

Curriculum News and Bulletins

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WHAT'S HAPPENING curriculum-wise in your area? This column is a clearinghouse for brief news items on current curriculum developments, techniques or ideas which you or folks you know about have experienced. Won't you send along such news items as well as new curriculum bulletins which you wish to submit for evaluation and possible review to this column editor at the address above? Be assured of our sincere appreciation for your cooperation. And now for some news.

- The Alabama Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development is inaugurating district ASCD curriculum study groups, according to OTTO HOLLAWAY of Alabama Polytechnic Institute. Plans include various institutions of higher learning in the area serving as co-sponsors of such curriculum study activities. The School of Education at API has organized a curriculum laboratory which will be used along with textbooks as a resource in curriculum and supervision courses and will be available for local school use.

- FRED A. ZANNON of the Kern County California Schools tells of efforts to recoup after the earthquake which destroyed nine school buildings in Bakersfield three years ago. In order to take care of the problem of housing while the schools are being rebuilt, the superintendent has placed many classrooms on wheels and these are moved

from place to place as the situation warrants.

- According to LAVONE HANNA of San Francisco State College, a state-wide committee has been formed to review and make recommendations for a social studies program for grades kindergarten through 12. All groups interested in the social studies curriculum are represented on this California committee.

- Campbell County, Virginia, held a curriculum workshop recently following a decision by the local school board to incorporate an extra grade in the schools of the area. According to ETTA BRANDT, the workshop sponsored by the University of Virginia included principals and teachers involved in the transition from a seven-four to a seven-five educational system. A bulletin was developed outlining the purposes of the eighth grade program, the characteristics of this age group, the organization of the work, the areas of instruction to be included and suggested content and materials for each area.

- JANE FRANSETH of the U. S. Office of Education reports that new ways of appraising the effectiveness of a pre-school conference of approximately 1200 teachers were explored in Greenville County, South Carolina, last August. The purpose was to help determine the progress which the teachers are making in meeting the needs of boys and girls and in working together

toward accomplishment of common goals. Among the ways used to collect data were (a) one person in each of 65 study groups recorded what he heard or observed during a thirty minute period in each of three sessions, (b) a roving observer recorded what he heard or observed during short visits to approximately thirty-five groups. These reports were studied to find recurring patterns of practice in the conference. Two recurring patterns were that (a) discussions in most groups were centered around problems suggested by the group members; and (b) scientific evidence was frequently used in solving problems.

- Two Indiana supervisors have recently tried methods of passing from one teacher to another interesting bits of information on curriculum materials or room management. DAISY M. JONES of Richmond circulated periodically a sheet entitled "Ideas for Sharing." The ideas collected from teachers dealt with parent-teacher-child relationships, room arrangement, or other curriculum ideas. They were short, often diagrammed or illustrated, and were unsigned. NELLIE C. MORRISON of Muncie used a similar idea entitled "This Was Good Teaching." Concise descriptions of a bit of teaching were followed by the question, "Why was this good teaching?" Several reasons were given for its being considered outstanding. In both instances, teachers were invited to point out contributions which could be made to the two columns.

- The Illinois ASCD began a series of "Drive-In Conferences" last year, reports PAULINE HOLT of the Riverside

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Public Schools. Two were held with county superintendents taking the lead in calling the conferences and setting up particular curriculum needs of the area. Several other conferences are being organized for this school year.

- A questionnaire entitled *What Do You Think of Our Schools?* has been developed by the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Allentown, Pennsylvania, Public Schools, according to PAUL J. FINK. It is hoped that returns from the questionnaire will aid school people in building and improving the curriculum so as to meet more successfully the needs and aspirations of the local community. Questions were asked about the curriculum, discipline, homework, parent-teacher relations, report cards and the objectives of education in Allentown.

Recent Curriculum Bulletins

- Cincinnati Public Schools, *Foundation Values of American Life*: Cincinnati, 1954, 63 pages.

This attractive bulletin sets forth in succinct language what the Cincinnati Public Schools believe to be the underlying values in life, how the values are developed, and gives a sampling of instructional practices designed to implement the values. Among values listed are those related to the individual, to religion, education, competition, leadership, truth, justice, freedom of association, property, responsibility and improvement in American life.

- New Jersey State Department of Education, *Know Your Schools*: Elementary School Bulletin No. 22, Trenton, 1954, 57 pages.

Designed to lead to a better understanding of the public school, this small booklet contains a series of questions and answers on many topics which commonly concern parents.

- Colorado State Department of Education, *Down South America Way—Living in Latin America*: Resource Unit for Sixth Grade, Instructional Service Bulletin No. SS5, Denver, 1954, 42 pages.

This brief pamphlet contains considerable information about Latin America and an excellent bibliography of children's books, teacher's references and audio-visual materials. General objectives for the study of Latin America are stated and units on two of the smaller countries—Nicaragua and Peru—are presented as examples of suggested unit development.

- Baltimore County, *A Program of Education for the Elementary School*: A Curriculum Guide for Elementary School Teachers, Towson, Maryland, 1953, 53 pages, 60¢.

Presented are a series of 43 suggested problems designed to implement the aims of education in Baltimore County. In addition, the two-color booklet provides background information on the purposes of education, growth and development characteristics of children, and suggestions for the operation of the program. The booklet presents the program in broad outline and encourages each school using it to assume responsibility for determining the actual program while utilizing the resources of the community and operating within the broad framework of the county program.

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