

# State Watches Clarenceville's 'Sequential Reading' Plan

There was a string attached when Clarenceville School District got a \$37,000 state grant for its "sequential reading skills" program. The string was that



In connection with good grooming and style conscious persons interested in having their clothes restyled or altered. Personal fittings on both men's and women's clothing in our modern tailoring shop. Phone 349-2677, Lapham St., 129 E. Main-Downtown Northville.

Clarenceville would work with the Oakland Intermediate school office on brochures, slides and talks to tell other Michigan districts of its experience with a new K-6 reading system.

"Two years ago," recalls Dr. James Leary, assistant superintendent for instruction, "the board and administration made a commitment to improve reading skills in our district. We've borrowed ideas from all over. For example, some ideas came from the concept of performance contracting."

THE BASIC plan for Clarenceville's "sequential reading" plan, Leary explained, came from the University of Wisconsin's Center for Cognitive Skills. What it does is to break reading down into six basic skills, and then break each skill into five distinct levels, ranked A through E. Incredibly complex as the plan is to put into practice, it's fairly easy for a layman to grasp in outline.



"Nothing happens by accident. A student is diagnosed, is taught those needs and is tested for mastery of those needs."

--Dr. James Leary

Take the basic skill called "word attack." At the A level, it means understanding letters and numbers, rhyming phrases, and grasping left-right sequence. At the B level, the student recognizes compound words, contractions, plurals and possessives; at the D level, silent letters and accents. Take the skill called "study skills." At the A level, the student reads with extension; at C, identifies character traits; at D, recognizes reactions and

motives of characters; and at E, reaches conclusions from facts.

THOSE ARE a fraction of the possible examples and only three of the basic skill areas. Other basics are comprehension, self-directed reading and creative skills.

Before all of this could be implemented on students, Dr. Leary said, it had to be taught to the teachers. This organizational job fell to Patricia Vickery, Clarenceville's elementary consultant.

Two years ago the reading program was implemented in kindergarten and first grade; last year, in grades two and three; this summer in grades 4-6. Each time it meant workshops of two to four weeks for the teachers.

Other districts have applied "sequential reading" by introducing one or two skills at a time, but Leary says Clarenceville seems to be the first in Michigan to introduce all six basic skills at once, district-wide. Clarenceville has four elementary schools



TEACHERS NEEDED training to implement Clarenceville's "sequential reading skills" program. From left: Patricia Vickery, elementary consultant who set up two weeks of workshops; teachers Martha Sage and Rachel Bell. (Observer photo)

with about 75 teachers and 1,800 pupils.

This is where the \$37,000 state grant comes in - for participants' salaries, new materials for teachers and students, computer costs for outside evaluation and the dissemination costs of spreading the word across the state.

ENTERING ONE of Clarenceville's elementary schools, a parent this year wouldn't notice a great deal of difference immediately in the reading program. No special textbooks are used; teachers adapt existing materials to teaching whatever skill they're currently working on. Each day there will be a kind of "sacred hour" for working on reading skills. Leary explains:

"This is an uninterrupted time. Teachers teach from one to four skills, depending on student needs. A teacher may teach the same skill four times if that is what is necessary to meet the needs of students."

"During the skills hour, a student may be in his own classroom or another."

And that is how Clarenceville is carrying out its commitment to boost student reading skills.

IN PRACTICE, said Leary, students will take pre-tests to identify their precise levels in each kind of skill. "We could have kindergartners who score at the B and C level in some skills," he said.

Under "sequential reading," then, a student wouldn't have to repeat in class a skill he has already mastered. He could pick up at exactly what he needs to learn next.

"Nothing happens by accident. A student is diagnosed, is taught those needs and is tested for mastery of those needs," said Leary. Teachers get together and split up the work of small group teaching. Students get attention in groups of four or five.

ONE BENEFIT Leary particularly likes is that older students get a chance to help younger ones. "We have a regular bus route to bring high school students into the elementary schools to help. They receive a half-credit as a 'student aide' to the elementary school."

"We tried it on a pilot basis last year with 25, and this year we'll have 60. It was highly successful last year. In the feedback we got, they felt they had accomplished a great deal and had learned a lot about the needs of younger students."

Parents, too, volunteer to help. Some 40 parents are already putting in one to three hours a day.



HENRY TAZZIA has been appointed marketing manager of Controlled Power Corp., Farmington Township. A graduate electronics engineer, Tazzia joined CPC in 1970 as sales manager. The firm designs and manufactures proprietary modular DC power supplies for metal-working processes. Tazzia, of Troy, holds patents and is author of "Rectifier Theory and Application."

Stempien Hits 'Grandfather' Aid Veto

State Rep. Marvin R. Stempien (D-Livonia), has characterized Gov. Milliken's action in vetoing several items in the state school aid bill as being "shortsighted and in contradiction of his declared policy of promoting educational reform."

Among provisions in the bill vetoed were a \$150,000 allocation for experimental programs for academically talented or gifted children and \$15,000 for professional development of teachers in conjunction with programs advocated by local districts and educational organizations.

**FOX PHOTO**  
FOR ALL YOUR PHOTOGRAPHIC NEEDS  
DARKROOM SUPPLIES  
RENTALS  
TRADE-INS  
SILK FINISH  
QUALITY  
PHOTOFINISHING  
STOCK UP ON FILM FOR THE HOLIDAY  
882 W. ANN ARBOR TR.  
DOWNTOWN PLYMOUTH  
PHONE 453-5410

**The Art Home Decor**  
NELSON SCHRADER  
How do you choose what looks good to you? The only way to do it is to make a catalogue of the things that please you in furniture. Are you interested in comfort? In large furniture? Small, graceful pieces? What colors are your favorites? Do you want bookshelves? Overhead lighting or lamps? Just what is your taste in window curtains? Drapes or something frilly? When you have answered some of these most basic questions, then you are ready to begin thinking about redecoration.

Have you questions about furniture you want answered? All of us at SCHRAEDER'S HOME FURNISHINGS, INC., 111 N. Center St., Northville, 349-1838 and 825 Pennington, Plymouth, 453-8220 do our best to assist you with suggestions. We handle home furnishings in any style for any room in your home and carry any national brand name furniture you want. Hours: Mon. thru Thurs. 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Fri. 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Sat. 9-6, Closed Sunday

**HURRY! DON'T MISS THE FUN!**  
WESTERN-STYLE SQUARE DANCING at the BARN  
HIGH INTERMEDIATE  
474-0335  
476-4898  
BEGINNERS START SEPT. 10

**LIVONIA TRUE VALUE HARDWARE**

**HOLIDAY Paint Sale**  
SUPREME LATEX HOUSE PAINT  
2 GALS. FOR \$13.00  
REG. \$8.98 GALLON  
Custom Mixed Colors Slightly Higher

**24 Charming Jamestown Colors and White**

**weber**  
The 49" or 18" KETTLE  
Jet black porcelain finish inside & out, heavy-duty steel. Aluminum legs and ash catcher; white-wal rubber-tired wheels.  
24<sup>95</sup> WITHOUT WHEELS  
29<sup>50</sup> WITH WHEELS  
31<sup>95</sup> COPPER or AVOCADO

**TRU-TEST Supreme**  
LATEX HOUSE PAINT  
SAVE \$4.96 ON TWO GALLON PURCHASE  
8-PC. DECORATOR SET  
9" metal paint tray, 9" roller frame with 3/8" nap cover, 11" extension, paint paddle, tray grid, 1 1/2" trim brush, tool to clean roller and open paint cans. Shop early—quantities limited, subject to prior sale.  
4.37 Value! \$1.99

**TRU-TEST Supreme**  
SATIN-HUE FLAT INTERIOR LATEX  
SAVE \$2.01  
REG. \$7.98  
5<sup>97</sup> GALLON  
Custom Mixed Colors Slightly Higher

**TRU-TEST Supreme**  
OIL BASE REDWOOD STAIN  
1<sup>99</sup> GALLON  
Reg. 2.98  
For wood siding, shingles, fences.

**ORTHO FOGGER**  
Insecticide  
\$2.98 1/2 gal.

**OPEN LABOR DAY**  
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

**WARM Morning broilmaster**

**OUTDOOR GAS GRILL**  
\$89.95 Reg. \$117.95  
Price includes permanent post, cast aluminum grill, 2 reduced shelves, heat indicator, potato rack and 2 piece porcelain enameled cast-iron cooking racks. Other bases available are the patio base or a portable cart.

**SUMMER clearance**  
UP TO 50% OFF ON ALL POOL TOYS & ACCESSORIES  
Large selection of blow up rings, animals, "surfboards," fins, goggles, life preservers  
Also Novelty Swing Toys at Sale prices!

**LIVONIA HARDWARE**  
5 MILE ROAD at FARMINGTON ROAD  
PHONE GA 2-1155 - 937-1811  
DAILY, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
SUNDAY, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**TV REPAIRS**  
IN YOUR HOME OR YOU CAN BRING IT INTO THE SHOP  
EXPERT REPAIRS ON T.V., STEREO, RADIOS, ETC.  
**DON LOR'S COLORLAND TV**  
427-3910 422-3020  
3366 W. 5 MILE ROAD  
3 blocks West of Farmington Rd.