passageway of the "B" and "C" Units of the hospital complex. Recently the popular "Concert Choir" from John A. Holmes has been in great demand publicly. They have performed at the Rotary Club, and within the past week at People's Bank & Trust Co. and the Lion's Club. All who hear and witness this group agree that there's a bond between these students and their teacher, Shelby Strother, that goes deeper than just singing. Respect for each other and pride in what they're doing rises above the highest note hit. After seeing this group in action, it's easy to understand why Mrs. Strother was invited last week to be a judge at the State Jr.-High Choral Festival in Eden. Tomorrow eleven students from the band will participate in the Jr.-High All State Band activities at Atlantic Christian College in Wilson. Susie Keeter, Shelia Cherry, Steve Lane, Ronald Stallings, Lynn Dale, David Hibbard, Graham Cox, Stacy Waller, Alan Dail, Darrell Gray and Wendy Hare will join 300 other band students from around the



PLANNING COMMITTEE—Shown above is the planning committee for a Lenten Preaching Mission beginning Monday at the Episcopal Church of St. John the Evangelist. From the left they are Mrs. Emily Nixon, Mrs. Ruby Jernigan, Mrs. Tamar Clarke, Ven. Webster L. Simons, Jr., and Mrs. Jeanette Roulac. Services will be held nightly at 7:30 P.M.

Special Services Planned

A Lenten Preaching Mission will be held next week at the Episcopal Church of Saint John the Evangelist on East Church Street. Nightly, Monday through Friday beginning at 7:30. Archdeacon Webster L. Simons, Jr. will conduct services. His subjects will be:

- Monday — "Who is God?"
- Tuesday — "How do we know Jesus Christ is Divine?"
- Wednesday — "The two stories of the Bible"
- Thursday — "How does a

Christian live?" Friday — "What is our future?" Mr. Simons has been a resident of Edenton since 1976 working with a team of ordained and lay ministers serving sixteen Episcopal congregations around Edenton and the church of St. John the Evangelist. Music will be provided by the choirs of St. John's, Providence Baptist Church, Gale Street Baptist Church, Kadesh A.M.E. Zion, and Edenton Community Male Chorus. All are invited to attend.



COUNTY CRUSADE CHAIRMAN—Chairing the Cant Crusade for Chowan County is Mrs. Yates Parrish shown above during the American Cancer Society's mid-winter conference in Raleigh with Dr. Marlin Perkins, Nation Cancer Crusade co-chairman and host of the TV ser "Mutual of Omahas Wild Kingdom".

Mrs. Parrish Takes Post Crusade Chairman Name

Mrs. Yates Parrish of Edenton was named Crusade Chairman for the Chowan County unit of the American Cancer Society by Virginia Byrum, president of the unit. Mrs. Parrish, it was stated, accepted the position because of her deep concern for the immediate need to control cancer and the necessity to help win the war against cancer through the annual Education-Funds Crusade.

Marlin Perkins, Nation Cancer Crusade chairman, spoke at the conference. Dr. Perkins hosts TV's award-winning "Mutual of Omahas Wild Kingdom".

"The theme of the American Cancer Society 'We Want to Wipe Out Cancer in Your Lifetime' said Mrs. Parrish, "and dedicate my service to the end. Every dollar given in support the American Cancer Society helps in the vital education program for the public and professionals, patient and community service, an research."

More than 350 American Cancer Society volunteers attended the Society's annual mid-winter conference in Raleigh. Dr. and Mrs.



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