

State P. T. A. Office Is Busy Clearing House

GIBSONVILLE—"We work for PTA because we believe in it," Mrs. J. W. Burke says simply and convincingly in stating how the staff in the state office here feels about the parent-teacher organization.

And Mrs. Burke has shown her devotion to the PTA cause by serving as executive secretary and treasurer of the North Carolina Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., since the state office was opened in 1938, being re-elected every three years.

She describes the state office as a clearing house for PTA activities all over the state, serving as headquarters for the 1,000 local PTA units located in North Carolina.

Mrs. Burke is assisted with the office work by Miss Peggie May, with additional assistants being employed during periods of extra-heavy activity.

Working in cooperation with the state office are 10 district directors and a field secretary, Miss Blanche Haley. Miss Haley, a professional PTA worker, visits the various districts, assisting with extension work, study classes and the coordination of activities involving other groups, such as child welfare organizations.

All material sent out to local PTAs is cleared through the state office. As an example of the large amount of work this entails, the office sent out a total of 36,370 pieces of mail last year.

Plans of work for the year sent out to each local unit each August makes up the largest volume of mail.

Much of the summer is taken up with mimeographing and assembling the material in preparation for mailing.

To illustrate the volume of the plans of work mail, Mrs. Burke points out that it would fill three pickup trucks.

Membership cards constitute the second largest volume of mail.

All state records are kept at the office, and all PTA funds spent go through the office. Also, all national material coming into the state is distributed

here, along with all charters for new PTA organizations.

The state office caters to individual members as well as local PTA units, as attention is given to all correspondence received from the 255,356 members in the state.

The steady flow of correspondence received at the office increases each year, and Mrs. Burke proudly points out that a gain in membership has been experienced each year, even during the depression period.

The efficiency of the state office is illustrated by the fact that all orders for material and membership cards are taken care of the day they are received.

"This isn't conceit," Mrs. Burke says. "It's just family pride."

A student loan fund is also administered from the office, providing aid to deserving college students.

In addition to the space taken up by the state office, another large room is required for keeping the large quantity of records and materials belonging to the office.

The state office is located over Burke's Department Store which is owned by Mrs. Burke's husband, who donates the use of the office and storage room to the PTA without cost, showing that he also shares his wife's belief in the organization.

Mrs. Burke says that the storage room formerly was used as a shoe stockroom for the department store. As her need for additional storage space grew every time a vacancy occurred among the boxes of shoes she would promptly fill it with the material. This process continued until finally the room was devoted entirely to PTA material.

In listing the attributes of the PTA, the executive secretary and treasurer points out that the organization is non-partisan, non-commercial and non-sectarian, with education as its primary objective.

The objects of the association, listed on the back of the membership cards, are as follows:

To promote the welfare of

children and youth in home, school, church and community. To raise the standards of home life.

To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.

To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the training of the child.

To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for every child the highest advantages in physical, mental, social and spiritual education.

Monday Deadline For Entering Writing Contest

Monday, January 11, is the deadline for entering this year's good writing contest sponsored by the North Carolina English Teachers' Association, contest director Dr. Francis E. Bowman, of the Duke University English faculty, has announced.

Open to high school juniors and seniors throughout the state, the annual competition offers recognition for outstanding prose and poetry. Winning entries will be published next spring in a special student issue of "The North Carolina English Teacher," journal of the NCETA.

"In last year's contest," Dr. Bowman said, "a total of 475 manuscripts by pupils of 75 teachers in 47 high schools were submitted. Steadily increasing interest over the past five years has shown that the competition is a sound method for the encouragement of good writing."

DID YOU WRITE?

An unsigned letter protesting the new motor vehicle insurance law has been received by The Press. A policy of the newspaper dictates that no items, news or otherwise, are to be published unless the sender's name and address are known. The Press will be glad to print the letter if the writer will identify himself. The letter was postmarked in Highlands and signed "Reader of The Press."

TIES FOR TOP SPOT

Miss Jean Norton, of Franklin, was one of nine students who tied for the top ranking spot with all "A's" at the New Mexico Western College, Silver City, New Mex., for the fall term, it has been announced.

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3-1950 Chev Styline 2-Drs.
1950 Chevrolet 4-Dr.
1949 Frazer 4-Dr.
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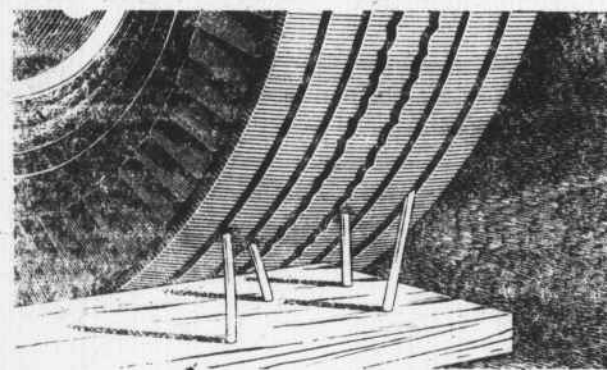
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