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The Open School Door

A Series of Articles on Clinton County Schools and Their Problems

By JAMES EGAN, Principal

DeWitt High School

Meet the state champs in their class — Bath. This week we shall meet the Clinton county school that won the state's prized basketball trophy in class "D" last year.

Again this year, the James Couzens high school stayed in the class "D" size by the nearest of margins. The official count in grades 9-12 was 199 students enrolled. At 200 students the class size moves up to "C". The total enrollment of the Bath schools is 1,015 students.

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THE a d m inistration consists of L. H. Latchaw, superintendent; Harry H. Jenkins, high school principal and Mrs Harry H. Jenkins, elementary principal. The Jenkins family is new to Bath this year, coming there from Owosso.

The original school building standing today dates from that tragic school bombing of the mid-1920's. After the bombing, in appreciation of the large contribution to the new building made by one of the US Senators at that time, the new high school was named after James Couzens.

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THE MOST modern development in the school system and its curriculum is t h e new 48-Station Language laboratory. This was mainly paid for out of the National Defense Act title funds. This includes a program in foreign languages from the fourth grade through more advanced courses in high school. The equipment is also used for music appreciation classes.

Included in the secondary part of the school are very complete shop, mechanical draw i n g, and agricultural programs and some outstanding new science equipment paid also by the NDA funds.

It appears that the Bath school system is taking fullest advantage of the help that the state and federal government provides in reimbursements to education.

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INCLUDED IN activities besides the four major sports are glee club, band, National Honorary group, Jets club, English club, Home economics and FFA groups. Also, Bath has a very active PTA which m e e t s the second Thursday of each school month and invites all interested folks to attend.

Bath seems to have two problems that are common to most area schools. First, the elementary grades seem to be running about 100 students in enrollment. T h i s large enrollment of classes tends towards an overcrowded condition.

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THE SECOND common area problem seems to be teachers' salaries and Bath is starting to do some future planning on this problem. Bath has also a problem of maintaining a c o nsistent school policy due to the large turn-over in staff members.

Outside of these basic problems Bath school seems to be doing very well in presenting an outstanding educational program.