



ADELIA MINOR works out one last geometry problem before retiring in Redford Union.

Latin And Math Suit Meticulous Teacher

When Adelia Minor's students put on their togas and sat down to their annual Roman banquet, Latin was far from a dead language at Redford Union High School.

Beginning with a short sacrifice intoned to Jupiter in Latin, the Roman banquets were authentic "ad ovo ad mala" (from eggs to apples) Miss Minor recalls.

Students and faculty were welcomed to the classic board under a Federal Economic Recovery Act program teaching English to foreign born in St. Louis.

When she took a teaching post in Garden City in 1936, she organized a Girl Scout troop. For 10 years she took her girls camping each summer.

A student from her first class in her first job at Clarkston was Miss Minor's guest when she was honored by her fellow teachers and friends at a retirement banquet.

Modern math changed the emphasis in teaching geometry, according to Miss Minor. Students used to memorize proofs of theorems, drawing the diagrams and reciting statements and reasons.

Today, they solve problems, using the theorems as proofs in their exercises. Geometry has become a more practical subject, she comments.

MISS MINOR is retiring after teaching in Redford Union High School for 25 years. Earlier she was in

m. m. memos

Our first high school graduate is finding life new and different these days.

Besides a few parties and celebrations, she's enjoying some well deserved congratulations and the luxury of time off from school instead of taking final exams.

She also is struggling with learning to keep a mortar board straight and finding the mail rather interesting.

One pack of letters last week brought student activity registration forms from the university of her choice, about the third invitation she's received to live in a sorority house there - and a letter from the U.S. Air Force representative on campus.

There also was evidence of her relatively - new status as an adult - a couple of campaign cards from candidates seeking her vote in our community's school election.

The pomp and circumstance of graduation still is ahead, and then it's the end of an era for her and, in a way, for all of us.

So I'll add a mother's congratulations quickly, before the fanfare is over.

Because in just a few days more she heads for campus for a few days of orientation, and it's bound to be a mighty big step from proud graduate to lowly freshman.

-Margaret Miller

Spotlight on Women

Each June, retirements mean the departure of several well-known members of Observerland school staffs. We've talked to a few of those leaving this year to learn their stories.

Trees, Children Find Full Flower

By MARGARET MILLER Women's Editor

Flowering trees now stand on the grounds of Garden City's Henry Ruff and Maplewood schools and at the Northwest Guidance Clinic - gifts from a lady whose special approach to learning has helped many children reach full flower.

Mrs. Crystal Agre, who is retiring as school social worker, gave the trees for the places she has enjoyed working because "I wanted to leave something of beauty behind me."

But a legacy of far more importance has been left by Mrs. Agre in the schools she served and the clinic she helped establish.

IN JUST 15 years - she didn't start college until she was 49 and her last child was in college and her husband had his master's degree - she has been instrumental in starting a readiness program for all children starting school can feel some early success.

"Every child starts school with the expectation that he will learn," Crystal Agre says in explaining the readiness program.

"He must feel some success right away, or the emotional problems may start. But for some there is an immaturity in some field - his perception isn't the same as other children's or his ears don't relay messages the same way."

The program developed first in Henry Ruff school and later adopted by the Garden City system involves spotting in kindergarten the children with learning problems and alerting their parents.

Then the readiness children start first grade on half days, their teachers working with

them in small groups and "teaching to their strengths," as Mrs. Agre puts it.

"When little people experience even a minimum of success, you will not have so many emotional problems," she comments.

IN CRYSTAL AGRE'S own life, success in higher education came late and was all the more enjoyed.

"When I grew up in Kansas City, Mo., learning for girls wasn't much valued, so I didn't go to high school," she said. "I finished grade school June 7, 1917, and that was all the formal learning I had for more than 30 years."

But learning isn't all in books, and Mrs. Agre must have picked up a great deal as she watched a son and two daughters go through high school and into college and boarded university students in her Ann Arbor home.

For when she convinced Eastern Michigan University to let her take a series of entrance exams despite the lack of a high school diploma, she did so well on the first test that the rest were waived and she was admitted.

"It was the most thrilling and exciting thing that ever happened to me," she recalls.

"That first summer session I took American history and literature - because my daughter had taken those subjects the summer before and I happened to have the books."

IN THE FALL, she tackled 18 credit hours and received As in all but one course. She finished EMU on an alumni scholarship with majors in English and sociology and a teaching certificate and then was given a tuition grant to get her master's degree from

the University of Michigan in school social work.

She was hired by the Garden City schools even before completing the classroom work.

Once on the job, she said, it didn't take long for her to become convinced that many learning problems were physical rather than psychological in origin, and at that point she became acquainted with the Michigan Association for Children with Learning Difficulties and worked with others to establish in Garden City the Northwest Child Guidance Clinic, which since has changed its name and offers service to persons of all ages.

After the retirement gifts that have given Mrs. Agre the most pride are \$50 annual grants in her name from the PTAs of Henry Ruff and Maplewood schools to help children at the clinic.

"I've loved being part of a professional team in the Garden City schools," she said, "and that's what I'm going to miss most, after the little people, of course."

THE IDEA of retirement has taken some getting used to

Continued on Page 3C



DORIS FEDUS, on one of her last days in kindergarten, presides at story hour. That's six-year-old Donna Krause beside her. (Observer photo by Bob Woodring)

Roving Teacher Brings World To Kindergarten

Kindergarten with Mrs. Doris Fedus of Livonia has been sometimes like a world tour.

For the youngsters in her classes in the Rosedale School have had the benefits of pictures and stories of such faraway places as Europe, South American, Hong Kong, Turkey, Australia and Alaska.

Mrs. Fedus has traveled all over the world with her daughter, Sally, who served two terms in the Peace Corps, has been to South America with husband Rudolph, who enjoys yearly trips on the jungle rivers there, and has joined a group of teachers who went to Spain.

"I'VE ENJOYED passing on my experiences to the children," she said, "and I think I've been able to give them some knowledge of other parts of the world."

Now retiring after 20 years in kindergarten classrooms, she knows she'll miss her "little ones" but has decided to take some time for more activities she's never been able to fit in.

More travel, of course, but not right away.

Some volunteer work, especially with children, more attention to the educational portion, Alpha Delta Kappa,

which she serves as president, and increased activity in a couple of organizations, American Association of University Women and Women of Wayne. Also time for craft work and gardening.

MRS. FEDUS was honored by the Rosedale PTA with a retirement tea last week. On hand were more than 100 fellow teachers, mothers, and children who got off on a good start in school by being in her classes.

"The way she handles her little kindergartners is sheer magic," said one of the PTA

Continued on Page 3C

Buy the Best...

Buy Ozite Outdoor-Indoor Carpets
Beautiful, Durable...Guaranteed in Writing

Ozite-The Originators & only recognized name in Outdoor-Indoor Carpet!

"Colony Point"
THE REVOLUTIONARY NEW ALL PURPOSE OZITE CARPETING

GOES OUTDOORS. GOES INTO THE KITCHEN because it CLEANS SO EASILY. WEARS SO WELL. Goes into more public rooms like the family room because it's from a completely new process that makes it deeper, richer, and so thick that crushing is practically impossible. Tough polypropylene olefin pile with a foam rubber backing... the latter is a boon for do-it-yourselfers. Brilliant color choice-cherry red, sunshine gold, peacock blue, bright copper, crisp lime. Take a close look at this new wonder at the

ST. CLAIR CARPET SHOWROOM

\$ 5.95 SQ. YD.

Introductory Offer

COMPLETE CUSTOM PICTURE FRAMING
by Expert Designers
BEAUTIFUL OIL RESTORATION
Come in and see our displays

ST. clair * Art Gallery *

28040 JOY ROAD BETWEEN INKSTER & MIDDLEBELT
GA 7-1400 or 937-1144
Open Daily 9-9 Tues & Sat 9-6

In home service. Call us for estimates. GA 7-1400



CRYSTAL AGRE checks progress of one of the flowering trees she presented to Henry Ruff Elementary School in Garden City. (Observer photo by Bob Woodring)