

Baird Named As President Of Morehead

Dr. William Jesse Baird, 55, former president of the Berry Schools Mount Berry, Ga., today was named president of Morehead State Teachers College, Morehead, by the board of regents in a special meeting at the Lafayette hotel.

He succeeds Dr. William H. Vaughn, whose term was not renewed when it expired July 1. Dr. Baird was appointed to serve a four-year term beginning today.

The new president is a native of Knox county, Kentucky, and is a graduate of all schools on the Berea preparatory and college campus. He has been in retirement since June 10, when he left the Berry Schools.

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

Willis Approves Choice

At Frankfort, Gov. Simeon Willis said today the choice of Dr. Baird as Morehead president was a fine one.

"I think it is a very fine appointment," he commented, "and I congratulate them on getting Dr. Baird."

"I think he is a very high-class professional man and everyone should be delighted."

The governor said he had met the new college president "three or four times socially," the last occasion being when he came

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through Frankfort several weeks ago. He added he did not discuss with him the possibility of the Morehead presidency.

Dr. Baird said he knew too little about the Morehead program to make a statement immediately concerning the policy he would follow at the college, but he said all of his efforts would be directed toward "building a strong institution for Eastern Kentucky."

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

Was At Berea

He was placed on the staff of the Berea schools in 1927 following his graduation there. From that time until he went to the Berry Schools in 1942, he served as instructor, director of the Department of Agriculture, director of teacher training, dean of the Foundation school and public-relations representative.

In the last capacity he 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. Previously, after graduation from the school, he did graduate work at Columbia University, Cornell University, the University of Wisconsin and the University of Kentucky.

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.

His salary as Morehead president was set at \$5,000 a year, the constitutional limit in Kentucky.

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