

# Confab to Investigate Retarded Job Training

The classroom industries developed for mentally retarded teenagers in Oakland County schools will be the subject of a Federally sponsored institute next summer. The Michigan Department of Public Instruction has named Harold J. Abrams director of the five-day institute. Abrams is Oakland Schools' consultant-supervisor of junior and senior high school level programs for mentally retarded.

of 40 teachers who may attend the institute. MICHIGAN TEACHERS, certified to work with exceptional children and who have two years of teaching experience will be eligible. Teachers of both mentally and physically handicapped children may enroll. Instructors for the institute will be teachers who are conducting classroom industries. Six districts in Oakland County had 12 different kinds of business in operation last year, Abrams said. In Hazel Park a nursery school operated by girls in the special

education program is now in its second year. A skate sharpening business will resume in Oak Park when winter comes. During the warm seasons Oak Park students make keys and operate a plastic laminating device. In Pontiac, under the guidance of the special education teacher, youngsters subcontract to sort medical supplies, assemble personal care kits for hospitals, make bows and decorate Easter baskets. A NURSE'S AIDE training program in Clarencville has been a steppingstone to employment for several girls. Both boys and girls have been involved in a duplicating business. In Farmington plastic laminating

and collating printed materials have given the youngsters paid work experience. Southfield special education students operate a printing and duplicating business. Students in these classes are motivated by real money rather than intangible grades, Abrams said. Teachers have the opportunity to determine the youngsters' ability to learn new jobs, their coordination and fatigue levels. They can then tailor a high school program to build on the abilities each student has shown and to remedy his areas of weakness. The institute has been set for Aug. 23 to 27. The site has not yet been chosen.

B-D THE BIRMINGHAM (MICH.) ECCENTRIC October 8, 1964

# Writers Get Together At Day's Conference

By MARY BAHN  
Staff Writer

More than 300 professional writers, amateur writers and would-be writers gathered Saturday at Oakland University for a full-day conference on "Craftsmanship in Creative Writing."

SHE ADVISED that the subject matter be universal in application and timely. "The topic should be kept short (800 to 1,000 words), not too formal in style and in step with current trends and events. And you don't have to query an editor on a humor piece, since it's your style of writing that sells it."

DOING DOUBLE DUTY was Priscilla (Mrs. Walter N.) Jackson, who served as Oakland's conference chairman and leader of a lively discussion on "Any Story's Scaffolding."

"Internal stress, nature or other people cause conflict, develop personalities and give motivations."

MRS. JACKSON felt that the conclusion of the story is the author's viewpoint of life. "It describes the theme you are trying to illustrate."

"Style is icing on the cake—it's a skin which is put over structure that holds or doesn't hold." She warned students not to think of writing gimmicks but consider the effort they wanted to create, such as pity or wonder.

"This effect must make the reader really care about the character, which is the most important point."

They sat and listened attentively to full-scale lectures delivered by authorities in poetry, drama, fiction and nonfiction articles and novels, or they participated in fast-moving round-table discussions. "The conference, appropriately inaugurating Michigan Writers' Week, was cosponsored by the Detroit Women Writers Club and OU. Participants came mainly from the Oakland County or the Detroit area, although name tags showed visitors from such faraway places as Bowling Green, O., Chicago and New York.

Don't explain your jokes—"people like to catch on all by themselves," said Mrs. King. Other points included cliches were acceptable if given a twist, ("He enjoys art, music and turning cartwheels"), and exaggeration is basic to humor.

The men and women participants kept their enthusiastic "quest for writing knowledge" at a peak throughout the day. The only disappointment came when it was announced that the main luncheon speaker, Editor William Ramey of the Bobbs Merrill Publishing Co., would be unable to attend.

AMONG THE SIX local speakers at the conference was Wayne State University Journalism Professor W. Sprague Holden, 2815 Westbrook Court, Wood Creek Farms.

He told his group that "there's no such thing as writing—only re-writing," in his seminar "You Are Your Own First Editor."

"There's a very subtle difference between the good and the bad, the mediocre and the good, and the good and the super-good," said Holden who said he attributed careful thought to achieving that "subtle difference."

"If you think your prose is the most divine and inspirational, then you're in trouble when it was an hour, then a couple of hours, then you'll see the flaws."

HE URGED the students to read and reread copy for sequence and to avoid "gobbledygook and bafflegab," or artificial and stilted language and the cliché.

"Strive to be a cliché-coiner, or give an old cliché a new twist," said Holden, who admitted that these were a form of language shorthand.

"Trim the fat from your prose. Remember that every decision about every word makes you an editor."

PEGGY CAMERON King, a humor author whose wit matches her writing style, chose "How to Fail to Be Funny" as her topic.

Mrs. King, 16140 Reedmere, Beverly Hills, said that the lack of a theme ruined most humor pieces.

"It's not enough to string together humorous anecdotes. Take one specific point and stick to it."

Another fault is using the wrong narrator that the reader doesn't identify with the author.

"Hide your identity as a bride, a teen-ager or a husband, depending on your audience," urged Mrs. King.

It has been computed that of every 100,000 persons examined for their intelligence, about 6,750 would be rated very superior, 13,000 better-than-average, 46,500 average, 13,000 below average and 750 morons.

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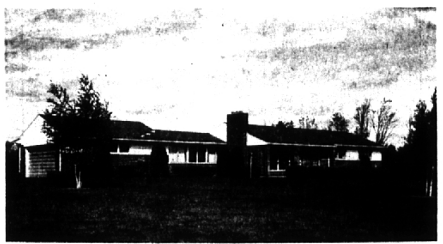


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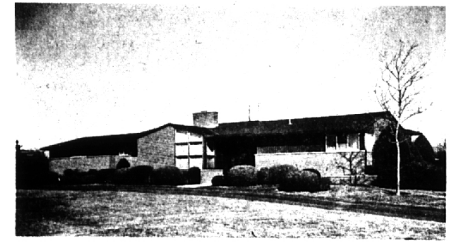
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