

SCHOOL PROBLEMS

By Supt. Washburne

Q. When children get to school early why are they left standing out in the cold?

A. Children cannot be permitted in the class rooms when there is no teacher there to take charge. It is not fair to the teachers to ask them to be on duty too long before the opening of school. Our rule is that teachers are due in their rooms fifteen minutes before the opening of school, and that children will be admitted ten minutes before school opens. Parents can co-operate with us by not sending their children to school unnecessarily early, especially when the weather does not permit the children to stay on the playground.

Q. Has the individual system been tried anywhere else?

A. Yes; but no public school system has carried it out as systematically as we have been able to do. Thirty years ago the public schools of Pueblo, Col., under the leadership of Superintendent Preston W. Search, carried on an individual system for several years. The work was apparently successful while Search was in charge, but was dropped when he left. This seems to have been due to the lack of any systematic method of administering such a system—the individual tests and practice material on which our system is largely based were entirely lacking in Search's experiment.

The next notable experiment was that conducted by Frederick Burk, president of the San Francisco State Normal School. His work is still in successful operation, and during the eight years of its existence has demonstrated statistically that individual work is essentially more economical, both financially and in terms of the children's work and time, than the class lock-step. Dr. Burk's work has had a wide influence throughout the nation; it has proved, beyond argument, the desirability of individual work, but has not known how that work can be carried out in a regular public school system, with classes of from thirty to fifty children.

At present there are, to my knowledge, three public school systems that promote children individually and by subjects. One of these is the high school at Dalton, Mass., where the work was started by a woman who had studied the San Francisco Normal School work thoroughly. The work at Dalton is in its early stages, but is doing well. The second place is Springfield, Ill., where Superintendent I. M. Allen is promoting children on the basis of standardized educational tests, and is eliminating grade repetition. This work at Springfield is more like our own than is any other, but is necessarily considerably behind ours; Springfield is much larger and therefore, has more inertia; and the teachers in Springfield are, for the most part, not as well trained as ours. The third place where individual work is being done is, of course, Winnetka.

The wide-spread interest in individual work is shown partly by the large number of letters and visitors we get; and partly by such facts as that Superintendent Allen has been asked to address the city superintendents of Illinois at Urbana this month on individual work, and Winnetka's superintendent has been asked to address the annual convention of the same superintendents in Springfield in December.

Although it is true that we are doing pioneer work in individual instruction in Winnetka, it is also true that we are taking what educators everywhere recognize is the next step forward in education.

NOTE OF THANKS

Mr. J. A. Selzer wishes to thank his many friends and relatives for the kindness and sympathy tendered him in his recent bereavement.

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FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE NOW BOASTS MEMBERSHIP OF 30

The Friendship circle continues to grow each week and has reached such proportions that the gymnasium has been turned over to the group for an hour on Tuesday evenings with Mr. and Mrs. Harry P. Clarke in charge.

More than thirty members now enjoy the benefits of the circle, Mrs. Ralph Snider, leader, extends an invitation to every working girl in Winnetka to join the ranks of the club.

ENGLISH CLASS SUCCESS

A large group of foreign language speaking citizens of Winnetka are taking advantage of the classes in English for foreigners which is held at Community House every Tuesday evening.

During the absence of Mrs. William B. Moulton, the leader, Mrs. L. H. Winne is in charge of the class and is assisted by Miss Ruth Matz. The work is presented in a practical way which adds greatly to the interest of the pupils.

Any foreign language speaking resident of Winnetka is invited to join this group through the courtesy of the Community House.

The charge is the \$2 fee for a Community House membership which entitles the bearer to all the privileges of the center.

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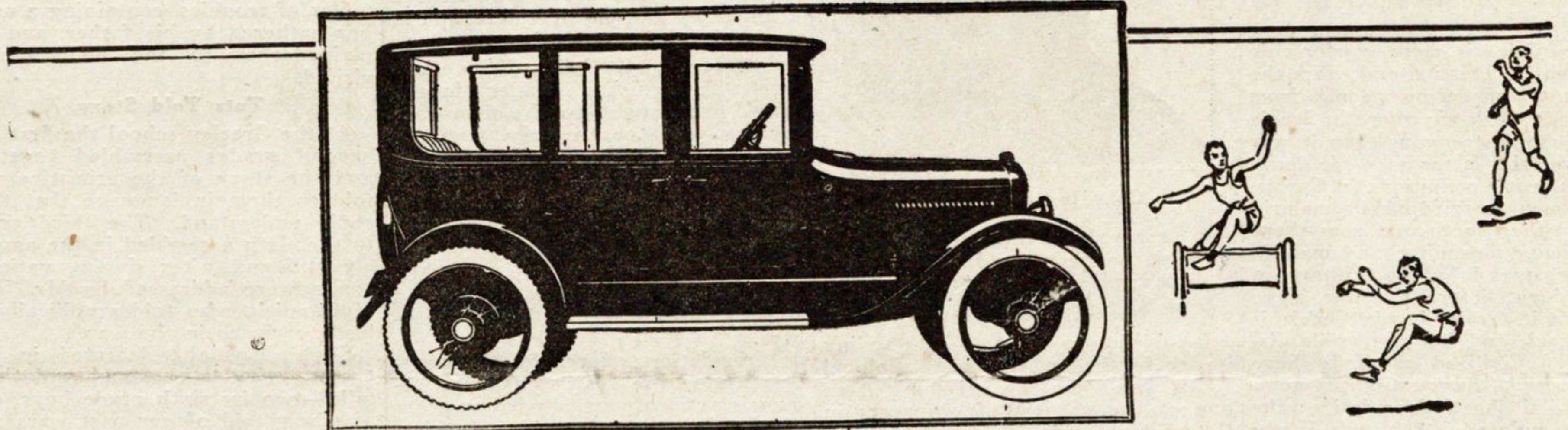
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