

The Franklin Press and The Highlands Maconian

The membership of rural youth organizations in North Carolina has more than doubled during the last 10 years.



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Revised Welfare Policies Now In Effect In County

Revised state-wide policies established by the state board of public welfare to carry out the public assistance statutes are now in effect in this county, according to Mrs. F. H. Potts, superintendent of the Macon County Department of Public Welfare.

"Under the new policy", Mrs. Potts said, "older children in families receiving public assistance must be able to show evidence that they have made an effort to find employment to help pay their way in the home."

"If these children, 13 years of age and older, or between 16 and 18 if not in school, are unemployed they must be registered with the State Employment service as evidence of their efforts to secure employment."

Mrs. Potts pointed out that the only exception which would be made in this policy would be when the home situation of the child is such that his services there are essential because of the incapacity of the parent.

"As the case workers of the county department of public welfare make their periodic visits, they will review the employment status of all children in this age group. If such children are unemployed and cannot furnish evidence of having made an effort to secure employment, the parent cannot be determined to be in need", Mrs. Potts said.

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Three Elementary Operettas Last Week Well Attended

The three operettas presented last Wednesday and Thursday afternoons by children of the Franklin and East Franklin elementary schools were well attended.

Wednesday's performances were given at the high school gymnasium, Thursday's at the East Franklin school.

Under the direction of Miss Alice Weaver, public school music teacher, first grade pupils of the Franklin elementary school presented "Uncle Billy's Candy Shop"; East Franklin first graders gave "Woes of the Crows"; and "Under the Green Wood Tree", an operetta based on the story of Robin Hood, was enacted by East Franklin fourth graders.

Those having leading roles in "Uncle Billy's Candy Shop" included Sonny Burrell, Melinda Henson, Linda Henderson, Gary Young, Sandra Norton, Cheryl Vaughn, Herbert Hurst, Betty Ann Bulgin, Glinda Lee, Claudia Koehler, Sandra Henson, Johnny Swan, Paul Vinson, Lonnie Dehart, and Shirley Frady.

Parents May Take Handicapped Children To College With Them; Special Experiment Is Planned

Parents of handicapped children may now go to summer school with their children at Western Carolina Teachers College, Cullowhee, according to an announcement made by William Katenbrink, county chairman of the North Carolina Society for Crippled Children.

This parent-child experiment is a part of the special education teacher training program to be held from June 10 to July 17.

The society has cooperated with Dr. William E. Bird, director of the summer session, in providing clinics for handicapped children.

Children needing speech correction, those with hearing losses and impaired eyesight and the physically handicapped and emotionally disturbed will be selected to attend the six-week clinic. Applications should be sent to Dr. Bird. This parent-child program is "a new approach to helping the parent to become a trained member of the team which will be rehabilitating his/her own child," Albin Pikutis, executive director, North Carolina Society for Crippled Children, explained.

"Parents, mother or father, or both are to be admitted on the same basis as regular students of the college. The parent is expected to take at least one course in relation to the child's difficulty."

The child pays room and board and five dollars tuition. An organized program of recreation will be provided for children living on the campus.

"The learning opportunity offered the children is of uppermost interest to the North Carolina Society for Crippled Children, and the society has, for this reason, assisted in sharing the expenses of the personnel of the clinic," Mrs. Pikutis said.

"The clinical assistants are all trained and experienced special education teachers and therapists."

This parent-child demonstration project is attracting attention beyond the borders of North Carolina, he added.

Social Security Checks Sent To 191 Macon Folk

Checks for insurance payments under federal social security went to 191 aged persons, children, and their widowed mothers in Macon county in December, 1951.

In releasing these figures this week, Glenn H. Pittenger, manager of the Asheville Social Security office, also said that these monthly payments under the old-age and survivors insurance program amounted to \$4,677 in this county. "Without these payments earned by workers under this contributory system, the ability of many people to pay for necessities would have been drastically curtailed or entirely ended", he said.

More than one-third of all people over 65 in the United States who could not count on income from work for support, were getting social security insurance benefits. About 97 per cent over age 65 in Macon

county were receiving these payments.

Pittenger pointed out that this federal program is affording substantial survivor insurance protection. Three out of every four mothers and young children in the nation are now assured of monthly payments

if the insured breadwinner of the family dies

In this connection, he cited monthly payments totaling \$1,938.00 to 78 children, and 16 widowed mothers in Macon county. These monthly payments are going to families deprived of earned income by the

untimely death of the wage earner. They are making it possible to keep families together, and keep children in school, and, at the same time, lessening the drain on both public and private welfare funds, he said.

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