

ROBESON COUNTY SCHOOLS NEWS AND BRIEFS

BY LORETTA HUNT

Officers Elected At District Parent Advisory Council Meeting

Members of the Chapter I/Migrant Education District Parent Advisory Council for the Robeson County School System met Monday, December 8, in the Administrative Board Room to elect officers, prioritize and schedule topics for future meetings, and receive orientation as members of the Parent Advisory Council.

Elected as officers for the 1986-87 term were Lela Lewis, president, representing the Magnolia School District; Betty Oxendine, vice president, representing the Pembroke School District and Loretta Smith, secretary, representing the R.B. Dean/Townsend School District. Ms. Ruth Dial Woods, Assistant Superintendent for Compensatory Education, welcomed members and reported on upcoming changes in the Chapter I programs which includes focus on preschool and after school tutorial services.

"As members of the District Parent Advisory Council, you are an extension of the Chapter I/Migrant Education programs. Your recommendations and suggestions along with teachers are a valuable part of the fiscal planning and evaluation of the program services provided to county students," stated Alfonso McRae, ECIA Supervisor during the orientation as to the role of the District Parent Advisory Council and program services.

The Chapter I program provides reading and mathematics instruction to students in grades fourth through tenth at twenty-three school sites. Eligible students must score at or below the 49th percentile on the California Achievement Test to receive program services.

Participants in the Chapter I program receive remedial instruction through either of three approaches: pairing, pullouts and/or resource instructional assistance in the regular classroom. Approximately 4,000 students are served through the Chapter I program with funds made available to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction by the United States Department of Education, Division of Elementary and Secondary Education.

In addition, computer assisted instruction is provided at Magnolia, Fairgrove, Pembroke Junior High and Union Elementary Schools.

As an extension of the services provided in the regular classroom, Chapter I tutorial services in reading and mathematics are provided to eligible students living in the Odum Home, a North Carolina Baptist Children's Home in Pembroke.

Forty selected students in the Chapter I program from various school sites are currently participating in the Saturday Academy at Pembroke State University which meets for a total of 24 Saturday mornings throughout the regular school year providing remedial and enrichment instruction in life science, mathematics, computer science, and language arts.

Robeson Student Wins State Contest

A Robeson County student was announced as the state winner of the Keep North Carolina Beautiful essay contest during an award luncheon on December 4 in Raleigh.

April McCarty's essay was selected over 11,000 entries submitted by 8th grade students throughout the state.

Representing Parkton School, April won a \$1,000 savings bond and a future appearance in a public service announcement sponsored by WRAL-TV, Channel 5, of Raleigh to be taped in January and aired in the early spring across North Carolina.

"I'm happy about winning the Region IV prize of a \$50 savings bond and the \$1,000 savings bond awarded as the state winner.

"I plan to save the bonds until I'm eighteen and then use them on a car," stated April.

The essay contest was designed as a teacher student project which entitled both equal representation of prizes. Yet, more important, it provided opportunities to enhance writing skills and stimulate awareness of nature.

April's essay is descriptive. In fact, it is very poetic," stated Ms. Dickey Spencer, 7th and 8th grade Language Arts teacher at Parkton School.

"When I asked her to write the essay, 'Why We Should Keep North Carolina Beautiful,' I knew she would be interested because of her talent and interest in writing.

"It was not a mandatory essay and hers was the only entry from the 8th grade at Parkton School.

"Originally, she wrote two to three pages in length for the essay contest. Then the hardest part was cropping it to meet the requirements of 150 words for entry.

"My strategy was to motivate April into bringing in more information than was needed," stated Ms. Spencer.

The four geographical land areas of North Carolina are indeed poetically described in April's essay:

Imagine a sunset... Think of a foggy morning... Visualize a grassy field... Daydream of waves... North Carolina's beauty belongs to her people, but we have a commitment to those who follow us in time. We must cherish and preserve 'the North Carolina experience.'

"I was inspired to write about the six main areas of land by a former teacher who came to mind as I began to write the essay which I did within five minutes," stated April.

The Keep North Carolina Beautiful Essay Contest was sponsored jointly by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and the North Carolina Beautification Committee, Inc. and open to eighth grade students throughout the state.

Entries were judged on originality, grammar, spelling and penmanship.

April McCarty is the daughter of James and Helen McCarty of Parkton.



Ms. April McCarty-Parkton School
State Essay Winner

TEACHERS TO RECRUIT OUTSTANDING STUDENTS INTO PROFESSION

Six Robeson County teachers have been selected to assist the state in recruiting high school students to the teaching profession.

The student recruitment effort is a part of the new Teacher Enhancement Program funded by the General Assembly and developed by the Department of Public Instruction in Raleigh.

Teacher recruiters from the six Robeson County high schools include: Janet Howell from Littlefield Junior-Senior High School; Flora Scott from Magnolia High; Wanda Harris from Orrum High; Walter Jackson from Parkton High; Janice Hunt from South Robeson High; and Dolores Jones from West Robeson Senior High.

One teacher selected from each high school in the state, along with the regional winners in the state Teacher of the Year competition, will work toward improving the image of the teaching profession; providing information about the teaching profession; and identify and attract talented high school students, especially minority students into the teaching profession.

Teacher recruiters may assist in identifying possible candidates to receive scholarship loans; prepare presentations on the teaching profession for student clubs and parent-teacher groups; and plan career day activities.

State Superintendent Craig Phillips said he was "pleased that some of the very best North Carolina teachers had joined the effort to recruit more good teachers into the profession."

Enacted into law during the 1986 General Assembly the Teacher Enhancement Program calls for up to 500 awards of \$5,000 per year beginning in the spring for high school seniors who agree to pursue a career in teaching. The total value of the scholarship would be \$20,000 over a student's college career.

Beyond the size of the award, however, the intent of the Program is to create a Morehead-like program for prospective teachers. Only nine of the forty-four teacher training institutions in North Carolina will pilot the Program which includes Appalachian State University, East Carolina University, North Carolina Central University, North Carolina State University, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Western Carolina University and North Carolina A & T University.

Members of the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Commission who drafted the teacher training program included: Tom Lambeth, the Executive Director of the Z Smith Reynolds Foundation, Chair of the Commission; Dr. Joseph Cowan, Superintendent of Jackson County Schools; Dr. Benjamin Quinn, Superintendent of New Bern-Craven County Schools; Dr. Kenneth Newbold, retired Superintendent of Greensboro City Schools; Ms. Linda Little, Principal; Dr. Leroy Walker, former Chancellor of North Carolina Central College; Dr. Herbert Egan, the Associate Dean of North Carolina State University; Mrs. Marydell Bright, the former Admissions Officer of Elon College; Gladys Graves, the NCAE President-Elect; and Roby Shore, a public member.

Orrum, Proctorville plan to hold concert

In conjunction with the Robeson County Bi-centennial celebration, the towns of Orrum and Proctorville are planning a gospel sing and a homecoming for the people who have lived in the area.

Gospel concert is probably a better description of the event the folks are planning in the two small towns in southern Robeson County.

The event is scheduled for May 2, 1987, but organizers are trying to get all the churches, gospel groups and others to commit to performing in the concert by Jan. 1, 1987.

Any group interested in performing in the concert should contact any of the following people:

- Wilton Caulder... 628-8501
- Hal Ivey..... 628-7995
- Jim Atkinson..... 628-8727
- Hollis Ivey..... 739-3790
- Florence Barden... 628-8697
- Gaston Sealey... 628-7665
- Lizzue Lawson... 739-4852
- Robert Wilkes... 628-6595

The event is being emphasized as an outing for the entire family full of good clean fun.

"We hope people will be able to come and bring the whole family and a picnic lunch," Robert Wilkes, one of the organizers, said.

"It's important if we are going to organize this event properly that we get all the names of the churches and groups interested in performing," he added.

In addition to the gospel concert, the group is also organizing a kind of homecoming through the local high school.

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