

High Schools In County Try To Better Courses

By NORM CARDOZA [and anti-Deweymen in education] school level. The battle between Deweymen, rages most violently at the high Deweymen, briefly, are those



SCHOOLING comes in big doses to students of chemistry teacher Earl Graham, left, at Henley High School. They're producing oxygen here. Graham is perfect for the job. He previously was an industrial chemist. He is indicative of the caliber of local instructors.



FOOLING around like this makes high school attractive to fun-loving teen-agers who learn a lot, besides, from such self-planned activities as this student initiation which rocked Henley High School's halls last week. These girls, barely recognizable, from left are Sharon Shilts, Martha Ragland and Dorothy Pryor.

who believe schools should be tailored to the student. Anti-Deweymen are their antithesis. Conviction on both sides is steadfast, so educators in Klamath County, at least, have compromised.

John Dewey, an educator and philosopher, early this century wrote reams of material condemning formalism in schools.

DEWEY ASKED for relaxed discipline, "life adjustment" courses, and a variety of stimulating experiences in the school. He got them, beginning about 1905 and thereafter. However, the pendulum swings in the conservative direction, lately, particularly since the "spitnik" scare, say school officials.

Frill courses across the country have been trimmed, and more "heavy" courses have been introduced. Schools in Klamath County always have stepped cautiously in that respect. Thus, they find themselves with few adjustments to make in view of recent demands made of public schools.

Rather, they concentrate on improving courses traditionally taught. Klamath Union High School this year, for instance, introduced a new "three track" mathematics program expected to allow superior math students to progress at top speed and less apt pupils to get a good math grounding within capability without slowing down top students.

Earl Graham, a topnotch teacher of chemistry and physics at Henley High School, has racked up a stellar record. Several of his former students have gone on to careers in science. One, a student at the University of Oregon, recently received a National Science Foundation scholarship for promising undergraduate science students.

GRAHAM THIS year is bringing three exceptional chemistry students along in his spare time. The youngsters as well as their teacher get no credit for extra work. They do it purely for self-satisfaction. One is working with apparatus for bombarding seeds with electrons to find if such radiation affects germination. The other two also are working on special projects.

Henley High School is run in the best traditional style. Students come early and leave late. They take old-fashioned high school subjects.

Facilities there are adequate but not ultra-modern. The curriculum is not cluttered with driver training or problems of social adjustment. But Henley High School students for the past several years have scored far over the national

academic average as judged by the Iowa Educational Development achievement test.

Other county and city schools also score high on the test.

The answer, says Principal George Elliott, is in the teacher. Local schools spend all summer picking faculty members. They hire with caution.

Henley High School students do get lessons in social problems but they are taught incidentally in biology, homemaking and other classes.

INDIVIDUAL HIGH SCHOOLS are relatively new to the public education process. They became

popular from 1910 through 1922. And they, like Dewey's theories, have frequently been lambasted.

They exist because educators believe youngsters should get a taste of more subjects than the hard, cold "Three Rs." The system gives students a sample of the college system. And with technology burgeoning this century students need to learn elements of skills as well as to prepare for higher education.

Despite pros and cons, high schools do work, say authorities. Tests prove young adults read, write, spell, think better and know a lot more than those of like age did in 1920.

Elliott at Henley is grateful for the elementary system in the county, too. He says training children get in lower grades reflects positively in work they do in high school.

A school's performance is only

as good as its administration, and administrative personnel are chosen by a neglected and mistreatment.



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