

Six-Year-Old Youngsters Take Monumental Step

Editor's Note: This is the second in a series of articles examining the education field during National Education Week.

By NORM CARDOZA

The 6-year-old youngster in Klamath County and elsewhere has hit a momentous landmark in his voyage toward becoming a useful citizen of a democratic society.

He has entered school. Long years will pass before his mind can reason seriously enough to contribute substantially to the democratic process.

Primary students, including those in grades one through three are not ready for that kind of training.

Primary graders first must be taught simply to adjust to attending school. The step from home to school is a crucial one.

It is the step that first carries them toward independence. Youngsters learn to live in an orderly society of fellow students controlled by a supreme dictator—the teacher.

The strain is severe and they show it. Many lament, and gnash their teeth for a while. But they adjust quickly. Those with kindergarten training have a slight jump on those stepping cold into school.

At that age, generally, attention span is very short, recesses frequent. The play periods serve an important first formal educative process. Children, through dynamic games, get muscular coordination training and their first contact with physical sports.

Their young memories are unable to retain facts very well, so there's no hurry to press them forward sophistication. What they learn now is supremely important to how they will learn later, so the wise teacher is patient.

Learning to read takes most of the primary student's school time. Even there, the well-trained teacher first conditions the child.

Eyes are moved by muscles, and these must be taught to move from left to right and downward from line to line of a written page.

Simultaneously, with ultra-simple words and lines, children learn to associate words with sounds and pictures. Some incredible students may begin to connect familiar syllables together into longer words within six weeks. Then they really are learning to "read."

Almost coincidentally, to give pupils variety and more background, the teacher introduces the correct look and sound of numbers to 10. And children learn to count—no mean feat, considering some not-so-primitive cultures could not and cannot.

A variety of other subjects are introduced subtly. Youngsters bring frogs, rocks, leaves, other objects to school at teacher's request to introduce science.

With them they also bring a surprisingly clear record of home life which the skillful teacher gathers and interprets. Early correction of insecure feelings, made obvious by a child's various unconscious actions, can mean the difference between a good student later and



FIRST GRADERS at Orson Stearns School, a county district unit, are supervised carefully by their teacher, Mrs. Kenneth Marsh, one of many in Klamath Falls and Klamath County finely groomed for the ticklish job of introducing children to school.

a bad one. Primary teachers in particular receive long training to gauge and direct the molding personality. Incidentally, they try to pump into each an indication of sacrifices individuals must make in the interest of society.

Through constant encouragement, youngsters pick up manners and morals and sound habits.

Teacher, attempting to "socialize" students also are quick to recognize and develop desirable individuality and initiative. Conscientious educators leave written vignettes of each pupil for teachers of subsequent classes all through the child's stay in school. The youngsters, meanwhile,

moving up the grade scale, get more and more in grades two and three of the same he learned in the first. In fact he does a considerable amount of "unlearning" and must learn over and over again until by sheer repetition impressions are planted like Roman numerals in marble.

Socially, by the time a student reaches the third grade he is comfortable in school. He has learned to read fairly well. His coordination is improved. His singular interests are emerging. He is able to count to high numbers. He is maturing rapidly.

Therefore, he gets his first formal lessons in sociology. He learns of the individual's place in the family, in the school, in the community. He begins to learn.

too, simple arithmetic calculations. Spelling gets tougher. "Script" writing is introduced. Simple written compositions are assigned, and more.

Then the child is ready to tackle a new realm of learning... in the intermediate grade area where team sports are popular and so are pretty teachers.

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Cow Belles Slate Meets

The Oregon Cow Belles will hold their annual fall sessions in conjunction with the Oregon Cattle-men's Association's annual convention in Portland, according to Mrs. Don Johnson, president of Klamath County Cow Belles.

The convention will be held Wednesday through Friday with headquarters at the Multnomah Hotel.

The general business meeting will commence at 1:15 p.m. on Wednesday.

The state Cow Belle Luncheon will be held at the new Sheraton Hotel at 1 p.m. on Thursday. Buses from both the Imperial and Multnomah hotels will be available.

Friday morning will be the Presidents Breakfast at 8:30 in the Multnomah for all county Cow Belle presidents. Each will be asked to give a three-minute report on her county's activity. They

Maryland's Act of Religious Toleration, adopted in 1649, was a forerunner of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

may be accompanied by their secretaries. The annual banquet will be for all stockmen and their wives regardless of whether the wives are members of the Cow Belles.

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Cancer Drug Views Told

WASHINGTON (AP) — A government doctor has toned down a somewhat optimistic statement he made earlier about a new antibiotic drug that may be useful against cancer.

Dr. Henry Welch of the Food and Drug Administration Friday modified a statement he made Wednesday at a symposium on antibiotics. At that time he said the drug streptogramin looks more promising than other antibiotics as a possible agent against cancer.

This appraisal, he said, was made "on the basis of animal experiments and limited clinical trials" reported to him by the company that developed the drug, Chas. Pfizer & Sons.

Friday, Welch told the conference he later was advised "that the compound is one of the most interesting of the new compounds in animal tumor work but that the clinical trials are just commencing and it is not known whether it will be effective in humans."

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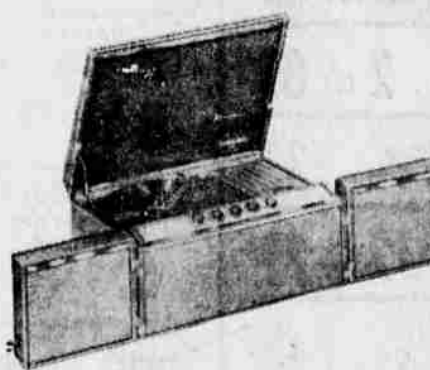
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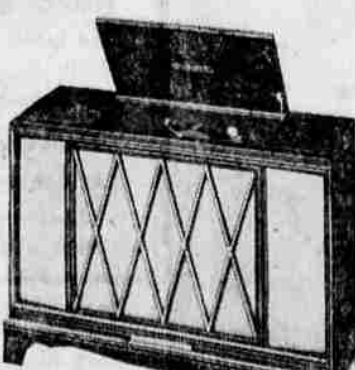
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