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Reading Meet 'Disappointing'

Miss Barbara Amundson, Derby junior high school, was a delegate to the Michigan reading association fourth annual conference held last February in East Lansing.

Miss Amundson reported that the conference was highly recommended, and the attendance of almost 1,000 attested to the fact that interest is high in this area. In two days allotted to the conference, only two meetings and three papers were made available to the delegates.

"Children's Books and Honey Cakes" was the title of Louis Slobodkin's address at the opening luncheon.

IN THE UKRAINE, it was the custom for each child to bring a honey cake on the opening day of school, so that the idea of sweets and books would be associated in the child's mind from then on. Slobodkin said that books should be loved in the abstract, even before they could be read, and that this is doubly important today when there is such keen competition for the children's interest.

He first became an illustrator of children's books, and then started writing the stories also. The "what if?" theory was the source of his stories: "what if the moon came to earth?", etc.

"His was the most colorful,

charming, and sincere speech of the conference," Miss Amundson said.

Miss Amundson also attended two clinics on "Classroom Procedures for Dealing with Reading Difficulties."

BOTH WERE well organized, and included demonstrations and outlines for the delegates, she said.

Other clinics attended were related to: Diagnosing Reading Difficulties and "Correcting Reading Deficiencies in Junior and Senior High School."

The last one Miss Amundson thought to be the most valuable, since it pin-pointed the newness of special classes, lack of material, the need to work with existing materials, and the class load problem.

This clinic was so well attended that the materials for delegates were used up long before the meeting began. During the conference evaluation period (before the final speaker) many of the suggestions for improvement next year were noted.

FRIDAY EVENING Dr. William H. Kelly, assistant director of the Michigan department of mental health was the main speaker. Miss Amundson reported that it was unfortunate that Dr. Kelly spoke, not on his specialty, but as an educated, intense and well-meaning parent might speak. (With the same half-knowledge and occasional insight that each delegate has heard often at any PTA meeting or read in the press of the day. Many delegates took offense and left the meeting, she said.)

Miss Amundson felt there was much Dr. Kelly could have told the delegates concerning his own field. There was a lesson to be learned from hearing such a speech, but most felt that it wasn't worth driving 200-300 miles, Miss Amundson said.

The final address by Dr. Helen Mackintosh, chief of the elementary schools section of the department of health, education and welfare of the United States office of education was entitled, "They All Need Ideas: Words, Skills."

Her main point was that we must think in terms of the Space Age Child and the fact that children now are on the move and will be living much longer than before. Her points were mainly a justification of our problems today, and justifying our system to the critics of the press and populace with the "Russian jitters," Miss Amundson said.

SHE ADDED that it is evident a conference on reading is needed, but each delegate had left the demands of a classroom (which are immediate and would be there when they returned) hoping to gain specific "helps."

She got the help in spirit, but not specifics, and on reflection realized that that was what she personally needed the most, and she was disappointed when she left the conference.

Stay In School, Says Labor Department

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of Labor, in cooperation with hundreds of organizations throughout the country, is urging young people to stay in school and complete their education.

Along with the U.S. Office of Education, the Department of Defense and others, the labor department is directing its annual nationwide appeal to youngsters, their parents and community leaders as the fall semester approaches.

"America's complex and growing industry demands alert, creative, imaginative young men and women who can take their places in an age of specialists," Labor Secretary James P. Mitchell says. "Such workers, educated and disciplined in the high school classroom, are our nation's greatest wealth and most critical need," the secretary stresses.

TO THE 10 million boys and girls who are now 14 to 17 years old, the department points out the obstacles which those who do not graduate from high school will face.

A major problem is that drop-outs have difficulty getting any job at all because there are fewer unskilled jobs available. The competition for jobs is tougher today because more young people are high school graduates.

The non-graduates have to search longer for work. For those who do land a job, the salary isn't as good and job promotions are slower.

New knowledge, new skills, more adaptability and greater flexibility are being required of young workers today. Increasingly, employers are demanding that job applicants have high school diplomas.

The odds of getting the kind of beginning job a youngster hopes for are 4 to 1 in favor of those who hold such a diploma.

DESPITE THESE facts, 1 out of 3 of the boys and girls enrolled in high school drop out before graduation.

New developments in the professions, in automation, electronics, and precision machinery will accelerate the trend toward more jobs for the educated and skilled and fewer opportunities for the unskilled.

Irregular employment and lower wages face the uneducated in the economy of today. In 1960, it is estimated that 210 atomic reactor operators will be at work; by 1960, 18,670. Only high school graduates are accepted for training for these highly technical fields.

Industry now needs 1 engineer for every 40 workers. In 1960, the ratio was 1 for 400 workers. For every professionally trained engineer, industry needs, on the average, a crew of five trained technicians.

LESS THAN 5 years from now, the professions will need 45,000 more doctors, 76,000 more college trained nurses, 487,000 more elementary and high school teachers, 80,000 more natural scientists and 100,000 more engineers.

For those who wish to take professional or advanced training, a high school diploma is a minimum

requirement; in some cases, college work or even a degree is needed.

Nadons

Leather Tops All

Fashion dictates Cabrette leather as "top" choice for fall! On view here—two sleek new fashions by Leathermades. Left: 29" topper, zip-out pile lining, stitched tab trim. Title, White, Fawcett Grey, Slate Blue, Hoze Green. Right: Jacket with optional belt, rayon sleeves, paisley lining. Beige, Slate Blue, Hoze Green, White, Sanddust, Orangeberry, Pumpkin, Black. Sizes 8 to 18.

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