

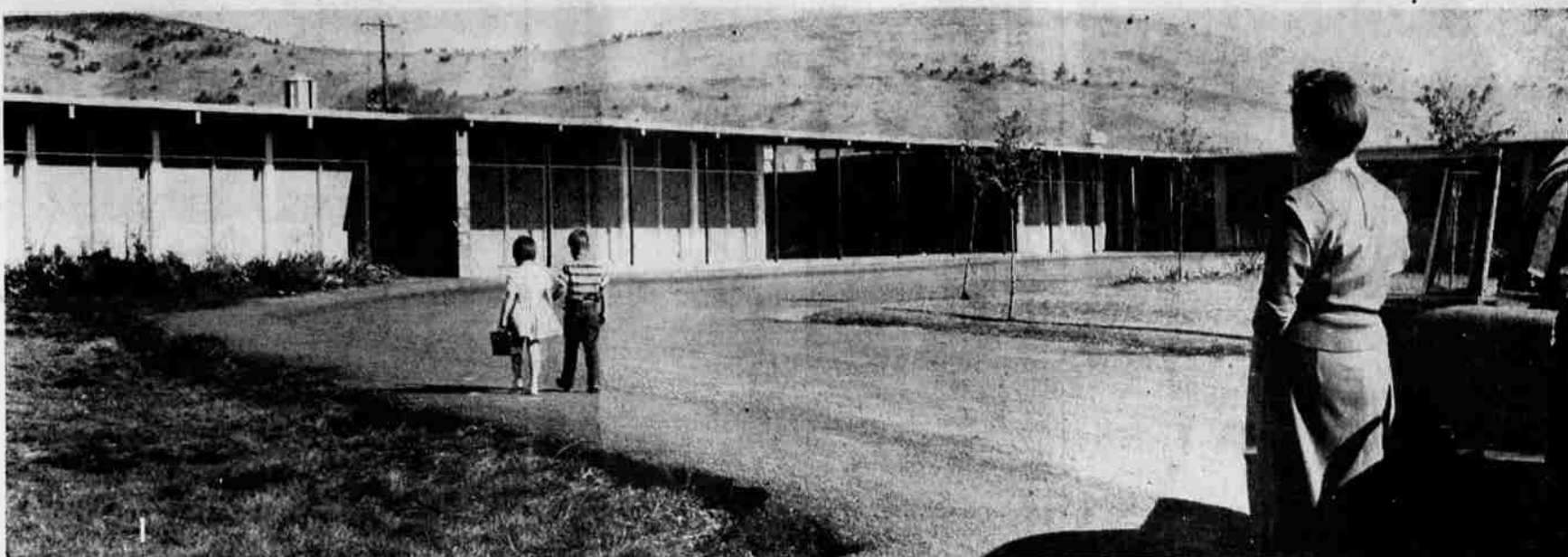
Society

By Helen Bechen

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American Education Week — November 8-14



"What Is First Grade?"

FIRST GRADE is a new and very different world. Six year olds enter timidly, because it is a world of faces they do not know and their mothers cannot stay with them. Mrs. Marvin Newell, Lakeview Highway, seems to feel some anxiety as she watches her small daughter, Janis, and Terry Angel venture forth into a different world as the children enter Mrs. Bevans' first grade at Twyla Ferguson School. (1)

FIRST GRADE is listening, fascinated, as they venture through the magic doors of storyland. Mrs. Reva Snell's first grade, Ponderosa School. (2)

FIRST GRADE is finding warmth and understanding in the person who, for several hours each day, takes the place of their mothers in solving their little problems and mishaps. At Twyla Ferguson School, Kathy Thomas has complete confidence that her teacher, Mrs. Annabell Colt, can clean that jam right off her dress. (3)

FIRST GRADE is the joy of discovering that they can understand and appreciate the things their teacher explains. Mrs. Irma Wood, Ponderosa, points out some facts about the lizard in the bowl to its owner, Kent Karrer, and Linda Hawk and Diana Richardson. (4)

FIRST GRADE is the good smell of lunch. It is making new friends, and particularly liking the girl sitting next, because she has a nice face and is generous with her cake. Twyla Ferguson first graders, Kay Dow, Candy Dillavou and Beth Cooley, from Mrs. Lucy Fairchild's room, enjoy lunch time. (5)

FIRST GRADE is the struggling with zippers, and in winter, boots and scarves and mittens, and being afraid that they'll barely get outside before the bell rings to come in. Mrs. Carol Whetstone, Ponderosa, assists Brent Crowell with a stubborn zipper. (6)

FIRST GRADE is enjoying attention when they skin a knee and their teacher makes it better. Candace Weinstein doesn't mind a bit as her teacher, Mrs. Mildred Bricker, Shasta School, applies a bandaid. (7)

FIRST GRADE is standing at the blackboard and trying very hard to make their printing the neatest. At Ponderosa School Mrs. Mary Ann Perlstein guides Kenneth Williams as Ellen Lewis looks on. (8)

FIRST GRADE is exploring such new things as the drinking fountain in the hall. Mrs. Mary Puter of Shasta watches that David Mitchell doesn't get a shower in the face. (9)

FIRST GRADE is playing and working hard before the welcome rest time — more fun on a rug than the familiar bed at home. Colette DeWitt is a first grader at Shasta School. (10)

FIRST GRADE is all of these, but much more! It is an assembly of the far tomorrow's doctors, nurses, lawyers, fathers, mothers and citizens of all trades. It is the bottom rung of the ladder for today's assembly of eager, scrubbed faces and toothless smiles, the first step toward the future which so hopefully belongs to them.

— Photos by Guderian