

Last 'original' assistant to retire after 27 years

BY TIM TYLER

After 27 years, four principals, and three superintendents, Ms. Charlene Newcomb's high school career is reaching its final chapter.

Newcomb's career as an assistant started out at the old high school where she worked in the agricultural department. Over the years she worked under several teachers until she made her way to the library where she now works with Ms. Janet Wells. The biggest change she experienced over the years was the introduction of the computers.

"When I started everything was done manually. Typewriters were all we had, and they weren't even the electric ones," Newcomb explained.

She will miss the children the most, even though she is going to continue to take care of children.

"When I retire I'll spend most of my time taking care of my grand children and doing some house keeping," she said.

Even though she is going to miss everyone, retiring won't be such a sad experience for her.

"Although I will miss everyone, I'm sure looking forward to not having to get up at 5AM every morning when I retire," Newcomb said with a slight grin.

Newcomb now waits her final days until retirement out, in the library, wishing all the students at Rockcastle goodbye and good luck.



Mrs. Charlene Newcomb, 1974.

Survey says...students would like to see fall break

BY JERRED STEVENS

Every year the Rockcastle County Board of Education selects a calendar for our county. Usually, there are several options to choose from. In order to reach this decision the board seeks input from the principal and teachers; however, the final decision rests with the board of education.

Even though teachers and principals are well represented, students are without say concerning the school calendar, which they have to follow, as well. However, through a recent survey students had their opportunity to express which calendar they would rather have.

In the survey the student was given two choices to evaluate and select from: option one (the calendar selected for next year) and option two (see below). Out of 77 students there only 16% chose option one, while 84% chose option two, which included a break following the first nine weeks.

Option two was generally favored among students for many reasons.

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The fall break and ten built-in

snow days is the main reason many students chose option two, especially with the unpredictable weather here in Kentucky.

"In our area, with the weather being so unpredictable, it would seem a wiser choice to have ten built in snowdays for the calendar," wrote Amanda Cummins, a junior.

I also like having a fall break from school. I think option two is a better choice."

The weather isn't the only reason students chose option two.

"I think more breaks gets people motivated and gives something to look forward to," said Matt McClure, a senior.

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Option 1

-First day of school Aug. 15
-Christmas break--Dec.19-Jan.3
-Spring Break--April 7-11
-No built in school days
-Last Day--May 30
-Other days off through out school year

Option 2

-First day of school Aug. 6
-Fall break--Oct. 8-11
-Christmas break Dec.19-Jan. 2
-Spring break--March 24-28
-Last day--May 30
-10 built in school days
-Other days off through school year

Vocational school provides many opportunities for students

BY JACOB HELTON

"Technical education leads to good paying careers in both the traditional and new economies. Kentucky Tech schools are STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES where students train on computers and highly advanced equipment that is used by today's cutting-edge industries and health care facilities."

-- Governor Paul E. Patton

There are many different reasons students go to the Rockcastle Area Tech. Center their freshman and sophomore year, such as to get away from the high school and the belief there is more freedom at the vocational school, but why do they stay over there for so long?

The quote from Gov. Patton, which appears in a brochure for the vocational school, suggests it's all about getting a head start in a career, but students at RCHS take classes for other reasons.

"The vocational school has brought us together and shown us team work," said Bryan Jones, a senior who has taken several classes

at the tech center.

This was clear to me on a recent visit to the vocational school. While visiting, I noticed that many of the students learn from each other. For example, in the electricity class if one member didn't know how to do something, then another member would come over and help out.

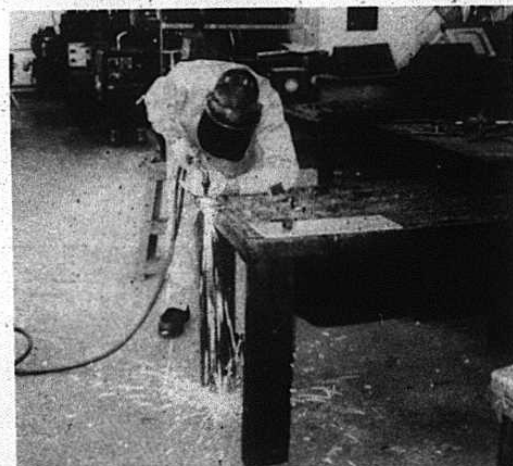
The vocational school offers several different classes, ranging from typing all the way to welding and automotive technology.

Many of the students simply have a strong personal interest in the classes that are offered.

"I like it, and I am interested in welding," senior Bruce Smith said. Students at the vocational school said that they have learned a lot more than they have learned at the high school.

But what does it teach you is the question.

"It has taught me to make decisions about my future," said junior Shaine Lewis.



Senior Bryan Jones is one of many RCHS students who also takes classes at the Rockcastle Area Technology Center.

She wants to go into the business field and felt that the vocational school had a better variety of classes for her to choose from.

Many of the classes can benefit

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