

# Parents Promised Help With New Modern Math

81,725 Enroll in Summer Classes

Bewildered parents who have survived their first skirmishes with "modern math"

can take solace in the fact that help is on the way.

The Los Angeles County Public Library is coming to the rescue.

It has placed a rush order for multiple copies of a newly published book, "A Parent's Guide to the New Mathematics." Written by Evelyn Sharp, who teaches the subject, the book has been hailed as "an uncommonly clear explanation that will help parents to help their youngsters do their homework in math."

MODERN mathematics has already been introduced at various grade levels in a number of school districts. Textbooks that will generally be in use in all districts this fall in the elementary grades will include the new math-teaching methods. Many school teachers are studying the new math this summer and some school districts have held training classes in the subject for parents.

Miss Sharp's book resulted from a magazine article which she wrote several years ago, "The New Math: You Don't Count on Your Fingers Anymore." The interest occasioned by that article revealed the need for a more expanded treatment of the subject.

THE OPENING attack on the old-style teaching of mathematics began in the summer of 1955, according to

the author. Until then there had been no change in the method of instruction for at least 300 years, while the content and concepts of all other subjects—history, science, language, etc., had changed vastly.

The pressure of outside influences prompted the change. Mathematics became increasingly important to all scientific development. Various committees and study groups began investigating ways of modernizing the mathematics curriculum of our schools. One such group, appointed by the College Entrance Examination Board, published its recommendations in 1959, and the report was revolutionary.

THE REPORT gave the axe to most of solid geometry and to a great deal of traditional trigonometry. It recommended that several college courses be taught in high school, that high school math be presented in junior high and that a similar downward revision be made in the grade school courses.

New ways of looking at mathematics, new ways of thinking about the subject and a new jargon to explain and interpret it are all part of the new math now being introduced to first graders in many schools.

The author cautions parents not to be disturbed when Junior insists that 3 plus 4 equals 2. "It does," she says, "in the modulo five system." The book then states that a modulus, which can be any number, "is a sort of deuces-wild device that shakes arithmetic out of its old-time rigidity."

AN EXAMPLE, simple and easy to grasp, follows. "For instance," continues the author, "a clock works on a modulo twelve system." Even Mom and Dad know that if

it's ten now and you add four hours, it is then 2 o'clock, not 14 o'clock. Mom and Dad know the answer but it could be that until Mom and Dad read this book, Junior, well up on his first grade arithmetic, might be the only member of the household who knows the reason for the answer, the reason being that clocks operate on a modulo twelve system.

Realizing the vast significance and importance of this

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Summer school enrollment in the Los Angeles City Schools totaled 81,725 during the first week of classes, according to superintendent Jack P. Crowther. The figures include 48,000 students in 30 high schools, 23,725 in seven junior colleges, and 10,000 adult school enrollees.



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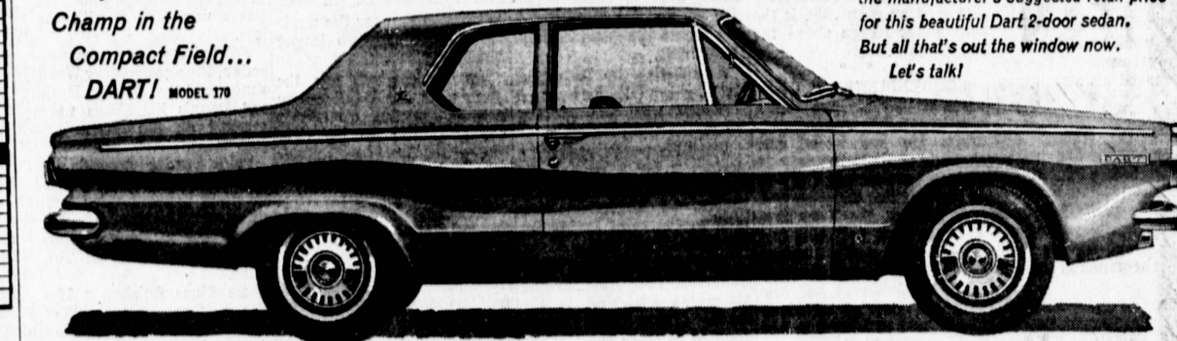
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