

Riddle Makes Improvement

Summer improvements to schools at Riddle include turfing of a football field and installation of an irrigation system.

The baseball backstop has been moved several feet for better alignment of the baseball field and quarter mile track. Riddle residents have donated a baseball pitching machine to the elementary school. One donor started the fund for purchase of the machine with a gift of \$200.

Minor improvements include re-coating the roof of rooms in the elementary building, sanding hallways and several classrooms in the high school building.

The physical plant has been enlarged by the addition of the former Riddle Grange Hall, now known as the White Building. The building will be used primarily by the high school band, Mrs. Erna Best, News-Review correspondent, reports.

Kiddie Typing Class Popular

GRAND FORKS, N. D. (AP)—Getting children to practice the piano when school is out can be a tough job.

But an educator at the University of North Dakota had no trouble finding youngsters to "play" the typewriter this summer in an experiment in learning.

Dr. John L. Rowe, chairman of the business education department, organized the kiddie typing class to test his suspicion that handwriting is often a block to education in a young child.

Unnecessary Barrier

"The average fourth grader can write by hand about 12 words a minute," he explains. "By the end of our experiment, we expect to have the youngsters typing upward of 25 to 30 words a minute.

The progress in learning ability and thought expression of the typing students will be tested against a group of non-typing children at the end of the eight-week course.

Rowe maintains that the entire learning process can be aided if a child learns to type early and is able to transcribe his thoughts without mechanical difficulty. "It is not generally realized that handwriting is a difficult mechanical task," he points out.

Cross-Section

The 28 children taking the typing course were chosen from among hundreds who applied. The group represents a typical cross-section of 8 to 10-year-olds.

Rowe, a pianist, noted that children of 6 are able to learn to play the piano. Since roughly the same mechanical and mental abilities are needed for typing, he sees no reason why they cannot also learn that skill.

The idea for experiment has been in Rowe's mind for some time, but was delayed until a portable electric typewriter became available. A portable was necessary because it is suited to the child's smaller hand, and electric, because less muscular effort is needed.

The manufacturer of the machine made the experiment possible by providing the machines used in the course and a grant to support it. Rowe conducted the first course in electric typewriting at teachers college, Columbia University, and has authored and co-authored some 12 typewriting textbooks, widely used in secondary schools and colleges.

Tenmile School Activities Set

A new ten gallon aquarium with an electric generator has been purchased for the Tenmile grade school.

The aquarium will be stocked with fish and snails and kept in the sixth grade room. Approximately 160 pupils are expected to enroll in the school Sept. 2. Mrs. Walter Coats, News-Review correspondent, reports. The enrollment will be about the same as last year.

A meeting of the Tenmile grade school TRO Mothers Club, which takes the place of the PTA, will be called Wednesday Sept. 10. At that time new officers will be elected and plans made for the coming school year.

Activities of the club last year included the appointment of room mothers to work with the teachers, assisting with polio shots and vaccinations, serving of cookies and coffee at open house and sponsoring of a dinner at the close of the school year.

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