

School News

Education: Who's In Charge?

The question of who should determine the program and fiscal functions of the State Department of Public Education will be studied this fall by a 10-member legislative committee.

In recent years the interrelated powers of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the State Board of Education, and the Controller have caused problems within the department -- enough friction to cause the General Assembly to enact legislation to study the matter.

Presently, the Department of Public Education is comprised of a Superintendent of Public Instruction elected by the people who serves as secretary of the Board and administers the instructional policies of the Board; a State Board of Education consisting of the

Lieutenant Governor, the Treasurer, and 11 members appointed by the Governor; and the Controller who is appointed by the Board and approved by the Governor to supervise and manage the fiscal affairs of the Board.

The structures of other states vary widely.

Nineteen of the states, including the District of Columbia, elect their boards.

Thirty of the boards are appointed. One state, Wisconsin, does not have a State Board of Education as such. Louisiana has three members appointed by the Governor and eight members elected by specified district.

The Chief State School Officer is appointed in 32 states and the District of Columbia and is elected by a vote of the people in the remaining 18 states. Of the appointed Chief State School Officers, 28 are appointed by the State Board of Education and five are appointed by the Governor.

The State Board of Education as it exists today was established in 1943, replacing the State School Commission.

Later, the General Assembly enacted legislation establishing the Office of Controller as the fiscal arm of the Board.

In 1971, a rewrite of the State Constitution removed the State Superintendent as a full member of the Board. He remained the chief executive officer in all areas except fiscal affairs.

The Board is looking at other governance models which might provide a strong governing board carrying out all of its legitimate

functions through a single strong executive officer. They include:

--The State Superintendent of Public Instruction would be chief administrative officer and non-voting chairman of the Board. A single administrator titled "Commissioner of Public Schools" would then be chosen by the Board to serve at the pleasure of the Board.

--A strong governing Board with a single executive officer without an Office of the Controller.

--A strong elected Superintendent to administer and supervise the public school system, assisted by a nongoverning advisory Board of Education appointed by the Governor, similar to North Carolina's Department of Agriculture.

--A Superintendent and a nongoverning advisory board appointed by the Governor.

--A chief executive officer appointed by the Board of Education which would be either appointed by the Governor or an elected body.

Under the present system, all decisions regarding finance and program are made by the State Board of Education and implemented in part by the State Superintendent and in part by the Controller.

Under the alternatives being studied, all decisions regarding finance and program would still be made by the State Board, but these decisions would be implemented directly by a single executive.

The legislative study committee appointed to look into the structure of the State Department of Public Education will report its findings and recommendations to the 1983 General Assembly.

West Hoke Chorus, Panel Programs Set

The principal, faculty, staff and students of West Hoke School extend an invitation to their Open House on Monday, September 27, at 7 p.m.

The Fourth Grade Chorus, under the direction of Mrs. Marian McNeill, will present several selections.

A panel discussion related to the effect of Reaganomics upon education will be moderated by John D. McAllister, associate superintendent of the Hoke County public schools.

Cross Stitching Offered At RTC

Robeson Technical College will offer a Cross Stitching course this fall beginning September 27, 1982 on Monday nights from 7 to 10.

The class, taught by Carol Holland, will be held at her new store, the Craft and Frame Shop, on the Main Street of Red Springs.

Although the Craft and Frame Shop has only been open since July 20, 1982, Holland has been cross stitching for four years.

She first had a similar shop in Raeford, but the facilities there were too small to house all the giftware, crafts, framing materials and candles that she handles, so she decided to relocate the business to Red Springs.

The course has a registration fee of \$15.00 plus the cost of supplies and is open to all adults 18 years of age or older.

For additional information, call RTC at 738-7101, extension 128.

TV News Director Teaches Course At Pembroke State

Greta Lint, who has been a director in television in Wilmington for three years and is currently directing WECT-TV's weekend news programs, has been hired as parttime lecturer for Pembroke State University's "Radio and Television Production" class.

In this class, Communicative Arts 316, she instructs 26 students how to operate a camera, handle the switching equipment, edit, and direct.

The class meets on Tuesday afternoon for two different laboratory sessions in the PSU television studio from 12:30-1:45 p.m. and 2-3:15 p.m.

The class also has class lectures on Thursdays. In charge of the overall instruction is Dr. Matt Morrison, director of PSU's Radio and TV Communications Office.

Miss Lint, 25, who earned a B.A. from UNC-Wilmington in '79 in mass communications, was a student intern at WWAY-TV in Wilmington while in school and worked there part-time.



GRETA LINT -- WECT-TV

She became a director of WWAY-TV (Channel 3) following graduation and remained there two years.

In April of 1981 she joined WECT-TV (Channel 6), working as both a director and producer. She has directed a daily live talk show and the noon news for a full hour. In addition to being director of the WECT-TV's weekend news shows, she is backup director for the 11 p.m. weeknight news. She is responsible for a crew of from seven to nine people and the daily master control switcher.

As a producer, she is assistant to the talk show personality, substitute host, research and talent coordinator, assistant producer, technical advisor and the director's assistant. She is also promotional producer, field reporter, chief video tape editor and camera operator, interviewer and set designer.

She is skillful in directing commercials, public service announcements and promotional spots. She also writes copy for promotions and news. Her skills also include operating a variety of cameras.

SOCIALS -- 875-2121



STATE BOARD MEETING, RECORD NUMBER STUDENTS -- The State Board of Community Colleges met on campus as Sandhills Community College opened its 1982-83 year last week. Student registration for the fall quarter surpassed the 2,000 mark for the first time. Students and board members were welcomed during a convocation on Thursday, September 9, the first day of classes. Speakers included Lt. Gov. James C. "Jimmy" Green. Seated (left to right) State Rep. James Craven; William E. Simmons, Sandhills Board of Trustees member; Max Forrest, chairman, Sandhills College Foundation. (Photo by Alice Baxter).

She Recalls Months With Grace Kelly In New York

Grace Kelly was a "god-sent child," Mary McNeill, the chief cook at Open Arms Rest Home in Raeford, said Thursday.

Mrs. McNeill worked a year and a half for Miss Kelly in the early 1950s in Miss Kelly's apartment in Manhattan in New York City. Mrs. McNeill worked parttime there, as a cook and housekeeper. The rest of the time she worked for the couple who employed her as housekeeper for 21 years, Harry and Ann Shanholts.

It was through working for the Shanholts that Mrs. McNeill met Miss Kelly. Mrs. McNeill used to accompany Mrs. Shanholts when her employer went shopping, and she shopped in Brooklyn at Lowman's sometimes. Lowman's was popular with actors and actresses because, Mary McNeill said, that was where they could find "what they called 'bargains'."

It was there one day with Mrs. Shanholts that Mrs. McNeill met Miss Kelly. Miss Kelly at the time was a movie actress, a few years before she married Prince Rainier of Monaco. Mrs. McNeill also at Lowman's met Eva and Za Za Gabor.

The result of meeting Miss Kelly was she became the actress' part-time cook and housekeeper.

"She was one of the nicest," Mrs. McNeill said in the interview Thursday. She answered the reporter's questions shortly after she finished her day's work in the rest home's kitchen.

"She was a lovely lady," she said. "Like a country girl."

She was smiling, "all the time," Mrs. McNeill recalled. But Miss Kelly wasn't a "go-go girl," she said. She went out on dates occasionally but gave few parties and didn't have many friends. "She lived a pretty quiet life," Mrs. McNeill said. "She was nice. That's all you can say about her."

Mrs. McNeill saw Miss Kelly once more, and for the last time, after they parted company. It was in 1972 or 1973 in New York City and outside Lowman's where they had met the first time.

Miss Kelly, who had become Princess Grace, was riding to Lowman's with her husband to shop when she saw Mrs. McNeill. Princess Grace had come from Philadelphia, Pa., where she had been visiting her family. When she saw Mrs. McNeill, she had the car stop, then she "jumped out" and ran to her, Mrs. McNeill said. But her armed bodyguard also jumped out. Princess Grace assured him that Mary was an old friend. The bodyguard was assured, but he warned Mrs. McNeill, "Don't touch her."

On parting, Princess Grace gave

Mrs. McNeill a \$50 bill, telling her to buy something nice for herself.

After Mrs. McNeill heard Princess Grace died September 14, "I laid awake most of the night. I couldn't sleep." Then she decided, "God wants the best."

She remembers little things about her working for Miss Kelly. Miss Kelly was particularly fond of stuffed peppers, and she also loved baked clams.

Working for the Shanholts brought Mrs. McNeill in touch with other celebrities. For example, she met the pro baseball stars Willie Mays and Jackie Robinson at the Shanholts' apartment. Shanholts was a Certified Public Accountant and the ball players were among his clients for accountant work and preparing tax returns. They'd come to the Shanholts' apartment on Sixth Avenue at West 55th Street and do their business there, then stay for dinner, which Mrs. McNeill prepared.

Working for the Shanholts also got her cooking parttime for Al Pacino, the movie star, who lived across the hall. And consequently she met the great former world's heavyweight boxing champion, Jack Dempsey. Pacino and Dempsey were regular fishing companions, and one thing Mrs. McNeill remembers about cooking was Pacino brought the fish home and had them for dinner, and Mrs. McNeill used to bake them, stuffed, every Friday. She said Dempsey, who owns a restaurant in New York City, tried to get Mrs. McNeill to give him her recipe for the stuffing. She said she told him, "I won't give it to you, but I'll sell it to you." To this he replied he didn't have any money, which was a joke.

She said Pacino also used to take her out to dinner occasionally.

Mrs. McNeill had "family" in New York City -- her sisters Mrs. Lucy Reece and Anna Mae Perry, who is now one of her assistant cooks at the rest home, also worked as housekeepers in New York. At one time, while Mrs. McNeill was working for a Soviet couple at Hewlett, Long Island, N.Y., outside New York City they were working for a Solovei couple at Hewlett, Long Island, N.Y., outside New York City they were working two sisters of Mrs. Solovei. Their other sisters also are living in the North -- Mrs. Margaret Smith in Baltimore, Md., and Mrs. Rena Beach in Huntington, L.I.

Mrs. McNeill returned to Raeford in 1974 and went to work at the rest home on January 15, 1975 and Mrs. Perry returned in 1975 and went to work at the rest home on May 3, 1976.



Mrs. McNeill

The women are the daughters of John Rob Patterson of Fairmont and the late Mrs. Annie Frances Patterson.

They were born in Wagram but moved to Raeford in early childhood after their mother died. They were raised by an aunt, Mrs. Lillie McNeill, and her husband, Jefferson McNeill, and attended Freedom Elementary School.

Mrs. McNeill went to work when she was a teenager for Mr. and Mrs. Currie in Raeford, and it was Mrs. Currie (Ruth) who taught her to cook.

She went to New York City when she was about 17 -- about 40 years ago -- with a job in Great Neck, Long Island, waiting for her, as a sleep-in helper for the Kaufmans. She said, however, Mrs. Kaufman was like a mother to her, not allowing her to go out alone at night, and doing other things that a mother does for her teenage daughter. Working for the Kaufmans also allowed her to open her first bank account.

She left the Kaufmans to work for the Soloveis and stayed with them 7 1/2 years. She left them only because they were moving to Florida and she didn't want to go there. That's when she went to work for the Shanholts, as a kosher cook. Everything about the home of the Shanholts, who were Jewish, was kosher, she said.

Her long association with the couple ended when Shanholts died.

Mrs. McNeill is the widow of James Carroll McNeill, whose home also was in Raeford. Their daughter, Jacqueline, and grandchild, grandson Derwin, are living with Mrs. McNeill.

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