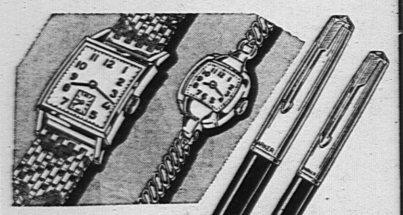
OFFERS LANGUAGE COURSES

Something new in language instruction is being offered at El Camino College this fall with classes for beginners in Spanish and French conversation. The courses are designed for people who want to learn to converse in French or Spanish without the detail involved.

BACK TO SCHOOL NEEDS



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ROY E. LARSON, TIME, INC., PREXY, POINTS UP NEED FOR MORE PUBLIC INTEREST IN SCHOOLS

It is encouraging that throughout the confused years that followed World War II, Americans worked harder to improve the public school system that already stands as one of the greatest social triumphs in history.

Here and now in this country, we have come closer than mankind has ever before to the goal of equal educational opportunities for all.

But all thoughtful citizens recognize that we are still a long way from perfection and that much remains to be done.

ROY E. LARSEN President "Time," Inc.

The task has been intensified by the rapid and continued growth of our school population with the consequential development of serious inadequacies.

We still face the reality of an increase of ten million school children in the next decade—ten million additional pupils for whom at this moment there are neither seats to sit in, nor teachers to teach.

Here are the incredible statistics of increased enrollments . . . this year elementary school enrollments totaled 23,500,000. That is 920,000 more than last year; it is a 2,100,000 above two years ago; it is 3,600,000 above five years ago.

Now, let's look ahead: approximately 10 million children will reach school ages in the years 1952, 1953 and 1954; we can expect a record elementary school enrollment of more than 30 million with a continued increase for the five years after that. These are national figures, but the percentages can be safely applied to any community.

Thus there are two compelling reasons for pressing our efforts for better education. One is that this work is far from finished. The second is that this work tests the integrity of our own democratic processes.

Community action for a good school system must mean cooperation among all elements of a community, with integrity and unselfishness of purpose. Business, labor, all religious and racial elements, all civic and cultural organizations, and all political parties, must be represented.

. . . And when such a community action develops, something exciting, new, and good is already working to strengthen the life of that community.

To decide what kind of schools they want, citizens of a community will inevitably be deciding what kind of community they want. They have begun to crystallize a vision of their ideal community.

And, since our communities are the nuclei of our national life, those citizens have also begun to create a vision of the kind of nation they want to live in and ultimately the kind of world they want to live in.

Fire Safety Plays Important Role In School Program

Fire safety education is presented as a thread of experience centered in the school, home and runs throughout the entire school program.

Through the cooperation of leading educators and administrators, together with the National Board of Fire Underwriters, a fire safety education program has been formulated to make the study of fire in its beneficial and harmful aspects, vital to the interests of children, and related to their own experiences.

Fire safety education centers in the school. Opportunities for active participation include fire drills, school inspections for hazards, movies and demonstrations, plays and stories and science experiments.

Through a wide range of expressive activities such as painting, writing, and construction, fire safety becomes a part of the child's life. The school is also a center for pooling fire knowledge and experineces and for establishing habits and attitudes that will function in the home and community.

PRACTICAL TRAINING . . . Two El Camino students are demonstrating the "on-the-spot" training techniques in the engineering program at the college. Many classes are scheduled in the evening.

Puppets Revive Interest in Old Art!

Not only a source of amusement, puppets are presenting a whole new field of exploratory possibilities for teachers, psychologists, would-be teen age thespians and ventriloquists, doctors, and frantic parents seeking a sure-fire way of holding their children's interest.

Educationally, the puppets have been known to be suitable for many purposes. Teachers who have found it difficult to establish a closer relationship with certain problem students have found puppets a means of approach.

In addition, the puppets themselves are helpful in developing among children talents other than the basic sense of coordination attained through maneuvering them.

In building up a whole production around the puppets, creative talents such as writing, musical sense and rhythm through the working out of background moods, the actual mechanical aptitudes in building small simple sets, and the painting of scenery on cardboard are all developed. A channel for the imaginative is provided in every way.

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Noted Author States Literary Bill of Rights for Young Readers

By DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER

. . . I invoke the memory of a long-ago crusader for children's rights, whenever anybody speaks about the art of choosing books for children. **"What children?" I ask.**

. . . There are as many different kinds of readers among children as among adults, naturally, since children are people. Among my own children, one devoured eagerly every available fairy tale, the more fanciful the better. Another found it a boring waste of time, as he put it, "to read about things happening that never could have happened." Wouldn't a brilliant success have been made if somebody had tried to choose books for them without knowing them individually!

I am sure that a good deal of the youthful resistance to our well-meant adult reading inculcations comes from our approaching a child with the particular kind of book he does not like, and has as much right to dislike as we have to dislike books not to our taste.

No, . . . there is no set rule-of-thumb for choosing books for this or that child, which can be followed by parents. To help your children to the right reading, right for them, requires everything you can bring to the effort—and rewards you with a golden way of sharing life with your sons and daughters.

A parent can't expect to get along without some of the helps provided, as a matter of course, by librarians and teachers. And no parent needs to. Nothing is simpler than to secure such help.

If you haven't a local library (unlikely in the United States) there is a Library Commission in practically every state. The State Department of Education always has book lists of "Supplementary Reading" for children of different ages . . .

. . . Not to be interested in the books your children are reading through the years, from "Peter Rabbit" to "The Count of Monte Cristo"—that I should count a cardinal, unpardonable sin of omission.

SMART DUET . . . a corduroy jumper to top a bright plaid gingham dress . . . each of which is a pretty solo.

CHILD PSYCHOLOGY CLASS OFFERED

A complete college course in Child Psychology is to be offered by El Camino College this fall, Dr. William Harless, director of instruction, announced this week.

Shoes Must Fit For Health!

If your child eats too much candy, the resultant stomach ache will function as a warning to desist. But badly fitted shoes, which can do considerably more damage to his health, insidiously pass by the board; for this causes neither pain nor discomfort.

Properly fitted shoes serve as a firm foundation for good posture . . . for a lifetime of healthy feet, firm legs and strong back.

That is why the importance of properly fitted shoes cannot be over-emphasized. Whereas almost all children are born with perfect feet, during the first ten years—when they grow so fast—this perfection can only be preserved by constant vigilance. During the school years, when they are most active, and heaviest strain is put on their still malleable feet, parents must be extra cautious.

The National Foot Health Council offers this recommendation, as a necessary safeguard to children's health: check up on the size of their shoes, every two months.

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