

ADELINE DALEY

The New Math Isn't So New

If you're expecting to read a detailed explanation of the "New Math" program now being taught to our school-children, I'm afraid you'll have to look elsewhere. I had enough trouble with "Old Math."

But frankly, the little I have been able to learn about the much-discussed new method leaves me disappointed. Two plus two still equals four, as the bank people have been reminding me these many years.

Moreover, I was completely wrong in believing that the "New Math" was a modern approach to solving today's complicated economic household problems. I had been told that it emphasized that one should "think things out." Thus I believed that the questions in my son's sixth-grade arithmetic book would be answered in the following "new" manner:

1. "Richard's father received a three percent salary increase. If he earned \$500 previously, how much more is he earning?"

(Ans.: Nothing, because haircuts also went up that same month.)

2. "The Jones family wanted to buy a new television set at \$295. After a down-payment of \$20 and interest rates of 34 per cent, what were their monthly payments?"

(Ans.: As everybody knows, no family has to figure out problems like those. The salesman looks it up on a little card.)

3. "The Smiths have seven children, all of whom drink three glasses of milk per day. If four glasses equals one quart and Mrs. Smith uses another pint for cooking, what is their milk consumption per week?"

(Ans.: Who knows? Does it include the milk spilled per meal? Also the Smiths' cat just had another litter of kittens.)

4. "Pamela wants to buy a new bicycle that costs \$50. She has saved \$31.69. How much more money does she need?"

(Ans.: \$23.31 because by the time she has the money saved, the price will have gone up \$5. If Pamela's parents wait long enough, she will out-grow wanting a bike.)

5. "Janet did the weekly grocery shopping for her mother. She paid \$3.69 for meat, \$2.75 for fruits and vegetables, \$4.18 for staples, and \$2.39 for bakery goods. What was the total?"

(Ans.: Never mind. At those prices just give me the address of that grocery store.)

6. "Two football teams have records of three games won and seven lost. If team A loses to Team B, what will Team B's new percentage be?"

(Ans.: I don't know about Team B, but Team A receives the first football draft choice.)

Course for Nurses Set

A refresher course for Registered Nurses or those persons eligible for California registration will be given at Harbor General Hospital (Harbor General) beginning Jan. 4.

The class will meet each week-day evening from 6 to 10 for a period of 10 weeks. It is being offered by Harbor State Employment Service. Nurses interested in the course should contact Robert Lambert of the Los Angeles Professional Office, RI 8-6511, extension 627.

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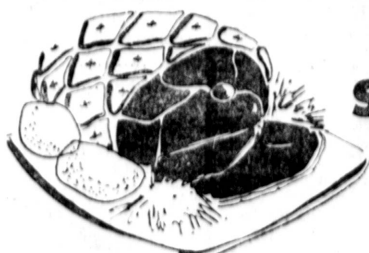
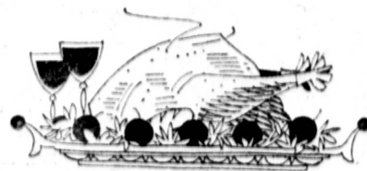
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