Homebound Teaching Reveals Modern Mahomet’s Miracle

by Mario Mamalakis

Many times have we seen Mahomet’s Miracle performed by those bold enough to take the progressive step necessary to accomplish worthwhile feats.

Mahomet, you recall, made the people believe that he would call a hill to him. When he called the hill several times and it did not come, he was not for a moment at a loss. Instead he said, “If the hill will not come to Mahomet, Mahomet will go to the hill.”

Here in Lafayette parish the school authorities are daily performing a modern Mahomet’s Miracle with their program of special education. This program seeks to arrange for those all school children, have been assigned to the school, even though they fall within the exceptional children’s group. The project in Lafayette parish is a Pilot Project of the State Department of Education.

Home-Bound Pupils

The Home-Bound part of the project has teachers going into the homes and into the hospitals to see that the parish’s home-bound school age population is educated. Mrs. Thomas B. Sims, who handles this part of the special education project, explains that her work carries her into all parts of the parish as well as in the city homes and hospitals. She must be ready to teach under all sorts of conditions and to adapt to all situations.

A more active, enriched curriculum is needed for the home-bound boy or girl than for any other. Some of these, particularly the exceptional child, officials point out, is able to contribute to the educational effort of his age group even though they are handicapped.

In the event that a child is confined to his home but intends to return to the regular class rooms, Mrs. Sims then works closely with the child’s teacher as a sort of liaison. She carries on the teaching program for this pupil as much as possible in a manner to correlate the work being done in his classroom.

In the event that a child is confined for a year or more, then Mrs. Sims carries on her teaching program according to the medical aspects of the child’s condition, diagnosis and prognosis of the case.

Among Mrs. Sims pupils are: Esla Mayeux, daughter of C. Y. Mayeux, 114 General Gardner St., Lafayette; Ellis Mire, Jr., of the Judice community; Alton Beadle, Jr., 414 S. Walnut St., Jack Allen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Allen, 112 Crestmont, City; and Robert Daniel Adams, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Adams, 207 S. Main, City.

Esla has been on the home-bound program ever since it began some 5 years ago. She has 90% loss of hearing. The home-bound teaching program, as adapted for Esla, has taught her to sew, cook and to bathe. Mrs. Sims has learned to make and sold aluminum trays. She also does reed work.

Ella has a post-operative condition and has been on the program for 6 months. She is in the 10th grade at the Judice high school. The home-bound teaching which has been given is him to keep up with his lessons until he is able to resume regular classes at the school. He, too, has learned to make reed baskets and 90% loss of hearing. The home-bound teaching program, as adapted for Esla, has taught her to sew, cook and to bathe. Mrs. Sims has learned to make and sold aluminum trays. She also does reed work.

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