

McClain To Retire After 44 Years

"I want to travel--as long as my money lasts," answered Miss Vesta McClain, counselor, when she was asked about her plans for retirement after 44 years in Webster schools. Her itinerary so far includes a trip next fall to visit Canada and the east coast.

But Miss McClain will also have lots to do at home. She loves gardening and collects antique china, glass, and figurines.

She has just picked up an interest in antiques, but she was born with the urge to travel. Her first home was Sedalia, Missouri, and since her father was an executive for the Missouri Pacific Railroad, the family moved a lot. They had free passes to go anywhere on the Missouri Pacific trains.

At college, Miss McClain first hoped to become a doctor, but finally decided on guidance counseling. Her undergraduate study was at Central Missouri State College, and her graduate work was at Missouri University, Columbia University, and Northwestern University.

When she first came to Webster in 1919, she taught eighth grade at Lockwood Elementary School. Then in 1921 she moved to Webster High where she has taught math, science, Latin, and English, in addition to her regular counseling.

At the time that she was first here, Miss McClain explained, the school was very different. The part of the building where the junior entrance is was an older building and the senior school wasn't there at all. The third floor cor-



Photo by Hanchett

Miss McClain talks with a student.

ridor with the round windows hadn't been built yet either. A road called Standish ran through the field from Selma to Plymouth.

The building where the Board of Education is now was first a grocery store, and then a Christian Science Church before it was bought for the school.

In the years since then, Miss McClain has always lived with a friend in a little white house at 40 Sylvester. Every schoolday she has walked through her backyard, stepped between the wires of an old fence, and then through another yard to Selma and the high school.

Remembering those years, Miss McClain explained why they were happy ones. "I've always enjoyed my work," she said. "There hasn't been a day that I haven't learned something new."

Superintendent H. W. Schooling Leaving Webster; To Take Post As Dean Of Education At Mizzou

"I think I was the editor," said Dr. H.W. Schooling hesitantly about his high school newspaper days. As a boy in Sarcox, Missouri, Dr. Schooling did not have as much homework as students today, and consequently more time to explore other areas of work besides the ones assigned. "I was anxious to get my homework done so that I could do other things," he said with a twinkle in his eye. "Other things" included outdoor ice-skating, intensive reading and bridge games with his sister.

Dr. Schooling is still searching for other things to do. He has resigned as superintendent of schools and will leave in June to take a post at Missouri University.

The friendly superintendent has taken part in countless activities. He has had a lively interest in the athletic program, and although his full schedule has prevented him from enjoying all the many sports events, he has attended the foot-ball games regularly. He and Mrs. Schooling have gone to band concerts and have tried to attend the Paper Doll Prom, the Echo-Coronation and the Senior Prom each year.

As a former principal of a high school the size of Webster, Dr. Schooling knew all the students' names. "Now, I don't know as many as I wish I did," he admits regretfully. Although this may be true, he has often visited classrooms and talked personally with students and teachers. He feels this is the best way to know what is going on.

His school visits are packed into his busy schedule which would seem hectic to the average person. During a not-too-unusual



Photo by Hanchett

Dr. Schooling shows one of the mementos that decorates his desk. The paper-mache mermaid, complete with a tiny mortar-board, was a place-card holder at a school district luncheon.

week, he flew to Denver Monday evening for the National School Board Association meeting and was back in the office at noon Tuesday. Thursday, he spoke to eight hundred teachers in Springfield, Missouri. Also on his schedule are principals' conferences, staff meetings and gatherings of national school board associations, and public relations committees. He chairs the Educational Council for Responsible Citizenship, of which

Thomas H. Eliot, chancellor of Washington University, is the co-chairman.

Upon his departure Dr. Schooling extends a warm invitation to the students to study under his guidance once again at the University of Missouri's School of Education where he will be Dean.

The well-loved superintendent has received warm wishes, congratulatory notes and honorary citations upon his new appointment.

Car Brands Tell Teachers' Traits

Teacher, does the make of car you drive reveal your personality? According to Vance Packard in his book, *The Hidden Persuader*, it may. Mr. Packard claims, "automobiles are heavily laden with social meaning . . . they provide avenues for the expression . . . of the character."

In view of statements in Mr. Packard's book, an informal survey taken by one curious reporter on *THE WEBSTER ECHO* staff reveals some interesting data.

For instance, the large number of Chevrolets on the teachers' parking lot contradict the concept that some teachers are stuffy. Chevrolet owners are reported by the omniscient author to be "sociable and up-to-date." He says ownership of a foreign or small car such as a Hillman, Fiat, Triumph, Sunbeam, or Volkswagen indicates either a flair for sophistication, or a more serious craving for attention. Hmmm?

Teachers who drive Fords, Mercuries, or Oldsmobiles might

search their souls, for choice of one of these makes may indicate showiness. On the other hand, the fence-straddling author indicates that it may merely reflect desire to defend individuality. Teachers! Beware! Your auto motive may be showing.

Brucker Bats .917

Mr. Brucker, head of the math department, has applied the laws of probability to the inanimate game of baseball. He has thought out a formula for predicting winners in major-league baseball games. Manipulating the three factors of hitting, pitching, and fielding, Mr. Brucker has scientifically foretold the results of 11 out of 12 games. The wrong prediction was on a ball game settled by one run.

Mr. Gaines, physical education teacher, is a little skeptical of the formula. "I think it's just luck," he said with proper athletic reserve.

Webster Varies Summer Activities

Once again the Webster Groves City Recreation Department will direct a variety of summer activities. Among those offered will be summer school, baseball, swimming, church groups, day camps, scouting, music lessons, band programs, tennis, the Public Library, and many more.

Picnic fanatics will be thrilled to discover that in addition to Memorial and Blackburn Parks, three more will soon be open. Those to be developed are Larsen Park and an area adjacent to Lockwood School. An area next to Clark School is in the planning stage.

Faculty Boasts Yo-Yo Champ

Miss Gelner, girls' physical education teacher, besides running her students in circles, has kept yo-yos going in circles with such success that she was in the finals of a local St. Louis yo-yo tournament in 1954 and the four years following. She won twice, and received two bicycles. For two years she was a finalist and received trophies.

Recently she won a local badminton title. This title came after much experience--she won badminton singles in college and the Midwest College Tournament in which 40 people participated. Also in college she was the high point winner for three years in track and field on Spring Weekend.

Miss Gelner, who has taught at Webster for one year, will attend the University of Wisconsin next year to work on her Masters degree.

Munch, Armstrong Tops In French

Susan Munch and Guy Armstrong both gained top honors for their outstanding scores in the St. Louis Division of the Concours National Francais, a national contest for high school French students. Susan received a first prize in the French II division, and Guy won a second prize in the French III division.

Students from 20 schools in the St. Louis area took a qualifying test earlier in the year. At each school, teachers selected the highest scores and sent them to the American Association of Teachers of French, which sponsors the contest. The association then decided upon the winning papers.

"I was so excited when I found out that two Webster students had won," exclaimed Mrs. Marie Koons, who is Guy's teacher. "It's a great accomplishment to get two

top prizes when you're competing against schools that have the advantage of language labs."

Other county schools collected five awards. Country Day ranked in four awards and Normandy received one. A student in Louisiana, Missouri got the final award for the area.

A Webster student was awarded third prize in a previous contest, but this year is the first time that students of the school have won first or second places.

Monsieur Rene' Allewaert, the French cultural attache in Chicago, presented the awards, which consisted of gold, silver, and bronze medals and books in French for each division. The prizes were given out at a meeting of the A.A.T.F. on Saturday, May 18, at Washington University.

Psychology Teacher Joins Peace Corps

"It has the only active volcano in Africa," Mr. Robert Utz explained enthusiastically about the small Cameroon Republic. "That isn't why the Peace Corps decided to send me there, though."

The psychology and history teacher stated that he had considered applying for the Peace Corps for almost a year, although no single person or happening had actually decided the question. "I thought it would be interesting and challenging work, and almost mandatory in view of the world situation. Mostly, I just wanted to be in necessary work."

As a Peace Corps member, Mr. Utz will be teaching in a secondary school, working in community development, and participating in recreation leadership.

"The pay rate will be as high as that of a teacher in Cameroon, so our standard of living will be no higher than the inhabitants'." As yet, he has not been informed of what subjects he will teach.

Although the majority of the country speaks French, the natives in his area speak English, and classes will be conducted in that language. "It's a good thing," he smiled, "I speak absolutely no



Photo by Hanchett

Mr. Utz looks pensively at the camera and contemplates inactive volcanoes.

French, and I would be lost if I had to learn the numerous tribal dialects in order to teach."

Setting aside the Geographic, he picked up an Information Please Almanac, and quoted other interesting facts about the country. "It has four million people, the largest city is 120,000, it is mountainous tropical rain forest, and has up to 80 inches of rain." He paused and reflected, "Besides, it has the only active volcano in Africa."



Peggy Kerwin, a '59 graduate, was chosen to be Miss Armed Forces for the St. Louis festivities May 18. Peggy, a student at Washington University, was Miss Air Force in the preliminary contest.