

The Open School Door

A Series of Articles on Clinton County Schools and Their Problems

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What goes through a principal's mind at graduation time? in school so why not let him have his way during the summer vacation time?

How can the summer be of educational value to school children? This week's column will end "The Open School Door" series and, with this idea in mind there will be a few loose ends to finish up.

As a principal sits on the stage and sees those 12-year robed products of the school system, many thoughts pass through a person's mind. Outside of the fact that you hope that every part of the program goes along smoothly, especially the part that you are involved in, many other past memories pause for brief moments within our thought stream. There are of course the many past experiences encountered with each of the graduating class members.

UNFORTUNATELY, far too often for a principal, the past memories include need for correcting or aiding students in various sorts of problems. Generally most principals see lots of abilities in all of the students, but it often takes a lot of hard work bringing it to the surface. It's well worth the effort, but most of us feel we could have done more under different circumstances. So we pass the youngsters on to their futures wishing that we could have done much more for them.

What will the child's summer be to him? A summer of wasted months with nothing to show for it, or a summer of accomplishments? We have far too often heard that the student works nine months of the year

Considering that these three months vacation times add up to 36 months over his school years, we could say that we are approving of throwing away three years of his life. Certainly, there are many other nations who do not waste this valuable training time.

LASTLY, let's not overlook the fact that in these young folks' occupational futures they probably will not have so much "free" time. It's the three months free time habit that is hard to break for too many young adults.

How can this time be best used? It, of course, would depend upon each child's individual needs. Some suggestions which deserve consideration are partly listed below.

1. Take summer school courses to strengthen weaker educational areas. This is becoming very common for teenagers in many areas of the state.

2. Encourage younger members of the family to be a part of the community summer program. Here they can learn much beyond the fundamentals of sports in the ever more expanding programs.

3. **HAVE** children attend camps of their choice. Many are speciality camps for church groups, music and leadership training.

4. Encourage those who wish to work and have a related saving program for something different.

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There are many youngsters who may be needed at home, probably most of those living on farms. These children should be encouraged also to have some self-improvement program of their own. Certainly, a good home reading program is always helpful to opening new roads of success.

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WE HAVE only listed a few suggestions, but the important item to remember is that a whole long summer is a long time to say that nothing of accomplishment was done.

We would like to thank those who gave us suggestions on what they wished to be covered in this series and also to Ink White for giving us this opportunity. It certainly has been an enjoyable experience for an old "news hound". We extend best wishes for a fruitful, enjoyable summer.
