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ECHOES FROM THE FIELD

Joe R. Chapel and Ronald A. Crowell

Now in its third year, the Kalamazoo County Reading Therapists Organization is meeting four times during the current school year. The members of the group are full-time reading teachers, most of whom are involved in federally funded reading programs or teach under the state reimbursable programs. The organization, which now has members from all of the school districts in the county, was formed as a vehicle for the sharing of ideas and methods and the discussion of current issues of interest to remedial reading teachers. The organization has been enthusiastically accepted and supported by the county reading therapists.

The September meeting was directed by Mrs. Velta Nichols, the director of the Coldwater Schools Reading Program. Mrs. Nichols demonstrated and helped the therapists produce "teacher made" teaching aids. The November meeting was entitled "Using ITA as a Remedial Technique" and was organized by Mrs. Fran Baden, Mrs. Betty LeRoy, and Mrs. Greta Ryan. The January meeting was chaired by Mrs. Jean Hightower and was concerned with the use of linguistics as a remedial procedure.

The meeting to be held in April will be a luncheon meeting. The program will be "A Bag of Tricks for Remedial Techniques," under the direction of Mary Drew, consultant for the Allyn and Bacon Publishing Company. Mrs. Drew formerly was the language arts consultant for Wayne County.

The group has now been enlarged by the addition of reading therapists from both Van Buren and St. Joseph counties. Mrs. Fran Baden, the elementary consultant for the Kalamazoo County Intermediate School District, indicated that any interested full-time remedial reading teacher may attend the meetings and join the group. Inquiries may be addressed to her at the Intermediate School District Office, 508 East Dutton Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49006.