

From Local Ag Teachers:



Thoughts in Passing



The article this week was written by Clifford Day, instructor at Garden Spot High School.

Teachers are an unusual group of professionals. Their jobs are similar to no other profession. Whether they teach in a formal classroom or as a drill sergeant in combat conditions, he must transfer knowledge to students or other persons requiring such knowledge.

Teachers may find it difficult to ascertain their success or failure in any short run but the long run results attest to a teacher's success or failure. People tend to regard teachers as non-professional, without the status of doctors, lawyers, or bankers.

We often look back to the days when teachers were inferior and their teaching careers lasted from three to four years. Teaching was an occupation that called for little ambition and anyone who could not do manual work would become a teacher.

The history of teaching is full of stories of the poor conditions, short careers, and low pay from which poorly trained teachers had to convey knowledge to eager students. Horace Mann, the great educator once commented that we pay most to those who kill us—

generals; next, to those who entertain us—minstrels and singers, and least to those who educate us—teachers.

Low pay has been a major deterrent to getting good teachers but this problem is being overcome by associations that fight for improvements for teachers and students alike.

The education of teachers has vastly improved since the days of Horace Mann. The colleges and universities of this country can boast of having some of the best teacher training centers in the world. There are many modern developments in the teaching fields that have lightened the teacher's work load and thereby made it possible for him to do a better teaching job.

Overhead projectors and materials for making the overhead transparencies have greatly reduced the time needed for a teacher to prepare for his class. This improvement itself has been of great value.

Teachers today are better trained in their field and therefore are better able to teach than in the days of Horace Mann. One reason that teachers are better able to teach is that they get more practical experience or on the job training.



Clifford J. Day
Teacher of vocational agriculture
Garden Spot High School

The old adage that "experience is the best teacher" still is very true in today's teaching profession. In the field of agriculture, teachers get actual experience in doing the things that are common jobs on the farm. Such actual experience for teachers help to keep them up-to-date on the ever-changing look in the agriculture industry.

The constant changes in the industry also means it is necessary to read the latest information on anything, from feeding steers to building pole barns, or at least be able to tell students and young farmers

where they may find such information.

It should stand to reason then why teachers have to keep up-to-date on all of the modern or newly discovered information in all fields.

Since the title of this series is called "Thoughts in Passing" I would like to conclude with a poem that may serve to tie some of these thoughts together. The author is unknown but the message is clear regardless what subject a teacher may teach.

"A builder builded a temple;
He wrought with care and skill;
Pillars and groins and arches
Were fashioned to meet his will'
And men said when they saw its beauty;
"It shall never know decay.
Great is thy skill, O Builder,
Thy fame shall endure for aye".

A teacher builded a temple
He wrought with skill and care;
Forming each pillar with patience,
Laying each stone with prayer.
None saw the unceasing effort;
None knew of the marvelous plan;
For the temple the teacher builded

Was unseen by the eyes of man.

Gone is the builder's temple
Crumbled into the dust,
Pillar and groin and arches
Food for the consuming rust;
But the temple the teacher builded
Shall endure while the ages roll;
For that beautiful, unseen temple
Was a child's immortal soul."

xxx

If you have extra whipping cream on hand, whip it, then freeze individual portions on a cookie sheet and wrap in foil. Store in the freezer for a quick dessert garnish.

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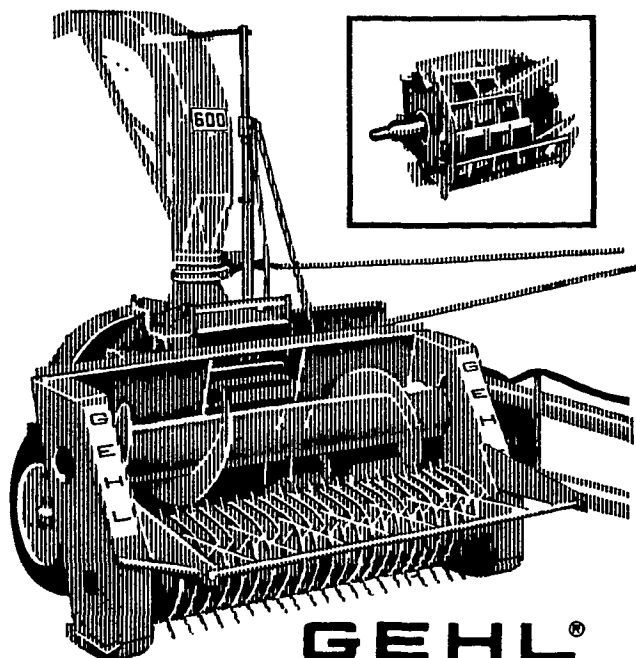
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