Ronel Roberts on state textbook committee

Approximately forty local teachers and citizens are nearing the end of their term as advisors to the Texas State Textbook Committee. It is the responsibility of the members of the State Textbook Committee to recommend to the State Board of Education the textbooks that should be adopted for use in the 1984-85 school year. The textbook committee consists of twenty-seven members — one member from each of the twenty-seven congressional districts of Texas. Serving as committee member from the 14th congressional district is Ronel Roberts, one of the vocational agriculture teachers of Rice CISD.

Roberts was appointed to this position by the State Legislature in May of this year. After an initial meeting with the Texas Education Agency in Austin, the committee members began the process of selecting their advisor. Each committee member had to select a group of advisors for each subject matter area that was being adopted. There were twelve areas under consideration for adoption. The advisory committee for each area was to have no more than six members of which at least one of the six members must have been a "lay" person. The list of committees and their members follows:

Language and composition (Grades 1-8): Claudine Shorter, Georgia Chiles, Dolores Grammer, Beatrice Scott, Deborah Blinka, and Gayle Coble. Others offering advise for this committee were Agnes Klekar, Helen Craig, Tommie Lynn Holden, and Marie Argo; Geometry, Algebra I and II, and Trigonometry: Lillie Horecka, Charlyne Spanihel, David White, Mike and Lori Vornsand, and C. W. DeShazo; World History: Mark Faldyn, Cherry Corman, Suzanne Chiu, and William P. Carpenter; Latin (Levels I and III): Betty K. Janow and Rev. Victor Schmidtzinsky; French (Levels I - III): Betty K. Janow, Ann B. Simanton (Seabrook, Texas), and John Vernioile; Marketing and Distributive Education: Coleen Zimmerhanzel, Henrietta Baumgarten, Becki Cernoch (Giddings), Eugene Winkler (La Grange), and Terry Davis (Giddings); Vocational Industrial Education — Building Construction Trades and Metal Trades: Ralph Williams, Jerry Hajovsky, and Guy Beane, Jr.; English as Second Language: Betty K. Janow, Jesus Gonzales, Irene Salazar, and Brenda Vernioile; and Vocational Agriculture: Troy Krenek, Willie Fitzgerald, Finest Axel, and Ted Wiese.

Each of these textbook committee advisors then received samples of the texts that are being considered for adoption from each of the textbook publishing companies. Approximately fifty-four companies are submitting bids of texts for adoption. It has been the duty of these advisors to read, study and critique the texts based on criteria set forth in Proclamation No. 59 of the State Board of Education. As a rule, only five texts may be adopted in any area for the state. The evaluation process becomes quite difficult since some areas have as many as twenty texts being bid.

"These textbook committee advisors are to be commended for the fine job they have been doing for the State of Texas. The texts that they recommend to the state, if adopted by the State Board of Education, will be used by every child in the state that is enrolled in public education. Even some private schools will utilize these texts," said Roberts.

Not only have the text book advisors had to read and study the texts, but they also had to meet with the textbook publishers that were submitting the texts for adoption. Some of the committees had to meet with publisher representatives for as many as nine days — sometimes meeting from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. "So, as you can see, the commitment they have made has been great. They have taken much of their time in order to select the proper textbooks for the children of this state. They have not been financially compensated for their efforts — their only reward will be the personal satisfaction that comes from knowing that they had a part in selecting the texts that will be used across the state as well as in the Rice Consolidated I.S.D. They have made my chores much easier because of their efforts, spirit of cooperation, and attitudes. I believe that our communities, school district, and state should be quite proud of all of these advisors for their efforts on behalf of the school children of Texas. I know that I am extremely proud of each and every one of them and certainly appreciate their efforts and concerns," comments Roberts.

Calendar listed for Wharton college

Mondays through Fridays, through August 31: Registration for WCJC's new Cosmetology School. Registration packets available through Division of Continuing Education, Room 110A, Administration Building. (Limited to first 25 students.)

Wednesday, August 17: Annual Public Hearing on the 1983-84 budget for Wharton County Junior College at J. M. Hodges Learning Center, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 18: Final exams and book buy — back at Bookstore.

Monday, August 22: 1983 Fall Semester official opening day. Classes begin Monday, August 29; 9 a.m., faculty meeting; 2 p.m., cafeteria and dorms open; 7 p.m., evening on-campus class registration, Administration Building. Call (409) 532-4560 for more information. Mailing address is 911 Boling Highway, Wharton, Texas 77488.

Tuesday, August 23: Beginning Tennis class begins, ending September 27, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., $14.40 fee, Travis Smith, instructor, Kelley Tennis Center. Students must bring their own racket.

Tuesday and Wednesday, August 23 and 24: Regular registration for 1983 Fall Semester classes, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., WCJC Administration Building. Call (409) 532-4560 for more information. Registration for off-campus, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Rosenberg/Richmond, day classes, Satellite Campus, Richmond. Call Mrs. Finto (713) 342-1496 for more information.

Wednesday, August 24: Registration for off-campus, 6-8 p.m., Lamar, evening classes, Lamar High School, Rosenberg. Call Mrs. Finto (713) 342-1496 for more information. Freshman orientation for Satellite Campus, Richmond, 1-5 p.m. Call Mrs. Finto (713) 342-1496 for more information.

Wednesday and Thursday, August 24 and 25: Defensive driving class, $18 fee, Johnson Health Occupation Center, 6-10 p.m. Pre-register now by calling 532-4560.

Thursday, August 25: WCJC freshman orientation, Fine Arts Auditorium, 8 a.m. to noon or 1 to 5 p.m; last day to register without late fee. Registration for off-campus Bay City, evening classes, Bay City High School English Wing, 6-8 p.m. Call (409) 532-4560 for additional information or Extension coordinator Susie Thompson, (409) 245-5766. Intermediate Tennis class begins, ending September 29, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., $14.40 fee, Travis Smith, instructor, Kelley Tennis Center.

Friday, August 26: WCJC freshman orientation, Fine Arts Auditorium, 8 a.m. to noon.

Monday, August 29: 1983 Fall Semester classes begin.

Tuesday, August 30: Creative writing class begins, ending December 6, 8:25 to 9:15 a.m., $33.60 fee, Dr. Ray Spitzenberger, instructor, Fine Arts Building, Room 110.

Tuesday, August 30 through Friday, September 2: Schedule changes may be made.

Thursday and Friday, September 1 and 2: Late registration for WCJC's new Cosmetology School. Registration packets available through Division of Continuing Education, Room 110A, Administration Building. (Limited to first 25 students.)

At last. Educational TV.

Was $299.95

$199.95 Model 26-3004

ONLY ONE LEFT!!

Watch for NEW 64-K Color Computer!!

- For Fun & Games, Problem-solving & Education
- Exciting Sound Effects
- 16-K Internal Memory
- Connects to any color TV

These days, it's a great idea for your kids to learn computers at the same time they're learning languages, science, and math. Because a personal computer can help with all those subjects.

A Radio Shack Color Computer is so simple they can learn the basics in almost no time. And it's so flexible they'll never outgrow it.

Come in today, and we'll show you how easy it is to own a Color Computer. In fact, it costs a lot less than a big-screen TV. And it's a lot more educational.

Century Electronics

Highway 71 at Spring Street in Columbus Phone: 732-5514

East Bernard lunch pricing

Following is a list of prices effective August 22, 1983 for the East Bernard Independent School District:

Lunches will be $1 for students in kindergarten through eighth grades and $1.25 for students in ninth through twelfth grades. Reduced-price lunches are 40 cents for all grades (K-12). $1 for snack bar (students) at junior high, $1.25 for snack bar (students) at high school, 20 cents extra milk, 25 cents ice cream and $1.75 on all adult lunches (including snack bar).

Breakfast will be 50 cents for kindergarten through twelfth grades, 30 cents for reduced-price (K-12) and 80 cents for adults. Breakfast will be served from 7:30 to 8 a.m.

There will be no charging allowed in the lunchroom for breakfast or lunch. This includes adults as well as students, announces Charles J. Bright, superintendent.

Harold King — Superintendent

An overview of the system

As with every good organization, there always is one person at the top, seeing that operations run smoothly, and efficiently as possible.

In our school system, Harold King is that person, and is now entering his fifth year as superintendent of the Rice Consolidated Independent School District. Although when interviewed finances weren't discussed that much, because the budgeting process for the new year is just beginning, it looks like this year might be a little tougher than some of the earlier ones.

However, King did reflect back on the first four years, noting what has been done for the future of the system, to protect its investment in buildings and equipment. "We are fortunate to have been able to set up a maintenance program on the theory that it provides good building conditions and saves future building expenses," he said. To be fair to taxpayers who support the system, and because new buildings are almost prohibitively expensive, King wants to make the buildings and equipment last as long as possible.

People should realize that most of the air conditioning, with a couple of exceptions, is 12 or 13 yeras, old, he added. Older buildings require more maintenance, and that costs more money. "In many cases we don't just want to keep up, but want to improve conditions and equipment."

As discussed in other articles in this issue, and in the planning for several months, all buildings in the district are undergoing an energy conservation program, designed to greatly reduce utility expenditures but provide adequate air conditioning, heating, lighting and water.

Speculating on the future, using his knowledge of the school system's budget and the still rapidly increasing costs of utilies, King said "If we don't make some of these adjustments, there might come a time when some of it may be cut off permanently because it would be prohibitive to operate."

In general, the conservation program will more accurately control air conditioning and heating, exchange lighting with less expensive equipment, and place reflective film on windows. "It is going to take everyone's participation to make it work," King said. "We might not have been so energy conscious in the past...Until we get the kinks ironed out and working properly, we hope to keep problems to a minimum."

Most of the disruptive work should be done by the time classes start. Also, the roofing work at the high school is scheduled for completion on August 10, and if that date is not accurate, work on the gym is scheduled last.

With building and equipment systems discussed, King turned the conversation toward students and teachers.

As a general statement about the national education system, King said running a public school system is more complex today, as can be expected...but in his 20 years of experience, "I have never seen opposing forces as strong as they are now." He compared groups with high expectations and demands of a school system, with those that ask for no increased spending or taxes.

The Rice school board, is wrestling with the problem of lower property values because of decreased values in energy reserves that are taxable. Last year, taxes were lowered because energy values were up. This year, the board may have to vote to return to the taxation rate in effect two years ago.

As for the student make up, the black population is about the same as in previous years, while the anglo student population is decreasing slightly and the spanish-speaking population is increasing at a rapid rate. The differing needs of those groups add to the complexities faced by teachers in the classroom.

"Our teachers are taking more opportunities to improve their skills through attendance at more workshops, taking summer college hours and going to more inservice learning sessions. On the whole, we have a very conscientious staff. They equip themselves to handle the changing times."

As an example, the school system has introduced computers into most buildings, and more than 50 percent of the district teaching staff has voluntarily attended training sessions to understand computers better. "Volunteering speaks highly of the staff," King adds.

Jobs program in Wharton now open

The JTPA (Jobs Training Partnership Act) Program at Wharton County Junior College in Wharton is now accepting applications for trainees for the 1983-84 school year in the areas of auto mechanics, data processing, drafting, machine shop, office education, welding, cosmetology, and vocational nursing.

Cosmetology begins September 1. All other classes begin August 29.

JTPA will pay for books, tuition, fees and will also provide the trainee with a tool kit if required.

Applicants who are selected to participate in these programs and are not high school graduates, will be concurrently enrolled in GED classes. Tutorial services are also provided if needed.

Contact the TEC (Texas Employment Commission) office for more information about eligibility requirements: Wharton TEC — 117 S. Fulton, 532-1399; Bay City TEC — 3614 Avenue F, 245-4808. A TEC representative is in Rosenberg on Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Civic Center, 3720 Airport Road.

Inquiries may also be directed to Dianne Kielman at the JTPA office located at Wharton County Junior College, 911 Boling Highway, Wharton. Phone (409) 532-4560, extension 226.

TAKE NOTES!

Write Bros. Pens Medium Point Buy 1 Get 1 FREE

All 1½" & 2" 3 Ring Binders 15% OFF

Tempera Paint (Poster Colors) 7-8 oz. jars, non-toxic Reg. $3.29 $2.69 20 Jars Reg. $2.80 $2.20

Pentel Soft Crayons 16 Colors Reg. $2.20 $1.60 20 Colors Reg. $2.80 $2.20

Arco Paper Clips 100 Count #1 Regular 45¢ Buy 1 Get 1 FREE

J & D Furniture 101 W. Main 234-2982

First Stop — Jo Ann's THEN Back to School!!

STOP STOP

For The "Young Set"

Health-tex and Wrangler for Kids

For the "Junior Miss"

Wrangler and Chic his Jeans

Gotcha Covered Shirts and Jeans

Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Jo Ann's 105 N. McCarty 234-2580

Welcome, teachers

We All welcome you to the Rice School District and the Communities it serves So Well!!

Mary's Beauty Shop — Eagle Lake
Gifts of Distinction — Eagle Lake
The Sewing Center — Eagle Lake
Royal Cleaners — Eagle Lake
Marvin's, Inc. — Altair
F & W Food Store, Inc. — Garwood
The Snack Center — Eagle Lake
Alamo Lumber Co. — Eagle Lake
Miller's Grocery — Eagle Lake
Lake Lumber Co. — Eagle Lake
Nada Grocery and Market — Nada
Larry's Super Service — Garwood
Thomas Clinic — Eagle Lake
Mascheck-Marx Gulf Station — Eagle Lake
The Hair Place — Eagle Lake
Lipperdt Exxon — Eagle Lake
M & M Western Store — Eagle Lake
Meitzen 66 Service Station — Eagle Lake
Laughlin Medical & Surgical Clinic — Eagle Lake
E.A. Parham 2nd 30 Shell Service — Sheridan
KULM 98FM — Voice of Colorado County
Laker Printing — Eagle Lake
Nada Garage — Nada

Welcome back, Students!

Take the Headlight Back to School

For LESS than 20¢ a week

Like a "letter from home" every week, a student subscription to *The Headlight* keeps those away at school informed about local events.

Use the coupon below to order a 9-month (39 weeks) subscription.

BACK-TO SCHOOL

Clip and mail to:
Eagle Lake Headlight, P.O. Box 67, Eagle Lake, Texas 77434
OR DROP IT BY OUR OFFICE

Enclose $7.50 for each subscription. For additional subscriptions, use plain paper.

Student's Name _____
School Address _____
_____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____