

Women's Intercollegiate Press Association, which is strictly one-sex, has eight or ten college publications which are members. The Western Conference Editorial Association has ten members—the Big Ten, they call themselves.

It is the purpose of each of these inter-scholastic press associations to advance the interests of journalism in high schools and colleges. This worthy aim is being realized as the associations grow and more and more influence school and college publications. Each year more interest is being taken in the work, and more publications are profiting by affiliation.

DORIS PERSINGER

OUR WILD FLOWER SHOW

I. *What the Children Did*

- A. They brought common wild flowers and their seeds to school.
- B. They decided to press and mount the flowers in order to preserve them:
 1. They made the press from wood, using blotters to absorb the moisture.
 2. They pressed the flowers until they were thoroughly dry.
 3. They mounted the pressed flowers on 9x12-inch sheets of stiff grey paper. The legend, written in the lower right-hand corner, contained the name of the flower family, the name of the flower, the home of the flower, its color, and the name of the child bringing and mounting it.
- C. They performed the following experiments:
 1. They put celery in red ink.
 2. They planted seeds in rich soil, in hard soil, in sawdust, and in sand.
 3. They set a geranium in the window.
 4. They planted seeds in three boxes. One box was kept dry, one well-watered, and one flooded.
 5. They planted seeds in good soil in two boxes. One was kept in the dark and one was kept in the sunlight.
- D. They decided to have a flower show so

that others might enjoy their flowers with them.

1. They decided which flowers, seeds, and pictures to show, and who would make each talk.
 2. They set a date for the flower show after discussing how long it would take them to get ready for it.
 3. They wrote invitations to another class. (Later the class decided that the invitations were not written well enough; so they copied them before sending them to the other children.)
 4. They planned to entertain their guests:
 - (a) They prepared a register to record the names of their guests.
 - (b) They appointed two boys to act as ushers.
 - (c) They made impromptu talks at the close of the show, thanking their guests for coming.
 - E. They decided to make a flower book:
 1. The book contained a blank page, a title page, a dedication page, a table of contents, the pressed flowers, and copies of the talks made at the flower show. (In settling on the contents of the book they examined a number of books, and discussed their contents.)
 2. They decided to dedicate the book to their supervisor as a surprise.
 3. They appointed some one to make each page. This was preceded by a try-out, the child doing the best work being selected in each case.
 4. They made sample covers in art class. The child who submitted the best plan was made chairman of the cover committee.
 5. They appointed a committee to assemble the book.
- ### II. *What the Children Learned About Flowers and Plants*
- A. They learned to recognize the common wild flowers found around Harrisburg, and their seeds.

1. They learned these flowers: aster, bouncing bet, butter and eggs, chicory, red clover, dandelion, daisy, ground cherry, goldenrod, pepper grass, morning glory, moth mullein, pearly everlasting, ten-petaled or false sunflower, Queen Anne's lace, or wild carrot.
 2. They learned these seeds: asparagus, milkweed, goldenrod.
- B. They learned that flowers are classified in families and to recognize those belonging to the following families: composite or aster, figwort, morning glory, pink.
- C. They learned that wild flowers grow in fields or meadows, on hills, in the woods, by roadsides, and by streams.
- D. They learned by observing plants under different soil and light conditions that they need:
1. Soil which contains plant food.
 2. Moisture in sufficient quantity and well distributed throughout the season.
 3. Light for the growth of both seeds and plants.
- E. They learned the method plants use in distributing food and water to their various parts by watching the ink pass up the celery stem.
- F. They learned that plants must protect themselves.
1. They must protect themselves against animals, man, worms, and drought.
 2. They protect themselves by hairs, poisonous fluids, thorns, and toughness of fiber.
- G. They learned that flowers are seed-makers:
1. Seeds are equipped for scattering by wings, umbrellas, and by hard shells which burst.
 2. Seeds are distributed by man, animals, water, and wind.

III. Skills the Children Practiced

- A. They made attractive pages by care in regard to indentation, placing and capitalizing of the title, and even margins.

- B. They tried to correct the following speech errors: *wrote* for *written*, *bust* for *burst*, *choosed* for *chosen*, *seen* for *saw*, *have saw* for *have seen*, *there was* for *there were*, *get 'em* for *get them*, the use of *ands*, *wells*, and other unnecessary words.
- C. They tried to have something interesting to say and to stick to the point.

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THE MANUFACTURE AND USE OF ARTIFICIAL SILK

ARTIFICIAL silk has existed for many years, but until recently it was not considered a staple fiber. The word "artificial" seems to be repulsive to the American people and anything bearing this name is seldom adopted. It was for this reason that the trade name "Rayon" was adopted by the manufacturers.¹ Rayon is a chemical product made from wood pulp. Formerly manufacturers were not able to find any chemical which would neutralize the fine threads of wood pulp, so the product was too inflammable to be of much value. However, this defect has been overcome and the fiber has practically taken the place of natural silk in certain fields, according to the Melton Institute of Industrial Research, University of Pittsburg, Pittsburg, Pa.

Four distinct processes of production have been developed and are now commercially in use on a large scale. The first of these, using nitro-cellulose, is the process introduced by De Chardonnet in 1884.

In this the cellulose from the cotton plant is passed through a nitration process, then dissolved in alcohol and ether, and forced through a glass tube with a very small aperture. A filament is formed that hardens as the alcohol and ether are absorbed or evaporated upon coming into contact with water

¹Darby, W. D.—"Rayon," *Dry Goods Economist*, October 3, 1925, pp. 24 and 25.