

Proposed Teacher Increase Would Mean \$800 Average Here

COUNTY'S SITUATION IS STUDIED

Teachers Expected To Support Proposal At Annual Meeting

At the annual meeting this week-end of the N. C. Education Association, the majority of Macon's teachers are expected to throw their support behind a resolution, drawn by the Canton unit of N. C. E. A., requesting a 25 per cent increase in pay.

If the resolution passes, it will be shuttled before the legislature, since the state is responsible for teacher salaries.

About \$800 More
Dollar-wise, in Macon County a 25 per cent salary increase would mean roughly \$800 more per teacher over a nine-month period.

At present, the average teacher salary in the county is \$3,100 for nine month's work, according to Supt. Holland McSwain. On the basis of a year's work, this comes to \$258 a month, or about \$64 a week, before deductions.

Unpaid Vacation
From a salary standpoint, teachers get an unpaid vacation during the summer, and, in order to get along, most must take jobs," the superintendent declared.

The total monthly payroll coming into the county to pay teachers is about \$41,000, Mr. McSwain estimated, adding:

"But don't forget that's divided between 120 classroom teachers and 11 principals, 10 of whom are considered as full-time teachers."

And then there are deductions: things like income taxes and 5 per cent of each salary for the retirement fund.

Renewal Required
Mr. McSwain also explained that teachers must renew their teaching certificates every five years. This generally takes one summer session at college, taking a full load, at a cost of more than \$300, depending upon the circumstances.

Because a teacher occupies the center stage in public life, the superintendent termed it "very necessary" for each to dress possibly a little better than the average person.

"A teacher couldn't be expected to set much of an example if he appeared in his classroom day after day wearing the same old threadbare suit, could he?" he asked.

While it is seldom recognized as a teaching expense, Mr. McSwain said it should be.

"As you can see, that average salary (\$3,000) gets smaller," he added.

Doesn't Show Work
Most teachers here average about seven hours a day, five days a week, on the school grounds. But, this average fails to reflect the amount of work they do, the superintendent assured.

In addition to daily classroom instruction, they must stand bus duty (45-60 minutes average), grade daily papers and examinations (either before school in the morning, or at night after supper), make out class reports, serve as club advisors and class sponsors, assist with P. T. A. work, and spend time after hours with some pupils needing extra help.

Certificate Required
All teachers in the system are either required to have an "A" certificate (four years' of college in education), or be working toward one.

Mr. McSwain said nine are now working toward "A" certificates. It is estimated that \$5,000 is

needed to produce a teacher with an "A" certificate).

Certificate work is accomplished through summer school, night classes, or extension courses.

Going to School

Working toward renewal of their certificates, about 30 teachers are now going to school one night a week at Franklin High. They're taking a course in special education being offered by Western Carolina College. The professor is Dr. Herbert Koeppe-Baker, a widely-known authority in this field.

What's in Future

But what of the young teacher, fresh out of college? What is his or her future in Macon County?

Beginning salary for any teacher in North Carolina ("A" certificate) is \$2,430 for nine months.

The maximum salary, after 11 years' experience, is \$3,420.

"This explains partly why so few men go into the teaching profession", Mr. McSwain noted. "You certainly can't support a family and maintain the standard of living required a teacher on that, can you?"

Wooing Graduates

Post-war industrialization over the country is using high salaries (starting salary for many with college degrees is more than \$4,500), paid vacations, hospital and insurance benefits, and other inducements to woo the most capable college graduates.

"Not many would turn down offers like they make to teach," the superintendent declared.

Trend Felt Here

This trend is even being felt here.

Four years ago, Mr. McSwain said he could, at any point in the school year, reach into his teacher application file and fill a vacancy. Unfortunately, he can't do that today.

He has only two applications on file; and they are for jobs in 1956-57.

"And they just came in a couple of days ago," he said.

In Macon County at least, any increase in teacher pay will have to come from the state. The county is in no shape financially to pay a supplement—an inducement

with wide practice in the larger towns and cities.

"This is one issue that rests squarely with the people," Mr. McSwain declared.

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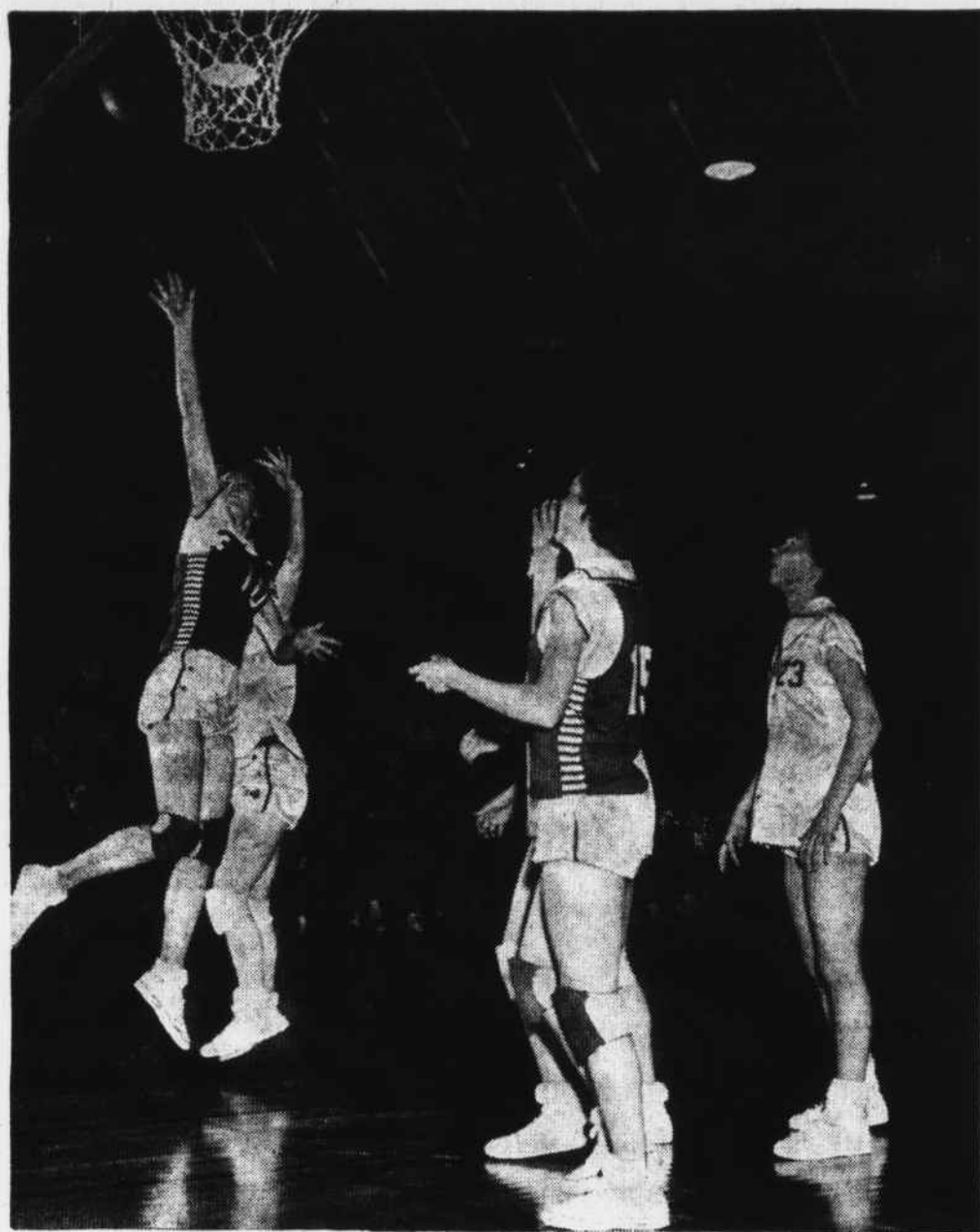
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BALLET-STYLE, Franklin's Lucy Henry backhands a shot at the goal in the March 9 game here with Clyde Erwin High School. The local girls lost the game, 36 to 33. (Note: Because of space limitations this picture was left out of last week's issue.)

SUNDAY SINGING IN SYLVA

A fourth Sunday singing is set for the American Legion build-

ing in Sylva, beginning at 1 p. m., according to the director, James E. Rogers. All singers and the public are invited.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy M. Biddle, Jr., had as week-end guests Dr. and Mrs. Robert Whittle, of Knoxville, Tenn.

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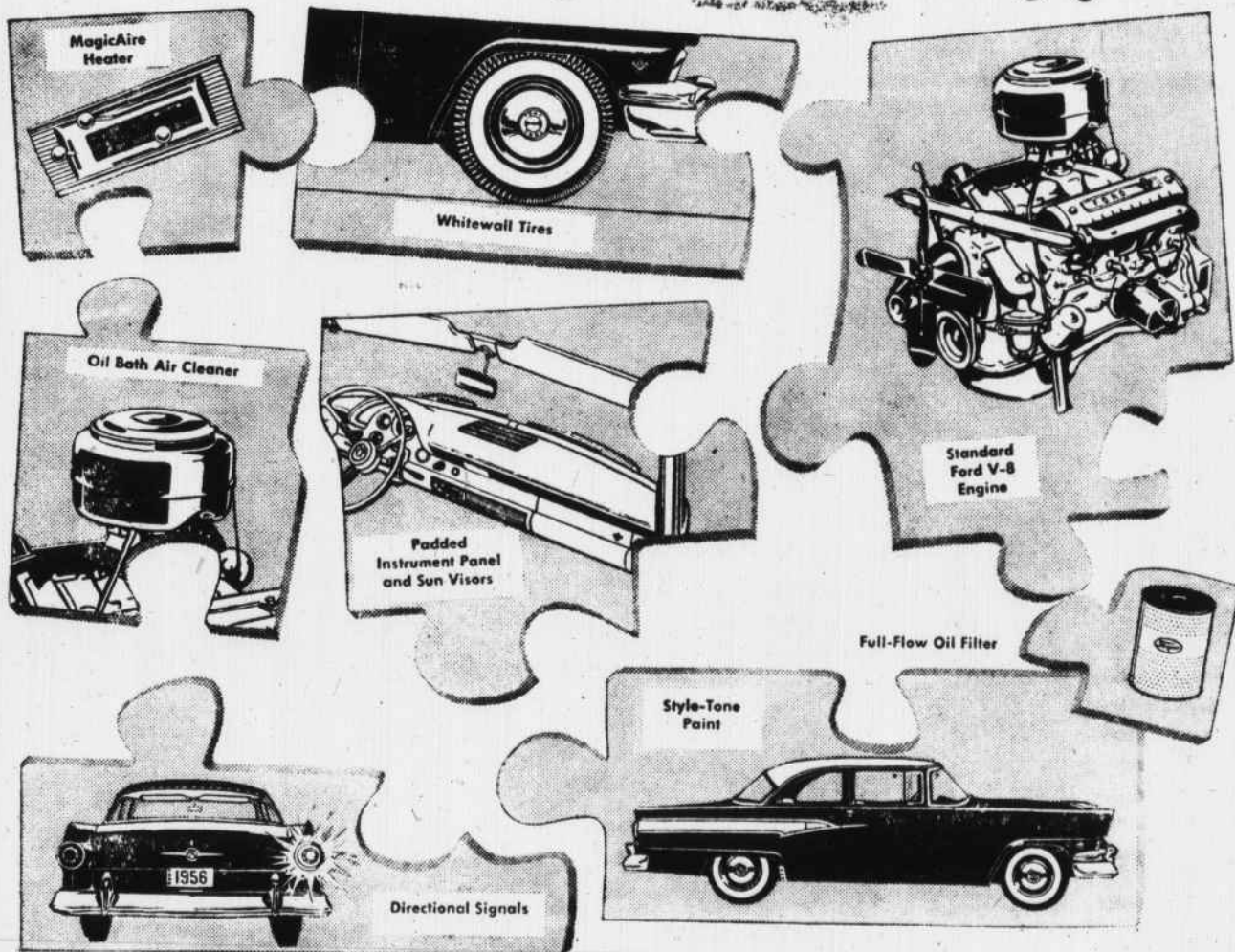
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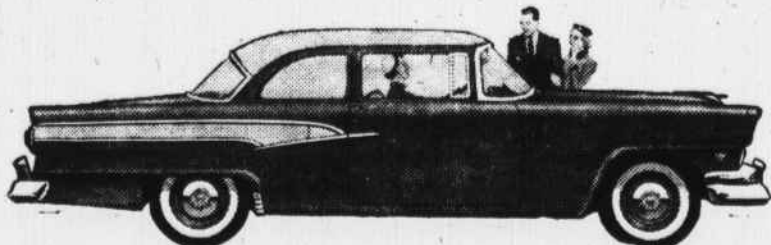


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The Franklin 5 & 10¢ Store

Announcement . . .

I wish to announce to the public that I have bought Mr. Ben Sellers' interest in Cagle's Cafe. It is now owned by Mr. Parker Norton and me.

I will be the new manager. I take over the position with a background of a lifetime of experience in the restaurant business — both as owner and as cook. For the past two years, I have been employed as cook at The Normandie.

I will appreciate the patronage of my friends.

We will strive to provide you with even better food and service.

BILL BALDWIN

Co-Owner and Manager

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