

Let's Take a Look

By

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A Chat with an Educator

School has begun.

Summer is gone. Vacation time has passed. Leaves are changing color. Back-to-school clothes are off hangers and on sturdy bodies. Minds are refreshed. Textbooks are under arms. Pencils are sharpened.

The wonderful hours of learning are directly ahead.

If only youth could appreciate more fully his school years — usually the happiest time of all . . .

I suppose it was the adult longing for those good old school days that took me to the pleasant office of Dr. Casper Dahle, new head of school district 107.

I wanted to meet the man who, with the aid of many fine teachers, will mold the youths of Highland Park.

A KINDLY GENTLEMAN . . .

I met a smiling, cordial gentleman who made me feel at home at once. I met a man who is friendly, easy to talk to, and a progressive educator; a man to whom students can come without fear; a man who will encourage and inspire; a man who believes in the Yes-to-Life approach; a man whose foremost interest is to educate the youngsters of Highland Park in the best manner possible.

STATES HIS CONCEPT OF EDUCATION . . .

I asked Dr. Dahle his concept of an effective educational program.

This was his reply:

"I believe in a soundly progressive educational program," he began. "Such an educational program in my judgment is one which makes possible efficient achievement of the knowledges, skills and attitudes which are admittedly necessary for successful, happy, and rich living.

"These knowledges, skills, and attitudes must be intelligently incorporated into a planned and sequential course of study which will meet not only the immediate needs of the child, but also his ultimate needs as a successful, contributing member of society," he continued.

APPLY RESEARCH . . .

"The results of educational research in the fields of learning, methods, subject matter, and curriculum — and such research is now considerable — should and can be applied to a planned, sequential course of study," Dr. Dahle said.

Elaborating, he said every grammar school graduate should be firmly grounded in the fundamentals of reading, writing, and arithmetic. At the same time he should be instructed in a highly persuasive and unobtrusive way how to appreciate even more his home, his family, his town, his state, and his country.

"I believe the youths of America should learn more about the greatness of our nation. They should read more about our national heroes. They should know a great deal more about our industry, our agriculture, and the countless other things that make America great, distinctive, wonderful," he said.

SEE WORLD

PICTURE, TOO . . .

At the same time, he emphasized, it is vitally necessary for the youths of America to see the world picture, and America's place in it.

By better understanding the other people of the world, peace can be maintained, it is believed. I asked Dr. Dahle his opinion on what I call the "creative approach" to learning and teaching. That is, showing the student in any number of ways how important it is to meet life in a positive manner. Or, how important it is to teach the youths of America to create, to build, and to improve.

THE CREATIVE LIFE . . .

"I'm a strong believer in teaching children the value of a creative life," Dr. Dahle said. "Judging by what has been done in Highland Park schools, I can say the children have had — and will continue to have — every opportunity to use and develop their creative ability, to understand that only a constructive life is a complete one; to realize the happy man is he who is striving to make a better world; to learn the little things in life are so important; and to know that to create goes hand in hand with a full life."

According to Dr. Dahle, primary teachers play an extremely important role in the training of children. Kindergarten teachers, and teachers in the very early years, do more to mold a child's thinking than individual high school or college professors.

WORSHIP AND INSPIRATION . . .

"Children frequently come to school and worship their teachers. If the teacher is a good one, this great admiration can be used to inspire a child, to make him want to learn, to make him eager to understand what is inside and what is outside textbooks," Dr. Dahle explained.

INDIVIDUALIZED INSTRUCTION . . .

Highland Park's children are fortunate in that they are taught in bright, cheerful classrooms, seating an average of 25 students.

This size lends itself to individualized instruction. It encourages discussion, responsibility, and active participation. It makes the student closer to the school, and to the teacher, and, in turn, the teacher is closer to the student.

It is, according to the nation's leading educators, the ideal way to learn.

BEST WISHES, SIR . . .

I believe the boys and girls of Highland Park are going to enjoy working with Dr. Dahle and his

staff of excellent teachers.

May the PRESS wish the new superintendent the best of luck in his duty of making Highland Park's children even finer youngsters.

SO LONG . . .

Highland Park is losing two of its most popular citizens with the departure of Reverend and Mrs. Christoph Keller.

We do not like to see them leave. They have done a great deal for our town. They have shown us the tremendous importance of religion in everyday living. They are an inspiring couple who know how to get along with everyone.

We feel certain that the Kellers' new, Maryland parishoners will gain a great deal by their presence.

Thank you for all you have done for our family.

And, God bless you both.

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