



**INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP** — All happy smiles are these Farmington exchange students and their American friends as they anticipate the sixth annual American Field Service dinner dance April 27 in the Armenian Cultural Center on Northwestern Hwy. Farmington's two AFS chapters are planning the event. Sure to be there are (from left in front) Marco Tres of Brazil, Birgit Madsen of Denmark, and Bill Karavanas of Greece. The American contingent from the left in back are David Crompton, Mrs. E. J. Lockwood, Carol Robertson and David Clappison.

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## Pilot Pupils Learn Techniques Of Writing

A pilot program to promote creative writing on the elementary level is now this year in the Farmington School District.

Formed the POWER program of creative writing—Purpose, Organization, Writing, Editing and Revising—the pilot was funded by the federal government under Title III of the National Defense Education Act. Since no models were available for the course, lesson plans were devised by teachers as the program developed. Trained to conduct the pilot were Mrs. Janet Rader, of Highmeadow School, and Jim Nuttall, of Kenbrook. Set up as a structured program, particular emphasis is directed toward invention, arrangement and style. Involved are fifth and sixth grade pupils with each class compared to a control group at a separate school.

The pilot group was first coached in accumulation of information; next step was organization.

Direction on creativity came from E.B. White's book, "Start Little," in which imaginative action is made normal through use of realistic details. Pupils were given such fantasy topics as "A Vacation on Saturn" or the autobiography of a football tired of being kicked, all with the aim of trying their literary wings of fancy.

Study was made of comic strips with dialogue removed to teach natural sequence.

Pupils were also instructed in how to expand their normal short, clipped sentences into more complex structures. Strong emphasis was placed on instruction in proofreading. A comparison will be made of 400-word first attempts at writing, unedited, with another 400-word product at the end of the semester.

Readers will be asked to evaluate sample work of the pilot group with the control group without knowing at what time the material was written.

To measure the course's success, Iowa tests of basic skills and two other tests have been given, with results to be measured by computer.

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