

Unique Background Aids Teacher in Her Classes

Teaching from experience as well as from a textbook is one of many attributes Mrs. Joanne Roberts, instructor at El Camino College offers students of psychology.

Mrs. Roberts is in the unique position of being a practicing clinical psychologist with her husband Dr. Richard Roberts. As a team, the Roberts counsel in the areas of marriage and parent and child problems.

As Mrs. Roberts explains to her classes, by counseling as a team, Dr. Roberts and she are able to interview the two poles of the family problem, that is, she may counsel the child and Dr. Roberts may counsel the parent, thus more clearly seeing the two sides of a problem.

"WE WILL not see a child whose parents refuse to come

in. We always counsel child and parents," Mrs. Roberts explained.

It is often frightening to parents to be asked to come for counseling. They may be over-ridden with guilt about what they think they are doing to their children. Sometimes we help these parents to change some of their attitudes," Mrs. Roberts added.

In mentioning advantages of dual counseling, Mrs. Roberts said that it is hard for one person to work with both child and parent due to mixed feelings and a tendency to "take sides."

TEAM WORK has disadvantages. Sometimes we get conflicting sides of a story. We tend to look for simple explanations as clinicians and as people," Dr. Roberts said. It's satisfying to be a psy-

chologist, to watch a patient or client become something," he said. "You're not doing the creating but you watch the patient find himself."

"Frequently we learn as much about ourselves as the patient might. Growth on the part of the psychologist is a part of psychotherapy," he continued.

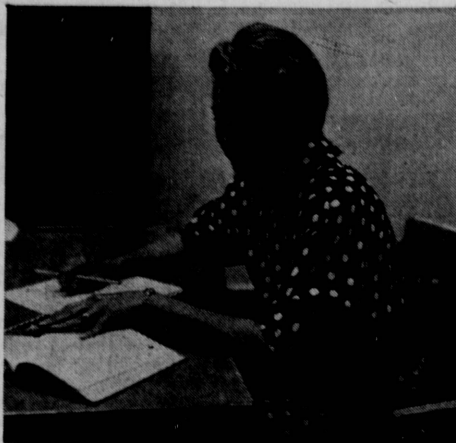
DR. AND MRS. Roberts dream of being able to do preventive work someday. They feel, however, that some people mistakenly attach a stigma to working with a counselor.

"Actually many people who go for treatment regularly are probably better adjusted than the average person, as they have insight into problems that need to be resolved," Dr. Roberts explained.

"As a counselor, I sometimes take problems home. People have an image of the psychologist as more adjusted than most people. Actually we have the same fears and emotions as others," he said.

THE ROBERTS children, Sue, 16, and David, 13, "have normal, or we couldn't work with people," Mrs. Roberts said, "according to their mother. We have to be Dr. and Mrs. Roberts enjoy

speaking to local groups on problems of discipline and child raising. They also find time for hobbies. Mrs. Roberts paints and makes mosaics and tapes-casual "hoot."



TEXTBOOKS AND EXPERIENCE... Mrs. Joanne Roberts, a psychology teacher at El Camino College, offers her students a unique combination of textbook instruction and practical lessons learned as a clinical advisor to parents and children. Mrs. Roberts works with her husband, Dr. Richard Roberts, when she's out of the classroom.

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