

Meet Charles Fisher Carroll Of Warsaw And Raleigh



AT HOME—The new Superintendent of Public Instruction for North Carolina, Charles F. Carroll, is shown above at his High Point home reading congratulatory telegrams with his wife, Nellie Wynne Carroll. He was sworn into office late Wednesday afternoon, August 20th, after the Democratic Executive Committee approved his nomination by Governor Kerr Scott and the Democratic nominee for governor, William Umstead.

BY W. H. KENDALL Editor, Greensboro Daily News After 32 years, the working part of which has been spent almost wholly in public education right here in the state of his birth, Charles Carroll stands a straight, trim 5 feet and one half inch in height, and weighs, at 170 pounds, only a little more than when he trotted out from the player's bench to the pitcher's box first in college baseball and later in the professional game which he deserted to become a teacher.

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...which his baseball days had seen him. He remains keenly interested in athletics and this interest, based on his own playing days, has proved invaluable now that administration of the state's high school athletic code devolves upon the office which he has assumed. In general, however, the more independent places transcending emphasis upon co-operation; he believes above all else in teamwork. He is deeply grounded in fairplay and sportsmanship, qualities which count for much indeed in human relations and in dealing with both public and personnel.

Before going into the new state superintendent's educational preparation and experience, it is meet to consider his approach. There is first of all his athletic career and the contribution which it made. He did not specifically prepare himself for school work in college. Rather he thought that he might go into banking and his undergraduate major was economics with history and English his minors. Thus he built up his general background in the fundamentals and in courses which he considered him the better to understand and handle school finances. He did not go into banking, however, as the outlook was not so bright in that field when he graduated from Trinity in 1921.

And it was right there that North Carolina came very near losing a state superintendent of public instruction to professional baseball. At Trinity Park Charlie played only scrub baseball, alternating between catcher and first base. He didn't go out for baseball at first at Trinity, but his roommate prodded him into trying for the team.

"You're a tall fellow and look like you have the build for a pitcher," he told the young freshman. "You ought to go out and try for pitcher."

And that is precisely what Charlie did, although he had never pitched before in his life. He made the team and pitched in the first game of the varsity all four years and ranked No. 1 pitcher in his junior and senior years. How good he was is attested by the fact that the New York Yankees signed him to a contract about the time he graduated. He was sent that year, 1921, to the Richmond club of the Class B Virginia League and the next season was moved up to the Albany, N. Y. Club of the Class C Eastern League. But things did not go as well as Charlie and the Yankees thought they should; and the former Trinity pitcher shortly thereafter found himself in the St. Louis Cardinals system. After a brief warning of the bench in St. Louis he was sent to the Ft. Smith Ark. Club of the Class C Western League.

It was there that Charlie decided he would quit baseball. As he puts it now, he realized that he simply didn't have it, that he had gotten nowhere in three years and that he had better turn to some other means of earning a living before he grew any older. He had thought during the baseball off-season, his first teaching experience having been at the Vance County Farm Life School at Middleburg, where he taught Latin and history and coached; he had no thought then of making school work his life's calling. But, quitting baseball, that he determined to do.

She Helped Him Win The years spent in baseball, college and professional, made a most important contribution to Charlie Carroll's life. While playing major pro baseball at Williamston he met and won the girl who became his wife. The story is still prevalent around Williamston how Charlie always won his game when she attended and how the management saw to it that she was present, and if they could persuade her attired in a costume which Charlie especially liked, on the days he was to pitch.

There are certain traits in Charlie's character, his way of doing and getting things done that attest definitely to the influence of his baseball days. He remains keenly interested in athletics and this interest, based on his own playing days, has proved invaluable now that administration of the state's high school athletic code devolves upon the office which he has assumed. In general, however, the more independent places transcending emphasis upon co-operation; he believes above all else in teamwork. He is deeply grounded in fairplay and sportsmanship, qualities which count for much indeed in human relations and in dealing with both public and personnel.

...No introduction of Superintendent Carroll to the people whom he will serve would be complete without some attempt to give his philosophy of education. Out of long-time personal acquaintance and frequent discussions with him, I believe I can say positively that the child, the individual child, and its welfare are always uppermost in his thinking and planning. What will this do for the child? He believes in a balanced education, in an education that teaches how to live as well as how to earn a living. Education, in his opinion, goes far beyond the classroom. It must be as broad as the community itself; all the people and all its processes.

At the center, alongside the child, must be the teacher. And if there is one statement that Charlie Carroll has uttered, time and time again it is that there is no substitute for a good teacher. The criteria of a good teacher he lists as maturity, not necessarily the result of chronological age; breadth of interest; friendly, sympathetic approach; zeal for the task and cause of education and scholarship and training. He does not believe in change for mere change's sake, or in educational federalism as such. It must fit into the school needs and, by way of reiteration, must serve the child.

Progress In High Points The High Point City School system, what has been accomplished there during the 15 years of his superintendency, attests to his leadership. I cannot refrain, while not undertaking to elaborate all of these accomplishments, mentioning how that system pioneered with employment of a visiting teacher about eight years ago and how it has practically eliminated the attendance and drop-out problem through understanding, guidance, expansion of curriculum and removal of roadblocks which stood in the individual pupil's way.

I believe I can also predict how the new state superintendent will go about his tremendous task and assignment in North Carolina. His key word will be co-operation and his strength will lie in understanding and in unity. He does not go off half-cocked, but things his way through carefully. When his convictions are arrived at they are deep. His presentations are logical and effective. He is practical enough to know when to compromise, but, let it be clearly understood, he is a fighter and will not compromise on principles.

A "practical idealist," one close associate tersely characterizes him. Unless I badly miss my guess, ANY QUANTITY Steam-Cured Concrete Blocks Godwin Building and Block Co., Inc. Phone 500 WARSAW, N. C.

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