

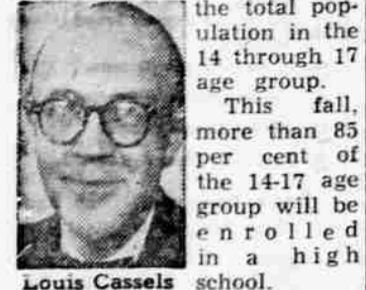
High Schools To Enroll 85 Per Cent of 14-17 Age Group This Fall

Figures Point Steady Progress In Education

Editor's note: This is the second of three dispatches on problems facing U.S. schools as they reopen for the fall term. Tuesday's dispatch dealt with classroom and teacher shortages. Today's reports on the "snag course" controversy.

By LOUIS CASSELS
UPI Correspondent

Washington — (UPI)—Thirty years ago, the number of American youths attending high school was only one-third of



the total population in the 14 through 17 age group. This fall, more than 85 per cent of the 14-17 age group will be enrolled in a high school.

These figures tell the story of one of the greatest achievements of America's schools—their steady progress toward the goal of universal education. They also provide a clue to one of their biggest problems—the bitter controversy over the kind and quality of academic work that should be demanded of high school students.

A generation ago, high school curriculums and academic standards were tailored to the assumption that all students were preparing for college or for a skilled vocation. Schools washed their hands of young people who were unable or unwilling to make a real intellectual effort, or who became serious disciplinary problems.

Today, high schools are required by compulsory education laws to keep, and to do their best to educate, the slow-learners, the unambitious and the delinquent.

New Concept
In groping for a solution, professional educators have come up with an entirely new concept of the purpose of a high school education.

The new concept is called "life adjustment education."

Benefits Available For Vet Widower
A helpless widower of a woman veteran may now be eligible for Veterans administration benefits based on the death of his wife, S. T. Brannock, officer in charge of the Medford VA office, said today.

Until the recent enactment of Public Law 85-655, the widower of a woman veteran was not eligible to receive Veterans administration benefits as a result of his wife's service, Brannock said.

Under the new law, he pointed out, the unmarried widower of a veteran may receive VA death benefits if he is incapable of self-maintenance, and he was, at the time of her death, permanently incapable of self-support due to physical or mental disability.

Also authorized by the new law are dependency payments to an eligible living veteran whose husband is not capable of self-maintenance and cannot support himself because of permanent physical or mental disability, Brannock added.

Queen Matilda of Flanders, the wife of William the Conqueror, spent most of her time weaving tapestry. One of her celebrated tapestries is now displayed in the Cathedral of Bayeaux.

It stems from the teachings of the late John Dewey, the Columbia University professor who pioneered progressive education. During the past decade, it has received the official blessing of the U. S. Office of Education and the support of the National Education association. It is now the controlling philosophy in a substantial majority of U. S. public high schools.

"Life adjustment education" repudiates the traditional view that education is primarily a process of imparting an organized body of knowledge and "training minds." It holds that the main function of schools is to help students "adjust" to the requirements of group living in a democratic society, and to equip them with "skills, knowledge and attitudes," which will be "useful" in everyday life.

Make Radical Changes
The theory has led to radical changes. Thousands of high schools now grant credits toward graduation for courses on how to drive a car, bake a cake, hit a golf ball or behave on a date.

At the same time, many states have sharply reduced the number of specified academic courses students must pass to get a high school diploma. Under the prevailing "elective" system, a youth is free to decide for himself subject to whatever influence his parents or the school counselor may wield whether he will take trigonometry or tap-dancing, laboratory science or bull-sessions in "social problems."

A government survey last year showed that 14 states did not require a single course in science or mathematics for graduation. It also showed that only one high school student out of three takes chemistry, one out of four takes physics, and one out of eight takes solid geometry or trigonometry.

Language Study Impact
"Life adjustment education" has had a similar impact on language studies. In 1928, 22 per cent of all high school students were studying Latin and 25 per cent were taking a modern foreign language. Last year less than 7 per cent took Latin and less than 15 per cent took a modern language.

By contrast, all students in Russia's 10-year schools are required to study foreign languages for six years. In grades 7 through 10, which correspond to the U. S. high school, Russian students are required to take four years of higher mathematics, four years of physics and four years of chemistry.

Russia's schools are geared to the government's desires, which at present include the wholesale production of engineers and scientists. The wishes, needs and natural abilities of individual students are ruthlessly ignored. Few, if any, Americans believe this country should ape the Soviet system.

More Science Emphasis
But the Soviet achievement in rocketry have caused millions of Americans to take a close, hard look at "life adjustment" high schools. During the past year demands were heard nationwide for higher academic standards, elimination of "frill courses," and more emphasis on science, math, languages and other basic studies.

High schools are responding, some promptly, some slowly. New attention also is being given to bright students—the potential scientists, teachers and leaders of tomorrow.

Next—Where's the money coming from?

Extended Opening Set for Library In Jacksonville

Mrs. Helen Roberts, librarian, has announced an extended schedule of hours for the Jacksonville branch of the Jacksonville County Library.

The new schedule, effective Sept. 3, will be Monday, 2 to 5, and 7 to 9 p.m.; Wednesday, 2 to 5 p.m., and Friday, 2 to 5 p.m.

Addition of Wednesday and Friday afternoon hours, in place of Thursday afternoons, will make library services available an additional afternoon each week. It will also make it possible for readers to be on hand when new shipments of books are received from library headquarters, to make special requests and indicate special interests to be included in subsequent shipments, and to make an early selection from the new books included in the shipment as it is delivered.

The Friday afternoon opening also offers a convenient time for conferences between the Jacksonville librarian and members of the headquarters staff.

Registered Borrowers
During the year 1957-58, the Jacksonville Library served 63 registered borrowers with a collection of 1,484 volumes. Of these, 1,168 were received from Jacksonville County library headquarters during the year in the library's exchange and rotation plan which continually varies the selection available. Read-out books and books requiring repair or cataloging have been returned to the headquarters library in exchange for an equal number of books from the central collection. The number of books borrowed from the Jacksonville library during the year was 4,797.

Mrs. Roberts invited Jacksonville county readers to visit the Jacksonville library during the first two weeks in September, while the central library is closed for repairs.

Health Salon Observes Fifth Anniversary
Lillie's Health and Slenderizing salon, 1176 1/2 Court st., is observing the fifth anniversary of opening on Sept. 5-6. Mrs. James R. Lillie, operator of the salon, said that open house will be held those days in observance of the anniversary, and anyone interested is invited to call.

Mrs. Lillie features a reducing program for her clients, and points out that overweight is one of the main health problems of this nation.



AWAITING DECISION—Jefferson Thomas (left) one of the nine Negro students who last year integrated Central High school in Little Rock, Ark., listens as his father, Ellis Thomas, helps on one of his study problems. The Little Rock school board, faced with a warning by Gov. Orval Faubus that integration will bring bloodshed, decided to open the school Sept. 15.

Rescuers Reach Girl on Rainier

Longmire, Wash.—(UPI)—Naydene Nutley, a 20-year-old Yakima girl who has been stranded on Mount Rainier since Monday night will be brought down today by a five-man rescue team.

Two of the rescuers, Dick McGowan and Gil Blynn reached the girl at 8:55 p.m.

Beebe Farms Wins Three Ribbons

Beebe Farms of Central Point won three ribbons at the Oregon State fair for vegetable displays.

In the educational division, Beebe Farms won a ribbon for its display of a casaba melon. The Farms also won for its eggplant and banana squash.

Herman Kamping of Medford displayed winning sweet Spanish onions and potatoes; Mrs. Olen Poe, Talent, exhibited winning onions, and Robert Bitterling, Eagle Point, displayed prize winning pimento or hot peppers.

Korea has a 24-letter alphabet.

Miss America Beauties Compare Notes; Make Young Airman 'Squirm'

Atlantic City, N. J.—(UPI)—Two of the prettiest girls in the Miss America contest brought a handsome young airman down to earth with a jolt today.

They let it be known that he has been living in a sort of captain's paradise by courtship of them both under the noses of their Air Force officer fathers.

Sandra Lee Jennings, 18, Miss California, and Joanne Lucille MacDonald, 20, Miss Iowa, said they really have quite a bit in common, including the fact they both still like the guy.

Not only does Sandy have Air Cadet E. D. Hopkins' Air Academy class pin and Joanne his identity bracelet, but—

Both of the girls are shapely, green-eyed brunettes, with almost identical measurements.

As for Hopkins, a student at the new academy at Colorado Springs, Colo., well, he was surprised.

Sandy, daughter of Maj. and Mrs. A. M. Jennings, Riverside, Calif., and Jo, daughter of Col. and Mrs. G. C. MacDonald, now living at Elgin Air Force Base, Fla., discovered their mutual romance during a casual conversation Sunday night.

A Friendly Chat
The girls were sitting around at a New York television studio waiting to ap-

pear on the Ed Sullivan show. Jo knew Sandy was from an Air Force family and sought her out. They began talking about Air Force friends, and the first thing they knew, out came the name of tall, dark and handsome Hopkins.

It did not take them long to analyze the situation, and within a few minutes, they were on the long distance telephone, talking to Hopkins.

"I asked him, 'Did you think Sandra and I would never meet each other?'" Joanne said. "He said, 'I knew it was inevitable.'" "I probably won't see him again."

Miss California has not decided whether she will return Hopkins wings or not. But she said she wanted to make it clear she is not engaged to him, and is not planning to marry him.

Father Is Amused
"Many people think pinning is the same as being engaged," she said, "but it isn't, honor bright. Please don't make anything of it. The wings didn't mean I was in any way obligated or engaged or anything like that. They were just a token of friendship."

Joy's father, an Air Force engineer, reached at his home in Shalimar, Fla., thought the whole incident was very funny.

"Joanne said she and Miss California got to talking and

and they met at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio.

Miss California said she met him only last June when he was on temporary duty at March Air Force Base, Calif., near Riverside.

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