

School Experiment Evaluated:

# WHAT CAN WE EXPECT OF 'LITTLE RED SCHOOL HOUSE'?

By RALPH R. GOMPERTZ

(Editor's note: This is the last in a series of four articles dealing with the little red school house plan being used in several classes at Walteria elementary school.)

A "little red school house plan," intended to provide a better grouping system for students as well as a better teaching and learning environment, is now being tried at Walteria elementary school.

Results of the experiment studied for the first time in a public school will be evaluated at the end of the school year. What benefits have been noted so far and what problems are being anticipated? What can parents in the Torrance Unified School District expect if the results prove to be highly favorable?

As was explained in previous articles, seven classes involving 245 students are presently being taught on the "little red school house" principle.

This means that students who would otherwise be in three different grades have been placed into one classroom for the purpose of instruction (1st, 2nd and 3rd together; 4th, 5th, and 6th together).

The plan was originated and developed by Walter Rehwoald, director of instruction for the Torrance Unified School District. A Torrance Press survey of the attitudes of school officials, teachers, and parents toward the plan indicates a very favorable reaction so far.

Higher echelon school officials, naturally cautious, expressed moderate approval of the plan, emphasizing that the plan will be strictly confined to the classes now involved for the one-year period.

Parents and teachers expressed considerably stronger approval, bordering frequently on outright and unqualified enthusiasm for the program.

**Benefits of the Program**

Three major benefits of the program were noted and generally agreed upon.

1) Children have a chance to advance at their own speed. If a child is slow in a particular subject, he can be placed in the slower group until he has mastered the subject. Or, if he is particularly gifted in some subject, he does not have to wait for the rest of his class but can go ahead with the more advanced students. This way, slow learners are not left hopelessly behind and fast learners do not become restless and bored.

2) Children, in addition to learning from the teacher, learn from each other. This is so because children, just as individuals, learn more from each other because of their differences than their likenesses. The most common example of this is the family relationship in which there are older and younger children.

3) The plan benefits a child's personality and social adjustment. There is less bickering because older children act as a steadying influence on the younger ones. At the same time, older children develop qualities of leadership and responsibility.

No definite weaknesses in the system could be determined at this time. Most of the teachers maintain that it is too early to decide what the shortcomings of the system are, if any.

Their concern was not so much with the merits of the plan itself as with the problem of convincing other teachers and the community of its merits.

**Questions Raised**

Parents did raise a number of questions, however, all of which could be answered, Rehwoald said.

Providing enough of a challenge to youngsters in the top groups, Rehwoald agreed, could be a problem. However, this should not be harder to carry out than the regular policy of providing enough to do for the more gifted children in the single grades, he maintains.

Parents wondered if the teacher has enough time for the individual students. Rehwoald is sure that he has, inasmuch as it supposedly does not matter whether a teacher has 30 students in a single grade or a mixed grade—the teacher must still meet each individual's need.

Rehwoald also believes that there will be less demand on the teacher in a mixed class because there exists a better relationship among the youngsters themselves.

As for a timid child, such a pupil has a better chance to overcome his timidity as he moves into the upper section of the class, assuming responsibility and leadership, the educator stated.

Are there any real weaknesses in the plan or are there only phantom weaknesses? This question appears to be premature and must await, at least, the evaluation of the program next summer.

**What Lies in Store?**

In case the findings prove to be extremely favorable, what may we expect? Will the plan be extended to other schools in

the district or is it possible that the plan may be adopted by all schools in this district?

Top school officials have indicated that the plan is simply experimental at this time.

Other educators and even parents are hopeful that the plan will continue and possibly spread. They point to the reporting program presently in use throughout the district, which also had as humble a beginning as "the little red school house plan."

The big factor which determined the fate of the reporting program and which will determine the fate of the little red school house plan is parental desire and acceptance.

The most definite thing that can be said for the plan at this time is that it represents basically good teaching practice. It succeeds in making teachers realize and accept the natural range in learning capacity among pupils on any level. It is simply one more brave attempt to arrive at the best of all possible classroom systems—seeking to combine the virtues of the old and of the new.

**Church Gives Cantata**

"The Heavenly Child," by Bernard Hamblen, a Christmas cantata with scripture text, was presented Sunday evening by the Adult Choir of the First Baptist church, 2118 Carson st., Torrance. The cantata, directed by Ted G. Misenhimer, Choir director, featured the choir, soloists and group members.

**TORRANCE PRESS**

Published each Thursday at Torrance, California

Office 1406 Cravens Avenue Torrance, California Telephone: FA. 8-2348

Southland Publishing Co., Inc. Publisher W. E. Zappas, Advertising Manager M. L. Owens, Editor R. R. Gompertz, Managing Editor

Subscription Rates Local, per year \$5.50 Out-of-town, per year \$6.50 (Payable in advance)

All manuscripts are submitted at owner's risk. The Torrance Press can accept no responsibility for their return.

**Greetings...**

... to our many friends and customers. May your Christmas be merry and bright!

**STAR FURNITURE CO.**

2103 TORRANCE BLVD., Torrance

**Fish Fanciers Set Meeting**

The Harbor Aquarium society will meet Tuesday, December 27, at the Gardena Community Center, 1651 Market st., in Gardena, at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting will be called to order by the president, Charles Wade. There will be films shown and a speaker.

The catfish is the showfish of the month.

Door prizes will be a 5-gallon tank and hood. Refreshments will be served.

All fish-fanciers are welcome, said Wade.

Here at Home

By Maude Miller

"And on earth peace, good will toward men."

Anyone else react as we did to that propaganda story in a national magazine... the one about the fantastic sums being spent this year on Xmas gifts? Seems there are cozy trifles to be bought for "the man who has everything... stuff like solid gold belts at \$30 an inch. For "her," in case she's hard to please, a \$10,000 mink coat might help. And charming suits of armor for the kiddies at only \$100 per! What ever happened to the idea that it isn't the cost of the gift that matters, it's the thought behind it?

Could be we're spoiled... because we've prowled through the Sam Levy Dept. Store for the past couple of weeks and, except for toys for the little ones, we've come up with just about everything to delight hearts and preserve pocket-books. We're just stubborn enough to think that's important!

Fact is, we issue a guarantee with your shopping at the Store... No unnecessary tension, no jangled nerves, no emptied wallets, and everything wrapped in love. So here are your last minute Xmas gift suggestions. After this you're on your own!

**Woman Side**

Something new in Sweaters! California's answer to that famous Italian make. It's a "Wunda Lam" wool and cashmere, styled either in a long-sleeved, full-fashioned cardigan with a soft, high collar; or the handsome V-neck with collar and short sleeves. Unbelievably priced for such a quality article. More sweaters! Jane Irwill does things with sweaters that make each one look custom designed and hand made! Especially stunning... her white bulky knits sparkling with lace and jewels. And if you want to look like the very spirit of Xmas... get someone to buy you that long-sleeved, turtle neck pull-over. Glowing Xmas green, warm and glamorous.

Luggage! Bet you didn't know Sam Levy's carries a complete line of Samsonite airplane luggage. Neither did we... 'til we looked up and there they sat, high and handsome. Nationally advertised, Samsonite "Xmas Jubilee" sets will set his or her heart singing... and feet traveling. Marvelous range of colors and sizes. These bags will take your giftees anywhere from Azusa to Afghanistan and back.

**Children's Side**

This section in the rear of the Store is bulging with girls' pretty party dresses, and slips, and jeweled sweaters, and Capri pants, and even umbrellas... Everything gay and fresh and delightful. And for the Young Gentleman... everything Dad has he can get too. Sport shirts, dress shirts, ties, socks and even McGregor jackets!

**Man Side**

We say it, and we're glad! We've got the best looking collection of wallets and other leather goods for the best looking men in the whole U.S.A. Ask to see that topgrain cowhide box by Textan, fitted with matching wallet and key case... all under \$10!

Ever know a man who hasn't secretly longed for a suede jacket? See ours in the well-stocked Jacket section! They're zippered, lined, knit cuffs, collars and waist bands, and come in wonderful, strong colors.

Yes, indeed, "the world is so full of a number of things, I'm sure we should all be as happy as kings!" So... good shopping. We know you'll find everything you want right here at home... at 1311 Sartori. Sam Levy Department Store. Naturally!

**Our Side**

From the hearts of two of the dearest people we've ever known comes this greeting: "We have so many nice customers and wonderful good friends that we can't greet them all personally. So to all of you whom we love... a Merry Christmas!" Frances and Sam Levy.

**Photostats**

IN AT 10 A.M. OUT AT 5 P.M.

1311 Post Ave. FA. 8-2320

**PHOTO ARTS STUDIO**

**Lights Scorch Fire Place**

An apparent short in the electric circuit caused about \$55 worth of damage when ornamental lighting scorched the fireplace at 18914 Kornblum, Saturday, according to Bn. Chief Bob Lucas of the Torrance Fire Department. Engine crew No. 4 responded.



May Yours be a Wonderful Holiday!

**Torrance Bootery**

1333 EL PRADO FA. 8-7809

**GET CLEAR, SHARP TV PICTURES**

Don't ruin your eyes just to save the cost of an inexpensive TV tube. Call us at once when your set needs adjustment of service. You can depend on us for expert repairs.

OPEN 9 A.M. TO 9 P.M.

**CHUCK'S T. V.**

OUR NEW ADDRESS

1409 CRAVENS FA. 8-4186

RELIABLE SERVICE BY EXPERTS

New 1956 models

"HIS" and "HERS" world's cleverest (and best selling!) portable phonographs

"HERS" in white and black or charcoal grey and fashion pink. Model 412

"HIS" in two-toned charcoal and light grey or two-toned suntan and brown tweed. Model 412

ALL THIS FOR ONLY \$29.95

12-INCH RECORD FREE WITH "HIS" OR "HERS" PORTABLE!

THE FASHION IN SOUND IS COLUMBIA America's most popular 3-speed portables—available in two smart color combinations. Both give you all these features: wood cabinet covered in durable, leather-toned plastic • plays all records, all speeds • two control knobs • automatic adapter for 45 rpm records • Columbia Ronette all metal tone arm • two sapphire needles!

Everyone who buys one of these wonderful portables will be given, absolutely free, a brand-new 12" "L" record unavailable anywhere else. "Columbia House Party" & a delightful "at home" with Columbia stars like Jo Stafford, Paul Weston, Dave Brubeck, Rosemary Clooney, Libby and Frankie Laine, who provide an evening of spontaneous, unrehearsed performances, never before on records. Don't miss it!

• RECORDS • SHEET MUSIC • INSTRUMENTS • RECORD PLAYERS • HI-FI

Music is our business

**RAY'S MUSIC**

1312 Sartori Torrance FA. 8-6247

**\$200 LESS**

than Ford, Chevy, Plymouth or TWIN PONTIAC

This is possible only at Twin because overhead is lower in Hermosa Beach. We've got west's smallest showroom, (lowest ads. No fancy fixtures, just fantastic deals. \$25 down delivers. Credit ok in 15 min. No gimmicks. No extras. Come in & we'll prove it!)

SALES UP 400%

By making these fantastic "\$200 LESS" deals, the TWINS have increased business 4 times over in less than 6 months. Why pay more when it costs less at TWIN? We'll pay what you owe on trade, excess down goes to you in cash. Easy to reach. 25 min. from downtown L.A. Ideal service plan for out-of-town buyers. Call for price list. Olton 8-3288 or Frontier 4-8987.

**TWIN PONTIAC (Hermosa Beach)**

805 Pac. Coast Hwy., midway bet. Santa Monica & Long Beach

**First Baptist Plans Unique Presentation**

The Christmas Story will be presented in unique manner Friday, December 23, at 7:30, at the First Baptist church, 2118 Carson st., according to the pastor, Reverend C. Miles Northrup.

Under the direction of Mrs. Nathan Bond, a cast of 130 people will present the story of Christmas in song and drama with living scenes portrayed from a giant picture frame constructed in the baptistry.

**EXTRA HELP for PENSIONERS**

Pensioners! Under the terms of the latest pension laws, you are probably entitled to a special additional allowance that will pay for your glasses. We'll gladly provide the facts without obligating you in any way. Our COMPLETE OPTICAL SERVICE includes expert eye-examination, LENS GRINDING in our own laboratories, skilled assistance in frame selection, complimentary adjustment of glasses, and friendly consultation after purchase. Your lasting satisfaction is assured.

**DRS. SOSS AND KLINE OPTOMETRISTS**

★ 29 Years in Harbor Area  
★ Open Fridays Un'til 7:00 All Day  
★ Liberal Credit Terms  
★ Phone...

1268 Sartori, Torrance Phone FA. 8-6602  
810 Avalon, Wilmington Phone TE. 4-5464  
37 Pine Ave., Long Beach Phone HE. 5-6219

**Merry Christmas!**

And, may the wondrous peace and blessed spirit of this Holy Day find that all your fondest dreams have come true in the bounty of your Christmas gifts... That you all be gifted with health, happiness and much Yuletide Joy!

**McNahan's FURNITURE STORES**

Corner Sartori & El Prado FA. 8-1252

**STADIUM**

Telephone FAirfax 8-6378

NOW — ENDS SATURDAY

Audie Murphy in the Story of His Own Life - America's Most Decorated War Hero

**"To Hell and Back"**

In Cinemascope and Color

— Also —

Lex Barker - Patricia Medina

**"Duel on the Mississippi"**

KIDDIE SHOW ALL DAY FRIDAY

Torrance Merchants Show Starts 10 A.M., continuous 'til 6 P.M. Get Free Tickets from Your Favorite Store!

SUN., MON., TUES. Joel McCrea in **"WICHITA"**

— And —

Van Heflin In **"Count Three and Play"**

Both In Cinemascope & Color

**GRAND**

FRI., SAT., SUN. **"KING DINOSAUR"**

— And —

John Hall in **"Thunder Over Sargoland"**