

They'll never stand in the unemployment line

By Nancy Barker
Staff Writer

So the high schools aren't teaching practical subjects! Recent newspaper articles have criticized local schools for a lack of vocational programs. High schools are out of touch with students' needs, so charge their critics. They are not providing pupils with skills which can be translated into jobs.

Not so at Sandy High School; shop and business vocational courses are part of the standard curriculum here. Others, such as the cadet-teacher program, provide direct experience in a chosen field.

Add to these a policy of incorporating vocational orientation into many of the basic core classes, and the result, typically, is a graduating senior with at least a rudimentary knowledge, and perhaps some experience related to his future occupation.

"We bring a certain amount of vocational training into many of the basic classes," stated Fred Proett, vice-principal and curriculum director. "Some of these also teach job opportunities in different fields, such as science and music."

Plans for next year include courses in automotive shop marketing, commercial food

processing, and forestry and wildlife management.

This year, Sandy High's business department tried something new: a Work Studies program. This innovation allows students to receive class credit for part-time jobs in which they use their office skills. The pilot project, which started in January, included eight girls in the Office Procedures class taught by Christy Ekroth. They worked in area businesses during the last two quarters of the school year.

"I feel that I've learned more there than I learned in any class," exclaimed Charlene Hunter about her job with the Sandy Police office at city hall. She is a member of Miss Ekroth's Office Skills class, who participated in the new program.

This opinion was shared unanimously by others in the class. Although they felt their business classes had perfected their office skills they lacked confidence in using them. Their work experience helped to tell what they had learned.

"Oh man, does it help!" Sandy Pietrzak, another member of the class, spent the semester as secretary to the Sandy Area Chamber of Commerce. She attended the chamber meeting each week, and kept records, under the supervision of Mrs. Dorothy Depro, the regular secretary of

the group.

Others in the class included Jeanine Johnson, who worked at Foothills Escrow, as did Pam Marsh. Barbie Johnston and Dianna Miles also worked at the police station. Karen Moon was employed at Dr. Leavitt's office, and Anita Wadkins did clerical work at Hoodview Pharmacy. Another member of the class, Becky Bell, worked at a pharmacy, but did not get class credit for it. She already had a part-time job at the Sandy Rexall fountain, and elected to keep it, instead of doing office work.

One problem common to recent high school graduates looking for a job is lack of experience. Many times, it is a vicious circle which the employer won't hire an applicant without experience, and the applicant can't get experience without a job. The Work-Studies program seems a ready solution.

"It always worried me, how to get a job without experience," commented Charlene on one of the primary benefits of the program.

Employers of these girls benefit too. They are not required to pay the girls a salary, since class credit is given, although some do. Plus, they have a willing worker to take over extra clerical tasks from regular employees.

"I think it's been great, enthused Barbara Beehler, another business teacher. "I've gotten a lot of favorable comments from people in town."

The idea for the Work-Studies program "just came up," when Miss Beehler and Mrs. Ekroth wrote their curriculum last summer. They felt it would give qualified business students a chance to gain experience under supervision, plus a recommendation, both of which would help in future job-hunting.

"The students will be prepared," explained Miss Ekroth. "This gives them responsibility—they have to make decisions on their own."

In order to insure that the students who participated would be able office workers, the program was limited to seniors in the Office Procedures class. The prerequisites for this class were typing, office machines, and Business English.

Subjects covered in the Office Procedures class this year included transcription, filing, duplicating, math, office machines, and more typing.

Next year, the Work Studies program will be changed somewhat. So that more students may participate, there will be two classes. Those who have not taken shorthand, but who have met the requirements, may sign up for Model Office. Steno-Secretarial will be available for those with shorthand. At least 25 students have expressed interest in these classes.

"We expect to have more people and businesses involved next year," said Miss Beehler, who found Sandy businesses very cooperative. "It's done a lot to improve the business education program."

According to graduating senior Charlene, it has improved the students too. "I was pretty scared at first, but I feel that it helped me. I gained a lot of confidence in myself."

Noting that the girls were very motivated to improve their skills, Mrs. Ekroth felt that they had worked hard. But the Work Studies program was not all work.

"We've had a lot of fun all year!"



MANY GIRLS in the class, like Barbie Johnston, use shorthand or briefhand, though it was not required. (Post photo)



IN SOME cases, Work Studies jobs turned into summer employment. Pam Marsh, shown here with her boss, Lewis Johnson, will continue working at Foothills Escrow this summer. (Post photo)



A GOOD typist never looks at the typewriter. Jeanine Johnson, working in the Office Procedures class, would be an example. (Post photo)

SANDY PIETRZAK left, and Charlene Hunter, middle, practice running office machines, with the help of Barbara Beehler, business teacher. (Post Photo)



MRS. CHRISTY Ekroth, Office Procedures teacher, helps Anita Wadkins check over some typing she has done in the class. (Post photo)



DIANNA MILES found her Work Studies job different than most. She worked at the Sandy Police Station, under the supervision of Kay Gillickson, records clerk at the station, who is studying police administration for a degree in Criminology at Portland State University. (Post photo)

Churchill president

Earl Churchill has been elected president of the Troutdale Lions Club.

Other officers chosen last week were:

Forrest DeHaan, first vice-president; Gary Burnett, second vice-president; Don Thompson, third vice-president; Mel Phipps,

secretary; Sid Britton, treasurer; Jack Evans, lion tamer and Jim Wright, tail twister.

Named to the board of directors were: Sam Cox; Jack Gregory; Frank Kaiser; Leroy Scott and Marvin Hansen.

Officers will be installed Monday, June 11.

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