

Parapros Will Provide Answer To Teacher Aid

Professional educators—teachers, counselors and administrators—are engaged in positions requiring specialized knowledge and often long and intensive academic preparation.

Too often, their daily work includes such tasks as writing hall passes, supervising playgrounds and helping small children pull on their snow boots—duties requiring something less than specialized knowledge or extensive academic preparation.

At least 25 of Wayne County's 43 school districts and a number of non-public schools are doing something to free their professionals for professional activity. They employ Paraprofessionals in a variety of ways as discovered in a recent survey by the "Paraprofessional Study" of the Wayne County Intermediate School District.

Financed through federal funds, the study is headed by Dr. Arnold Glownsky and Dr. Joseph Johns of the county staff.

Device Aids Ailing 'Preemies'

A new device, purported to aid premature infants born with hyaline membrane disease—the same disease that killed Patrick Bouvier Kennedy, son of the late president—has been patented by Dr. David L. Carlson of the University of Iowa.

Each year the disease afflicts some 25,000 newborn babies in the United States, mostly premature ones. One out of every 15 babies is born prematurely, the greater the danger that a baby's lungs will not inflate properly.

DR. CARLSON SAID his respiratory augmentor "is a useful adjunct to the intensive care normally given in the treatment of premature infants with hyaline membrane disease." He stressed, however, that it "is a treatment only, not a cure."

The device, which has been on the market about a year, is made by Bourne, Inc., Ames, Iowa. It consists of a nose mask to which two conduits are attached, one for inhalation, the other for exhalation.

An electronic monitor and control are used to stimulate the infant to return to the natural breathing rate whenever it falls below that rate.

Sets Advanced First Aid Class In Livonia

An advanced Red Cross First Aid class has been scheduled through the Livonia Board of Education for Emerson Jr. High School, 20100 W. Chicago in Livonia, beginning Wednesday, January 17, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. It will run for eight consecutive weeks.

Open to students, 15 years of age and up, and adults who have completed a standard first aid class within the past three years. Registration may be made at the high school.

The class will be taught by volunteer instructor Ray Burnett, free of charge.

It is concerned with current employment of paraprofessionals in county schools, whether their number should be increased and how this might be accomplished, and what the utilization of paraprofessionals holds for improving the education of the county's 700,000 school children.

PARAPROFESSIONALS are persons with less than the required or expected level of education or training who are performing duties usually performed by professionals under the direct supervision of professionals. They may be paid or volunteer workers assigned to assist a teacher, a counselor, librarian, or administrator.

There are almost 5,000 paraprofessionals already employed by public schools in Wayne County; one district, Detroit, accounts for over 4,000 of these, half of whom are volunteers.

Among non-public schools the survey showed 97 schools employ 1600 paraprofessionals, over 90 percent on a volunteer basis. All but 150 of these are being utilized at the elementary level, the level employing the largest number of paraprofessionals in the public schools as well.

SALARIES PAID paraprofessionals in the public schools range from \$1,500 to \$3,500 yearly, 85 percent of which is provided by federal agencies. Non-public salaries range from \$3,000 to \$4,300, with all but an estimated 15 percent paid from federal funds.

Paraprofessionals are serving in pre-school and adult programs as well as at elementary and secondary levels. In radio-teletexted teachers, one large trainable program employs paraprofessionals on a one-to-one basis; an even higher ratio is involved in pre-school programs which employ as many as three paraprofessionals for each certified teacher.

There are a number of problems relating to current staffing practices and the widespread employment of paraprofessionals: money for salaries must be found, training must be established, roles must be identified. But, the basic question of need was answered affirmatively by the survey.

In summarizing their findings, Doctors Glownsky and Johns report: "School administrators express great interest in the feasibility of employing paraprofessionals to work with their certificated personnel to improve the education of boys and girls."

New Chrysler Vice Presidents Announced

Four Chrysler Corporation executives have been elected to the office of vice president by the company's board of directors.

The new officers are: Eugene A. Caffero, group executive - Latin American Operations; Frederick Osmun, Jr., group executive - Power Train; Sydney L. Terry, director of engineering; and Glenn E. White, general manager - Chrysler - Plymouth Division.



EXAMINING NEW BOOK — Mrs. Alice De Podesta, right, shows Mrs. Marie O'Toole of the Farmington District Library staff, a picture of her late husband, Frank, in a copy of the Encyclopedia of American Biography which she recently presented to the library.

Livonia Post Office Seeks Applicants For Carriers

Postmaster Arthur G. Jenkins of Livonia, announced that applications are being accepted for carrier examination for employment with the Livonia Post Office to fill existing vacancies.

A written test is required to determine eligibility. Eligible candidates will be selected in the order of their Civil Service Examination grade.

Minimum age for carrier positions is 18 years. The starting salary is \$2.80 per hour.

Begins Studies

Robert P. Morris, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Morris, 19273 Osmun, Livonia, has begun his studies in management at the Detroit College of Business.

Complete information and application forms may be obtained from the Livonia Post Office, 11800 Merriman Road in Livonia.

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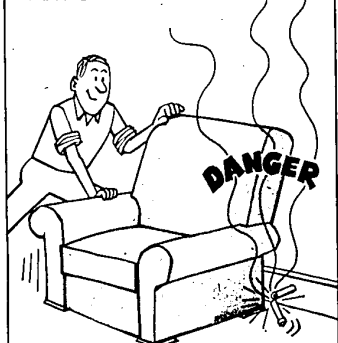
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