

Progressive Educators Guide Cincinnati Schools

By Linda Ray Rubel



Mr. Wendell H. Pierce was named Superintendent of Schools in January to replace retiring Claude V. Courter. Mr. Pierce got his master's degree in Education from Columbia University. He taught math, physics and social studies for more than five years before he came to Cincinnati to work as an employment counselor for seniors of Hughes, Withrow, and Hartwell. He is married and has seven daughters.

It is a pretty nerve wracking affair to wait to see the principal. But you don't know the meaning of the word nervous till you've waited to see the superintendent and assistant superintendent of schools.

For the Founder's Day edition of the Bulldogs Barks, the paper arranged an interview with Robert P. Curry, Assistant Superintendent of schools and Wendell H. Pierce, Superintendent. So I found myself waiting to see these men with Dave Dressler, co-editor-in-chief, and Bob Brooks, photographer. Needless to say, I was quite nervous.

We were to see Mr. Curry first, and when we were shown into his office I found my fears were for nothing. With his broad smile and friendly attitude he managed to put us at ease immediately. When I began to ask questions I found out many things I had never known.

When I asked how Woodward rated among other high schools I mentioned that I thought that Walnut Hills must be tops. But Mr. Curry said that actually no school can be compared with Walnut Hills since no other high school requires an entrance exam. But Woodward has as large a college prep class as Walnut Hills.

How does Mr. Curry feel about the European system of education, where students are channeled into groups by their testing abilities

and pursue only the courses they show aptitude in? "Without a doubt the European system of education leaves much to be desired. You must realize that only a fraction of their students qualify for advanced secondary education. In America we graduate as many students in National Honor Society as Europe graduates at all!"

Mr. Curry not only told us about schools, he also indirectly showed his love for young people. He was most interested in our activities, and he was interested in the happenings at Woodward, since he is an alumnus.

Then it was time to see Mr. Wendell Pierce, superintendent of schools. My fears at meeting the "top man on the totem pole"

were quickly erased by this friendly man. He was most gracious, and although he was due at a council meeting, he stayed and talked to us. He answered all our questions, even though it made him late.

Mr. Pierce, when asked about accelerated classes, said they should be only for those students who can do the required work in about the same time that it takes for pupils in other classes to do theirs. He feels that there must be time for extra-curricular activities, since "some of these are as beneficial as some class periods." For this reason he calls them "extra-class activities".

Mr. Pierce also mentioned that in the future there will be more accelerated programs offered as the number of qualified pupils increases. Another little known fact brought to light was that Cincinnati was the country's first major city to offer accelerated programs in its public high schools.

Cincinnati is fortunate to have two such talented, interested educators guiding its educational system.



Mr. Robert P. Curry was named to a newly created position, Associate Superintendent in charge of the Department of Instruction. He is a native of Cincinnati and a Woodward Graduate. He taught general science at Withrow junior high school and was later assistant principal of McKinley. He has held several other executive posts as well as offices in the Board of Education. He is married and has a son and a daughter.

Dr. Nelson Glueck

Scholar — Adventurer Honored

For nearly three decades, Nelson Glueck has been probing the mysteries of the desert in that part of the world long called the Holy Land. In one of his most recent books, **RIVERS IN THE DESERT: A History of the Negev**, Dr. Glueck has woven a narrative of news, high adventure, and majesty.

His story deals with the achievements of man from the time his first belongings were left there more than 10,000 years ago until a few centuries ago. To gather his material, he has travelled thousands of miles, back and forth, on foot, horseback, by camel and lorry. He has known thirst and heat, sand searing his skin, bitter night-chill. He has spent long hours carefully digging down through the accumulated debris of ancient sites of habitation.

From pieces of broken pottery, walls still standing, tools preserved in the ruins, even a copper



MISS EMILIE CURRY

Miss Emilie T. Curry, teacher of English, might well be called the curator of Woodward tradition. She, more than any other single Woodwardite, has inspired an interest in the knowledge and understanding of the true Woodward spirit.

By way of acknowledging her efforts in the organization of this issue, the editors have decided to pay this token tribute to a beloved teacher—a decision they are sure will please every reader with the definite exception of Miss Curry.

