

Erwin Urges Regular School Attendance

BY DR. CLYDE A. ERWIN
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

North Carolina's program of elementary education for all its youth cannot be effective without an adequate program of regular school attendance of children dur-

ing the nine months school term. When the first compulsory school attendance law was passed in 1907 the required term of school was only sixteen weeks, attendance being compulsory only after the people voted for it. At that time there was no provision for transportation of pupils to modern consolidated buildings in rural areas, with all the advantages these institutions now afford in instructional service, space and equipment.

The length of the school term has been greatly extended, however, until now every child has the opportunity of attending a school having a nine months' term. The compulsory school attendance law, too, has been improved and finally extended to fifteen years for 1945-46 and to sixteen years for 1946-47 and thereafter. Whether any higher goal will be developed after that remains for the coming years and the wishes and demands of the people.

North Carolina is the only state in the nation that has a school system of 12 grades operating for nine months of the year almost entirely at the expense of the state government. Annually its fleet of 4,815 school buses carries approximately 333,800 children 15,600,000 miles during the school term from points near their homes to the consolidated schools. The State's educational system, including its transportation facilities, now represents an investment of \$129,000,000 in buildings, equipment and vehicles and is operated at a cost of approximately \$50,000,000 a year.

To get the fullest return from this investment and this operating cost, all children of the State between the ages of six and 21 who have not completed high school should take advantage of the full school term. Those children between the ages of seven and 15 (16 after this year) should, in accordance with the law, be required to attend school, unless they are excused under the rules and regulations governing compulsory attendance as adopted by the State Board of Education.

Parents themselves can do the most toward making certain that their children are in school for

the required number of hours each day. Failure to attend school should be permitted only when there is a valid excuse such as illness or other unavoidable causes. The school law definitely places upon parents or guardians the responsibility of seeing that their children attend school regularly and provides a penalty of a fine for continued failure to do so.

In every county of the state, court officials are familiar with certain families of the community who are charged each year with wilful failure to send their children to school. There are certain instances in which families may not be able to provide the proper clothing for their children in view of limited family income. Because of this they may hesitate to send their children to school regularly, but for cases like this the county board of education may, under the law, give up to \$10 a month during the school term to help keep the child properly clothed.

The county department of public welfare also will cooperate in this respect and provide, within limitations of funds available for that purpose, whatever aid it can for the child. The welfare agency has money contributed by the county, the State, and the national governments to give certain relatives with whom the child is living financial assistance for the child as long as the child remains in school up until 18 years of age. These funds are provided under the Social Security Act for aid to dependent children when there is loss of the normal breadwinner. For example, if only the mother remains to support her family, she will not have to keep the oldest child out of school to care for the younger ones during the hours she might be working. These funds for aiding dependent children will be available as long as the children of school age continue their education. This assistance may be obtained by application to the superintendent of public welfare in the county.

Recent modifications in the law permit school units to set up special officers to check truancy and absence cases and provide for their pay through fines or other local funds. Some school units have taken advantage of this new law and others, doubtless, will do so in the future. In most North Carolina counties, however, the county welfare superintendent is still the chief school attendance officer.

In the years following the first world war the county superintendent of schools in all except a few more populous localities of North Carolina, was also the superintendent of public welfare; and from this time on one of the duties of the welfare head was enforcement of school attendance. In those instances where the two jobs were combined, it was not difficult for the welfare superintendent to keep in touch with the truancy cases because they were daily brought to his attention in his school duties. With the expansion of both the public education and the public welfare programs in the State in the past few years, however, the problem of enforcing school attendance has been increasingly greater. Where no special attendance officer has been employed the educational system has relied on the welfare units to handle truancy cases.

Sometime in the future, no doubt, a more effective enforcement system will be worked out in North Carolina, but until that is done the county welfare departments will share with the schools and special officers the job of keeping North Carolina's youth in the classrooms. Parents will help greatly in taking care of this problem by assuming their share of responsibility in making certain that their children are in school or that they have a reasonable excuse for not being there. All North Carolina public schools are now open for the 1945-46 school term. They offer our youth an opportunity for advancement that should not be disregarded, if the boys and girls of today are to

Religious Education Week To Begin On September 30

Chicago — Observance of Religious Education Week, September 30 to October 7, in rural and urban areas of America has been endorsed by President Harry S. Truman, urging that religious education of the nation's children be "fostered and extended." In a letter sent from the White House to Dr. Roy G. Ross, general secretary of the International Council of Religious Education, sponsor of the program.

"The 15th annual Religious Education Week is a national event of significance," President Truman wrote to Dr. Ross. "At a time when stars hang in the windows of the Nation's homes to honor the absent warriors; when millions of Americans live in temporary homes and in migrant centers while they work at war jobs, it is important to urge that the religious education of the country's children be fostered and extended. It is likely that there are millions of youngsters who need initial and basic religious instruction. They should receive it and learn of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man."

Declaring that "every thinking person is comforted by the knowledge that Divine Guidance directs the world," President Truman stated: "During times of great spiritual stress, this awareness of Providence is especially manifested. Chaplains with our armed services report constantly on the increased interest in religion among our fighting men. On the home front, too, there is increasing attention to religion. Probably never before in our history have our people shown such deep and abiding faith."

Ninety per cent of American Protestantism will take part in community observances of Religious Education Week through the 40 denominations and 183 state, city and provincial councils of Churches and religious education, which are member agencies of the International Council. Dr. Ross has announced.

George Morrow At Jaluit

On the USS Winfield at Jaluit Atoll, Sept. 5 (Delayed) — George W. Morrow, seaman, first class, Murphy, N. C., today participated in flag-raising ceremonies on this island in the Marshall group after it had been surrendered by the Japanese.

As the flag went up a 21-gun salute boomed from the guns of the Winfield, the USS McConnell, on which the terms had just been signed, and the USS Baron, all destroyer escorts.

Jaluit, by-passed as other islands in the group were captured, was reduced to impotency by air-sea bombardments the past 18 months. The atoll was pockmarked with craters from end to end.

Even worse was the iron blockade the Navy threw about the place. Not one ship reached the garrison in more than a year and the Japs, half-naked and poorly fed, subsisted on what they could grow. Of the original garrison of 2,600 men, about 2,000 survive.

develop into the leaders of the commonwealth tomorrow. Regular school attendance by each boy and girl is the first step in getting the most out of the opportunity which the school provides.

HEADACHE
Capudine quickly eases headache and soothes resulting upset nerves because it's liquid—nothing to dissolve. Use only as directed.
Liquid CAPUDINE

Wells Urges That Farmers Plant Protective Crops

Cherokee County farmers are now in the stage of the crop season when thinking should be concentrated on "protective crops" for the soil during the winter months. H. N. Wells, chairman, Cherokee county AAA committee, says, "From all reports," he said, "there is a definite prospect for continued high demand of food for use at home and for the peoples of the starving war-torn countries. To meet these demands in 1946, we must lay the ground work now by seeding every bare acre to a cover crop."

"Protection of our soil, during the coming months when rains and freezes will cause leaching and washing away of plant nutrients, is a 'must' in the farm program," he continued. "Besides protecting the soil, these legumes also store fertility by adding nitrogen that has a direct effect upon next year's yields of the crops that follow," Wells added.

He announced that austrian winter peas, and ryegrass are being furnished to the farmers in the county through the AAA office, and that payments will be made not to exceed \$4 per acre for Austrian winter peas, crimson clover and vetch; and not to exceed \$2 per acre for annual ryegrass.

A total of 582 acres, 3.7 percent of the cropland in the county was seeded to winter cover crops last year. Wells stated that he would like to see this acreage increased to 10 percent this fall with farmers keeping in mind that payments are made for establishment of a good growth and good stand of these legumes.

Wells emphasized the following specifications for best results: (1) well-prepared seedbed, (2) full seeding of adapted seed, (3) application of liming material.

Sherrill At NTC, Norfolk

Norfolk, Va. — Charles Ray Sherrill, 18, seaman, second class, USNR of Robbinsville, N. C. arrived on August 23 at the Naval Training Center Norfolk, Va., Atlantic Fleet training center for destroyer crews, to undergo instruction for duties aboard a new destroyer or similar type vessel. He has completed a period of instruction at the Naval Training Center, Bainbridge, Md.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William M. Sherrill of Robbinsville. Before enlisting in the Navy, Sherrill was employed by the Midwest Piping and Supply Co. He was graduated from Robbinsville High School.

Blackwell Is Returned Home

Miami, Fla. — Flown here from overseas as part of the "Green Project" which calls for the Air Transport Command's Caribbean Division to fly 30,000 returnees from Europe to Miami Army Air Field each month, another Murphy man is back in the states.

In less than 24 hours they left for Camp Blanding, Fla., by rail. From there he will go to a reception center nearer home for separation from the service or furlough prior to reassignment.

He is S. Sgt. Garland Blackwell, who has been overseas 15 months, with the Ordnance 3453 M. A. M. Co., in the Middle East and Iran.

Letitia

The Rev. Elish Beavers will preach at Oak Grove church Sunday. Everybody is invited to come and bring someone with you.

Miss Dorothy Sneed was the Sunday dinner guest of Miss Dollie Craig.

J. G. Clonts and Jess Rich spent Sunday with M. C. Stiles.

Mrs. Olie Stiles spent Saturday night with Mandy Walker and her niece, Oma Stiles.

Postell

Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Brendle of Akron, Ohio, are visiting their parents, Mr. and Mrs. N. A. Quinn and Mrs. Nathan Brendle.

Mr. and Mrs. John Stiles of Letitia visited Mr. and Mrs. Clate Stiles Sunday.

Mrs. Artie Kirkpatrick and daughter Helen, of Ducktown visited Mrs. Sophie Jones Sunday. Erwin Stiles of Ducktown visited M. C. Stiles Sunday.

River Hill

Mr. and Mrs. G. O. Reid of Camp Creek visited his sister, Mrs. W. L. Williamson Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Jason Baine spent Sunday with Noah Bryant of Patrick.

Mrs. Gillie Williamson spent Sunday with her sister, Mrs. Estel Hamby of Patrick, who has been

Dr. J.-R. Bell Dentist

Murphy General Hospital

Phones: Business 215

Residence 46

Murphy, N. C.

iii. Mrs. Mamie Baine made a business trip to Farners, Tenn., one day last week.

Unaka

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Coleman, J. T. Kilby and Helen Williams of Lenoir City were visitors here Sunday.

James H. Carter, who has been overseas for the past two years, is on his way back to the states.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Craig and children visited Mrs. Cuala's mother at Unaka recently.

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