The one-room little red schoolhouse is being reborn in northeastern Wake County with such vigor that you get excited just hearing its imnovators discuss it.

Originially doomed to antiquity 25 to 40 years ago, the concept of having many grades under one roof and in one room is to be effected in the first three grades of Wake Forest Elementary School Forest Elementary School next fall.

"The walls must come down," said Principal E. V. Meadows, meaning both physical barriers and grade barriers that have traditionally separted school children according to age.

Ungrading the Wake Forest primary unit spells hard work for its principal, teachers and county supervisors as well as for pupils and parents. But most believe that "nongradedness" is a step in meeting the needs of every individual student.

Pilot Project

Wake Forest will serve as a pilot project by nongrading all subjects in the first three grades in September. All elementary schools in the Wake County system will nongrade their language arts and math and use the multi-level approach in the fall.

If the experiment in the Wake Forest elementary school, which has an enrollment of 835, proves successful, then grades four, five and six will be ungraded there in 1970-71.

Nongraded education is a "system which allows a pupil to progress in a continuous manner in accordance with his ability, rather than age Meadows said.

"Kids ages six, seven and eight play together every afternoon," he explained. "They ride together on the school bus. Then a bell rings and for seven hours, each age

group is segregated.
"The final bell rings and the kids are back together again. We've created a very unnatural situation."

In the nongraded approach, students will learn together as well as play together. A typical one-room suite will house three teachers and 90 pupils — 30 first graders, 30 second graders and 30 third

graders.
"How can a child learn at all in such a mob?" was a big concern of some 60 Wake Forest parents who discussed the project during a public

meeting.

Mrs. Helen Frazelle, Wake
County elementary education
director, explained:

"The typical primary
teacher can have only three

reading groups. In nongradedness, three teachers with three groups each will mean nine different levels of instruction, instead of the conventional three."

In analyzing the first six grades, Wake County teachers have discovered 29 different skill levels in language arts (reading, writing, spelling)

In nongradeness, a child could conceivably be in an advanced reading level, a slow math section, and an average science group. Tests show that a student is happier in a group whose members share equal abilities.

During the first two weeks of school in September, each child will be tested to determine the appropriate starting level. Each level has its own texts and materials and must be completed before the child moves to the next

the child moves to the near step.

"There is continous progress," said Mrs. Elizabeth Barfield, Wake County primary supervisor. "A child never repeats nor skips a level."

If a child completes the three-year program in 2½

three-year program in 2½
years, he is placed in a
reinforcement program, where
he deepens his understanding
and applies his knowledge to

and applies his knowledge to new challenges.

At the beginning of the succeeding year, the child resumes where he left off. He is not hindered by slower students nor is he pushed along by faster learners. He works at his own pace.

The obvious and perhaps The obvious and perhaps most beneficial advantage of nongradedness is that a child

"Repeating a grade in the old system may label a child a failure just at the time when he may begin to blossom, to accelerate his learning," said Mrs. Frazelle.

Mrs. Frazelle 'Your child's brain operates in spurts, just as his physical growth," Meadows told the

parents.

"And when he's in a learning spurt, we're going to put the coals on the fire."

Meadows believes that readiness, not chronological age, is the key to successful learning. "Some six-year-olds are just not ready to begin the first grade. Others, having a better home life or higher IQ, are ready to begin work the first day. Each will be put in the proper level."

When several parents

When several parents expressed concern about discipline in a large room of 90 children, Meadows said that experiments in other nongraded schools have proved discipline to be better.

Eye On Everyone

"In the old system when one child monopolized the teach-er's time, the other students were often unattended. But in nongradedness, two other teachers are available as circulating supervisors, keeping an eye on everyone," he said.
"The kids work together better," said Mrs. Barfield.

"Pressure to meet deadlines is off the teachers. It's a more flexible system.

In the nongraded system, it responsibility, along with teacher support, to apply mastered skills in learning

Laundry and



YMCA YOUTHMOBILE PRO-JECT-Joseph Montez, left diector, counts heads with Kenneth Morris, right, executive director, 28th Street branch of YMCA. The new program for the urban areas of Los Angeles utilizes eight vans to transport children from outlying areas to the various activities of the

## Purchase Farm

DURBAN, South Africa -Gary Player, the golfer, and his brother Ian, a conservationist, have bought a 213-acre farm in Natal Province on the Indian

saysunou



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## Powell's Pay Is in Dispute

NEW YORK The New York Post reported Saturday Rep. Adam Clayton Powell will NEW YORK ... not demand \$55,000 in back pay if the House of Representatives returns his 22 years of seniori-

The Post quoted C. Sumner Stone, Powell's administrative assistant before his 1967 exclusion from the House. Stone denied the report when he was reached in Washington.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled last Monday that the House had no right to deny Powell his seat two years ago





Some short-sighted people are actually long-sighted, like the man above. As the years roll by they fail to notice that they are holding reading material farther and farther away. And they fail to have a professional eye examination once a year, as urged by the Better Vision Institute. It doesn't pay to be short-sighted about your eyesight. your eyesight.

Home owners with a house that the refrigerant is factory

cool air to the same rooms if central air conditioning equipment is added to the system.

The General Electric Executive model, for instance, is available in 34,000, 48,000 and 63,000 BTUH capacities to match the cooling requirements of any home.

Installation is comparatively simple. The condensing unit rests on a concrete base just outside the house. Cooling coils are placed in the heating system near the furnace. These coils are connected to the outdoor condensing unit "Quik-Attach" tubing which has been factory-charged with refrigerant. This GE-pioneered development not only insures

"YOUTHMOBILES" — for inter from outlying areas each week.

city youths will be bringing Roger Jones, program assist-them to the YMCA for the ant for the 28th Street "Y"

months ahead. Eight vans will presides over three of the units

Cool Comfort From Household Heating System

transport some 1200 youngsters for that area.

Home owners with a household warm air heating plant, are especially fortunate in summer, for it is an easy matter to convert this type of heating system into a central air conditioner to comfort the family when weather gets hot and humid.

In wintertime, warm air from the furnace is conveyed through ducts to the various rooms of a house. In summer time, these ducts can convey cool air to the same rooms if central air conditioning equipment is added to the system.

that the refrigerant is factory clean to permit comfort cool-ing and long component ife, but also greatly speeds up the installation of the system.

The Executive model is attractively-styled with a sturdy polyester cover, designed to withstand all types of outdoor weather. It is finished in a champagne shade that takes on the property of the colors around it is that it becomes a harmonical to operate, according to

## **Programmed Instruction Courses** Prove Valuable Training Technique

The education and training of the unskilled unemployed is one of the nation's most serious challenges today. A second serious problem, differing only in that a lesser number of people are involved, is the education and rehabilitation of prison inmates so that they can re-enter society to begin career jobs, many of them for the first time in their lives.

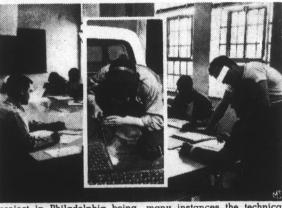
As unrelated as these problems appear, Du Pont is helping to solve them in many instances by making available their own training materials prepared in the form of programmed instruction courses.

Programmed instruction is a training technique based on the principle of "reinforcement." The learner's responses to questions of gradually increasing difficulty are confirmed immediately. This gives reward and encouragement for continuing the learning cycle until a pre determined level of achievement is reached.

This self-pacing method of teaching basic mechanical and industrial skills is used for training thousands of persons in industry, government agen-cies, and education.

For example, at the Federal Job Corps Center in Morgan-field, Ky., Williard Whoberry, Jr. program director, reports that the Du Pont courses have reduced average training time by 30 per cent and increased proficiency by about 25 per cent. The ultimate payoff is a job in industry, and 75 per cent of the 400 Morganfield graduates have been placed in jobs.

The fact that the courses are being used daily at Du Pont is a big lever in helping job trainees overcome a built-in block against that "desk and pencil stuff." "They feel if the course was 'the real thing' used in industry, it had to be worthwhile," says Clark M. Younger, director for a Federal training



project in Philadelphia being administered by Philco-Ford. About 800 persons classified as disadvantaged unemployed are enrolled in this program

Du Pont courses also are being used in another training project in Philadelphia. Angel Alba, who advises 60 instructors teaching at five locations of the Philadelphia Opportu-nities Industrialization Center, said: "The Du Pont material is excellent. It tells the 'what' and the 'how' as industry does it. That's what our people have to

Meanwhile, programmed in-struction courses have been used for more than three years at the Federal prison located at Petersburg, Va., with considerable success, according to Dr. Garland S. Wollard, director of Vocational Training, U. S. Bu-reau of Prisons. Other prisons such as the one located at Milan, Mich., also use PI courses, with several others to begin using them in the near

"Individual inmates felt the selves rather than the previous attitude which was that they (the inmates) were being 'used' by the institution," Dr.

The report indicated that in

many instances the technical training required was reduced by as much as 50 per cent because of the programmed instruction technique. Dr. Wollard stated in the re-

port that many inmates went on to obtain their high school diplomas through the General Education Development Program as a direct result of successfully completing the programmed instruction courses.

"Not a single inmate was dropped from the program be-cause of disciplinary problems," Dr. Wollard said. Not one participating inmate had to be referred to the prison chaplain nor to the psycholo-With the increased focus on

training and retraining, programmed - or self-tutoring instruction is finding ever widening applications in industry, education, and government. Du Pont's courses, which are made available through the company's Industrial Training Service, Wilmington, Delaware, are being used by more than 3,000 program was designed toward corporations and 200 vocational self-improvement for them schools, as well as by many Federal, state, and local governmental agencies. To date Du Pont has invested over \$3 million in developing about 200 courses, including 25 in safety training.

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