

New teachers join school staff

by Donna Behrend

Among the staff at Warm Springs Elementary are three new teachers who appear highly dedicated to teaching and supplying the best education to the young of Warm Springs.

Laurie Kronser is the new Title I reading and math instructor. Teaching in Warm Springs is Laurie's first "paid" teaching assignment. She graduated from Western Oregon State College in 1981 with a degree in elementary education and reading.

Laurie said her decision to enter the teaching field was difficult. "I always had problems deciding what to do," says Laurie. But her college roommates were becoming teachers and she liked what they were doing, so a teacher she became.

The Title I reading program has undergone a change this year. It now incorporates math as well as an addition to the reading program itself. In recent years, the Distar and McMillan reading systems were used to help children in the second through sixth grades who had problems with reading. This year the district has added the Systematic

Approach to Reading Improvement (SARI) program to supplement the Distar and McMillan programs.

To help in math, Laurie and the Title I aids will concentrate on the concrete—a hands-on type of teaching—rather than doing problems on the board.

Both reading and math, Laurie says she will "work at the convenience of the teachers." She estimates that 50 children will require help in reading and 80 will need help in math.

"We've tested them (the children) and know where their weaknesses are. So if the children have similar weaknesses, we can work with them together," says Laurie.

Laurie has lived most of her life in Salem and she has found the Warm Springs area very nice. "I just love it here. I'm really enjoying the people I work with and the kids. They've been just great. I've been lucky to find this place."

Craig Morgan is the new third grade teacher in Warm Springs. This, too, is his first full-time paid teaching assignment.

Craig brings with him what he calls, "a multi-cultural background." At one time, he

worked on the Navajo reservation near Gallup, New Mexico, helping with the 4-H program there. "The experience was good, and I enjoyed it."

In 1977, after studying foreign languages at the University of Nebraska, he spent the summer months in Mexico and Guatemala working with the Toltec and K'anjobal Indians on a missionary internship. "I worked with their cultures, lived with them, helped in the churches and with the farming."

Craig graduated from Portland State University in March of this year with a certificate in elementary education. He also attended Grace College of the Bible where he received a BA in Christian education.

Craig says he prefers teaching the primary grades. And because of his experience in working with minorities, the teaching position in Warm Springs really appealed to him when he heard of it through the PSU placement office.

Craig was raised in a small southwestern Oregon town and appreciates being back in a small community. "I like central Oregon very much—the people are very friendly and helpful. The climate is nice, too," says Craig. Craig's wife and 11 month-old son will join him soon. His wife will be working part-time as an RN at Mt. View Hospital in Madras.

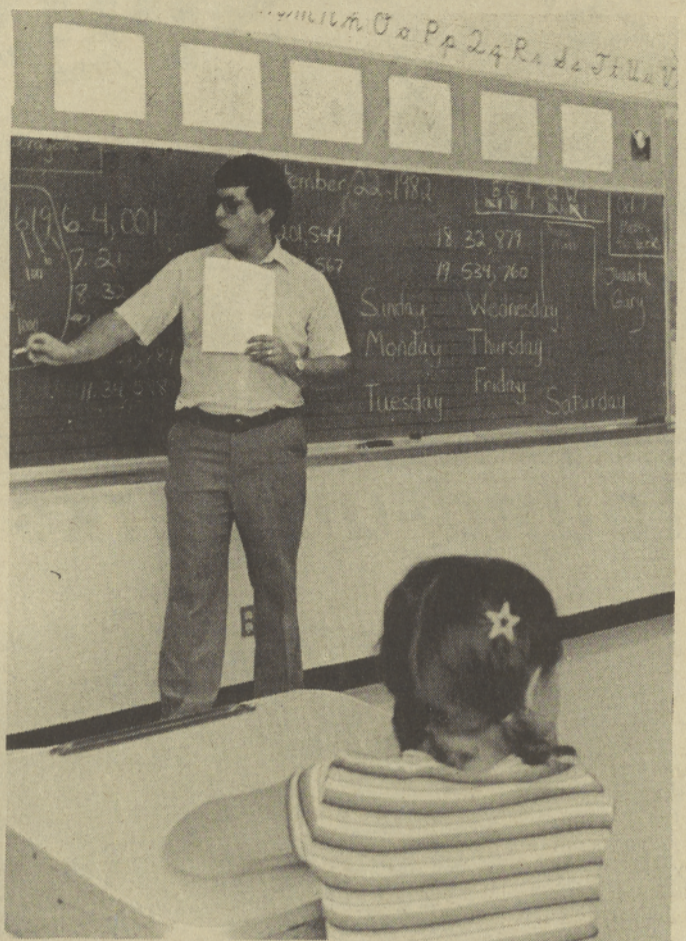
David Wickham is the new second grade teacher at the school. This is David's second teaching assignment. He previously taught the third and fourth grades at All Saints Grade School in Portland for two years. Prior to teaching, David worked in the maintenance department for the City Bus Company in Eugene.

David graduated from the University of Oregon in 1972 and received his teaching certificate this year.

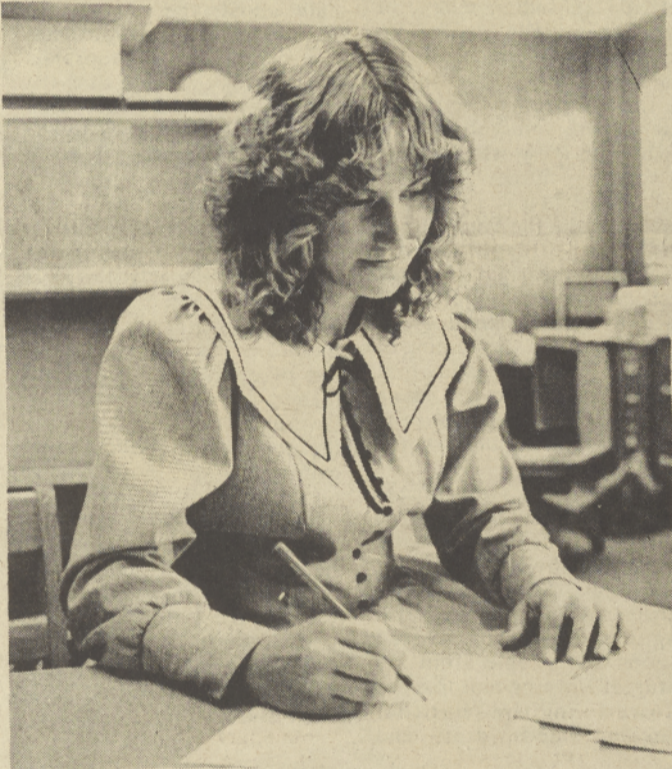
David and his wife Manuela have four children, a fourth grader, a third grader and two preschoolers aged 4 and 2. Because his wife is from Madras, (her maiden name was Nunez and she graduated from Madras High School in 1969), David hopes to settle his family here.

"This has been a very good experience for me. The kids are good," and so is the staff, he says. "The few contacts I've had in the community have been good," he continued. "The parents who have been in have been very supportive."

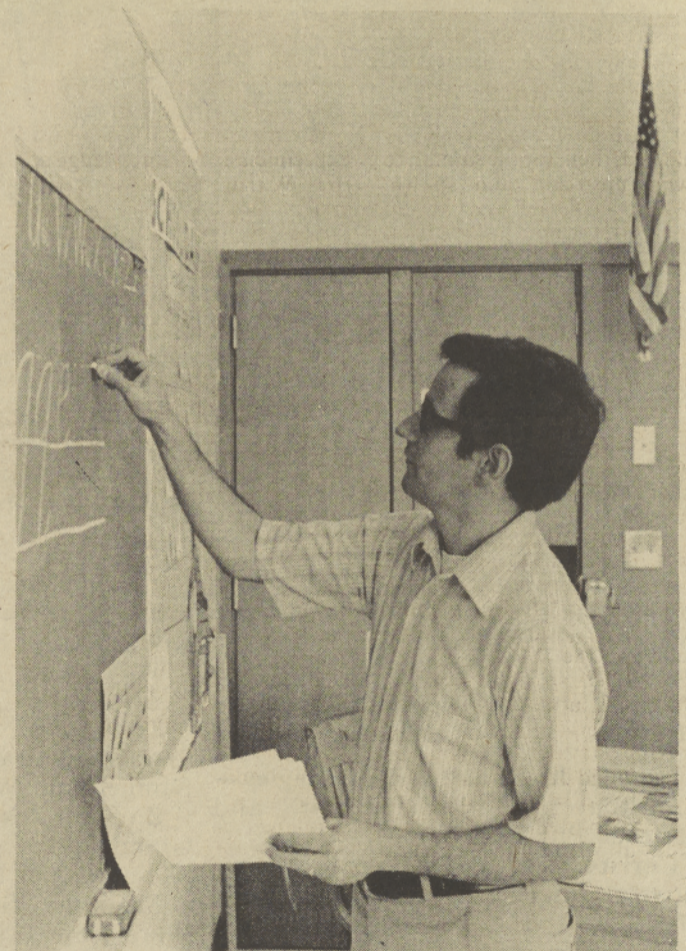
Warm Springs, he says, was one of the "best opportunities to teach in the lower grades for me."



3rd Grade Teacher Craig Morgan



Title I Teacher Laurie Kronser



2nd Grade Teacher David Wickham

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EMT I status earned by four

Four Warm Springs employees have received EMT I certification in yet another step forward to upgrade emergency health care for the Warm Springs community. Receiving certification from the state of Oregon Human Resources Department are Danny Martinez, Fire and Safety; Mark Hammond and Dan O'Brien, forestry; Harvey Yordy, police department. Earning the certification for

EMT I has meant over 200 hours of classroom instruction from certified EMT instructors (doctors and nurses), and passing a written and practical test for the four men.

O'Brien, Hammond and Yordy have worked as volunteers on the Warm Springs ambulance, but for Martinez it has been a part of his regular duties as a firefighter for Fire and Safety. It has been identified as a

goal for the Fire and Safety department to train all of their personnel as EMT's in addition to a number of volunteers who work with their department.

Another EMT I class will start in October at which time more members of the department and their volunteers will receive the advanced training, according to EMT 2 firefighter Fred Muniz.