

SCHOOL PROBLEMS

By Supt. Washburne

Q. Is oral reading abandoned in the fourth grade and up? If not, how is it handled under the individual system?

A. The emphasis on oral reading as an end in itself ceases when a pupil reaches the fourth grade standard, but there is opportunity for oral reading through all the grades including the eighth. In the upper grades children are required to make a certain number of oral book reports. These reports include the reading aloud to the class of carefully chosen incidents from the books on which the report is being made. This reading must be sufficiently well done to hold the attention and interest of the class. The emphasis is thrown upon interesting the class rather than upon formal reading exercises. In the lower grades in addition to such oral book reports pupils read orally to the teacher and occasionally to the rest of the class. It takes no longer for a teacher to hear children read out loud to her alone than it would to have them read out loud to the class as a whole. But the rest of the class is saved the annoyance and waste of time of having to hear one child after another stumble through his oral reading work. In the amount of actual time given by any individual pupil to oral reading, it would average about the same under the individual system as under the class system. A pupil who reads well orally, however, would be given less time than one who seriously needs this practice.

Q. When a pupil brings home a goal card with some O. K.'s on it and some some topics not marked O. K., does it mean he is behind in his work?

A. No. The goal card contains

an outline of the entire work for the grade. If it takes a year for a pupil to get all items on the goal card O. K.'d, he is making normal progress. At this time of the year about one-fourth of the goals should be O. K.'d.

Q. What is the general plan of discipline in the Winnetka schools? The teacher of one of my children is very strict and another teacher allows a great deal of freedom.

A. The general ideal is controlled freedom. An ideally disciplined room would be one in which pupils were free to talk quietly to one another about their work and to move quietly about the room without asking permission. In rooms where these privileges are not abused there is considerable freedom. Some groups of children, however, prove themselves incapable for the time being of making a proper use of their freedom. In such cases we require strict, old-fashioned discipline—no whispering, no getting out of the seats without permission, no informality of any kind. Where we are requiring such discipline it is hoped sooner or later to be able to give the children more freedom again.

BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED THIS WEEK TOTAL \$121,000

The Public Works department have issued the following building permits:

William Aitken, brick residence at 671 Lincoln avenue, valued at \$22,000; Henry Klauke, \$9,000 frame residence at Vernon and Scott avenues; F. Kranich, 479 Fir street, frame bungalow, \$10,000; B. Chandler, frame, stone and stucco residence on Indian Hill road, portion in Winnetka, \$10,000; Howard C. Phillips, tile and stucco residence on Meadow Farm subdivision of the Higgins estate, value \$60,000, Clark and Walcott, architects, Anderson and Cadenhead, builders. The Phillips home will be

the first house on this new, exclusive subdivision, on a large plot of ground. A. B. Bradley, frame residence at 808 Willow street, value \$20,000.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE WILL SPREAD CHRISTMAS CHEER

Working girls of Winnetka who enjoy the privileges provided at Community House in the Friendship Circle are planning to bring a bit of Christmas cheer into the home of some poor family. To accomplish this they have decided upon a benefit dance to be held at Community House, Tuesday evening, December 14, at 8:30 o'clock. The proceeds will be directed to providing a Christmas for some poor family in the village.

Good music is promised and light refreshments will be served. The admission fee will be nominal and a large attendance is desired.

Chaperones for the evening will be Mr. and Mrs. Ralph M. Snyder, Mrs. Frederick Copeland, Mrs. E. W. Wortley and Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Dickinson.

Working girls in the village are urged to join Friendship Circle to enjoy the privileges of the Community House gymnasium and a social hour each Tuesday evening.

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