

Knowing Macon County Schools

By Supt. H. Bueck

Questions for this column are invited from the public. Mail them to Mr. Bueck, Franklin, N. C., or to THE PRESS.

What is quality education? How do we get it?

The term quality in the field of education bears the same connection it has in any activity or product. It can only be measured in a relative sense. We have witnessed in Macon County, in the last decade or so, a marked increase in the quality of the poultry and cattle produced by our progressive farmers and the quality both of goods and services offered by our merchants.

The nature of the product and the difficulty of judging makes the achievement and the measurement of quality in education far more complex.

For the past half-century, we have concerned ourselves mainly with the problems of making educational opportunity

available to all of our children and, in the process, striving to reach a minimum uniform standard of excellence. In the achievement of this goal we have not done too badly. In many instances our schools compare favorably with others in the state and nation.

The rapid advance of technology finds us in a position where minimum standards in education are dangerously inadequate for the kind of world our children will live in. There are innumerable statistical studies to bear this out. The appalling number of young men who failed to qualify for the army in the last war was a warning. The number of college failures is a standing indictment. The demands of increasingly complex business and industry for better train-

ed students is a challenge. The problems of quality education is more universally recognized with the passing of every day. Spurred by the amazing scientific achievements of Russia and goaded by searchingly critical magazine and editorial comments, by such popular publications as "Why Johnny Can't Read?" a lethargic public is beginning to take a serious interest in the quality of education we want for our children. Education leaders welcome this concern and interest. Many of them have been aware of deficiencies in the system for a long time. Some leaders know, and many have learned to their sorrow, that improvements and innovation can be made only so rapidly as the general public will permit. National concern for quality

education found expression in the platforms of both major political parties in the pledge of substantial federal support of public schools. On the state level, the governor-elect ran on a platform of substantial increase in the per-pupil expenditure above the present level.

The State Department of Public Instruction has expressed its concern through programs of research in matters of curriculum, teacher preparation, in-service training and consolidation. How well we, here in Macon County, will benefit from what may come to us from state and national sources will depend on a number of factors, a few of them briefly listed are:

1. How seriously do we want our children to have the best education possible?
2. Are we willing to learn enough about our schools to offer constructive criticisms for their improvement?
3. Are we satisfied to restrict our demands on the schools to those functions that contribute directly to quality education at the possible sacrifice of some personal convenience or interests?
4. Will we welcome some home work for our children

and insist that this work be done?

5. Can we accept and pass on to our children the fact that there is no easy road to learning, that students can expect no more from their schooling than they are willing to put into it?

6. Are we as teachers and as parents prepared to admit that there is a wide range of intellectual ability and of aptitudes in the children who make our school population and seriously tackle the problem of

providing a program of studies that will recognize these differences and provide a program that will challenge every child to reach his maximum in development?

7. Can we face the fact that teachers may teach, but learning is the responsibility of the child. The child must want to learn. Can we somehow place this goal above our pride in a report card of straight A grades?

In the measure that we can answer these questions and many more of a similar nature,

will we be able to provide the quality education that each of us as individuals want for our children.

D and S TRACTOR CO.

Formerly
Macon Tractor & Equipment Co.



Sales, Service, Parts

NEW AND USED
TRACTORS and EQUIPMENT
TO SUIT YOUR EVERY NEED
Convenient Finance Plans
Ford-I-Fy Your Future
Phone LA 4-3111
244 West Palmer St. Franklin, N. C.

WANTED

WE WILL BUY

Dry Hulled Black Walnuts

BROWN & CARSON

FRANKLIN, N. C.



MACON COUNTY'S HEADQUARTERS FOR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

GIFTS FOR THE YOUNG MAN



- Jackets ----- \$4.99 to \$12.99
- Sweaters ----- \$2.99 and \$3.99
- Shirts ----- \$1.59 and \$1.99
- Pants ----- \$2.99 to \$5.99
- Socks ----- 29c to 59c
- Pajamas ----- \$1.99
- Ties ----- 59c and \$1.00
- Shoes ----- \$3.99 to \$6.99

GIFTS FOR DAD



- 19¢ - 24¢*
- Shirts \$2.99 and \$3.99
 - Ties \$1.00 and \$1.50
 - Sweaters \$4.99 to \$7.99
 - Jackets \$5.99 to \$22.50
 - Socks 39c to 79c
 - Dress Slacks \$5.99 to \$10.99
 - Shoes \$5.99 to \$18.99
 - House Slippers \$2.99 & \$3.99



GIFTS FOR THE YOUNG LADY

- CAR COATS ----- \$3.99 to \$7.99
- SKIRTS ----- \$2.99 to \$4.99
- BLOUSES ----- \$1.59 to \$2.99
- SLIPS ----- \$1.00 to \$3.99
- SWEATERS ----- \$1.99 to \$5.99
- DRESSES ----- \$1.99 to \$5.99
- PANTIES ----- 39c to 59c



GIFTS FOR MOM

- TOWEL SETS ----- \$1.00 to \$3.99
- SAMSONITE LUGGAGE ----- \$14.99 to \$26.99
- COATS ----- \$19.99 to \$39.99
- DRESSES ----- \$6.99 to \$14.99
- SLIPS ----- \$1.99 to \$5.99
- GOWNS ----- \$1.99 to \$5.99 *3.99*
- PAJAMAS ----- \$1.99 to \$5.99 *5.00*
- HOUSE COATS ----- \$3.99 to \$8.99
- SWEATERS ----- \$2.99 to \$5.99
- BLOUSES ----- \$1.99 to \$6.99 *3.99*
- ROSE ----- 79c to \$1.00

BELK'S SHOPPING HOURS:

- Open All Day Wednesday, November 30th
- Open All Day Wednesday, December 7th
- Open All Day Wednesday, December 14th
- Open All Day Wednesday, December 21st
- Open Friday Nights Until 9 O'clock:
 - December 9th
 - December 16th
 - December 23rd

FREE GIFT WRAPPING

SHOP MACON COUNTY'S LARGEST AND MOST COMPLETE TOY DEPARTMENT

- Tricycle ----- \$10.99 and \$12.99
- Cars ----- \$12.99 to \$16.99
- Dolls ----- \$3.99 to \$21.99
- Guns and Holster Sets ----- \$1.49 & \$3.99
- Stuffed Animals ----- \$1.99 to \$4.99
- Games ----- \$1.00 to \$2.99
- Foot Balls ----- \$1.59 and \$1.99
- Basket Balls ----- \$1.59 and \$1.99



AND MANY OTHER ITEMS

BELK'S -- FRANKLIN N. C.