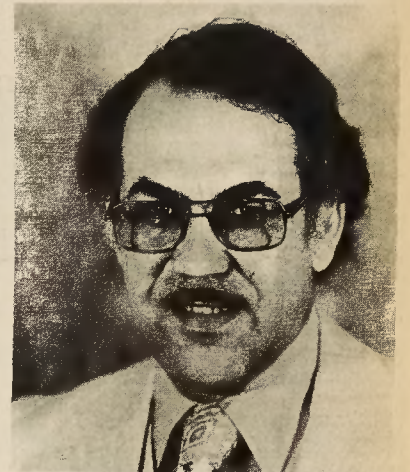


Swett Attends Meeting Of Baptist Children's Homes



Parnell Swett

Raleigh-Parnell Swett, associate superintendent of Robeson County Schools, was among 36 trustees of the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, Inc. that met at the Royal Villa Inn Jan. 21 and 22.

Swett received a B. S. degree from Pembroke State University in 1957. He earned an M. A. degree in school administration from Western Carolina University.

The board's first semi-annual session of 1977 was held in conjunction with the annual orientation for trustees of North Carolina Baptist institutions and agencies.

Active in both church and civic work, Swett is a member of the general board of the Baptist State Convention and the Burnt Swamp Association advisory board. He is also deacon in the Harpers Ferry Baptist Church in Pembroke.

At Friday's meeting, trustees reviewed the Children's Homes' annual report. The homes provided care and related services for 1,683 children in 1976.

Currently, Swett serves as chairman of the Pembroke State University Board of Trustees and a member of the board of directors for Robeson County Speech and Hearing Clinic.

Dr. Cecil Ray, general secretary-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention, spoke at the Jan. 22 meeting. Then trustees from colleges and agencies attended orientation seminars.

The trustee and his wife, the former Annette Locklear, have two children.

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RACE, SEX AND UNEMPLOYMENT

For quite some time now, the cry of women's organizations has been they get the short end of the stick in the job market. If women are shorted in the matter of employment in other areas of the country, however, that doesn't hold true for Robeson, a county where employment is chronically high. Here they comprise 51.7 percent of the county's population and hold down a whopping 52.7 percent of the county's jobs.

It isn't a pretty picture. But there are factors other than race, sex and politics that affect employment in Robeson. For one thing, more than 40 percent of all jobs available here are in the textile industry. These are jobs requiring semi-skilled workers, according to Employment Security Commission Manager Jesse Beatty, and there is but little advancement. He told the Lumberton Post recently that the county's employment record has constantly put it in the top five North Carolina counties for unemployment. In September, 1976, Robeson

came the county with the most unemployment. This is a state high in unemployment at a time when national unemployment is high. Mr. Beatty called for more vocational training in the public schools. He said the county needs more diversified industry, too.

Meanwhile, Robeson County Commissioners have approved an "Affirmative Action Plan" which they hope will improve the county's chances of obtaining a \$2.4 million grant from the Federal Economic Development Administration. The plan is an affirmative statement of intent to provide equal employment opportunities for all county workers, regardless of race or sex. With the Robeson County unemployment rate the highest in the state, securing the grant seems a certainty at this writing, especially if county commissioners manage to convince the Federal officials of their intention to administer the program along lines of equal employment opportunities.

This is an instance in which lack of prejudice promises to pay off—to the tune of \$2.5 million.

Lawnmower, Chain Saw To Be Given Away at PSU Alumni Banquet

by Gene Warren

Pembroke—Those Pembroke State University alumni attending the special banquet for alumni Saturday, Jan. 29, at the PSU Student Center as part of PSU's Homecoming activities will have an opportunity to win a \$209 lawnmower and a \$149 chain saw.

Extra tickets of \$2 each are being sold for a chance to win these prizes at a drawing at the banquet, which begins at 6 p.m. One \$2 ticket is good for a chance at both prizes.

The 22-inch Jacobsen lawnmower and XL-2 chain saw are being donated by Lowry's Chain Saw Co. of Maxton. Jerry Lowry, owner of the company, is the incoming president of the PSU Alumni Association. Lowry is a 1970 graduate of PSU.

The \$2 tickets for chances at the drawing are on sale at the PSU Alumni Office and can be purchased from any board member of the PSU Alumni Association. Tickets can also be obtained at the alumni banquet.

A ticket of \$12.50 will cover costs for the PSU reception at 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29, at which entertainment will be provided by the PSU "Singers and Swingers," the alumni banquet at 6 p.m., the homecoming basketball game with Atlantic Christian at 8 p.m. (during which the homecoming queen will be crowned), and the Alumni "Victory Party" at 10 p.m. at the Pembroke Jaycee Clubhouse.

Telephone number of the PSU Alumni Office is 521-4214 Ext. 252.



JERRY LOWRY, Pembroke State University alumnus (the class of 1970) and incoming president of the PSU Alumni Association, is donating from his Lowry's Chain Saw Co. of Maxton a \$209 lawnmower and a \$149 chain saw to lucky ticket

holders who attend the PSU Alumni Banquet at 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29. This is part of the PSU Homecoming activities that day, climaxed by a homecoming game with Atlantic Christian that night.