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First Of A Series

County Educational Needs Reported In Youth Survey

(Editor's Note: Starting with the education section. The Sentinel will report on the result of each survey by the Santa Cruz County Youth Committee. The committee today revealed the fruits of more than five year's works in an effort to improve the county agencies involved in preventing juvenile delinquency.)

By Wally Trabing

This survey by the Youth committee education section included all of the public and private schools within the county from July, 1957 to June, 1958.

Covering the area of guidance and counseling and curriculum, P-TA volunteers conducted interviews with school principals. The questionnaires were devised by Paul Levy, chairman; Myra Harris, Mrs. Courtney Proctor, Clara Dickson and Mrs. Arthur Eaton, based on national studies. Here is what they discovered about elementary school curriculum:

In the city school district 95 per cent of the instructional staff held regular teaching credentials. In the county districts this fell to 83 per cent.

To the question, "Do you have a salary schedule high enough to keep good teachers?", the city school district's answer was 39 per cent yes, 45 per cent no with 16 per cent not answering.

Fifty per cent of the county principals said yes.

Instruction material for Santa Cruz and the county was rated "superior and adequate," while a severe 17 per cent was rated "inadequate" in the Watsonville district.

On school libraries, Santa Cruz got a "superior and adequate;" the county was found to be 25 per cent inadequate, and Watsonville a whopping 86 per cent "inadequate."

A real and startling problem is shown as to consultant services. It is to this service that the teacher looks for much-needed help in the instructional field. Watsonville rates this service 100 per cent inadequate, Santa Cruz 78 per cent inadequate, and the county 34 per cent inadequate.

"A very careful study should be made by the responsible administrators of these consultant services and corrections should be carried out," the report reads.

In the county and Santa Cruz schools special instruction is given in reading, spelling and arithmetic. Little or nothing is done in science.

The slow learner is handled mainly within the class itself. One school, Freedom, has small classes established for this group.

City schools are developing science clubs in grades one through five, are using better methods in teaching reading, and instruction of some geometry in the seventh and eighth grades. The county schools are said to be using more tests in reading and arithmetic and giving instruction in foreign languages. Scotts Valley is giving Spanish throughout its grades.

On the secondary level (Santa Cruz, Watsonville and San Lorenzo Valley high schools) one school rates its salaries high enough to keep good teachers, one rates this "no" for teachers under five year's experience, and the third school responded that its salary schedule was not sufficient to hold any good teachers.

At least two years of English are required for graduates of the Santa Cruz while the San Lorenzo Valley and Watsonville high schools require three years of English. Each school prescribes

one year of science for graduation.

In the social sciences, San Lorenzo requires only the state requirements for graduation while Santa Cruz and Watsonville add a year and a half beyond the requirements.

Special programs are given for the slow learner, the gifted, the poor reader and the student with speech defects at all three high schools.

Ability grouping in the seventh and eighth grades and high school English are practiced at San Lorenzo. Segregation is practiced in English, mathematics and biology at the Santa Cruz high school.

In the sciences at Santa Cruz, 7.8 per cent of the students are enrolled in chemistry, 2.8 per cent in physics and 2 per cent in trigonometry. In San Lorenzo Valley high, 10.4 per cent study physics, 15.6 per cent take chemistry and 4.8 per cent, trigonometry.

The report recommended "the general academic capacity of the student should be identified by the time he completes the elementary school and then be carefully guided into the type of program that will develop his capacities to the fullest possible measures.

It recommended that the "backbone" of this academic curriculum should include four years of social studies, three years of mathematics, and three years of science.

"In order to work out such a program the following adjustments of the present program would have to be made," suggested the report.

1. A more careful supervision of the social and athletic program of the student.

2. Starting of required mathematics and foreign languages might be moved back to the eighth year.

3. Some advanced courses in languages, mathematics and science could be taken at a junior college and credits be accredited for their high school graduation.

4. Some high school students might graduate in three instead of four years with entrance to a junior college a year earlier.

5. The state law as to the PE program might be revised and two or three-hour week requirement substituted.

In the area of counseling and guidance, the committee recommended that improved services were needed in at the elementary level.

"The county schools felt need for more help with family health and mental health problems," said the report. Santa Cruz schools were not mentioned specifically among the recommendations.

Both Santa Cruz and San Lorenzo principals rated their counseling programs as adequate.

The report noted that about 1400 students were enrolled in summer schools during 1958 throughout the county (Freedom, Soquel, San Lorenzo and Santa Cruz city). In general the courses were remedial (except typing and driver training) and no school credit was given. No recommendations were made.

POLICE ARREST MAN

AS DRUNK DRIVER

Charles Clark, 44, of 220 Leibbrandt street, was arrested at 10 p.m. Wednesday and charged with drunk driving by city police. Clark was stopped while driving along Ocean street at Graham Hill road in a late model convertible.

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