



REAL COOL STUDENTS--These members of adult swimming class at Doolittle Pool "beat the heat" as they "learn to churn" on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at 6:30. Students (seated from left) are Minnie Wilkins, Louise McDowell, Virgie Fitzgerald, Lula Collins, Louise Conway, Gloria Miller, Mary Jackson, Johnny Cabean, Mary Wesley and J. C. Miller. Instructors (in water from left) are Mel Woods, Leonard Mason and Nellie Cardello. Beginners are invited to join class. For information call Woods at Doolittle Pool, 642-5787.

Project Head Start Staff Observations Indicate Pre-School Program Successful

By DR. JOSEPH CALIGURI
Director, Project Head Start

IN EVALUATING this summer's initial "Project Head Start" program in Clark County, in which a vast majority of the participating children were from West Las Vegas, the professional judgment and observations of trained project personnel will be utilized along with the results of formal tests.

Although it is too early to properly assess the success of the pre-school program, the following significant observations were recorded during staff conferences:

1. Attendance rates are extremely high and, conversely, dropouts are very low.
2. The child is the best "public relations agent" for the program as evidenced by parent comments on the enthusiastic talk about the program by the children involved.
3. "Withdrawn" children are beginning to talk and to become more sensitive to their social surroundings.
4. Children are beginning to catch the ball in developing large muscle activity. Clay and scissor work show a development of small muscles.
5. Children clean up after activity and put toys away.
6. Children are beginning to use better English, and are also learning to listen and to follow directions.

In view of these comments, it would seem reasonable to predict that the seven-week orientation course received by the participating children will substantially increase their chances of successful performance when they start regular school this fall.

Regarding formal tests, an achievement test was given a cross section of the children during the second and seventh weeks of the program, and a social behavior inventory taken at the same times. The result of these tests will be available to school district authorities in November. Additional evaluative data accumulated by the project director included tape recordings of language used by the children, a sampling of creativity indications, a teacher's style descriptive report and a teacher aide and volunteer duty analysis.

THE PURPOSE of the pre-school project was to provide advantageous cultural, social and academic learning experiences for 4, 5 and 6-year-old children entering kindergarten or first grade next month. In addition, the parents of these children were given an opportunity to increase their understandings of educational processes and values so that they can better

(See CALIGURI, page 10)

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