

Hands-on

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take warning" from a morning red sky.

They'll get to blow up the teacher when they begin a study of air and its properties. According to a study guide prepared for the district's elementary classes by Wilkes University's Dr. Walter Placek, the students will make and use individual compressed air units (heavy duty quart-size food storage bags taped shut around plastic straws) to lift the teacher, who is seated on a platform. The students provide the air; the teacher's weight compresses it.

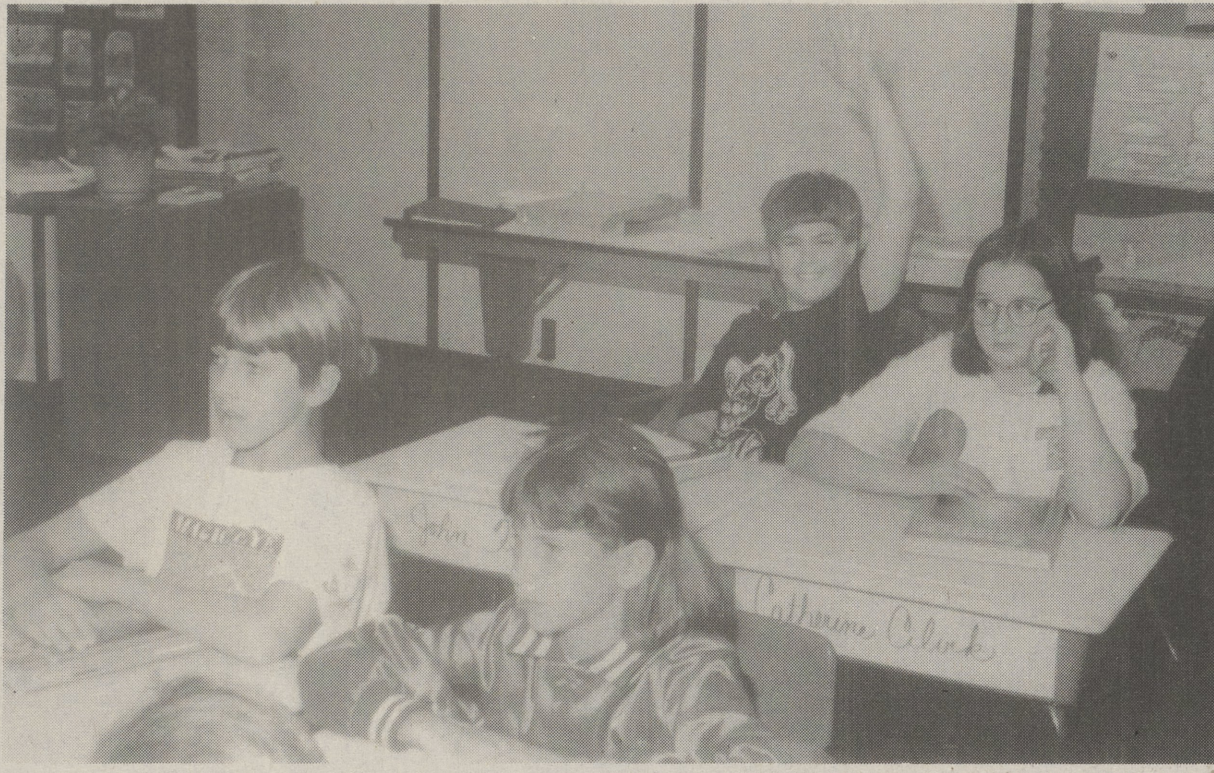
The district purchased the new materials with a \$4,000 grant, as part of a change in the elementary science curriculum emphasizing practical applications of basic scientific principles.

"Now that I have a hot plate, we'll make it rain in class next week," Mrs. Williams said. "You'll be the first class to try it out."

She said she has used the hands-on approach for several years, but not to this extent because the materials weren't available.

"I always left tuning forks, magnets and other items out on a table for the students to explore in their spare time," she said before class started. "I have boxes of new materials ready to be catalogued and used."

Students will also use familiar items, including cotton balls, coins, a cork, a metal washer, sponges, buttons and popsicle sticks to explore magnetism, ab-



Ethan Christiana knows the correct answer to a question in Mrs. Carol Williams's fifth-grade science class at Lehman-Jackson Elementary School, which is using a hands-on approach to science this year.

sorption and conduction of heat and cold, light reflection and refraction. Some lessons, such as using a pumpkin to study longitude and latitude (and later recycling into a jack-o-lantern) are geared for specific seasons.

"The high school science students will also be back this year to do experiments with the children," Mrs. Williams said. "They're ab-

solutely marvelous! It's a good experience for the older students and the younger ones look up to them so much. They have excellent rapport with one another."

Last year's biggest hits were group dissections of a shark and frogs, she said. "My students really loved it," she said, smiling.

Mrs. Williams credited high school science teacher Gail Keen and gifted teacher Mary Alice Lukasavage with helping to make

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Mrs. Carol Williams
Fifth grade teacher

the program a success. "You can call them for anything at all," she said.

Math, science

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"We also plan to make algebra a required subject for all students," he said.

High school math students will also have the opportunity to study probability and statistics this year. Again, it's a practical approach and much more than simply figuring batting scores, Price said.

"For example, students will learn to analyze data and apply it by constructing graphs and frequency distribution tables," he said. "They'll also learn about the misuses of data, in which someone interviews 10 people, then writes that 'one in 10 people drinks tea with milk,' for example. Probability and statistics involve much more than studying a racehorse's record and trying to predict how it will place in its next race."

Math teachers will continue to fine tune the courses and design new problem-solving approaches for grades K to five, using a federal grant to buy materials.

"I'm trying to encourage the teachers to move from the textbook to the practical approach," Price said. "If they don't have a textbook, teachers are sometimes reluctant to develop a course and their own teaching materials. When I taught, I oriented my lessons more toward problem-solv-

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Dr. William Price
Superintendent of Schools

ing and less toward the book."

Price said the district will expand its peer teaching program, which brought Spanish lessons taught by high school students to grades K through three last year. Students in grades four through six will learn French from their "big friends" at the high school, giving them exposure to both languages by the time they reach the middle school.

Foreign language teachers from the high school will also work with the elementary teachers to help make them more comfortable with the idea of incorporating another language into their curriculum.

Also new this year is a research course required for all ninth-graders, who will use computers and the Internet to research and solve problems, then write about their solutions.

Turkey supper at Loyalville Sept. 14

The Loyalville United Methodist Church will hold a Turkey Supper in the church hall on September 14 from 4:30 until 6:30 p.m. On the menu: turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetable, bread and butter, home made pie and beverages.

The church is located on the Loyalville Road - West off Route 118 or East off Route 29.

Frank Laubach of Benton, a most unusual missionary

Frank C. Laubach: Born September 2, 1884, in Benton, PA.

Died June 11 in 1970 at age 85. Buried in Benton, PA, under the inscription: "World Missionaries."

Is that all there is?

Hardly. Even though those cold statistics are about all that is shown in lists of world personalities, they hardly hint at the ground-breaking firsts accomplished by this remarkable man.

Frank Laubach single-handedly developed and practiced a novel literacy program which spread worldwide and is being used as a model even today, 60 years after he initiated it.

TIME called him "Mr. Literacy." Lowell Thomas said, "Frank Laubach is one of the world's most restless men, a globe-trotter with an accordion passport. Even in his 70's he planned to visit countries he may have missed. By camel and canoe, elephant and ox-cart, he was a unique missionary with a worldwide parish."

Thomas also called Laubach the "foremost teacher of our times." For 40 years Laubach visited over 100 countries, bring-

ing literacy to what he called "the silent billion." He formed teams of volunteers who field-tested his new teaching methods to improve lives through literacy. This work still goes on.

A prolific writer and accomplished speaker, he wrote 40 books on prayer, literacy, justice and world peace. He has inspired both individuals and community groups throughout the United States, and in 1955 founded Laubach Literacy International, a non-profit educational organization which is still active.

Although many new computer-based methods exist today, his "Each One Teach One" technique with phonetic charts is still considered by many reading specialists as the most workable for the widest range of volunteer/pupil relationships. A local ex-teacher says, "I find it works. And it's fun. So why bother with anything else?"

For more information, call the Hoyt Library at 287-2013 and ask for Mary Callahan. You may also call Marge Petroski at 287-6342 or Rita Kane at 288-5892.

by Jack Hilsher

Illiteracy

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lots more."

King announced a luncheon to be held on Saturday, Sept. 7, at the Ramada Inn in Public Square, Wilkes-Barre, at 12 noon. She says, "This will honor the hundreds of trained tutors and other volunteers who have served adult literacy in the area. Speaker will be Cheryl Keenan, Director of the Bureau of Adult Basic and Literacy Education of Pennsylvania's Department of Education. It will be a good event to learn about us."

The luncheon is open to anyone and the cost is modest. For a reservation and more information call the Hoyt Library at 287-2013, or chairmen Marge Petroski, 287-6342 or Rita Kane, 288-5892.

Back Mountain volunteer tutors without exception speak highly of their experiences working with WVLV assignments. John Penman of Center Hill Road, a retired Commonwealth Telephone engineer, says, "I plan to go back to working as a tutor, as I've been away from it for awhile. And I'd be at the luncheon except for a golf tournament - that has to come first before anything else!"

Penman laughingly recalls, "My favorite 'student' - I almost said 'patient' but that isn't right - was the head chef of a local restaur-

ant. He couldn't read a single word, so he had the waiters recite all their orders verbally. The guy managed to get by because he had an amazing memory, absolute total recall. We worked together several times a week for a year and became friends in the process. He eventually moved out of town to open his own place and I missed him."

Lehman Township's Joanne Presper, who also helps with volunteer records in the Literacy office, had her own favorite pupil - a waitress from Honduras whose English needed polishing so she could realize a dream. Presper says, "Of all things, she wanted to

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John Penman
Literacy Volunteer, Dallas

work in a bank! So she studied hard with me and eventually landed a bank job. I got a kick out of that!"

Darcy Gollhardt of Lake Street tutored while in college and for a year or two after. She says, "I enjoyed working with foreign stu-

dents who needed to improve their English. But now I'm a full-time 'Mom' and had to give it up."

Newberry Estate's Catherine Law came here from England three years ago. Her two sons, 8 and 9, have slowed up her tutoring but she intends to "pick it up again." She enjoys teaching adults how to apply their new literacy skills in everyday occupations like shopping or coping with kids school-work.

Law remembers her first question of Mary Callahan when she volunteered, in her veddy British accent, "Will it be all right to teach them to read the way I talk?"

It was.

WILKES-BARRE AREA VOCATIONAL - TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Adult Evening Courses

Register Tuesday, September 10, 5 - 8 p.m. in the school cafeteria

REGULAR COURSES - 144 CLASS HOURS - \$260
9/16 or 9/17 to mid-March, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Air Conditioning - Basic	T-Th
Electrical Occupations - Basic	M-W
Residential Construction	M-Th
Machine Shop (meets 6-9)	T-Th
Welding	T-Th
Plumbing and Pipe Fitting	T-Th

REGISTRATION INFORMATION.

Payment for courses starting in September is due at registration, and credit cards are not accepted. Students who live in non-participating school districts pay an additional fee of \$20 (\$10 for courses under 50 hours). Costs for any books or materials are paid when courses begin.

ELECTRICAL APPRENTICE - 162 Hours - \$280
Starts 9/17; registered apprentices only.

SHORT-TERM FALL COURSES Begin week of 9/16.

Diesel Equipment & Operation	\$140	Masonry	\$70
72 hours, T-Th 6-9		36 hours, Th 6:30 - 9:30	
Drafting & CAD	\$140	Small Appliance Repair	\$70
72 hours, T-Th 6:30 - 9:30		36 hours, W 6:30-9:30	
Air Conditioning - Intermediate	\$140	Intro to Personal Computers	\$70
39 hours, T-Th 6:30-9:30		36 hours, T 6:30 - 9:30	
10/15 - 11/26		Forklift Operations	\$55
Long Hair Styling: Braiding Techniques	\$70	24 hours, T-Th 5:30 - 7:30	
36 hours, M 6-9		Ends 10/24	

Licensed cosmetologists only.

SPECIAL INTEREST FALL COURSES

Register early; class sizes are limited!

Powder Puff Automotive	\$75	Floral Design	\$50
30 hours, T-Th 6:30-9:30, 9/17-10/17		18 hours, T 6:30-9:30, 9/17-10/22	
Healthy Cooking	\$50	From Hobby to Business	\$50
18 hours, Th 6:30 - 9:30, 9/18-10/23		18 hours, Th 6:30-9:30, 9/19-10/24	
Basic Cooking Techniques	\$45	AARP 55 Alive/	
15 hours, T 6:30-9:30, 10/1-10/29		Mature Driving	\$8
Single sessions @ \$10 each.		T 10/8-Th 10/10, 6-10 p.m.	
		Call after 9/11 to register.	

Wilkes-Barre Area Vocational Technical School

P.O. Box 1699, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705 • (717) 822-4131

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