

# Quality Teachers Important Facet Of Strong Schools

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article is the last in a series, written by local educators, in observance of American education week, Nov. 6 to 12.

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The theme selected for Nov. 9 of American education week is "Quality Teachers—Stronger Schools." The matter of staffing our schools with quality teachers should be one of our foremost concerns in considering our educational program.

We know that a building by itself is not a school. We don't have learning merely by providing classrooms and textbooks and other related materials. In the final analysis, we realize that the very heart and soul of our educational program is the teacher and his relationship with his students.

It is the teacher who transmits knowledge, develops a spirit of inquiry and perpetuates the culture of our society.

to be made. I believe that the teacher is the key person in answering the challenges which face us today because it is his ability to interpret and provide for the needs of our boys and girls that determines whether or not real learning will occur in our classrooms.

WE ASK OURSELVES, "What do we mean when we refer to quality teachers and how do we identify them?"

One quickly realizes that it is much easier to talk about quality teachers and their role in our instructional program than it is to identify them. There are many intangibles involved when one at-

tempts to evaluate individuals. There is no general agreement on how to identify a good teacher, or how to measure his competence.

Yet, I believe there are certain characteristics that we all look for in good teachers. Most commonly these are intelligence, knowledge of subject matter, scholarship, understanding and helpfulness, pleasing personality and good appearance, good sense of humor, interest in students, ability to make work interesting, provides good classroom control, offers clarity in instruction and is fair in marking.

I am sure that there are other good characteristics. However, those presented here help us to have a better understanding of

what is meant when we refer to quality teachers.

PERHAPS THE PRIME characteristics of a quality teacher are interest in his students and knowledge of his subject. Surely these two characteristics are conducive to learning and with these tools at hand the teacher may be able to bring his students to realize the maximum of their potential.

Yet, this seems to limit the abilities of the quality teacher to the classroom. Since the belief here is that quality teachers mean stronger schools, we need to realize that the quality teacher makes contributions beyond his immediate contact with the students in his classroom.

The quality teacher shares his abilities and understanding of the educational processes toward achieving the common goal of building educationally stronger schools. There are many instances in Birmingham public schools where teachers provide leadership for curriculum studies.

They provide information and serve as resource persons to the board of education. There is active participation by members of the teaching staff with various study groups of the school citizens' committee. Finally, the quality teacher identifies himself with his community by having a real interest in its welfare and by being an active participant in civic affairs.

THE BIRMINGHAM public school system has been fortunate in being able to attract good teachers. Our schools are well staffed and we have a high percentage of quality teachers.

Yet, as enrollments constantly increase and the teacher shortage becomes more of a concern, the problem of recruiting the best teachers becomes more of a challenge. The reason for this is that every good school system is making a greater effort to seek out and employ the best teacher candidates available.

It is a goal of our school administration to provide the best recruitment program possible. However, teacher recruitment is not for the school administration to do alone. The community must be a

participant in the recruiting process. NO PROGRAM to recruit and hold teachers can succeed unless the public keeps faith by making the attraction of teaching real and continuing. It is the role of the community to provide the teachers such factors as a good salary scale, good working and living conditions, job satisfaction, security and community status and professional prestige.

When these things are realized, the school administration and the community become a partnership in staffing our schools with quality teachers thus providing our boys and girls with the best type of teaching possible.

Be Wise—Use Classifieds!

## In Oakland County . . .



Chancellor D. B. Varner of Michigan State University Oakland wields the spade at ground-breaking ceremonies for the \$1,500,000 Kresge library. Looking on, from left to right, are C. Allen Harlan and Frank Merriman, MSUO Board of trustees members and Amos Gerrizy, Kresge Foundation secretary.

## Predict Huge Growth In College Population

College-age population in a six-county area will approximately double by 1970. Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties should contribute over 90 per cent of the growth, according to a recent six-county, city's study council report.

THE REPORT further suggested that the county superintendent of schools obtain enabling legislation and initiate action to present a proposition regarding community colleges to county voters.

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Chairman was Thomas S. Nurnberger, vice president of personnel, Michigan Bell telephone company. Study director was Gerald W. Bojcor, director of Community college services at Wayne State university.

THE MAJORITY of new institutions which may be needed to meet enrollment increases should be established in Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties, the report suggests.

Five to 12 per cent of college-age youth will probably attend community colleges and the report suggests that five new community colleges should be established immediately, with planning for 15 more in the six-county area.

Members of the county B of E should be elected from the county at large, the report recommends. This would involve a change of election methods.

ALSO SUGGESTED is community college financial support from state appropriations, tuition and county-wide taxes and that community colleges should continue to offer transfer programs. They should also add more technical-vocational programs and provide extensive student counseling services, it was noted.

The report recommends liberalizing certification requirements for teachers at community colleges and an increase in the number of teachers and improvement of teaching efficiency.

Continuing regional studies of community college needs was suggested with appointment of a six-county Community college development committee by the State superintendent of public instruction.

A June suggestion by the Oakland county board of supervisors called for a cut in the one-quarter mill tax levy of the authority. The board reasoned that 25 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation will be worth more under a substantial increase in state equalized valuations.

WIDE DISTRIBUTION of the final report is proposed. Correspondence regarding it should be addressed to Dr. Gerald W. Bojcor, director, Community college services, Wayne State university, Detroit.

## County GOP Men Fire Criticism At UAW Pamphlet

Arthur G. Elliott, Jr., Oakland county Republican chairman, spoke out against the UAW pamphlet calling for votes against bigotry. He was joined by four Republican county candidates in his denunciation. One of the candidates is State Senator L. Harvey Lodge, non-partisan probate judge candidate.

"It is just the latest and most vicious effort of the UAW and the AFL-CIO to use every conceivable means—even bigotry—to support the Democrat party," Elliott said.

THE PAMPHLET'S cover has drawn objections that it implies that a vote against John F. Kennedy for President is a bigoted vote. It bears representations of the Statue of Liberty and a Ku Klux Klansman.

The inside material has drawn no objections. It is a reprint of Sen. Kennedy's recent statement on his Catholic faith before Protestant ministers, meeting in Houston, Tex.

## Authority Ready To Begin Work On County Park

The Huron-Clinton metropolitan authority will proceed with plans to begin construction of Stony Creek metropolitan park, about three miles northeast of Rochester.

Present estimates using Kensington as a guide set the cost at about \$5 million over a 10-year period. It will be about 4,000 acres in area.

It will be the first major project of the authority in Oakland.

EARLIEST possible date for public use is set for 1963 "with the opening date dependent upon completion of the work ahead." Available funds for authority use during the next few years are a factor, according to Hallenbeck's announcement.



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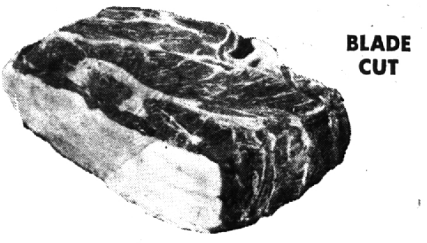
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