

From NEWSLETTER, March 29, 1976

"LINCOLN 'CORE TEAM' FEATURED"

"A number of Lincoln staff members were featured on our radio show 'Oak Park Schools in Action' recently. Dan Franco introduced the support specialists - Dorothy Wright, speech; Sharon Dalberg, social worker; Dorothy Patinka, nurse; Helga Gras, learning resources; Ruth Schroeter, reading specialist, and Marge Kennedy, psychologist. Each told of their work and it made for pretty impressive listening. Our staff is great, all agree."

Dorothy -

I couldn't find too many references to Lincoln - and Dan seemed to be able to keep out of the way of the photographers! Maybe you can make something funny out of the above.

The only thing I'd like back is the blue book, Newsletters, Sept. 76 to June 1977

Jean

INTERESTING PEOPLE IN DISTRICT 97

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PAULA O'MALLEY - ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Lincoln School is a big school. 721 boys and girls from kindergarten through 6th grade pass through its doors every day. 360 of them "stay for lunch" - the most of any school in the District. And yet, as you visit Lincoln School you have the feeling it is a smaller school. The atmosphere is relaxed yet orderly - the staff and students "family-like." "Up At Lincoln" exemplifies the school spirit. The parents add to the cooperative caring feeling about "their" school. An example of one of the human "cogs" that makes Lincoln tick is Paula O'Malley, former kindergarten and open space teacher who is now Assistant Principal.



Paula and Dan Franco. They work as a team.

Paula O'Malley came up from "the ranks." When her husband was employed at the Oak Park-River Forest High School as special education physical education teacher they bought a home in Oak Park and Paula began "subbing." She subbed, incidentally, in every school except Lincoln, specializing in speech and hearing, in which she had a major.

When an opening occurred in Lincoln's kindergarten, Paula was hired. Lincoln's kindergarten was always noteworthy. Its innovative program resulted in its being a State of Illinois demonstration school, and during the years Paula O'Malley was a kindergarten teacher the tradition was continued.

Paul and Helga Gras (now a learning disability resource teacher) developed a true team teaching program for 100 youngsters one year, working with four sections of youngsters - unusual at a kindergarten level!

When there was an opening in Lincoln's 4-5th grade open space Dan Franco asked Paula if she would be interested. Having always worked with younger children Paula said she hesitated. Dan convinced her to accept his philosophy: "You don't teach grades - you teach children - no matter what age level." Paula found this was really true and said her open space experience with 4th and 5th grade children was one of the most rewarding in her teaching career.

It all began for Paula in Fairfax, Illinois, a small town of 5,200 residents. Shortly after she graduated from high school she married Earl O'Malley, then a junior at Southern Illinois University. Paula enrolled at S.I.U. along with Earl, ultimately earning a Bachelor of Education degree, finding time along the way to welcome Kimberly, now 8. He also taught for a year in Carbondale in an unusual pilot program, involving a readiness program for K-1 youngsters. The arrival of Patrick, now 5, sidetracked her teaching career for a time.

PAULA O'MALLEY - ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL (continued)

The O'Malleys moved to DeKalb where she substituted while her husband worked at the university. Earl accepted a position at the Oak Park-River Forest High School, and Paula became a part of the Oak Park school system, and found time to garner a Master's degree in Administration!



Human relations are important to Paula. While teaching, her class learned African culture culminating in a real feast.



Paula helps a young friend with an errant shoe lace.

She works as a full time assistant to Dan Franco. Just administering a school with 721 students is a major undertaking. Paula takes pretty much total responsibility for the massive lunch program, although she says Dan "pitches in."

She is also involved in the Title VII program, which involves enrichment for minorities. It was the award of Title VII funds, incidentally, which gave Paula her new title, as Lincoln's Assistant Principal; Virgil Fry became Director of the Title program.

Paula's spot seems sort of a magic launching ground as former Assistant Principal Ramona Zimmerman is now a principal in Elmhurst, and Herb Rohmann at Irving.

How is reorganization going, we asked. Swimmingly, according to our cheerful young administrator. The bussing is smooth, the lunch program "a challenge." She misses the upper grade kids and also the after school excitement the former Olympics program brought - but hopes after-school activities will begin soon.

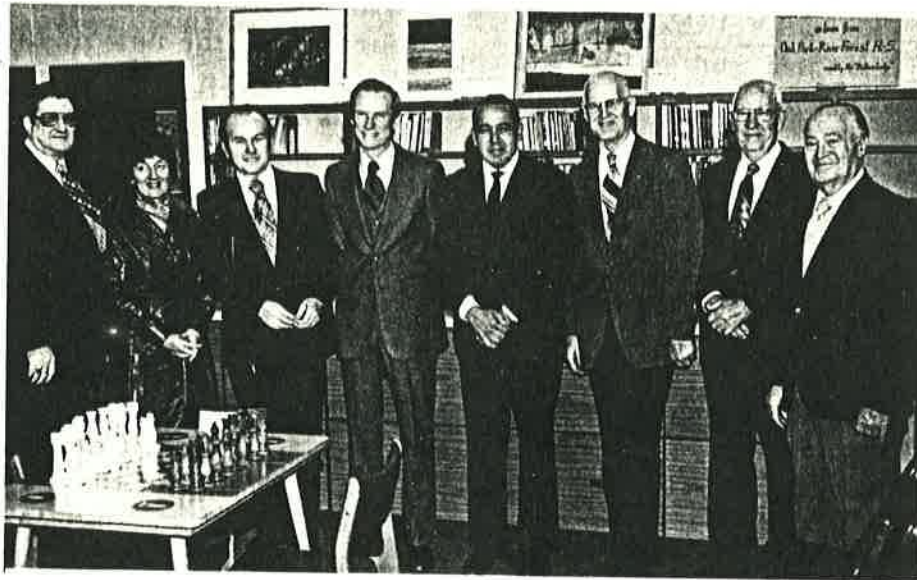
When we look over our notes we note words from her: "remarkable," "cohesive," "fantastic," "challenging," "supportive," "terrific." With Paula O'Malley "Up At Lincoln" is a prediction as well as a philosophy.

COMING DECEMBER 4th

An important referendum to increase the Education Fund.

"QUALITY EDUCATION -
OUR BEST INVESTMENT"

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE A. M. LEATHERWOOD DEDICATION AT IRVING SCHOOL



This group goes way back. Dr. Orville Woestehoff, Assistant Superintendent, began with our school district 23 years ago; Mileva Ruvarac, Director of Instruction, has been with District 97 since 1951. Dr. Robert Baldauf, Assistant Superintendent, came to the Oak Park schools in 1958. Neil Sheehan, principal of Holmes School, is the "newcomer" with 10 years of service. Dan Franco, Lincoln Principal, started teaching in Oak Park in 1949. Walter Albertson, former principal of Whittier School, retired in 1965 after 36 years in Oak Park. Lonnie Reed, former principal of Beye School, retired in 1974 after 41 years in Oak Park. Elvin Byers, former principal of Hawthorne School, retired in 1962 after 40 years.



"Educator, Scholar, Historian," is the inscription on the bronze plaque of the new media center dedicated to Mr. Leatherwood. A friend from South Carolina, Mrs. Claude Melton, was also present.