

ADULT EDUCATION—THAT'S FOR ME!

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Why is it for me?

Let's take a look at what is happening in adult education in the state, the country and the world—and see why and how we are all in it and becoming more conscious of it every day!

Two annual state-wide conferences in Chapel Hill on adult education have drawn attention to this phase of education which seems to be developing beyond the dreams of old-timers. Did you attend either one of them? Approximately 170 persons *did* attend each one—in February 1954 and 1955. At the first one the many ways by which people communicate with each other became the conference theme and the second one portrayed a panorama of adult education in North Carolina. The enthusiasm shown by the participants in these conferences has been an inspiration to the committee.

In the nation the Adult Education Association of the U.S.A. *tripled* its membership last year and attracted these new members from volunteer agencies, civic clubs, churches, etc., as well as from the institutions devoting full or part-time work to adult education. This broad representation of people in the association has provided a stimulus to the program throughout the country. It is unusual now to go through a day without hearing a reference to adult education in one way or another.

The Southeastern Adult Education Association has also experienced a period of growth and development since World War II. In 1953 the regional association entered into a joint project with the AEA to discover ways of improving communication between adult educators in the Southeast and between the nine state groups making up the region. Since then people in the states interested in adult education have taken steps to meet for discussion of matters of mutual interest. Out of this project the North Carolina state meetings have developed.

In response to requests from the people at the state conference each year that the same kind of conferences be planned for local groups, the committee worked out plans last year. Several of the county groups met during the past fall and winter and are now exploring needs and resources before determining projects.

Where does the individual belong in these developments? Someone has said that adult education is at work in all places where the adult mind is bent on growing out of ignorance, perplexity and ineptitude. That definition brings adult education home to each one of us. As adult educators we have an added role—that of sharing with other adults those things we have learned.

We are part of an exciting development which has only begun to reveal its significance in education.

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