

Resource Use Education Makes Three Requests of WCTC

BY AL BOOZE
 Three requests were made of Western Carolina Teachers college by the Committee on Resource-Use Education for Western North Carolina when the Committee met at the school's Student Union building Monday afternoon.
 They were:

1. That W. C. T. C. establish a Resource-Use education film service for public schools in this area which are participating in the program. It was suggested that the college set up facilities for a film library and that various interested organizations, such as forestry, public health, and industries, contribute films to the library, which the college would make available to participating public schools at a very low cost.

2. That the library of W. C. T. C. collect and make available to participating schools and interested groups literature on Resource-use education.
 3. That W. C. T. C. assist, by supplying instructors and material, in the setting up of "workshops" in Resource-use education in interested communities. Especial emphasis was placed upon the need for orientation programs in the workshops.

Representatives of the college who were present said that they felt that every effort would be made by the school to comply with the requests. W. C. T. C. has been designated by state educational authorities as coordinating center for the program as it applies to this area — roughly, that part of North Carolina which is west and south of Asheville.

Western Carolina's Dean W. B. Harrill, chairman of the committee, in opening the conference referred to Mark Twain's often-quoted remark to the effect that everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it. "We've all been talking about Resource-use education," Dean Harrill observed, "to the approximately 60 persons who attended the meeting, and now it's time for us to take some concrete action."

"It is conceivable that Resource-use education may change the basic concept of education," he stated. Dean Harrill said that there was no time limit on the plan. "We feel," he explained, "that if a program is worth carrying on for a year, or five years, it is worth carrying on indefinitely."

Mr. Harrill then asked H. Bueck, a member of W. C. T. C.'s board of trustees and superintendent of Murphy's public schools, and who has been active in the program in his area, to present to the group "his very excellent plan."

Mr. Bueck began by telling the assembly that "for about 5,000 years people have known what was right, and for about 5,000 years they have been doing just the opposite. But that's no reason why we shouldn't try to change their attitude toward natural and human resources."

The main problem of Resource-use education, said Mr. Bueck, is

to make people realize that a long-range productive program is better for a community than immediate high profits on wasteful use of resources; to make people aware of abuses of our resources, and arouse in them the desire to do something about the abuses.

Supt. Bueck is having his school children, from fourth-graders up, collect, as part of their regular class work, information on the distribution and use of resources, human and natural, in the Murphy area. One of the main purposes of the survey is to arouse the students' and the public's interest in Resource-use education.

Some of the questions on which Mr. Bueck is seeking information are age distribution in the section — "We want to see if, and to what extent, the best brains in the section are leaving for other regions at the most productive age, and why" — family sizes, illnesses (type, cost, resulting time lost), death rate and causes, incomes, farm information (acreage, types of land, methods of cultivation, crops, amount and types and methods of harvesting of timber), and educational information, especially on the amount of scientific training that is applied to various jobs.

After obtaining the information, it is put into graphic form by members of the mathematics classes, and depicted on maps by geography students.

Miss Cordelia Camp, director of the training school at Cullowhee, suggested that Resource-use education be taught as a basic part of present courses, such as civics, economics, and geography. "It's in the courses now," she commented, "if we put on the right sort of spectacles to look for it."

Dr. Richard L. Weaver, program director, North Carolina Resource-use Education Commission, said that the Commission had no "canned" program. "There is plenty of room," he said, "for initiative and variation in the programs of different groups."

A definition of the purpose of Resource-use education was given by D. F. Folger, director of the Campbell Folk School, Brasstown. "It is to teach people to live as full a life as they can with what they have," he said.

E. B. Garrett, Jr., director of personnel of the Ecusta Paper corporation, said that Ecusta would be glad to cooperate in the program. E. W. Renshaw, supervisor of the Nantahala National forest, Franklin, and Ira N. Chiles, TVA's area education officer, offered the help of their organizations.

Joe Jennings, supervisor of the Cherokee Indian schools, said that Resource-use education "has been for years one of the fundamental objectives of Indian work."

Mr. Jennings added that although the Indians are willing to cooperate in the program, they resent being forced to do some of the things that the white people are only asked to do, such as harvest their timber on an annual replacement basis and refrain from polluting the Oconaluftee river, which flows through the reservation.

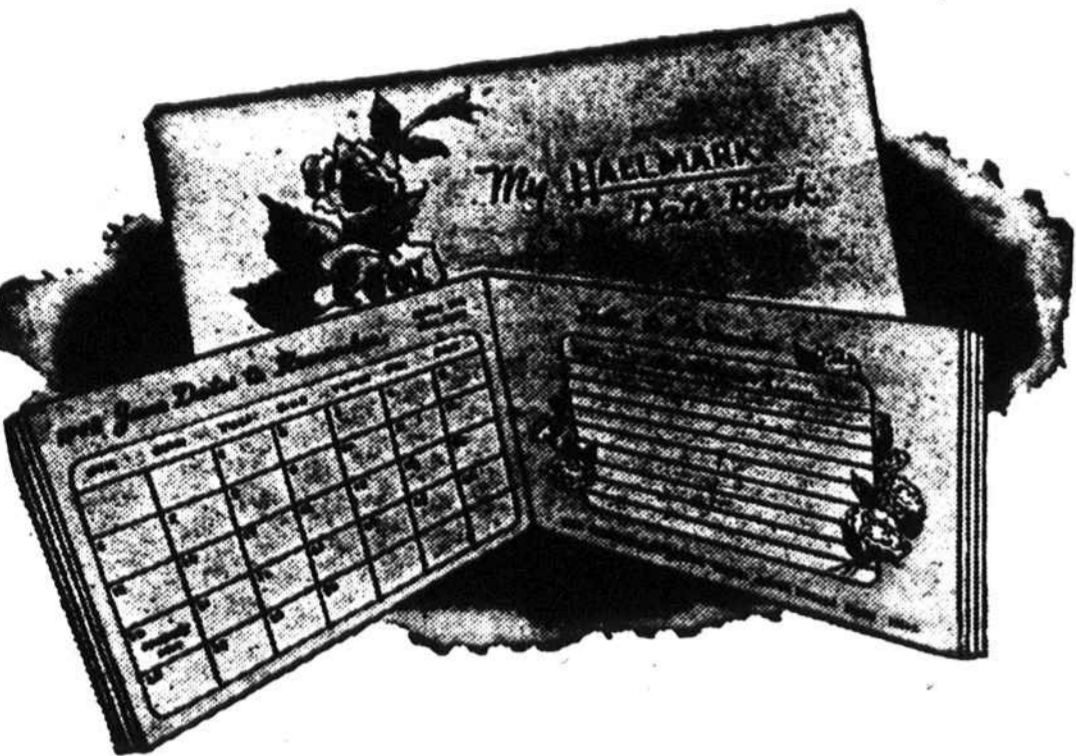
Participating public schools in Bethel, Hazelwood, Canton, Webster, Rock Bridge, Hayesville, Brevard, Murphy, and Bryson City were represented at the conference.

A number of persons representing Extension work, public welfare work, home/economics, mining, and colleges also attended.

APPRECIATION

I wish to express my appreciation to the doctors and nursing staff of the C. J. Harris hospital for the kind treatment and the many courtesies shown me while a patient in the hospital last week.
 William (Wimpey) Hyatt

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has reported that Commodity Credit Corporation bought 7,259,188 bushels of wheat during the period from noon of October 24 to October 31.



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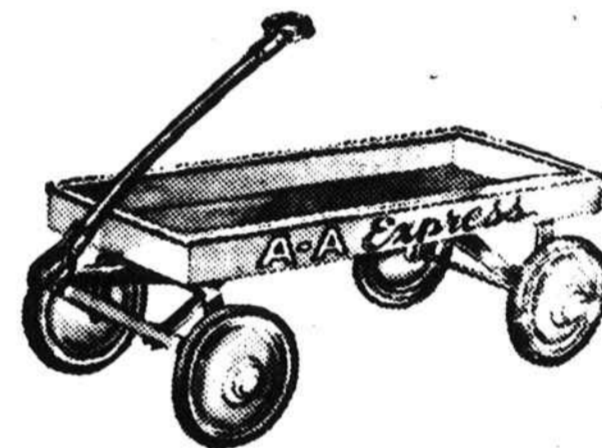
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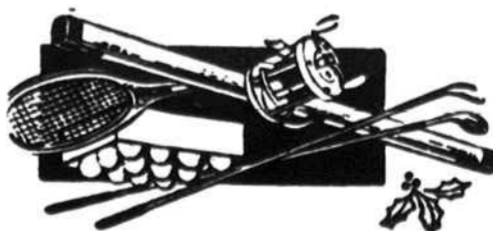
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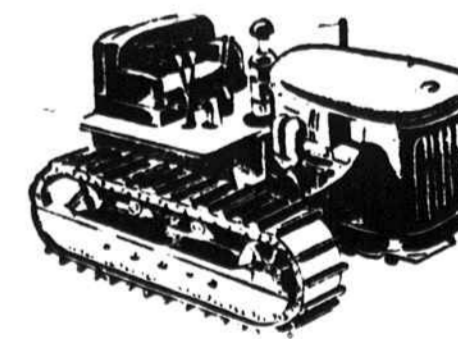


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