

Ex-Insurance Co. Statistician, Now Teaching, Adds Push to Math

A method of teaching arithmetic "individually," designed to be "interesting and fun," has been devised by a former insurance company statistician now teaching at Crenshaw Elementary School.

A fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Margaret Wolff, felt that the arithmetic program in her room needed an "extra push." Drawing on her extensive math background, she designed a program designed to help pupils move ahead as fast as possible, learning as much as they can.

BRIEFLY, it works like this:
1. Arithmetic lessons were divided into some 40 categories. These include such fourth grade lessons as "subtracting simple lessons as 'subtracting multiple numbers,' 'dividing by 2 and 3 with remainder,' 'measurements,' 'money value,' 'multiplying and dividing money,' 'area,' 'perimeter,' 'fractions,' and many others.
2. Placing each step in order, Mrs. Wolff developed a set of problems to be worked in each area. After she explained each step in class, children worked the problems in each category.

3. WHEN youngsters completed all problems in a given

area, they took a test covering it. They keep taking tests and practicing in the area until they receive a satisfactory score and move on.

4 Children can watch their progress through stars put on a large chart. As each step is mastered, youngsters get a star. By the end of the year, Mrs. Wolff hopes to have each child's row covered with stars, indicating they have learned the material.

"YOUNGSTERS seem to like this method because they can see how they are doing and where they are going," Mrs.

Wolff said. "Now it's hard to get them to stop doing arithmetic and to start another subject."

Mrs. Wolff's system is similar in many ways to the SRA Reading kits, which place emphasis on providing work for each ability level in the class. The SRA program is copyrighted for reading, but no similar program yet is available for arithmetic.

SEVERAL other teachers have tried Mrs. Wolff's method and have found that it works well. Although it took many hours to devise, Mrs. Wolff

feels it is worthwhile.

A graduate of the University of Manitoba, Mrs. Wolff was a statistician with the Occidental Life Insurance Co. for several years before her marriage. She retired to have children.

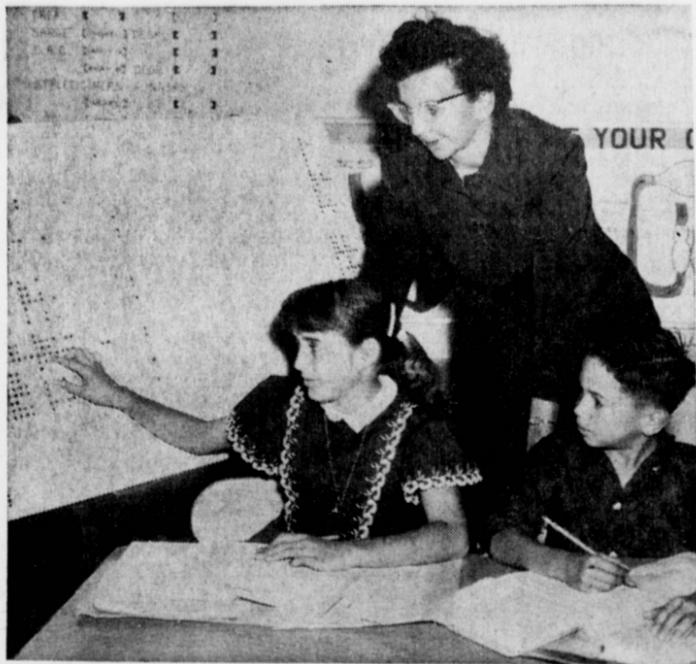
About two years ago, her contacts with schools through her children made her decide to become a teacher. She went to SC to get her teaching credentials and started teaching at Crenshaw this fall.

A RESIDENT of Torrance for about 10 years, she lives with her family at 16418 Arlington Ave.

Adult Club To Install Mel Wagers

Installation of 1961 officers of the Torrance Adult Club is planned for Saturday at the Adult Center.

Mel Wagers was chosen president of the group and Herb Pyron is vice-president. Board members include Margaret Webb, Clara Witmer, Harley Haynes, Fannie Tarpley, Jack Alcock, Arthur Jepson and Doc Reynolds.



CHECKING PROGRESS . . . Checking their progress on the "star chart" are Sandy Grogan and Mike Gama, students in Mrs. Margaret Wolff's fourth grade at Crenshaw Elementary School, Torrance. Mrs. Wolff has devised an "individual" system of teaching arithmetic designed to be both "interesting and fun." Each child has his own work-book and moves onto a new area as soon as he has mastered the last one.

Gum-Chewing Dog Helps Launch Missiles, Then Dies Under Auto

A tiny, gum-chewing dog that "helped" missilemen at Vandenberg Air Force Base launch Thor rockets into space is dead—ironically a victim of that ground vehicle—the car.

The story of Kim's death came to light Friday when his owner, Bob Hoskins, a technician at the Douglas Thor facility at VAFB, sadly told his co-workers that the talented dog had been killed by a hit-and-run driver while visiting Santa Monica with Hoskins.

A FAMILIAR sight around the Douglas facility, little Kim—part Pomeranian, Pekinese, and Popillion—had become sort of a ground-bound Russian Laika to the missilemen. A "mere" dog, Kim, nevertheless, held his own with the black boxes and computers that are the "kings" at rocket launch bases.

UNTIL KIM came along, Douglas and Air Force tech-

nicians were faced at times with the difficult task of stringing heavy communications and data cables through a narrow trench extending several hundred yards from the blockhouse to the Thor launch pads.

The job was complicated by the necessity of using cranes to remove some of the heavy trench covers, some weighing as much as 200 pounds. Once removed, the covers had to be resealed against water intrusion.

THAT WAS before L. E. Randall, another Douglas technician, decided Kim should go to work and simplify this costly and time-consuming job.

He and Hoskins took advantage of Kim's unusual passion for gum—not any gum, but spearmint flavored gum—and trained the dog to skip through the long shallow trench with a lightweight nylon cord looped around him. The other

end of the cord was attached to the cable.

Workmen then seized the cord and pulled the heavy cable through the trench.

REWARD FOR the lively Kim was a stick of gum, plus a special prestige position as a canine contributor to rocket progress.

B.K., or before Kim, the job normally required 32 man-hours. With the dog, the time was shaved to four hours.

Kim's fame spread throughout the base and he was also called on by the Air Force and by other contractors to do his stuff.

BUT ALL that was before Kim encountered the hit-and-run driver . . .

The little dog's friends at Douglas will miss him.

Hoskins and his wife, in particular, will miss Kim, although they still have Kim's mother and brother. Maybe the brother

will succeed Kim . . . for despite the black boxes, there's still a missile-launching job for a dog at Vandenberg Air Force Base.

Aliens Given Reminder on Registration

George K. Rosenberg, district director of the Los Angeles District, Immigration and Naturalization Service, reminds aliens to report their addresses during January.

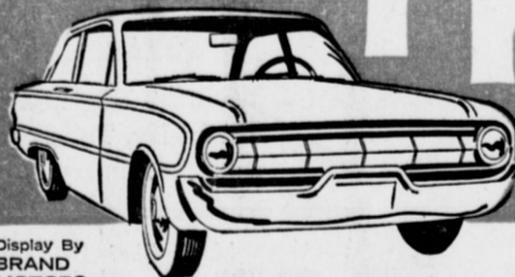
Address Report Cards are available at Post Offices and the office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service at 510 S. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles. The reports must be submitted to one of those offices in person during the month of January.

Parents or guardians must submit reports for alien children under 14 years of age.

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