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### Newsletter - July 1941

Prairie View State Normal and Industrial College

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NEWS LETTER

JULY - 1941

PRAIRIE VIEW STATE COLLEGE  
Prairie View, Texas

## A CALENDAR -

- 1 Conference on Elementary Education ..... July 4
- 2 Second Term of Summer School Begins ..... July 12
- 3 Coaching School ..... July 14-18
- 4 Conference on Child Development ..... July 17-18-19
- 5 Boy Scout Camporal ..... July 21-26

## B FRESHMAN!

Nine years ago a friend of ours gave us a puppy about the size of a man's fist. We named him FRESHMAN. He was brown in color, hair slightly long with a beautiful natural marcel. As Freshman grew, our affections for him grew and finally we became inseparable. He was a picturesque figure on the campus, making friends with every one. It soon got to the place when one saw Freshman they knew we were somewhere near. We were great companions. Whatever I said to him or discussed in his presence, was never repeated. He was faithful, cooperative, and thoughtful. At times he evidenced amazing intelligence and other times it was doubtful - on purpose.

Well, to make a long story short, Freshman ate some poison a few weeks ago, as a result he died. He is missed so much! OLD FRESHMAN!

## C DEFENSE BONDS -

The huge cost of making preparation to defend our democracy must be borne by the citizens of the United States. Every patriotic citizen is being called upon now to do "his bit" by purchasing Defense Bonds. In addition to aiding our country by buying Bonds, there is a fine opportunity for saving for the future. There is nothing more secure than the United States Treasury which issues the Bonds. It is our hope that every employee of the college will begin to buy Defense Stamps and Bonds. Call at the Post Office for descriptive literature, giving all the information about the Bonds any person would want to know.

## D CONFERENCE ON ELEMENTARY EDUCATION -

On July 4, we shall have our second conference on Elementary Education. Classes will be suspended for the day so everyone can attend. The session begins at 8:30 A M. It is suggested that all lesson assigned be made in light of this conference so that everyone can be present.

## E COMMUNITY CHEST -

We want to thank those who have looked after their Community Chest obligations. Those who have not paid, kindly do so by July 4.

F AND FINALLY -

"He has achieved success who has lived well, laughed  
often, and loved much;  
Who has gained the respect of intelligent men and the  
love of children  
Who has filled his niche and accomplished his task;  
Who has left the world a better place than he found it,  
Whether by an improved poppy, a perfect poem, or a  
rescued soul;  
Who has never lacked appreciation of the earth's beauty  
or failed to express it,  
Who has always looked for the best in others and given the  
best he had;  
Whose life is an inspiration, whose memory a benediction."

- Author Unknown  
(Kindness of Coach S B Taylor)

I am

Yours truly,  
*W. R. Banks*

W R Banks  
Principal

CONFERENCE ON ELEMENTARY EDUCATION  
PRAIRIE VIEW STATE COLLEGE  
Prairie View, Texas

July 4, 1941

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THEME: SOME IMPLICATIONS FOR TRAINING INSERVICE ELEMENTARY TEACHERS FOR NATIONAL  
DEFENSE

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8:15 A M -- Statement of Purpose - Professor D B Taylor - State Department  
of Education - Austin, Texas

A - 9:00 - 9:30 A M - Child Development - Mr H E Wright

B - 9:30 - 10:00 A M - Health - Safety Education - Dr J M Franklin

C - 10:00 - 10:30 A M - Recreation and Leisure - Miss Georgia Offutt

D - 10:30 - 11:00 A M - Nutrition - Dr E B Evans

E - 11:00 - 11:30 A M - Family Relations and Environments - Mr H A Bullock

Lunch Hour

12:00-1:45 PM

F Panel Discussion - Graduate Students - 2:00 - 3:30 P M  
Professor John W Rice in charge

G Findings Committee's Report -

H Consultants -

(a) Dr Hob Gray, University of Texas, Austin

(b) Dr D B Taylor, State Department of Education, Austin

(c) Dr Gordon Worley, State Department of Education, Austin

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WORLD STUDENT SERVICE FUND  
8 West Fortieth St  
New York, N Y

June 9, 1941

Mr. W. R. Banks, Principal  
Prairie View State Normal and  
Industrial College  
Prairie View, Texas

Dear Mr Banks:

I enclose the official receipt for the \$100 contributed  
by your institution.

Not only officially, but personally, I wish to express ap-  
preciation of this splendid effort and gratitude for the  
contribution to the needs of student and faculty war victims.

In view of my former pleasurable visits and happy relations  
at Prairie View, I was particularly sorry not to have it in-  
cluded on my itinerary the past winter. I am glad that you  
had a visit from my young colleague, Paul Moritz.

Please remember me to Dean Phillips.

With warm personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

/s/ Claud Nelson  
Director

n/s

Signed in the absence of Mr. Nelson from the office

TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF TEXAS  
Austin

Dear School Official:

House Bill No. 8 Acts of the Regular Session, Forty-Seventh Legislature, which was signed by the Governor on May 1st, 1941, appropriates to the Teacher Retirement System each year beginning September 1, 1941, an amount equal to the contributions of the members each year plus \$600,000. Passage of this bill enables the Teacher Retirement System to begin full operation in September, 1941. Before this office could give definite information as to how much prior service benefit could be paid a retired member during the next few years, it was necessary for a corrective amendment to the original Retirement Law to be passed. This amendment has now been passed and is a part of the statutes of this State. Consequently, the Retirement System is in a position at this time to give certain definite information concerning retirement benefits. All school officials are requested to read this letter carefully and to give the information contained herein to any interested party.

This office is glad to announce that the money provided by the State in House Bill No. 8 is sufficient to enable the System, beginning in September, 1941, to pay to each retired member each month one-twelfth of the full annual prior service award to which that member is entitled in accordance with his prior service record. In order to be eligible for superannuation retirement, a member of the Retirement System must have attained the age of sixty and must have completed twenty-years of creditable service in the public schools of Texas, The law provides:

"Any member in service who has attained the age of seventy years shall be retired forthwith, provided that with the approval of his employer he may remain in service."

Each qualified member retiring for superannuation will receive an allowance under the straight life annuity option, as follows:

- (a) A membership annuity which shall be the actuarial equivalent of the member's accumulated contributions at retirement plus an equal amount from State funds. For each \$1,000.00 available for membership annuities at retirement (derived by adding to the teacher's accumulated contributions an equal sum from State funds) a teacher will receive approximately the following amounts:

<u>Age at Retirement</u>	<u>Amount of Monthly Installment per \$1,000</u>	
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
60	7.32	6.52
65	8.65	7.56
70	10.46	8.96

- (b) An additional annuity granted for prior service. The annual award under a prior service annuity shall be equal to one (1%) per cent of the average annual salary received by the member during the ten (10) school years immediately preceding the school year 1937, multiplied by the total number of creditable years of service as a teacher in the public schools of Texas prior to September 1, 1937 (provided that salaries in excess of \$3,000.00 shall not be allowed and not more than thirty-six (36) years of creditable prior service shall be allowed).

## Teacher Retirement System - 2

Upon retirement a member will be offered several optional types of annuities. If the retired member selects a type other than the straight life annuity, the monthly payments will be for modified amounts, provided that the benefit under each option is the actuarial equivalent of the benefit under the straight life annuity. Detailed information concerning the various options and payments under each option will be mailed within a few weeks to all members applying for retirement.

In order to receive a retirement allowance because of permanent disability, a member must have taught a minimum of twenty creditable years in the public schools of Texas, must be under the age of sixty, and must be adjudged "mentally or physically incapacitated for the further performance of duty" by the Medical Board of the Retirement System. A member retiring for permanent disability shall receive a membership annuity plus fifty per cent of his prior service award. All annuities will be paid in equal monthly installments.

School officials are requested to place the information contained in this letter in the hands of all teachers who may be considering retirement at the end of this school year and to urge such teachers TO WRITE IMMEDIATELY to the Retirement Office and indicate their desire to make application for retirement. All such persons will be sent the necessary forms and instructions as soon as such material is prepared. The Retirement System will have a tremendous task to perform in completing the necessary procedures to begin the payment of retirement benefits to more than one thousand retired members in September of this year. Consequently, school officials are requested to urge all individuals who are not contemplating retirement at the end of this school year to refrain from writing the Retirement System at this time.

The work of verifying the prior service statements of approximately 40,000 teachers is a task that will require a long period of time. Experience of other states shows that a long period of time is required to complete this procedure. During the remaining months of this year, the Teacher Retirement System will concentrate upon the verification of the prior service statements of those members who expect to retire at the end of this school year in order that no member will have his retirement benefits delayed because of this problem. After this office has received from a member an application for retirement at the end of this school year, this office will mail to the member some forms to be signed by the officials of the various schools in which the member rendered service in order to verify the fact that the member did render service in a particular school in a particular school year, and in order to verify the compensation received by the member for each school year from the year 1927-28 to the year 1936-37, inclusive. The Retirement Office has found that such a procedure is the only practical way to secure verification of prior service statements.

School officials are requested to cooperate with members attempting to verify their prior service records in order that the records of all members asking for retirement at the end of this school year may be verified before September 1st. The time required by school officials to give this cooperation should not be great as the verification of prior service records during the remaining months of this school year will be confined to the records of those members expecting to retire at the end of this school year. As stated before, all of the required forms will be mailed to the member after receipt of his application for retirement, and the member will then contact any school official from whom he may need assistance.



### Teacher Retirement System - 3

The forms to be used in verifying prior service have not previously been mailed to members because of the fact that some time and effort will be required on the part of each member, and the Retirement System hesitated to ask the member to go to such trouble until after the State matching money had actually been provided and the member would know that his efforts were not being expended on a "lost cause". As retirement benefits are now a reality and not just a hope, each qualified member expecting to retire at the end of this school year can complete the verification of his prior service statement with the knowledge that his efforts will not be in vain.

In about sixty days, the Retirement System expects to have available for distribution, a booklet giving definite information concerning the rates and tables to be used by the Retirement System and other pertinent facts including the options available at retirement. In the meantime, a member can arrive at a fairly close estimate of his retirement benefits by studying the information given on the first page of this letter.

This office wishes to thank the thousands of teachers and friends of education throughout Texas who have cooperated patiently with the Retirement System during a most trying period of operation without State Matching funds. At the present time, it seems safe to say that Texas now has a statewide Teacher Retirement System adequately financed and ranking among the best of the statewide systems in the Union.

Sincerely yours,

Mortimer Brown  
Executive Secretary

MB/rb