

Improved Maintenance Skills For Schools?

From cleaning floors to repairing boilers, public school maintenance people are responsible for seeing that North Carolina's children have a clean, comfortable environment in which to learn.

In an effort to guarantee a suitable learning environment, the 1973 General Assembly in its second session passed Senate Resolution 1417 directing the State Board of Education to study school maintenance programs and to bring back recommendations for improvement.

Under the direction of State Board of Education Member R. R. Manz of Roanoke Rapids, the Public School Maintenance Study Commission was set up to study the problem. It was the task of these fifteen educators and businessmen to make recommendations not only to standardize and improve the overall working conditions of school maintenance people but also to upgrade and improve school building care throughout the State.

Through questionnaires to all school maintenance

people, visits to exemplary programs, and discussions with people acquainted with maintenance operations, the study commission identified five major problem areas in school maintenance programs.

Maintenance people, the commission said, need help in: (1) financing their programs; (2) employing and retaining qualified personnel; (3) training their personnel; (4) planning and implementing comprehensive maintenance programs; and (5) using effective management procedures.

After a complete study of these problems, said Manz, the commission came up with five recommendations for improving maintenance programs in the public schools of the State.

The first recommendation is that the State fund a key position or portion of a position in each school unit to provide leadership for maintenance and custodial operations. "We found in our study," said Manz, "that having one person fully

responsible for the maintenance operation is essential to an effective program."

The second recommendation resulted from the problem of inadequate training for maintenance personnel. The commission suggested that the State fund an inservice program designed to upgrade and improve skills of all maintenance personnel in the State. "This is an essential part of any successful program," added Manz, "due to changing techniques and practices in all fields of endeavor."

The commission also recommended that a maintenance and custodial classification system and salary schedule be established in each school unit by July 1, 1977. This classification system and salary schedule would include a wide variety of technicians and craftsmen needed in a modern effective maintenance program.

The fourth recommendation called for improved management procedures in maintenance and custodial programs. Such procedures would include long-range planning, personnel incentive programs, cost accounting systems, and preventive maintenance.

"Management procedures," said Manz, "would guarantee an organized system of communication and response to the varied maintenance needs in each school unit."

The commission made a final recommendation to the State Board of Education that a legislative program be developed which would include appropriation of funds to meet the needs of school maintenance people in the State.

"The members of the study commission made special notice as they visited school maintenance programs throughout the State of the dedicated men and women who are committed to effective maintenance programs in their school system," Manz emphasized.

"Unfortunately, many of these people are working under severely adverse circumstances. We hope that through legislation now being drafted that the work of the Public School Maintenance Study Commission will eventually mean a comfortable and suitable learning environment for every child in the state."

Technician Medical Class Set

In cooperation with the Occupational Education Department at Brevard High School and the Transylvania Community Hospital, Blue Ridge Technical Institute will offer training in a course for emergency medical technicians.

The classes will meet from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays beginning January 13 and continuing through May 12. There will be a total of 25 class meetings.

Class membership will be limited to 25 persons. Students will be selected according to a preference specification established by the North Carolina State Board of Health: 1st priority — ambulance attendants; 2nd priority — rescue squad personnel; 3rd priority — hospital emergency room personnel; 4th priority — firemen and law enforcement personnel; 5th priority — other interested persons.

Mrs. Roann Balding will be class coordinator. For further information and preregistration, contact Mr. G. H. Farley, Brevard High School, 884-4103.

The Human Condition

What About Adults Drinking Milk?

BY DR. WILLARD KREHL

Chairman of the Department of Community Health and Preventive Medicine
Thomas Jefferson University

A reader inquires, "Is it really necessary for me to drink milk? I am 55 years old and milk gives me indigestion."

We state generally that milk is a perfect, or almost perfect, food. Indeed, almost all of the essential nutrients that man requires in his diet, with the possible exception of enough iron, are available in milk.

ASA Galloway In Germany

Kitzingen, Germany (AHTNC) Nov. 21 — Army Specialist Four Kenneth M. Galloway, 18, son of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin D. Galloway, Brevard, N. C., is assigned as a truck driver in Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, of the 3rd Infantry Division's 46th Armor in Kitzingen, Germany.

North Toxaway Yule Program Sunday P. M.

The North Toxaway Baptist Church will have a Christmas program Sunday, Dec. 22, at 7 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend. Mrs. Dee Johnson is in charge of the program.

Lake Toxaway Baptist Church will also have a Christmas program on the 22nd of December at 7 p.m.

The Lake Toxaway Men's Club will sponsor a Christmas party for the children Friday, Dec. 20 from 6:30 - 8 p.m. at the Community Center.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Wilde and daughter, Fran, and Pfc. and Mrs. Dennis Wilde visited Patrolman and Mrs. Danny Fisher and family in Robbinsville this weekend.

Congratulations go to Mr. and Mrs. Steve Miller, who are the proud parents of twins, Shawn and Christie. The babies were born Tuesday, Dec. 10, at Transylvania Community Hospital. Mrs. Miller is the former Miss Bonnie Singleton.

We extend sincere sympathy to the family of Howard McCall who passed away last week in Mission Memorial hospital at Asheville.

This writer would like to take this opportunity to wish the staff of the Transylvania Times a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Backsteppers Dance Dec. 21

The Brevard Backsteppers will celebrate the holidays with a Christmas dance on Saturday night, Dec. 21.

The 8 p.m. dance will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian Church. Calling the tips will be the club's caller, Marshall Welch, and during the course of the evening homemade refreshments with a Christmas theme will be served.

Club President DeWitt Parsons said that at this holiday season, all western-style square dancers in the area are especially welcome to come and swing their partners with the Backsteppers.

The club holds its regular dances twice monthly on the first and third Saturday nights. In Feb. the Backsteppers will present a special dance featuring nationally known caller Ron Schneider.

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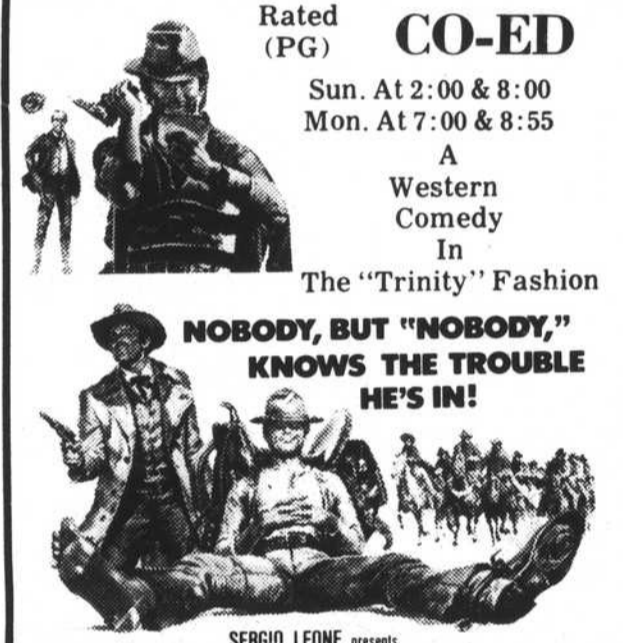
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— NOTE —
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