

School in South Africa vs. School in United States

How would you like to get out of school at 1:30 in the afternoon?

"Great," you all say. But would you still feel that way if you knew that school started at 8 o'clock in the morning and that there were only two short breaks of 20 and 10 minutes long separating the seven classes? Perhaps you'd think twice!

The Pretoria High School for Girls in South Africa has about 900 pupils and has a women's teaching staff of about 35.

Situated in extensive grounds which include 14 tennis courts, two hockey fields, four netball fields and a large swimming pool, the school is run on a very much the same lines of a traditional English high school.

Most of the girls come to school by bicycle and carry suitcases or satchels in which they put their books. Before classes begin an assembly is held every morning in the hall, where a hymn is sung, prayers said, and the notices or bulletins read. After that, classes of about 45 minutes each, begin.

In South Africa we wear uniforms. At my school in the summertime we wear green cotton dresses and white panama hats, black lace-up shoes and white ankle socks. During the winter months, however, girls wear navy blue pleated gym, which are short dresses, black stockings, white shirts and ties and navy blue berets.

A noticeable difference between schools in America and those in South Africa is that in South Africa we have rigid discipline. Every year the school elects about 20 prefects from the highest class to keep the girls in order. As we move from class to class we are not allowed to speak at all and also have to walk in single file. Whenever addressing teachers in the classroom and also if a teacher enters or leaves a room, we have to stand up. Here in America, I feel that the relationship between teachers and students is more free and easy and more friendly.

In South Africa our school year begins in February and ends in December. January being our hottest month, is our month long summer holiday. In July we have another month's winter holiday and at Eastertide and in October we have holidays of ten days each.

As all our games take place in the afternoon after school ends at 1:30, there are no such things as after-games dances. In fact, the only dance that our school ever holds is the Matriculation or Graduation Dance which takes place at the beginning of our senior year. To make up for the lack of school dances many private parties are held and very rarely does a weekend go by without our going to at least one of these parties.

I hope I've succeeded in bringing you a brief picture of my school in South Africa. Although I enjoyed school here, I think I have come to love Ashland High just as much.

Debaters Capture Four 1st Trophies

Competing with a thousand students from 39 Oregon high schools, the Ashland High School debate team participated in the 30th annual Lanfield College "Tournament of Champions" at McMinnville, Oregon February 15, 16 and 17.

By capturing four first place awards, four second place honors, and four third place awards, Ashland's team was presented with second place in senior division sweepstakes.

Championship trophies were awarded to Jane Hennick, junior women's interview; Scott Roberts, junior men's extemporaneous speaking; Peggy Parsons, senior women's interview; and Karen Schopf, senior women's impromptu speaking.

The senior women's division debate teams of Judy Eberhart and Karen Schopf, Peggy Par-

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Linda Wells, Bill Tilford, a representative from KMED-TV and Mr. Apodaca are shown in the picture above.

Spanish Students Appear on TV

"Hablemos Español!" is the theme of an educational television program for grade school children which is being presented by Mr. Ronald Apodaca, Spanish teacher, and two of his advanced Spanish students, Juniors, Bill Tilford and Linda Wells.

"The primary purpose of the television-tape series on conversational Spanish is to teach the language through a pretended trip to Mexico," said Mr. Apodaca.

Mr. Apodaca and the 2 students appeared on KMED-TV for the first time Jan. 30. Since then they have appeared every Tuesday and Friday at 9:30 a.m. They can also be heard on KMED radio at 7:05 p.m. every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. The television programs last for a half an hour while the radio programs last for approximately 10 minutes.

Mr. Apodaca, Bill, and Linda are also recording tapes in Spanish to give the pupils additional drill in the language.

Culture To Be Presented

Dialogues, slides, songs, dances, and films will provide the basis by which the culture of the Spanish-speaking peoples is to be presented.

Chuck Hillsted and Betty Martin, AHS juniors, will appear in two or three of the last programs, according to Mr. Apodaca. Terry McKinnis appeared on the Feb. 6 program. She played the guitar and sang "Ten Little Indians."

Program First Attempt

This program is Jackson County's first attempt in using educational television programs for in-class viewing by grade-school children. Approximately thirty thousand children have viewed the program.

Language Lab Largest In Jackson County

Consisting of eighteen booths, the Ashland High language lab is the largest in Jackson County, according to Mr. Ronald Apodaca, Ashland High Spanish teacher. This is the first year that the lab has been fully developed.

Each booth, which is partitioned so that the student can concentrate, has a microphone, a tape recorder, and a set of earphones. One booth costs between \$200-\$300.

The students can hear the tapes from the master recorder and then record their own voices, using the tape recorder. By hearing himself speak the language, the student can correct his pronunciation mistakes.

"I feel that the use of the language lab teaches the language the way it should be taught; that is, by listening and repeating before beginning the actual reading and writing," stated Mr. Apodaca.

Both the French students and the Spanish students use the lab and the tapes. Some of the tapes

are secured from the Medford Curriculum Center while of the Spanish tapes are made by Mr. Apodaca.

Coming Up . . .

Feb. 23 — Basketball — Medford at Medford.

Feb. 24 — Basketball — Klamath Falls at Ashland.

March 2 — Basketball — Crater at Central Point.

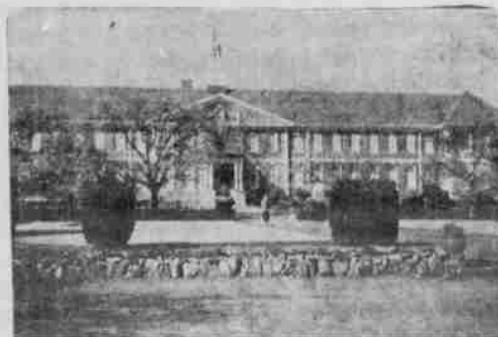
March 2 — N.S.A. — 2:30 p.m.

March 6 — Natural Merit Tests — 8:45 a.m.

March 7 — Annual Lettermen — P.T.A. Pan-ake Dinner — Lincoln School.

March 9 — All-school Talent Show.

March 23 — Lettermen's Club Dance — 8:00-11:30 p.m.



Yvonne Nicolson's school in Pretoria, South Africa.