

Bringing America into the Home and Courts of Delaware

(Special for the United American from a Delaware Americanization Worker)

"I WOULD speak to you for foreign-born mothers and home schools. We are about six thousand foreign-born mothers in Delaware State from Italy, Poland, Russia, Greece and other countries. Our children are about twenty thousand, almost all born in America."

Thus writes a foreign-born mother of advanced years, who is an ardent student and a strong champion of the schools for foreign-born mothers in Delaware.

In 1920 these mothers could not speak or read the American language. They lived in a state of isolation. Since the opportunity to attend adult schools was furnished them, thousands have learned to understand, read and write the language of their adopted country, the native land of their children.

The home school for mothers, which is under the direction of the Service Citizens' Americanization Bureau, sent teachers into the homes and organized classes. The result has been that these mothers now are able to take up citizenship studies and become naturalized.

Three hundred members of the Delaware Americanization schools made a pilgrimage in May 1924 to the National capitol and had a group photo taken on the White House steps. At Washington they were met by prominent government officials and the occasion furnished many rare incidents which depicted the pride, devotion and fervent patriotism with which these new citizens and citizens in the making were imbued.

The spirit of public interest that has been aroused in the state of Delaware has created a consciousness that the foreign-born will become good, bad or indifferent citizens in proportion to the interest in their natu-

ralization that is manifested by the Americans of the community.

This spirit is perhaps most clearly seen in the court of United States Judge Hugh M. Morris, when naturalization hearings are held. Anyone present at such hearings either as a visitor or as an applicant will never forget the solemnity and fitting attention given all such occasions.

Briefly one new citizen recently described the scene:

At the back of the Court Room is a guard of honor composed of a hundred or more members of the Caesar Rodney Citizenship Alumni Association, wearing regalia of the national colors and each bearing an American flag. Facing the Judge's bench and the Clerk of the District Court, are seated the successful candidates for citizenship, while the sides and back of the room are filled with spectators, mostly friends and relatives of the new citizens. As soon as the Judge enters the Court, everybody stands, and do not take their seats until the judge has done so.

After everybody is seated, the Oath of Allegiance is administered by the Clerk of the Court and I do not think there is a more solemn moment in the life of any man or woman citizen as the one when he swears allegiance to his new country to protect it against all enemies within and without, honor the flag and obey the laws laid down by the Constitution. Next follows a deeply noble and patriotic address of Welcome by the Judge, and the certificates are handed to the new citizens. After this Judge Morris asks that the Caesar Rodney School Flag be presented to the new class. You see the Color Guard, generally eight of the new citizens, march into the court room and behind them carried aloft with slow and measured steps is "Old Glory." Speeches of presentation and acceptance are made. Everybody stands at attention and pledges allegiance to the flag. No sooner is the last word

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"Never too Old to Learn"

Four Grandmothers, 83, 73, 65, 63 years old have their first English lessons in the Wilmington Home School this year