

Environment To Aid Pupils To Develop Self Is Stressed

ate. Schools of the Eu-
are operated far dif-
the schools of a decade
trends in education, as
teaching practices and
Eugene's schools, are
the following article by
superintendent of the

Public schools consist of elementary schools, two junior high schools and two senior high schools, one of which is operated in conjunction with the University of Minnesota. There were enrolled last year 1,400 in these schools and employed by 125 teachers and

to be grounded upon the function of elementary education is to provide an environment in which the individual has opportunity to develop to the best of his own ability and to cooperate with his fellow students. The course of study is founded upon the conviction that the child's learning should arise out of his own interests and experiences around his own life experiences.

illustrative means as lend to the above philosophy encouraged and emphasized. Each school has characteristics but yet each is committed to the fundamental philosophy. It organizes its work that students is easy. Organization of the elementary schools is a little to rather centralization with a plan thrown in to complete Music, art, health and find their place along with R's under each plan organization.

Individual records of pupils are worth in guidance as much as the pupil from room to room or building through

the schools. Ability grouping is practiced where numbers permit and where a worth while end is served by so doing. Counseling is conceived to be the responsibility of each classroom teacher with special responsibility centered in the hands of building committees or specially fitted individuals. A school nurse is employed and individual problems of health and hygiene are given attention. Many facilities such as laboratories, council, etc. of educators, psychologists and psychiatrists from the University of Oregon are utilized.

Of fundamental importance to the individual is the necessity of learning to read for the purpose of enlarging his experience through the printed page. This subject receives the major emphasis in the elementary school. In addition to the usual basic program of method readers the Eugene schools provide parallel texts in work-type reading material and texts in material of literary content. These texts which are available in all classrooms at all times are supplemented by circulating sets of readers for each grade so scheduled that a new set arrives for use each six weeks. The supplementary material covers six different fields of human interest and experience: health, nature and science, social studies, character, geography, and history. Reading tables, room libraries and a building library completes the reading facilities of each elementary school.

Emphasis on reading as an activity of the elementary school does not imply any degree of slight to other subject matter for upon standard tests of achievement which are given each year Eugene school pupils show a median achievement well above national norms.

The junior high schools are such in fact as well as in name. These schools which accommodate grades seven, eight and nine are not just departmentalized grammar schools with the first year of high school thrown in. Their purpose is to provide a three year experience for early adolescents to explore learning fields and to acquire ability in accomplishing tasks of meaning and worth to them in anticipation of further tasks in senior

high school or in life. Subject matter is fused and each pupil experiences three successive years in fields of related interests. Penmanship, spelling, composition, grammar and literature become a continuous integrated experience in English. Geography, history and civics become likewise an experience in social studies and social living.

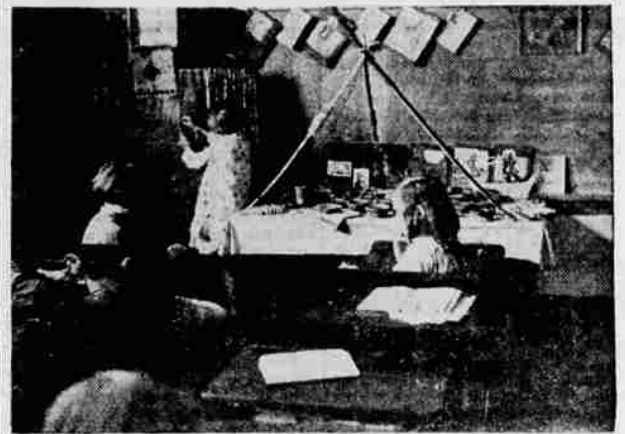
This period provides opportunity for an acquaintance with English, social studies, mathematics, science, health, appreciative arts, industrial arts, vocational outlook, participation in varied school activities and thoughtful counseling. The library at this level becomes an instrument of increased usefulness and the whole environment is one of stimulation and increased self reliance.

Pupils are admitted to senior high school either upon completion of the ninth grade elsewhere or upon completion of the junior high school. Twelve senior high school units are required for graduation. Of these 3 must be in English, 1 in science, 1 in U. S. history, $\frac{1}{2}$ in civics and $\frac{1}{2}$ in economics. The other units may be elected according to the requirements of the following courses: college preparatory, commercial, technical, fine arts, general, home making or industrial. Physical education is required of all pupils and provisions for majors and minors prevent superficial courses from meeting requirements without intensive work in some fields.

Tenth grade pupils take a one semester course in orientation to make adjustment to senior high school most fruitful and likewise a course in guidance is given to all twelfth grade pupils to make transition to college or to occupation both easier and better.

The senior high school offers many more courses than any pupils can possibly take and we find an increasing number coming back after graduation for further training. The trend at the present time is toward an easy interplay for pupils from school to occupation and back again. One class is cooperatively conducted by the school and vocations of the community. Pupils in this class spend one half of each day in school and the other half on a job in a learning relationship.

The schools are adequately equipped physically for modern education and are consistently progressing toward better goals. The real measure of these as of any institution however is its spirit. In this respect from the standpoint of students, faculty and general community the Eugene public schools are outstanding.



SCHOOL DAYS

Not the blackboard and slate, but handicraft projects and other subjects interesting to the pupil feature the modern school.

Mrs. Warren D. Smith, former school board member and active in many women's and civic groups—This is the nicest place I know of in which to rear a family. It is a wonderfully wholesome community.

Fred Fisk, county judge—Lane

county is the best place on earth to live! The climatic conditions are reasonable, the people who live here are wonderful neighbors and there are wonderful opportunities for future development. Incidentally, I have lived in Lane county 50 years which should indicate my feelings in regard to this country.

The air is so rare at the top of Mount Everest that 10 breaths are required for every step taken.

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