

# Home-School Visitors Promote Communication, Understanding

The Home-School Visitor Program is in its fifth year of operation in the Columbia Public Schools. The program was initiated in 1968 with Mrs. Beulah Ralph serving as Coordinator. At that time there were four Home-School Visitors. This year the staff of Home-School Visitors includes Mrs. Ralph, Mr. Preston Bass, Mrs. Mary Collins, Mrs. Ann Lewis, Mrs. Lilla Jefferson and Mrs. Jo White.

The Home-School Visitor Program is one of helping teachers and parents to help children. A primary goal is to assist in improving communication between the home and the school. This type of program requires the cooperation and active involvement of school administrators, teachers and counselors, together with parents and students.

A student may be referred to the Home-School Visitor whenever re-

ports indicate that he is not making good use of the opportunities which school offers. The difficulty may involve the student's relationship with teachers, his parents, or other students and may be reflected by irregular attendance, behavior problems, personality problems or lack of interest in school. The Home-School Visitor may help to improve the situation by visiting or telephoning the home and discussing the school situation with parents. The parents will be informed of ways in which they can help their child, encouraged to visit the school, and made aware that school people are interested and want to help in any way possible. Help is also provided by discussing the situation with teachers and administrators and bringing information to their attention which may provide some insight into the reason for the child's difficulty.

The Home-School Visitors work to become acquainted with the children in their schools. They may be seen working with children on the playground, in the school cafeteria, or in individual conferences. They are on duty at the schools during the regular school day and may be reached at home after regular school hours when their assistance is needed. The central office is located in the Douglass Building at 310 North Providence Road. Parents who need their help are encouraged to call them at any time.



Mrs. Buelah Ralph confers with Home-School Visitors. (left to right) Mrs. Ann Lewis; Mrs. Jo White; Mr. Preston Bass; Mrs. Mary Collins; Mrs. Ralph, Coordinator; Mrs. Lilla Jefferson