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

(Please turn to page 2, Column 1.)
Baird Named

(Continued From Page 1)

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 institu-
tion for Eastern Kentucky.”

“I accepted this job in lieu of
three others offered me,” he said,
“because of my love for the moun-
tain people. They are my people.”

Was At Berea

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

In the last capacity he traveled
in Europe and in this country rep-
resenting Berea interests.

During a leave of absence from
Berea in 1940 he appeared on 30
college campuses in this country
doing advisory work with stu-
dent and teacher organizations as
a representative of the Danforth
Foundation.

He was awarded a doctor’s de-
gree by Berea in 1942. Previous-
ly, after graduation from the
school, he did graduate work at
Columbia University, Cornell Uni-
versity, the University of Wiscon-
sin and the University of Ken-
tucky.

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 presi-
dent 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.