

We Salute!

We Salute YOU on Your Birthday!

August 17—B. R. Hunter, Billie White, Mrs. Frances Chapman, James Ward, W. O. McElrath, Conway Tatham, Frances P. Morgan, Betty Love, Marion C. Taylor.

August 18—Arvine Bell, B. L. Thomas, Frank W. Allen, Mr. Dan Guess, Jean Cornwell, Harrie Danenhower, Brenda Bartlett, Clement Robertson, Jean Ramsey, Mary Carswell, Jo Anne Cornwell, Leslie Lynn McCall, Bobby Turner, Wade Ruff, Red Hardwick, Barbara Lunsford, Mrs. Betty A. Melton, Mary W. Lyman, Henry Runion.

August 19—Mrs. Charles Jolly, William Moxley, Nina McDonald, Joe Bullock, Boling Wilson, Jr., Revond Presley, Wade Hampton, Ches-

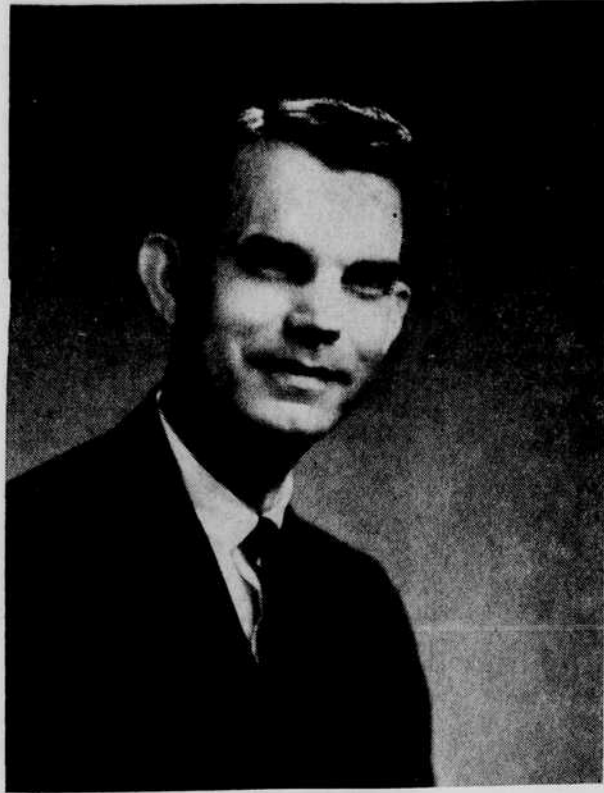
ter Quinn, Fred Cook, Michael Todd, Lillie Byrd, Arnold Jones, Mrs. Ed Church, Charleen Meyer, Maude G. Milton, Rick Carson.

August 20—Mrs. Rose Crawford, Donnie Ballard, Margaret Melton, Mrs. C. D. Lindsey, Wilburn Davis, Josie Stephenson, E. W. Sawyer, Troy Hensley, Carrie Harvey, Mrs. John W. Watts, Colleen Blankenship, Mildred Vallincourt, Janette Dunn, Robert Nesbitt, Becky Heady, Barry Mathis, Ruth Cogdill, Velma J. Stone, Mrs. W. J. Wylly, Louis Bartlett.

August 21—Maunel Massey, Mrs. W. A. Allison, Hazel Pyatte, Julia Ayers, Pamela Massey, John D. Childress, Nancy Kearn, David Klein, Betty and Jimmy Losh, Josephine Harris, Katherine Gardner, Lawrence Gill, Charlie Wilson, Hazel Swann.

August 22—Andy Craig, Margaret McCurry, Mary Dix-

Personality of the Week



R. Vance Robertson, director of the new Juvenile Evaluation Center located on the site of old Moore General hospital, is the personality we would like to present to our readers this week. Many persons have asked, where did he come from? What is he like? What does his work involve? Where was he trained for this work?

First of all, it is difficult to separate his life history from his work. The interest in working with children who had problems, stemmed from his association with children in the public schools... but I get ahead of my story.

R. Vance Robertson was born in Yancey county, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Robertson. His early education was completed with his graduation

from Bald Creek High school, his higher education began at Brevard Junior college and continued with his graduation from Western Carolina at Cullowhee where he received his A.B. degree. His teaching career followed, when he was a member of the faculty of Mineral Springs consolidated high school for seven years. In addition to teaching he was also high school counselor and helped set up the first public school counseling system in the state. Before he left Mineral Springs he became asst. supt. This was the first of several "firsts" for this young man. While teaching he was also working toward more education in solving problems confronting children. By extension work and summer school courses he earned his M.A. from the University of North Carolina in 1950.

While in the Forsythe county schools his neighbor and friend, J. Frank Scott, a principal of the school in which Mrs. Robertson taught home economics, was appointed supt. of Jackson Training school. Two years later, when a vacancy occurred, he asked Mr. Robertson to accept the job as his assistant.

Although work with children with problems in the public schools had been interesting and satisfying he hesitated to accept because he feared he might not like the work on a full time basis. But he did go to Jackson in 1950 and stayed with the work for nine years. The association, he claims, is fascinating, the problems varied, but largely most juveniles are delinquent because no one in the home seems to care or show interest by disciplining the children or giving day-to-day guidance.

The satisfaction in his work comes from the knowledge that a child has been helped to overcome his problems and is able to return to his community as a worthwhile citizen.

"I never know at the time how much help is being given a child because he does not understand or appreciate the effort at the time, however," he continued, "since there is no visible way to measure our effort we must wait and many, many children after they are grown will write and thank us for having helped."

Following the nine years at Jackson Training school, he moved into the Raleigh office as supervisor of Social Services for North Carolina. In this capacity his work was with staff members and he missed the close work with the children. When the Juvenile Center was to open here he was assigned the task and to quote him: "This is the best first I ever had. Here I have the chance to put into operation all the dreams I have hoped for, to advance the progress of those children who are disturbed and who need both psychiatric or psychological help from trained personnel. Here I am again in contact with the children themselves and for the first

time in the state, or in this country, I believe, we have a clinic center to aid in the adjustment."

"Then," I asked, "if the home background is bad, how can you hope to train the child so that he can overcome the situation when he is again returned?"

"The family is also being trained for the child's return, and made aware of their failure in the first place, but if we see there is no hope for improvement beyond question then we may place the child in a boarding school. Sometimes we have several children who come from the same family, we had five boys from one family in Gaston county and all of them returned home to do very well, one is an outstanding contractor in Charlotte at this time."

"What ages were the children in the training school, is there a minimum age?" I queried.

"No, as far as I know there is no minimum age although the youngest boy to be at Jackson was 8 and he was exceptional in several ways. His parents were above average and knew they had a problem. The boy was as cute as a button but he would steal bicycles although he possessed one of his own. His parents would take him to school, depositing him at the front door and he would go right out the back and help himself to a bicycle. He would take off, riding until he tired, then leave the bicycle and go on foot, begging money or food. When he tired of this he would again take a bicycle from another victim and continue his journey. He went to Georgia one time, to Tennessee another. His parents decided then to take him to a psychiatrist. After several attempts he admitted defeat, the boy would not cooperate, so the eight year old was committed to Jackson where he remained for about 14 months; when he returned home nothing further was heard."

I found Mr. Robertson a man dedicated to his work. In fact, the events of his own life were more difficult to obtain than information about the center. He told me about Paul, whose father had taught him to steal articles such as watches and wallets from other school children, then the father would take them to another town for selling.

When Paul was finally committed his father rejected him and would not allow other members of the family to contact him, either. When released the boy was sent to live with an uncle who was a successful contractor in the mid-west.

Nothing was heard of him for several years until one day three tractor trailer trucks and three small trucks drove into the school loaded with heavy equipment and Paul himself riding in a huge Cadillac. He spent the day there telling his former teachers how his uncle had set him up in business of his own, how he had cleared \$24,000 the year before and was moving his equipment into another state.

Mrs. Robertson is the former Barba Gray Troxler of Brown Summit, N. C. They have one daughter, 10, Malona Carol. The family will live on the "campus" which was formerly the "post". They are Methodists and already have claimed the Swannanoa Methodist church as their own; Mrs. Stamey and Mrs. Robertson have been friends for several years.

Mr. Robertson is already acquainted with Owen High school. Last spring he accepted an invitation from Eugene Byrd to speak to one of the classes.

"I am tremendously impressed with Owen. Eating in the cafeteria was a most pleasant experience. There wasn't the usual din found when several hundred are conversing and eating. I was in the halls at change of classes and from experience in other large schools at such time I feared being trampled in the rush, but without any supervision the change was accomplished in an orderly manner and very quietly."

Children who finally come to the evaluation and treatment center here have already been to the training schools

Fresh Peaches Tops For Tasty Desserts

Homemakers need not stint on using peaches. Another large crop now coming to market will provide plenty of peaches this month for eating "as is," for use at meal time, and for home-freezing and canning.

and been found in need of the care which can be given them here. The center will provide a centralized location for treatment. While here their academic work will be carried on by specially trained teachers with vocational education a part of the program. If these children have reached the honor program or the pre-release program they may be released to the home. If they are not ready for release, they will be returned to the training school.

"How long will a child be here for treatment?" "That will depend on the child, we assume this will be a fairly short period, probably about four months. We received our first group of girls yesterday, the boys came first. It has been quite a job to convert a hospital into dormitory type dwellings for children, but we are ready now."

I had told him the people in the area were interested in his work, some were even concerned. He thought this natural with something of this type moving into the community, but he made it perfectly clear that these children are not criminals, they are emotionally disturbed children, most of them from very poor backgrounds, poor in the sense that the parents are not concerned with their welfare or not capable of coping with their problems.

We wish to welcome this worthwhile family to the Valley. May their stay be long and the work undertaken be both satisfying and accomplishing.

—Edith K. Benedict

Few fruits top fresh peaches for making desserts; and such long-time favorites as fresh peach pie, peach upside down cake, or peach ice cream are bound to bring smiles of approval at the family table.

To make a two-crust peach pie, USDA suggests putting sliced fresh peaches, sprinkled with brown sugar, nutmeg, butter, and tapioca, in an unbaked pie shell. For extra flavor, sprinkle lemon juice and almond extract over the peaches. Seal the top crust tightly and crimp the edge. Bake about 35 minutes at 425 degrees.

For cake-lovers, a fresh peach upside down cake is most satisfying. To make, sprinkle the bottom of a 9-inch square pan with brown sugar and butter or margarine. Place in preheating oven until butter melts. Arrange sliced fresh peaches in rows, close together, in the brown sugar mixture. Pour yellow or white cake batter over the peaches.

Bake according to directions in the cake recipe. Permit the cake to stand about 10 minutes before inverting into a serving plate. Serve warm or cold with whipped cream or ice cream.

Refreshing peach ice cream can be made with the help of the refrigerator. Combine 1 1/2 cups miniature marshmallows and 1/3 cup concentrated orange juice in a sauce pan. Heat slowly until marshmallows dissolve, stirring frequently. Remove from heat and add 1/4 teaspoon almond extract, and cool. Dice 3 peeled peaches, and sprinkle with 1 tablespoon lemon juice. Whip 1/2 pint whipping cream. Combine peaches and whipped cream and fold into cooked marshmallow mixture.

Pour into refrigerator trays and freeze. To serve, fill chilled dessert dishes with frozen mixture and top with fresh peach slices. Add a wreath of whipped cream and a red or green cherry for garnish.

BLACK MOUNTAIN BRIDGE WINNERS

The Black Mountain Duplicate Bridge club met Wednesday night, Aug. 9 at the Monte Vista hotel. Nine tables were in play and Max Woodcock directed.

The winners were: north-south—1st, Mrs. O. H. Norton and Mrs. W. C. Field; 2nd, Mrs. and Mrs. Wright and Douglas Don Jones; 3rd, Miss Maie Buie and Mrs. Grace Eaton. East-west—1st, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Brady; 2nd, Mrs. Max Woodcock and Mrs. Douglas Jones; 3rd, Mrs. Albert Jern and Mrs. Townsend Hay.

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