

DUPLIN SENTINEL

... Stand for the Service — Right from the Heart of Duplin

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1973 School Year Brings Changes

When North Carolina's 1.2 million school children and 95,000 instructional staff return to school in the fall of 1973, they should notice some major changes from years before especially with educators working on the largest education budget in the history of the state.

"The Legislature has provided over \$688 million to operate the public schools this year," says State School Superintendent Craig Phillips. "That amount includes \$123 million for new and improved services for students, teachers, and administrators."

What are some of the changes? For one thing, over 15,000 five-year olds will attend

school daily along with the usual first-through twelfth-grade school population. "With the \$123 million appropriation for early childhood education," says Phillips, "there will be an additional 536 kindergarten classes set up, bringing the state's total to 685." Phillips notes that the kindergarten legislation includes the promise of the General Assembly to provide an early childhood education program for all the state's five-year olds by September 1978.

Another notable change is that teachers are now being paid for 10 months out of the year as compared with the traditional 9-month period and

all principals are being paid for a full year. "This new legislation," says Phillips, "will provide an additional three and one-half million hours of professional service annually for the children of North Carolina. It provides for 180 instructional days for students and gives teachers and principals the extra days they need for planning, evaluation, and in-service training."

Teachers will also notice a difference in their pay checks as a result of working more days. The extended term will provide them with a 7% increase in annual income which, coupled with an additional 5% pay raise appropriated for all state employees, will raise their overall annual income about 12% for the 1973-74 fiscal year.

Classes should be smaller as a result of recent legislation. The General Assembly provided \$26 million to reduce class size, placing statutory limitations of 25 pupils on grades 1-3; 33 pupils on grades 4-8; and 35 students per class on the high school grades or 140 students per teacher per day.

High school students will find that they no longer have to ride the bus with the "litter kids" and vice versa because of legislation establishing a dual transportation system. "It is the hope of school people that providing separate school buses will greatly improve discipline, reduce standing on buses, and reduce traffic congestion on elementary school campuses," says Phillips.

Instructional programs will continue to expand. For example, the variety of courses offered in Occupational Education will increase with the \$5.8 million appropriated by the General Assembly. Services and programs for all exceptional children including mentally retarded, gifted and talented, and physically handicapped were given a boost of \$6.3 million. And \$1.7 million was appropriated for additional instructional materials for all students.

Federally funded services and programs will continue during the 1973-74 school year, but will probably not have the resources to expand. Nevertheless, Compensatory Education programs will continue to serve the over 300,000 economically and educationally disadvantaged children in the State. Forty-two experimental education projects have been funded under Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act for 1973-74; and federal funds will make possible the continuation of human relations and guidance services to schools across the state.

There's one big change in public school facilities that will come under the direct influence of North Carolina voters in the fall. That's the \$300 million bond issue authorized by this year's General Assembly. "If the voters pass the bond issue," says Phillips, "they will be releasing money to build new schools and to enlarge and renovate existing facilities. Allocations will be made to each of the state's 151 school systems on the basis of its average daily membership.

That means," says Phillips, "that the money will go where the students are. For example, a largely rural school unit such as Tryon will receive \$182,393 while a metropolitan area such as Charlotte-Mecklenburg will receive \$20,507,886."

According to Superintendent Phillips, 1973 is the year of some of the most significant studies in public education for the last several decades. The General Assembly has provided a record amount of funds for expanded services and programs for the students of North Carolina. In addition to legislative appropriations, public support in the passage of the statewide bond issue in the fall will mean better facilities -- classrooms, lunchrooms, media centers, gymnasiums, and auditoriums -- for those 1.2 million children who will attend the state's schools this year and in years to come.

JSI To Graduate 126

The Annual Graduation exercises at James Sprunt Institute are scheduled for Friday evening, August 31, 1973, at 8:00 p.m. in Kenan Memorial Auditorium Kenansville, North Carolina. The Honorable James B. Hunt, Jr., Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina, will deliver the graduation address. Lt. Governor Hunt is N.C.'s first fulltime Lieutenant Governor and has a broad background in agriculture, education, economics, and the law. Mr. Hunt is a native of Wilson County and a graduate of N.C. State University.

The public is cordially invited to attend the graduation exercises at Kenan Memorial Auditorium and to Open House at James Sprunt Institute following the exercises.



James Hunt

Public School Education Big Business In N.C. Says Rep. Baker

Public school education is big business in North Carolina, Rep. T. J. (Tommy) Baker, Democrat of Duplin County, noted on the eve of another school year.

Baker said more than \$688 million in State tax dollars will be invested in the 1973-74 school year to provide a better education for elementary and secondary school students.

Although the financial outlay in tax dollars is large, the funds are an important investment in future generations, the lawmaker said. A \$12.3 million appropriation to expand the kindergarten program is in funds for this year's operation of public schools. The funds will maintain the present 149 classes and add at least 698 new classes this fall.

The additional classes will bring the total children in public kindergartens to nearly 16,000. Classes are scheduled for all five-year-olds by 1978.

In other areas of education, funds were approved to reduce the size of classrooms 26 million; separate school buses for elementary and high school students were okayed \$3 million; teachers, principals, superintendents, and other employees in public school received a five per cent pay raise (\$27 million); and funds were approved to enable a 10-month term of employment for teachers (\$33 million).

Included in the '73 education appropriation is \$5 million for occupational education in the middle grades of public schools and nearly \$16.5 million to provide free textbooks to

all public school students. Textbooks have been provided free to elementary school children since 1937. The recent Assembly extended the privilege to include high school grades.

Education is big business in North Carolina because of the size of the operation.

Citing 1971-72 figures, 1,197,797 students were enrolled. There were 52,421 classroom teachers on the payroll in the 152 school administrative units in the state, teaching in 673 high schools and 1,983 elementary schools.

More than half of the students rode buses to school. It required 10,430 buses to transport 722,714 students to school each day.

School lunch rooms served more than 887,000 meals each day.

BACK TO SCHOOL - A mild Sunday, August 19, marked the end of the summer 1973 holiday for Duplin County students, as they put aside summertime activities for the opening school

year. Monday the students reported in for orientation day with school getting underway in full swing on Tuesday. The students shown above were viewing the trailers at Warsaw Junior High.

Duplin Soil And Water Conservation Reports On Year

July 1, 1972 to June 30, 1973

We, the Duplin Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors would like to take this opportunity to give you a report on the work carried out in the District during the past year.

The District conducted Conservation Tour in November of 1972 with approximately 80 people attending. On the tour, the group reviewed conservation practices being carried out in the Limestone-Muddy Creek Watershed. The tour concluded with a supper at Cedar Fork Community Building. The 1972 Conservation Farmer of the Year Award was presented to Mr. Earl Thigpen of Beselville at this supper.

The District sponsored a Conservation Poster Contest for the sixth grades in the Duplin County Schools. There

were 87 posters submitted, all of which were excellent.

In March, 1973, the District sponsored the FFA Landjudging Contest at which five schools were represented. East Duplin High School was this year's winner and will represent Duplin County at the state contest.

The District sponsored a student from East Duplin High School to attend the Resource Conservation Workshop held in Raleigh in June of this year.

We feel that we had a good year in the getting of information to the schools and youth and feel that we had an equally good year in getting conservation practices applied on the land. The following is a list of conservation practices applied during the year:

Conservation Cropping System -- 2,815 acres; (Limestone - Muddy Creek Watershed) -- (2,118 acres)

Crop Residue Use -- 2,497 acres; (Limestone - Muddy Creek Watershed) -- (1,061 acres)

Contour Farming--408 acres; (Limestone-Muddy Creek Watershed) -- (149 acres)

Field Border Planting--41,070 feet; (Limestone-Muddy Creek Watershed) -- (14,700 feet)

Minimum Tillage--949 acres; (Limestone-Muddy Creek Watershed) -- (22 acres)

Open Ditch--62,071 feet; (Limestone-Muddy Creek Watershed) -- (4,800 feet)

The Drains--179,569 feet; (Limestone-Muddy Creek Watershed) -- (61,037 feet)

Diversions--7,850 feet. Woodland Site Preparation--797 acres.

Tree Planting - 634 acres. Woodland Improved Harvesting--1,871 acres; (Limestone-

Muddy Creek Watershed)--(68 acres)

Wildlife Upland Habitat Management - 49 acres. (Limestone-Muddy Creek Watershed) -- (22 acres)

Critical Area Planting--40 acres (Limestone - Muddy Creek Watershed) -- (23 acres)

Land Adequately Treated--2,750 acres. (Limestone-Muddy Creek Watershed) 871 acres)

During the year, we approved 114 new district cooperators with 12,761 acres; of these, 22 with 2,502 acres were in the Limestone-Muddy Creek Watershed. New and revised conservation plans were developed on 82 farms with 8,441 acres. Of this number, 45 with 4,528 acres were in the Limestone-Muddy Creek Watershed. During the year, 567 district cooperators were serviced and 371 of these applied one or more practices.

During the year just completed we received a great deal of assistance, both technical and financial, from various agencies. We want to express our appreciation to the Soil Conservation Service, Agricultural Extension Service, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Farmers' Home Administration, Duplin Watershed Improvement Commission, Duplin County Commissioners, and all others which have helped us throughout the year.

Calvin R. Mercer, Chairman

Continuing Education Program

Fall Quarter classes sponsored by the Continuing Education Department of James Sprunt Institute will begin during the week of September 24-28 at the Albertson and Wallace-Teachey Off-Campus Continuing Education Centers. Classes at Chinquapin Center will begin during the first week in October.

Some classes at James Sprunt Institute will begin during the first week of September. The full schedule for other Continuing Education classes in Duplin County will be announced later.

Clerk Of Court Announces New Law For Admission To State Hospital

John A. Johnson, Clerk Superior Court of Duplin County, issued an announcement from his office today relating to legal commitments to a State Hospital. Mr. Johnson was quoted as saying, "I had hoped that this announcement would be forthcoming from the North Carolina Mental Health Department, since this is the area of their concern."

Mr. Johnson said this law would become effective September 1, 1973, and would be a complete change in the manner and method of legal commitments to the State Hospital for mental and alcoholic patients.

Beginning September 1, 1973, the legal commitment to a State Hospital will follow the new procedure outlined below:

1. Any person who commits an overt act or becomes gravely dangerous to himself or others will be taken by a Law Enforcement Officer to a licensed Physician. The Physician will determine whether, in his opinion, the person needs treatment at a State Hospital.

2. Upon receipt of the Physician's statement that the person needs treatment, the Law Enforcement Officer will take the person to a Magistrate who will give that per-

son a hearing to determine whether the Magistrate is convinced by the evidence shown that the person needs treatment at a State Hospital.

3. Upon the decision of the Magistrate that the person is in need of treatment at a State Hospital, the Law Enforcement Officer will transport the person to a State Hospital.

Within five days, and not more than ten days, the Law Enforcement Officer will return the person to the District Court where he will be given a hearing before a District Court Judge. The person so committed will be represented by counsel at this hearing. Should the person be determined "indigent" without money to pay counsel he will be appointed an Attorney by the Court. This hearing will be recorded by a Court Reporter. Should the Court find that the person is a fit subject for treatment at a State Hospital, he will be returned to the State Hospital by the Law Enforcement Officer to stay until such time as the Hospital will say his treatment is complete and the person is ready to return to his home.

4. Upon discharge, the Law Enforcement Officer will deliver the person from the hospital to his home.

5. Each patient who has been in the State Hospital for a period of 120 days must be returned to the District Court for a hearing before a District Court Judge. The transportation of these patients will be the responsibility of the county. Those who are bed-patients must be transported by ambulance to the County Court House in the County where they have their permanent residence.

Mr. Johnson said, "this is a complete departure from the former practice. The Citizens of Duplin County will be best advised to contact some Law Enforcement Officer in the event of a mentally deranged person, a drug addict, or an alcoholic."

Housing Needed For Fall Quarter

James Sprunt Institute will be beginning its fall quarter on Tuesday, September 4, 1973. Many of the students will be from out of the county and will need housing accommodations. If you have a room, apartment, trailer, or house for rent to students, please contact the Dean of Students' Office.

Area Corn - Soybean Contest

The Neuse Area Development Association is offering generous awards to first, second and third place winners of the area corn and soybean contest, according to R. E. Wilkins, Agricultural Extension Agent. The special incentives will be open to any Junior or adult farmer in the Neuse area growing one acre, or more corn. The Neuse Area Development is comprised of Duplin, Jones, Carteret, Onslow, Green, Wayne, Pamlico, Craven, and Lenoir counties.

Certain regulations will govern the awards Wilkins said. All entries must be turned into the Extension office in Kenansville by November 15th. Also, prizes will be awarded only where a harvesting committee has certified the yield and the corn harvested under their supervision.

Certification of corn yields may be established through the County Agricultural Agents Office in Kenansville.



FINAL DAY OF SUMMER FREEDOM - Fruit Booth and Craig Craft, both of Kenansville, enjoy the final day of summer freedom Monday before reporting to their first school day on Tuesday.

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