

School Dropout Rate Declared Serious Problem

By GAY PAULEY
UPI Women's Editor
New York - AP - One mil-

lion of those teenagers who will enroll in high school this fall will never be graduated. The decade of the 1960's alone is expected to produce 7.5 million school dropouts. Dropouts are everywhere.

Gay Pauley, one of the nation's leading writers on the subject, says America cares enough about its schools to invest in preventive programs, taxpayers will be paying more heavily than ever for the treatment of delinquents, the support to unemployables, and the care of those who sink into a state in which they cannot fend for themselves.

Mrs. Edith G. Neisser, Chicago, a free-lance writer on family relations and child guidance, discusses the numbers, the causes and the prevention of this mass exodus from school in the newest publication of the Public Affairs committee, a non-profit educational organization founded in 1935. (The title of the work published today: "School Failures and Dropouts," prepared in cooperation with the American Personnel and Guidance association.)

Nationally, she said, more than 30 per cent of students leave school before graduation.

High In South
In Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi and Kentucky, the rate is about 50 per cent. "But considering that New Jersey and Massachusetts have cut their dropout rate to 26 per cent, Minnesota to 21 per cent, California to 20, and Wisconsin to 18, one cannot dismiss the higher rates as inevitable," she said.

"Since at least one fifth of these early leavers have marked mental ability, a shoulder-shrugging 'good riddance' is not the answer either."

Mrs. Neisser says dropouts mean that we are sending into the labor market an ever-increasing number of unskilled workers, while jobs for the unskilled are decreasing sharply because of automation, mechanization and scientific advances.

She said the unemployment rate among dropouts is dou-

ble that of the general population, they are out of work longer, dropouts are the hard core of those who do the most menial and routine tasks year after year, and finally, 85 per cent of the relief clients — to take Cook County, Ill., as an example — have not completed high schools.

Mrs. Neisser said leaving school is nearly always a symptom or symbol of a problem which has been building over a long period.

"The way to dropping out is paved with failures," she wrote.

Reading Problems
Particularly significant is failure to learn to read; three times as many poor readers as good ones drop out.

Other causes:
— Family instability and the shifting population of big-city slums, where 75 to 80 per cent of the high school boys and girls are "disadvantaged Negroes, Puerto Ricans,

Catholic Daughters, Knights of Columbus Plan Picnic Today

Catholic Daughters of America, Court St. Mary, and Knights of Columbus will sponsor the annual family picnic today at Jackson Hot Springs. Activities will begin at noon.

Mrs. George Davy, grand regent, 123 Lincoln street, was hostess for an informal yard party for Catholic members and friends, recently. Helping Mrs. Davy were Mrs. Clement Joyer, Mrs. Elie Nougier, Mrs. Harvey Humphrey and Mrs. Bert Buffington. Entertainment included card games with Mrs. Richard Pruitt in charge of prizes.

Siskiyou District To Hold Session

Siskiyou district of the Oregon Federation of Garden clubs will hold an executive board and officers meetings at the Jackson county courthouse auditorium from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Thursday, August 22.

The executive board meeting will be in the morning and the officers' training session in the afternoon.

Those attending are asked to bring a sack lunch and their own drink.

Mexicans, or southern white mountain people."
— "Socially inherited" dropouts where the child's parents have had a scant education. A survey made in Iowa showed 70 per cent of the early leavers had fathers who did not finish high school.

— "A consuming desire for ready money for dates or a car... an inability to keep up with the Joneses, buy the school ring, pay the class dues, purchase the tickets for games and proms that student public opinion demands."

— Entering the armed services, being needed at home, or having been expelled from school, although the percentages in these categories are extremely low.

Up To Parents

What can be done? Parents, schools and the community all must take action, says Mrs. Neisser. She said parents could help set up resistance to leaving school by dosing the children with "emotional vitamins" — self-confidence and self-respect, and by providing a home atmosphere "where allowances are made for individual strengths and weaknesses."

Encourage rather than punish, she advised parents. Not to be used is the approach, "why don't you bring home decent grades the way your sister or your cousin or the girl next door does?"

Mrs. Neisser said many cities have set up programs, often starting in the early grades, to spot unusual ability and to reach those who are not making progress with their studies. And in communities from Rhode Island to California, plans to keep young people in school include work-study combinations which start in junior high or high school.

"Often it happens that at work a youngster for the first time sees why it is important to be able to read, to spell, to do arithmetic, and to write a paragraph correctly," she said.

From Riverside

Ashland — Miss Jeannette Smith, Riverside, Calif., is visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Frank Davis, 67 Scenic drive, enjoying the Shakespearean festival events and renewing acquaintances with friends she knew while on the faculty of Southern Oregon college.



These five women who grew up together in Blair, Nebr., were together recently for the first time in 50 years. They held a reunion at the home of Mrs. Fred Rankin, 18 Richmond avenue, Medford. Shown as they talked together before dinner one evening are (left to right) Mrs. John Raitt, Paso Robles, Calif.; Mrs. Ethel Stewart, Seattle, Wash.; Mrs. Harley Dickey, Yakima, Wash.; Mrs. Rankin and Mrs. Frank De Temple, San Diego, Calif.

Five Former Nebraskans Meet After Fifty Years

Five women who grew up together, living a few blocks from each other in Blair, Nebr., where they were childhood, school and college friends, were together for the first time in 50 years recently in Medford.

They met at the home of Mrs. Fred Rankin, 18 Richmond avenue. Attending were Mrs. John Raitt, Paso Robles, Calif., a retired teacher; Miss Ethel Stewart, Omaha, Nebr., who spent the summer in Seattle, also a retired teacher; Mrs. Harley Dickey, Yakima, and Mrs. Frank De Temple, San Diego.

Others present were Robert Raitt, who with his mother are en route in Alaska, and Mr. Dickey, Mr. De Temple, also from Blair, was unable

Townsend Club To Make Plans For Meeting

Plans to attend a Fourth district council meeting Sunday, September 8 at Cottage Grove, will be made at the next meeting of the Mt. Pitt chapter, Townsend club, Thursday, August 22.

The meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Charles Humphrey, 429 South Grape street, Medford. A potluck luncheon will be served at 12 noon.

Mt. Pitt chapter will observe Founders day, September 30.

Yreka Pythians Meet At Robinson Home

Yreka — Pythian Sisters held their outdoor meeting recently in the garden of the Jim Robinson home, Lange way.

After a meeting at the IOOF hall, the Knights of Pythias joined them for refreshments.

Chairman of the refreshment committee was Mrs. Jim Robinson, assisted by Mrs. Wayne Ralston and Mrs. Clarence Robinson.

The next meeting is scheduled at the Orlo Davis home in Little Shasta.

Riverside Bridge Club Scores Told

Twenty-eight players competed in the Riverside Bridge club play recently.

In the north-south position, Mrs. J. J. Dougherty and A. Gilhouse were first with 93 points. Mrs. B. B. Hughes and Mrs. Glen Fabrick were second with 86 points, and Mrs. George B. Dean and Mrs. Del Clifford were third, 85½ points.

Winning first in the east-west position were Mrs. R. C. Smoot and Mrs. G. B. Torgerson with 95 points, second were Mrs. A. K. Trout and R. T. Meegan, 88½ points, and third, Mrs. B. L. Marten and James Morgan, 88 points.

Benefit Club Sets Picnic Date

Security Benefit club members will meet Sunday, August 25 at noon at TouVelle park, for a family picnic. Members are asked to obtain their tickets for the event.

Sixty members and guests met for luncheon and dancing at the Pythian hall last week.

Members are reminded to give the name of their beneficiary to the membership chairman, James Bishop.

The club meets on Wednesdays at the Pythian hall from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. with lunch at 12 noon. Any person interested is invited.

California Family Leaves

O'Brien — Mrs. Charles A. Clark and children, San Diego, Calif., left recently after a visit with Mrs. Clark's parents, Mr. and Mrs. David Wilson, Shadowcroft lake.

The Clark children, Shelley and Melinda, had spent two weeks with their grandparents, during which time they visited the Kerbyville museum, Lake Selma and the Oregon caves.

Relatives Visit Talent Home

Talent — Mr. and Mrs. Loaland Britton and nephew, and Mrs. Prudence Stuttsford and her aunt, Mrs. Bessie Clawson, all Fresno, Calif., are guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Granvil Britton.

Mr. Loaland Britton and Mrs. Stuttsford are Mr. Granvil Britton's brother and sister.

Many Visitors At Barnes' Home

O'Brien — Guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Barnes, Lone Mountain road, this week were Mrs. Barnes' son, Harold Smedley, his wife and children, Timmy and Tammy, Sacramento.

Fay West, Mrs. Barnes' father, Sacramento, Mrs. Irene Win and Warren Win, Galt, Calif., Mrs. Bert Vipond and children, Crescent City, were also among the visitors at the Barnes' home.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman West, Sacramento, Mrs. Barnes' brother and sister-in-law, were also recent guests of Mr. and Mrs. Barnes.

Arrive

Talent — Mr. and Mrs. Ray Taylor, Bishop, Calif., have arrived to visit Mr. Taylor's parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Taylor, his brother and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Taylor, Talent, and the couple's daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Don Coghill and children, Ashland, same date.

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