



William J. Baird

# Baird Is Chosen Morehead Prexy

## Veteran Educator To Head College

Dr. William Jesse Baird, 55, a native Kentuckian and veteran educator, was chosen yesterday as the fifth president in the 22-year history of Morehead State Teachers College.

The Morehead board of regents, in a special meeting at the Lafayette hotel, said the former president of the Berry Schools and College, Rome, Ga., had been appointed to serve a four-year term at \$5,000 a year, effective yesterday.

He succeeds Dr. William H. Vaughan, who failed to gain re-appointment at the expiration of his term July 1.

The Vaughan dismissal drew sharp criticism from student war veteran groups and others, especially for the lack of an explanation by the regents, but Gov. Simeon Willis said the move was motivated by political activity on the part of Vaughan.

Both Governor Willis and Harvey A. Babb, director of the Kentucky Unemployment Compensation Commission and a former Morehead president, lauded the selection of Baird.

The board itself issued a prepared statement setting out that it would "impose no obligation on Dr. Baird except his legal and professional obligation to the institution and its service area."

The regents pledged their "whole-hearted support of and co-operation with" the new president in his announced effort to "build a strong institution for Eastern Kentucky."

Dr. Baird said he knew too little of Morehead's present program to make a statement immediately concerning the policy he would follow.

"I accepted this job in lieu of three others offered me," he said, "because of my love for mountain people. They are my people."

While on the staff of the Berea schools, Dr. Baird traveled in Europe and in this country representing Berea interests. During a leave of absence from Berea in 1940 he appeared on 56 college campuses in this country doing advisory work with student and teacher organizations as a representative of the Danforth Foundation. He was awarded a doctor's degree by Berea in 1942.

At the time he left Kentucky to accept the Berry appointment, he was a member of the planning board of the Kentucky Education Association and a member of the Council of Higher Education.

Dr. Baird is married and has one son, David H. Baird, Hartford, Conn.

Dr. Warren C. Lappin, acting president of the college since July 1, will resume his duties as dean, John Fred Williams, state superintendent of public instruction and ex-officio member of the board of regents, said.