

By Mary Rhea Gardner

Chalk Dust

In geometrical terms, a simplified definition of tangent is "touching at one point only and not intersecting." A better description of CHALKDUST would be that which takes off at a tangent or which changes suddenly from one course of action or thought to another.

And yet, the one point at which it consistently touches is the point of education, that point where teachers, students, parents, administrators, lay people and community intersect on a common ground of interest.

Had it not been for the support and reading interest of parents and students during a recently held Book Fair at White Oak School, monies would not have been available to pay transportation expenses of all K-4 students to visit the public library in Edenton. What better way to spend the proceeds made from book sales than exposing students to more books, and providing them the experience of using larger and more sophisticated libraries than those found in small schools?

This money also made it possible for White Oak's kindergartners to visit the Edenton Police Station and Fire Department, where students are always warmly received and for the third grade students to go to the planetarium in Chesapeake, Va. to learn more about the movements of the sun, moon, planets and stars.

Not being satisfied with the status-quo the school system tries to provide opportunities for teachers to grow and gain more knowledge in their given field. For two days this week D.F. Walker and White Oak schools' kindergarten teachers are visiting exemplary kindergarten programs in the Harnett and Moore County school systems. Gail Fernandez, Susan Hill, Debbie Taylor, Ruby Webb, Joanna Lawrence and Priscilla Lewis will be looking at and learning new ideas and techniques for readying students for the first grade, and sharing successful techniques of their own with others.

The John A. Holmes Senior Class is hopeful that folks from all over the county will fly at a tangent on Saturday to support their Fish Fry. This will be held from 11 A.M. to 6 P.M. at the Boy Scout Hut in front of John A. Holmes High School. Proceeds from the fish fry will go toward financing activities connected with the rites of graduation, one of their major steps on their road to utopia.

More often than not, when people get "down" on something it's because they don't fully understand. By the same token, explanations help to clear the air or at least erase some of the misconceptions. Teachers and administrators are more than pleased when invited to explain school programs to various publics and welcome the opportunity to answer questions that might arise. Such was the case when Mrs. Mary Horton, director of pupil personnel service, and member of the Governor-appointed Competency Test Commission, explained to the Lions Club the purpose and anticipated programs to arise from the state's Competency Test and Annual Testing program.

The Lion's Club has been a tremendous ally to the school system and families of students by providing services, financial support and coordinating programs for student needs.

On April 20 Clara Boswell, director of the Edenton-Chowan Alternative School, will take advantage of her recent Rotary Club invitation to enlighten the members on benefits being offered 32 students, who were drop-outs, potential drop-outs or unable to function in a regular school setting, presently enrolled in the school. She will finish this meeting in time to meet with the Alternative School Community Advisory Committee to formulate an evaluation procedure for the school's operation. The Advisory Committee membership is composed of approximately 20 parents, laymen, county commissioners, educational, law enforcement, social service and health related persons.

School buses transporting students on field trips continue to make geometrical educational patterns. The Career Exploration Club at D.F. Walker Jr.-High recently visited Don Juan Shirt Factory in Hertford to explore job requirements, and experiences and skills required for this type of work. Vocational awareness is started in the public schools on the elementary level and continued through Jr.-high to expose students to many areas of work in which they might choose in their pursuit of happiness.

There'll be a Vocational Educational Fair at the Washington Square Mall in Washington April 21 and 22. Edenton-Chowan vocational clubs, classes, students and teachers will be well represented at this annual event sponsored by the Vocational Departments in District I in cooperation with the Washington Merchants' Association. The Career Exploration Club, home ec. and shop departments, as well as representatives from all vocational courses at John A. Holmes will have displays exhibiting their school's vocational program.

Chowan High School's Seventh Grade, in cooperation with the library, is sponsoring a fair of its own this week. These students have made some terrific projects in their science classes and are inviting Chowan's 5-8 graders to visit their Science Fair in the school's library.

Music continues to be an important part of student education. On Tuesday, students from D.F. Walker motored over to Holmes High for a concert representing all choral groups in the Holmes Music Department.

On Thursday students at Chowan and Holmes high schools will have the annual opportunity to hear a rousing performance by the Navy Band. This is usually a thrilling performance for students and is one way the Navy could recruit by saying "If you can't beat them, join them."

Briefly Chalk has measured a lot of educational distance but will have to get back in the blackboard compass to see if our circle is complete.


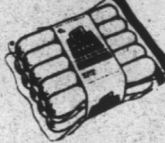


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