



## Parents Are One of Motivating Forces In Child's Outlook

Corvallis - By their attitudes and actions, parents are rated as one of the major motivating forces when it comes to encouraging youths to continue their formal education.

Teachers, relatives and friends are an influence - but parental encouragement ranks higher, according to Mrs. Roberta Frasier, Oregon State college extension specialist.

And, she continued, the earlier parents set out to create a good "image" of education the more deeply the child is impressed with its values.

At present, she said, nearly a third of the qualified youth in Oregon do not go on to college, partly due to a lack of motivation.

What can parents do to encourage youngsters to look favorably on high school, vocational training or college?

First, create a healthy respect for schools and their teachers, she said. Adults who poke fun at "intellectualism" and coin such expressions as "eggheads" are showing disrespect for education and its benefits.

Mrs. Frasier noted that youngsters' attitudes are created in the preschool year, and throughout their lives they adopt parents' feelings and attitudes without realizing it. In addition to creating a favorable climate for "educational awareness," parents can also keep up-to-date on the advantages of education.

"The more you learn, the more you earn" is true today. Increased earnings are a benefit of education, the family life specialist said. When young people start to work,

their level of education may make little difference in the wages they receive. But over a lifetime, differences in total earnings may vary greatly, Mrs. Frasier said.

It's estimated that under 1950 conditions a 25-year-old college graduate could expect a future income of about \$260,000, compared with \$155,000 for a high school graduate, and \$110,000 for a person who completed only the eighth grade.

Surveys show that there are fewer divorces and happier marriages among college educated couples than among those with less education, Mrs. Frasier noted.

Youths with college educations also enjoy widest choice in selecting a career. Young people who drop out of school early are likely to have only a limited choice of jobs and are likely to settle down as laborers, clerks, operators, or service workers. These jobs will be harder to come by in the future as technology decreases demands for kinds of jobs that require little education, Mrs. Frasier added.

Of course, she continued, not all youths should go on to college. But she and other educators rate brain-power as one of our main natural resources - and feel it should be developed more.

Youths unable to make use of college education should prepare for some kind of vocation, however, she continued. The poorly-trained individual with limited education is finding it tougher to find satisfactory employment. And, in bad times, she noted, he's the first to be unemployed.

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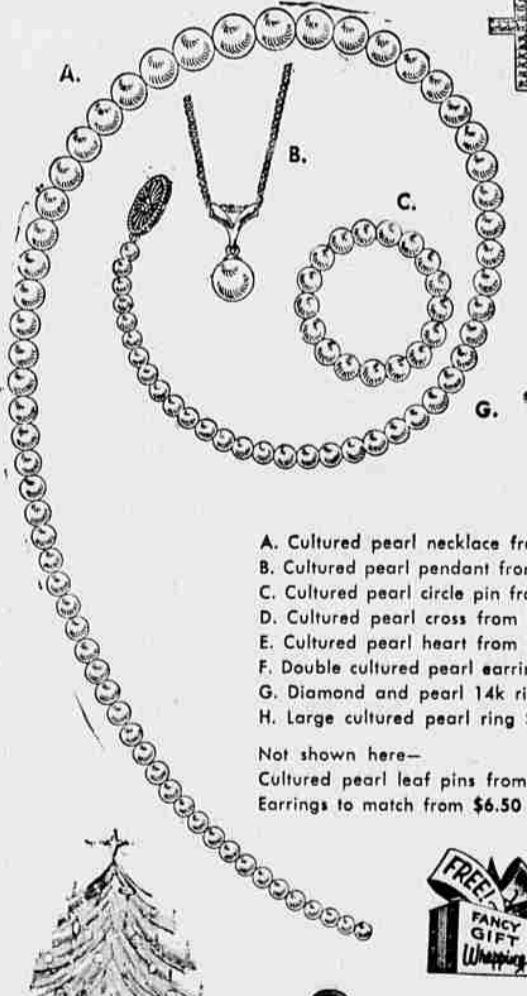







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