

Educator Believes Schools Fail To Teach Children To Think

By LAWRENCE R. WERNER
United Press International
Pittsburgh — "I'm not worried about why Johnny can't read or spell as well as Ivan, but why Johnny can't think."

That, in a nutshell, is what a Duquesne university professor believes is the failing of

American education — Johnny never learned to think.

Dr. Helena A. Miller believes the answer is a complete overhaul of the U. S. educational system from preschool through the college level. She's on the brink of taking a nine-month sabbatical to finalize her proposals for

such an educational reformation and, hopefully, to put it to practice in a pilot school.

"When I have to drill six weeks of fundamentals into college students before we can proceed with two weeks of reasoning, it proves that they did not obtain the knowledge they should have acquired in the lower levels of schooling," according to Dr. Miller, an educator for 27 years.

For instance, instead of teaching him to read and write in the conventional manner, the child is allowed to feel letters, geometric designs etc. until they become so familiar the youngster begins tracing them in sand, on a blackboard or tablet or in some other manner, discovering eventually that he is making

letters. Carried further, the discovery leads to words and sentences.

Dr. Miller contends this type of "learning by discovery" is unlimited because of the natural curiosity and desire of pre-adolescent children and permits them to enjoy the learning process.

In the elementary stage, which she sets at from ages 5-13, Dr. Miller plans to have students continue their own discovery, but more under the guidance of a teacher. At this level, she also would employ a system similar in some respects to team teaching, a method now used in the Pittsburgh public schools, to give a wider scope to her plan by allowing college-level instructors to work with and advise elementary educators.

Other cultures when they are young will help pupils identify with them, nipping future distrust and hatred before it gets started.

In the secondary phase, children would spend more time on things that have to do with relationships, giving them time to organize the data and knowledge assembled in earlier periods.

The tertiary, or college stage, would deal with the abstraction and testing of the knowledge absorbed in the other stages.

An Ungraded System

"I would employ an ungraded system which would allow the student to advance as far as desired in any given subject," she explained. "But I would not allow him to pass a given point in any subject without progressing at a reasonable rate in related subjects."

By the time the student was able to project abstractions into the future, to develop theories, he would be ready for college, Dr. Miller believes.

Dr. Miller, a Phi Beta Kappa who received her Ph. D. in biology at Radcliffe college and Harvard university in 1945, has been teaching at Duquesne since 1948. Her dossier reads like a who's who in education, but she is a modest and unassuming educator with an unwavering faith in the potential of education to perpetuate into adulthood the "tremendous conception of beauty, love and happiness" possessed by children.

Dr. Miller visited Washington recently to discuss her ideas with officials of the U. S. office of education. She is hopeful of receiving a federal grant to put a pilot school into operation.

Without such funds, her problem will be to find dedicated teachers "willing to live on faith instead of food" in an effort to prove out the theory.

"One difficulty in setting up the pilot school is that it would take about 20 years before the cycle was completed with the college level," she said. "But I believe once I get the pilot school set-up, the advances will be so fast and marked that others will pick it up within two or three years."

Possess Seventh Sense

Inherent in her drive for establishing a new educational system is a belief that youngsters possess a heretofore undeveloped "seventh" sense which may be drawn out by her teaching method. "It's evident in some gifted children," she said. "I'm not sure what it is, but I'm convinced it exists, and perhaps we will uncover it in this system."

"I have talked to college presidents and educators throughout the country," she said. "They all have encouraged me in my theory."

Dr. Miller believes her curriculum will meet the needs of all students, including future scientists, statesmen, authors and industrialists.

"It will be a welcome contrast to a system where a student never learns to use more than a small fraction of his capacity for learning — say about 10 per cent," said Dr. Miller.

Worth of Address Of Area Residents Depends on Position

How much is the name and address of a Jackson county resident worth? On a mailing list—plenty.

Just how much depends on his position, economically and otherwise. If he is wealthy and is thereby a good prospect for a cabin cruiser or for membership in an exclusive club, his name is worth quite a bit.

However, if his name is a readily-obtainable one, as is the case with school teachers, doctors, lawyers and the like,

or if his buying power is low, it brings less.

There are about 250 firms that compile such lists and lease them or sell them to companies that wish to approach prospects by mail or by direct solicitation, either in person or by telephone.

The price may range anywhere from 1 cent per name to as much as \$1 for each time it is used.

The majority of Jackson county residents are on a number of such lists, as is evident from the amount of letters they receive from all sorts of organizations.

A total of 2,327 of them, for instance, are on lists that contain the names and addresses of local families with incomes over \$10,000 a year.

Among those who purchase and use such lists are resort operators and automobile dealers who handle expensive types of cars.

List May Be Limited

On the other hand, a book publisher with a special edition of Shakespeare's works may want to limit his approach to college graduates. A listing of this group would yield 3,319 names in Jackson county.

There are 1,791 men in the county who are within 1 to 5 years of retirement age of 65. Travel agents, realtors and others are interested in just such people. They are willing to pay for a list of them.

Companies dealing in baby products, laundry services and beauty-care preparations may feel that married women in the 25 to 34 age category are their most likely prospects. They would want the names of those in the local area.

Many other specialized lists are prepared for firms that want to aim at specific targets with their products and services. Among them are lists of recent brides, new home owners and two-car families.

Memorial Asks Speed In Timber Salvage

Salem—UPI—A memorial urging Congress to order specific steps to speed the salvage of windfall timber cleared the Oregon legislature Friday.

Portland—UPI—Three Klamath Indians have appealed a U. S. District Court ruling which upheld the placing in trust of their shares of Klamath Termination Act funds.

Rabbi Rosenthal To Speak at SOC Next Wednesday

Ashland — Rabbi Richard Rosenthal of Temple Beth El in Tacoma, Wash., will represent the Jewish Chautauqua society as lecturer at Southern Oregon college, Ashland, Wednesday, Feb. 20.

He will speak at the 10 a.m. assembly in Churchill hall on "Monologues and Dialogues."

Rabbi Rosenthal lectures on college of the Jewish Chautauqua society, an organization which creates better understanding of Jews and Judaism through education.

Keynote Speaker

Rabbi Rosenthal also will be keynote speaker for Religious Emphasis Week at Southern Oregon college, Feb. 20-22. Jack Hennen and Doug Olsen, Eugene, co-chairmen, have announced.

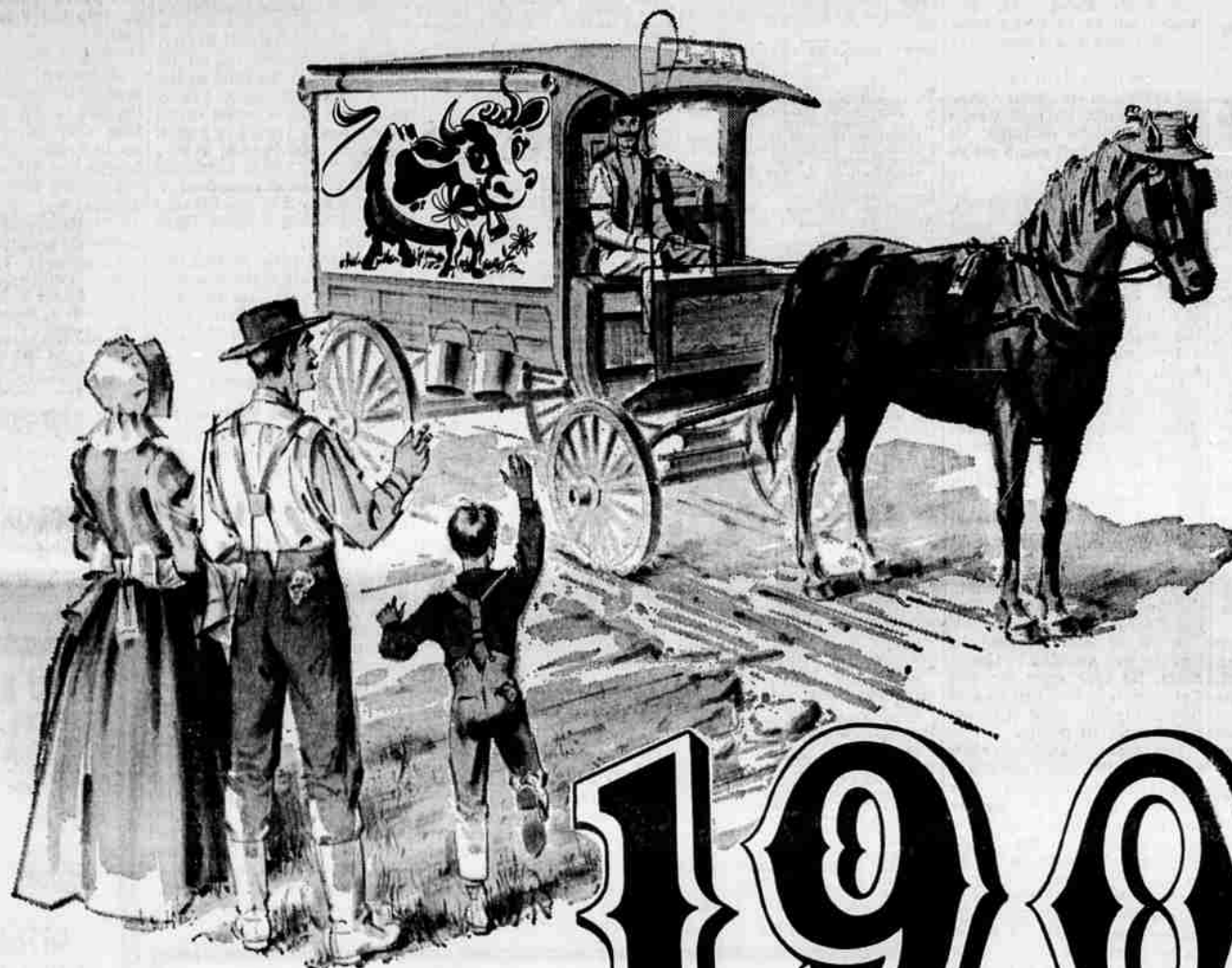
At 4 p.m. Wednesday there will be a coffee hour at which time he will talk on the Jewish faith.

Among guests who plan to attend will be Mr. and Mrs. Bud Hinkson. Hinkson is a former University of Oregon student body president and is now northwest representative of the Campus Crusade, a national religious organization which includes members of many faiths and creeds who work together to promote an interest in religious activities in colleges and universities.

Mrs. Hinkson, who has served as a national representative for Campus Crusade, will speak at a Girl's Tea at 4 p.m. Thursday. The Hinksons also will talk to dormitory students.



DR. HELENA A. MILLER Proposes Education Change



1904

This month we're observing our 59th Birthday, here at Snider's. It's the anniversary of Oregon's oldest licensed dairy, operated by the same family since 1904. We've taken a bit of license in the picture above, depicting one of Snider's milk wagons soon after the turn of the century. Actually, Little Daisy wasn't in existence in those days. She was born but a few years ago and, strange as it may seem, hasn't changed a bit in appearance.

Medford was quite a town when Snider's Dairy was established. The Medford Daily Tribune carried advertisements of Iowa Box and Lumber Company selling cement for \$5.00 a barrel, the young blades of those days gathered at Russell's Confectionery, and the Condor Water & Power Company of Tolo informed southern Oregonians that their firm operated substations in Medford, Jacksonville, Gold Ray, Central Point, Woodville and Grants Pass.

Just after Snider's Milk became popular with the few Medford residents of more than a half-century ago, J. F. Reddy launched his promotion of the Blue Ledge Copper Mine, the 4-Paw & Sells Bros. "enormous shows united" brought their circus to the Rogue River Valley and Uncle Josh and his Hayseed Band delighted enthusiastic crowds at the Davis Opera House. The Nash Hotel was the center of "city" life, and folks who came to town parked their horses and buggies at the Nash Livery Stable.

And so, it went, down through the years, with Snider's expanding its services and facilities as the Rogue River Valley and Medford progressed. All of us, here at Snider's, are proud of Medford today and proud to have shared in the growth of this fine community.

And to you, our neighbors and friends of many years and recent months, we pledge our continued efforts to please you with the quality of our products and excellence of our service during the next 59 years!

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