

Tic Tac Toe Used To Teach New Math Method At Mills Lawn School

BY DAVE MASTERS

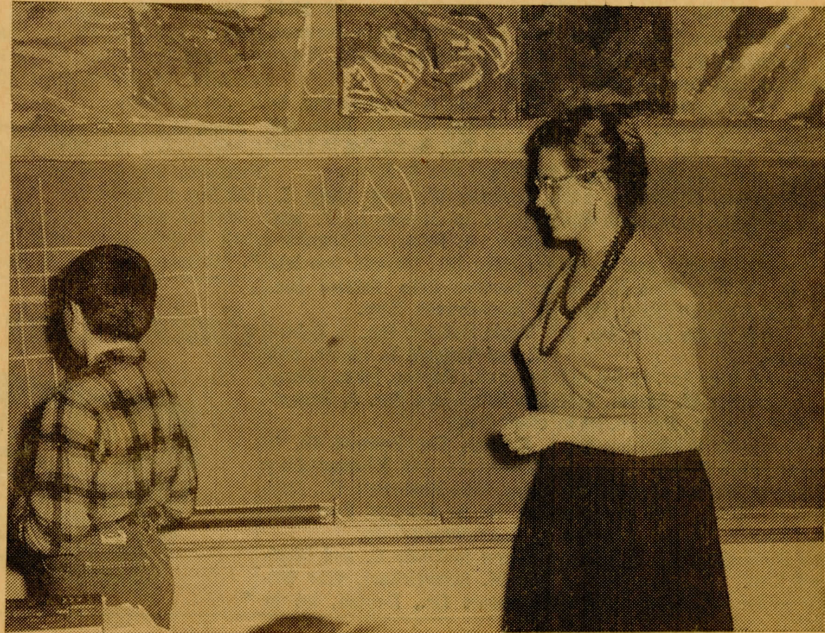
Mathematics, like history, is a subject too often considered as a requirement in school rather than one to be approached with interest as having lasting value to offer students. A perennial bete noire for many people, mathematicians are changing their presentation of the subject to students. This change is leading to what is called modern mathematics and the Madison project, being studied in classes at Mills Lawn Elementary School is one approach to the subject.

Teachers at the school are taking a course each Monday in the project with advanced credit being given for the course. Dr. William Mullins teacher at Antioch Laboratory School and J. Elbert Schicketdantz, mathematics instructor at Yellow Springs High School, are in charge of the course.

The school also has a student teacher, Miss Jane Wittman, a senior at Antioch College to instruct classes one day a week as a supplementary program to the regular classwork in mathematics.

Miss Wittman is from Paramus, N.J. and is majoring in elementary education. During her work-study program last summer, she became interested in the Madison project in modern mathematics. She was assigned to work in St. Louis with the project and came in contact with Dr. Robert Davis, leader in the program.

Dr. Davis received his doctorate from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and concentrates his project work between Syracuse University in New York and Webster College, a woman's college in St. Louis,



PLAYS GAME—To participate is to learn and Duncan Wilson, left, of a fifth grade class at Mills Lawn School, Yellow Springs, finds a point

in a tic tac toe game with student teacher, Miss Jane Wittman of Antioch College.—(Gazette photo by Paul J. Egan).

Mo. Through his guidance, she began to learn the method practiced by the Madison project in with her aim after graduation the St. Louis school system, this year, to be a fulltime demonstrator in St. Louis.

After her study in St. Louis, she returned to Antioch College in December. John Jay Check, principal at Mills Lawn Elementary School, wanted students to have an opportunity to hear of the project and invited Miss Wittman to come to the school once a week, to meet with classes for 45 minutes.

One method she uses is the game of tic tac toe applied to mathematics. Students are to call out on the graph she has on the board, the positioning of an x or dot, by the use of positive negative numbers. By calling the right numbers, one group can place their dot or x in the order to win. Students in the fifth grade class of Daniel Smith were quite interested in the work Tuesday and were learning the use of numbers as they played the game.

The Madison method, which tries to foster more interest in the use of mathematics, can be applied in grades from kindergarten to the ninth, but is considered most effective in grades four, five and six. Miss Wittmann said that over 40 hours of classroom film on the project al-

ready has been produced in St. Louis which would be available to other school systems in the future.

The project is one approach to the study of mathematics, in this age when parents are finding it necessary to go back to school to brush up on mathematics to be able to understand some of the problems facing their children in school.

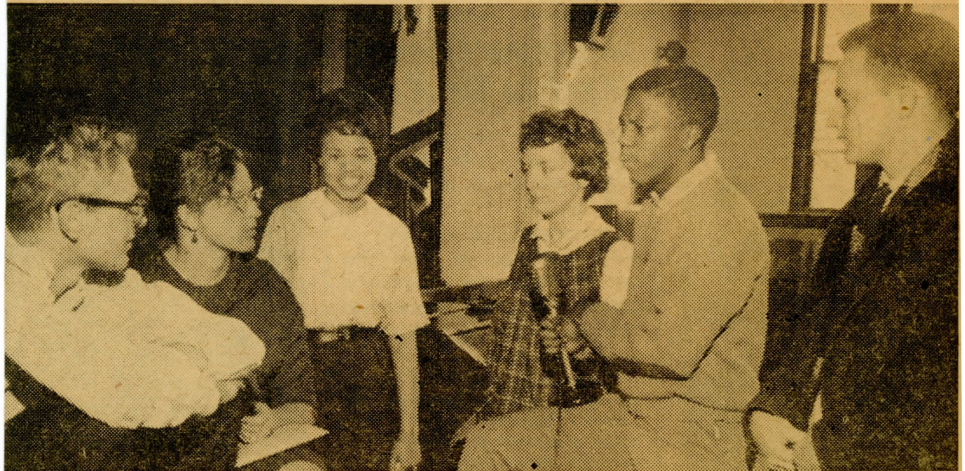
In explaining it, Miss Wittman said the traditional method of mathematics is not sufficient to cope with the advances being made in science today. Simple rote learning of tables or a series of tasks to complete is no longer sufficient.

Learning is advancing too swiftly in space exploration, man's concepts of the shape and size of the earth, advances in astronomy, undersea exploration and work in nuclear physics, for students to be qualified to work on computers without a change in the teaching of mathematics.

What the Madison project is seeking is to open up opportunities for students to discover patterns in abstract material, to get a basic experience that will prepare a student for further advances in mathematics. Students should be taught to extend themselves from an area that they are familiar with into unknown areas.

The important goal is that students are able to formulate the proper questions and after the answers in the proper manner. To identify what is true and false, to be placed in situations where they have to discover the unknown from the experiences and knowledges they have.

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CARL WITTMAN and his sister, Jane, of Paramus, left, at Charleston, W. Va., discuss their experiences with West Virginia State College students, Courtney Butler of Columbus, Ohio; Linda Johnson of South Charleston; Thomas Abernathy of Charleston, and Robert Parkins of Red House.

(Charleston Gazette Staff Photo)

A Funny Thing Happened

To the Wittmans in West Virginia

PARAMUS—The two most surprised people in Charleston, West Virginia, recently were Jane Wittman and her brother Carl, of E-42 Century Rd.

As they mounted the platform at the West Virginia State College auditorium, neither knew that the other had also been invited as a guest speaker.

Officials at the State College had written to Antioch College in Ohio and to Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania, asking each to send a leading stu-

dent to take part in a panel discussion on the role of students in contemporary life.

Antioch selected Jane, a fifth year education major, and Swarthmore sent Carl, a senior in the history honors program. Neither student knew that the other had also been invited to the West Virginia campus.

During their three-day stay at Charleston as guests of the Student Council, Jane and Carl took

part in a general assembly, panel discussions, informal group meetings and social events. Both expressed the view that students must look beyond their own immediate needs to the problems of modern life.

"Students shouldn't worry so much about cafeteria food and petty campus gripes when the big problems affecting their lives are outside the campus," said Carl. He listed the major problems facing students today as unemployment, politics and racial discrimination.

"Discrimination," he went on, "is a problem not only for Negroes but also for the white people who have suffered from poverty and ignorance, particularly in this Appalachian area and in urban centers."

"Students," said Jane, "should stick to their convictions and do what they believe is right."

Both Jane and Carl attended Farview and Memorial Schools in Paramus. Jane graduated from Hackensack High School and Carl from Paramus High School.

Swarthmore and Antioch are colleges known not only for their high academic standards, but also for their students' participation in off-campus activities.

Thus, Jane is a member of the Antioch Committee for Racial Equality and a reporter for the college newspaper. In 1960, she was one of a group of Antioch students who visited Cuba. Her college work-experience program has

taken her to Philadelphia, Cleveland, New York City, Baltimore and St. Louis. She is now on a committee to aid the Hazard, Kentucky, miners. After graduation this June, she will work full-time with the St. Louis Madison Project, a pilot program for elementary school mathematics.

Carl has been equally active at his college. He was elected to the Swarthmore Student Council, was editor-in-chief of the college newspaper, and is chairman of the Swarthmore Political Action Club. He and fellow college students have been involved in the civil rights movements in Cambridge, Maryland and in Chester, Penna. He also served a full summer on a Negro-voter registration project in Tennessee under the sponsorship of the American Friends Service Committee, a Quaker organization.

Both Wittmans told their West Virginia audience that they are part of the student movement because they believe that people have a right to control and make decisions in all affairs affecting

their lives. But their appearance at the same time on the same stage, they emphasized, was purely coincidental.

"We don't go around the country doing a political soft-shoe routine," quipped Carl.



NO CARS—Donald Malbon of 776 Hunterdon Street, grins behind PAL sign which seals off one of 50 areas.



FUN 'N GAMES—Newark youngsters crowd around off gymnastic talents. The streets are closed from 9 a.

Play Streets Popular With Pla

By PHYLLIS MAYO

At about 8 a.m., four or five children cluster at a street curb. Minutes later several more youngsters join the

group. By 8:30 the gathering has exploded into a crowd.

A car slowly wheels around the corner at 9 and parks beside yellow street barricades.

"Here he comes!"
"There he is!"

The youngsters, now numbering 100 or more, throng to the car to meet their recreation supervisor.

This scene occurs almost simultaneously at 50 play areas in the Newark poverty belt. The Summer Neighborhood Block Recreational and Improvement Program, in a six-day infancy, has swept into full-scale popularity with the children who have previously been left to their own resources in the streets.

The program, formulated by the mayor's office and the United Community Corporation, is administered by the Police Athletic League (PAL). The Office of Economic Opportunity has allotted the city of Newark \$169,305 under the anti-poverty program.

Wednesday night, the program almost came to a halt when a citizen informed the City Council that PAL had turned 50 streets into play areas without council approval. According to City Clerk Harry S. Reichenstein, an ordinance submitted by the administration designating the play streets would have to be adopted by the council to make it legal.

Sgt. Gerard J. O'Connor, program co-ordinator, explained that there were three play areas which had to be moved to other locations due to citizens' complaints. As for the ordinance

lic Library, and the Turtle E Zoo.

Trips to the World's Fair, Bronx Zoo, the United Nations building, the Museum of Natural History, a state park, Sandy Hook Beach, and a number of New York City are also on the agenda. On rainy days the PAL has an agreement with some of the theaters for special tickets.

As early as Tuesday, youngsters were being culturally enlightened. Joseph Holm, working directly out of the office, has compiled an arts and music program. He takes

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Newark News Photos

lay street barricade to show
to 5:30 p.m. 6 days a week.

ART LESSON—Young artists look up as their play street supervisor, Miss Jane Wittman, praises or criticizes their work. Other children voice their own opinions.

ying Set

art exhibition, which includes most of the art media, to each unit. The children examine the works closely and decide which ones they like.

On a surprise inspection of the play-areas, Deputy Mayor Paul Reilly and Spina were favorably pleased with the number of children involved in the program, the children's enthusiasm and inventiveness, and the amount of organization already apparent.

"I think one of the biggest things to come out of this program," said Reilly, "is the trips. For instance, Shea Sta-

dium is a place these kids expect to see only on television."

Spina was also pleased, but he noticed the empty lot on the corner that could be cleared of rocks and used for baseball, the potholes in another street that needed to be filled, the abandoned cars in still another area that would soon be removed, and the two evacuated buildings that required razing. If the streets were not clean, Spina made a memo.

The program received favorable reactions from other sources also.

Sol Fishbein, a grocer in Peshine Avenue, said: "We should have had this done long ago. Now the mothers can stay home and do their work with peace of mind."

Mrs. Beatrice Tharpe, mother

of an 8-year-old playing in one of the blocked-off streets, cautioned: "It's a good beginning, but I think that the supervisors should watch more than one area. The kids could get hurt on the corner here." She explained that most of the time her son had played in the street except when she had the time to take him to the park.

PAL officials have run into a few snarls and reactions that are not quite so happy. Some people who live within the blocked off areas, are afraid the youngsters will break their windows. One woman has just

painted her house and does not want the job ruined by active children.

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streets continue.

"Going to Town"

Police Director Dominick A. Spina explained that many peo-
ple point to the city parks and
question why the youngsters do
not use these facilities. "That's
the point," said Spina.
"Where are the kids—in the
streets! So we're going to
them."

Sgt. O'Connor, program co-
ordinator, used low income, high
crime rate, and a pre-
dominance of children as crite-
ria for selecting the play areas.
He and his assistants, Charles
De Fares, Charles Cook and Jack
and A-3 rating basis. O'Connor
believes that OEO will count
the program a success if 25 of
the units receive over-all A-1
ratings, but he his shooting for
35 excellent areas by the end of
the five-week period.

Mothers Help

The program is designed for
boys and girls between the ages
of 8 and 17. However, neither
infants or older teen-agers are
being denied entrance to the
play areas. Leroy Sellers, su-
pervisor for the Hunterdon
Street area, between Avon Ave-
nue and Madison Avenue, finds
no difficulties with the wide age
span. Some of the teen-age girls
from the area watch over the
infants, while the older girls
become volunteer teach-
ers. In many instances, moth-
ers keep the smaller children
out of mischief.
PAL is busy supplying the su-
perintendents with equipment
for volleyball, basketball, hand-
ball, baseball, shuffleboard, and
boxing. The office will also dis-
tribute checkers sets, multi-
table games and drawing ma-
terials.

While waiting for the PAL
equipment, inventive boys and
girls have created their own.
In many of the play areas, there
will be youngsters with their
own plastic bats and balls. On
Peshine Avenue, boys have cre-
ated volley ball nets with string
and rope. No one seems to
mind losing a basketball into
a fruit basket with its bottom
punched out. Little girls jump
rope beside a group of children
who are playing hopscotch on
squares chalked out in the
street.

On Peabody Place, Jack
Woods, a former state boxing
champion, spars with the boys.
The youngsters in the Orchard
Street area gather in the park
for a rousing baseball game.

Go to Mets' Game

The recreation program in-
cludes numerous group activi-
ties for the participants. On
Wednesday, 200 children at
tended a baseball game at Shea
Stadium. Similar trips to Yan-
kee Stadium are planned for the
future. Within Newark, the
groups will take advantage of
the parks and pools, the New-
ark Museum, the Newark Pub-