



Geography Educators' Network of Indiana

July 17, 1989

MEMO TO: GENI Members and Friends

FROM: F. L. Bein, GENI Alliance Coordinator

Many important events are happening or upcoming:

A) The GENI Alliance hosted 22 teachers and four teacher-consultants at the first Indiana Summer Geography Institute in Indianapolis, June 14-30, 1989. Much time and preparation went into this workshop.

B) Six (primary) elementary teachers will travel to Washington, D.C. in July to attend the NGS Summer Institute. Join us in congratulating them! They are:

Anne Gardner

Margaret Harshfield

Jean Marr

Frank Vernallis

Judith Wilson

Connie Yeaton

C) GENI membership renewals are due in September.

Individual rate \$10.00

School rate \$25.00

Corporate sponsor \$50.00

D) A Fall Conference to reunite all past GENI workshop participants will be held in Indianapolis October 27 & 28, 1989. This is the same weekend as ISTA teacher conferences. All those graduates of the Summer Geography Institute, the St. Mary's-of-the-Woods retreat weekends, or National Diffusion Network workshops will be invited to a weekend retreat/reunion in a location in Indianapolis to be announced.

E) Geography Awareness Week is planned for November 12-18, 1989. The theme is "Geography: Key to the Environment." Share with us your creative ideas. Also remind your congressman to sign House Joint Resolution 142 in Washington. Jim Jontz, Richard Lugar, and Dan Coats are the only Indiana Congressmen to co-sponsor the bill.

F) Next GENI Meeting - Saturday, August 26

9:00-10:00: speaker; 10:00-2:00: business with lunch break

Janice H., Hutchings, Editor

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- G) The Indiana Legislature and Governor Evan Bayh has allocated \$50,000 per annum over the next biannium to The Board of Education to be matched with the same amount from The National Geographic Society Education Foundation. This will constitute GENI Alliance funding for years one and two of our three-year Alliance plan with NGS. This bill was sponsored by State Representative Donald T. Nelson.
- H) The recent GENI election resulted in the following newly elected Board Members:
- 1) Alan Backler, Agency for Instructional Technology
 - 2) William Dando, Chairman, Geography Dept., Indiana State University, Terre Haute
 - 3) Dave Geyer, Penn High School, Mishawaka
 - 4) Roger Jenkinson, Chairman, Geography Dept. Taylor University, Upland
 - 5) Carole Mayrose, Northview High School, Brazil
 - 6) Beth Steinert, Shawe Jr./Sr. High School, Madison
 - 7) Mike Sullivan, Chairman, Geography Dept, Ball State University, Muncie
- I) Indiana's representative in Washington for The National Geography Bee finals won 4th place nationally. Congratulations go to Ralph Feldhake, a 7th grader from Southport Jr. High School in Indianapolis.
- J) The Geography Task Force appointed by Dean Evans and administered by Mary Fortney has developed a draft recommendation and is planning a final meeting for late summer.
- K) April 19-21, the Great Lakes Region of the National Council for the Social Studies will meet in conjunction with the Indiana Council for the Social Studies in Indianapolis. GENI members are encouraged to present successful teaching strategies and research outcomes. The deadline for proposals is October 12. Please contact Dorothy Drummond of the ICSS Geography SIG for further information.

TEACHER OF TEACHERS

It is appropriate to introduce to you this month a teacher of teachers who presented two lectures during The Indiana Summer Geography Institute. Alan Backler has directed several projects designed to train teachers in geography and the use of geographic materials. For example, he has been director of such projects as "The Basic Geography Literacy Project" and several NSF Development in Science projects. Dr. Backler has developed textbooks and software for teaching geography, including World Geography w/S. Lazarus; Flight Plan w/Robert Harvey; Global Perspectives: A Map Table and Graph Skills Project w/Robert Harvey.

In 1988 Dr. Backler edited and developed such prominent geographic tools as World Geography and National Security and Geography Education; The Exemplary Practice Series. In addition, with Joseph Stoltman, Dr. Backler was chief content and design consultant of the Video Series Global Geography offered by The Agency for Instructional Technology. Teaching Geography in American History is a Trends/Issues Paper No.1 published by The ERIC/CHES. (Much of this material has been translated into other languages.)

Dr. Backler has operated as a Consultant for numerous Educational groups including Close-Up Foundation, EPLE & EOUC Institute and he has served on The Executive Boards of NCGE & GENI, & has functioned as a member of several Task Forces including the recent Geography Task Force called by the Indiana Department of Education. He is often invited to perform inservice training in other states.

Dr. Backler was recently employed full time by The Agency for Instructional Technology. He lives in Bloomington with his wife Barbara and their 4 children. He may be reached at The Agency for Instructional Technology, Box A, Bloomington, IN 47402.

CONGRATULATIONS !

TO THOSE
SELECTED FOR

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY SUMMER INSTITUTE IN WASHINGTON' D.C.

Connie Yeaton
Lillian C. Schmitt Elem.
Columbus, In.
6th Grade

Jean Marr
Southwick Elementary
Fort Wayne
4th Grade

Anne Gardner
University Elementary
Bloomington, In.
3rd Grade

Frank Vernallis
Jackson Elementary
Portage, In.
5th Grade

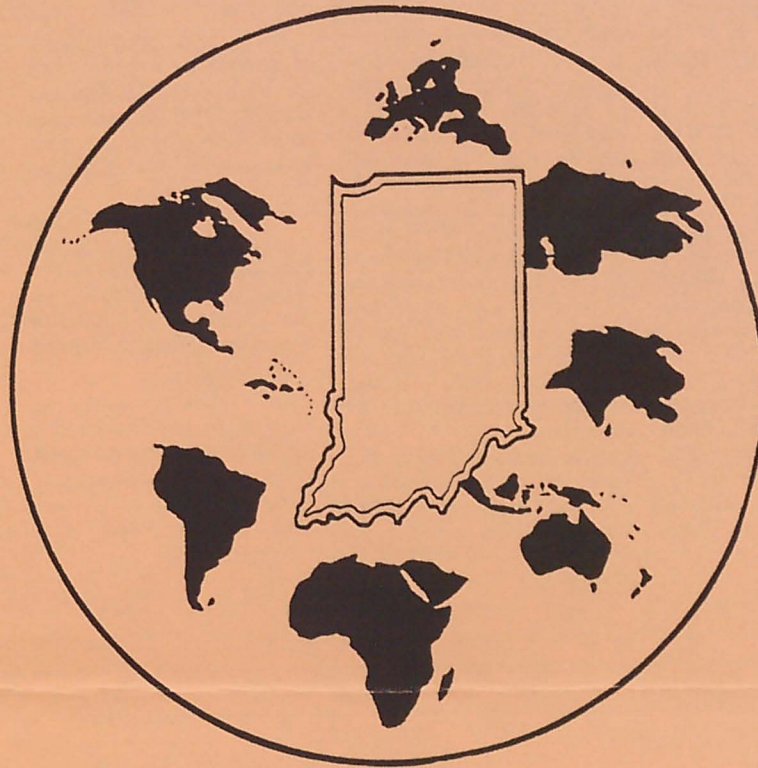
Margaret Harshfield
Slate Runn Elementary
New Albany, In.
5th Grade

Judith Wilson
South Side School
Frankfort, In.
2nd Grade

NGS SUMMER GEOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE

JULY — 1989

HATS OFF FOR GEOGRAPHY BEE



INDIANA STATE WINNER

RALPH FELDHAKE

SOUTHPORT JUNIOR HIGH

TOOK FOURTH PLACE

NATIONAL COMPETITION IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Southport Lions install; honor outstanding citizen

By Jerry L. Cosby
Editor

The Southport Lions Club, now in its 44th year of service to the Southside, celebrated Installation Night on June 7 at the Lotus Gardens in Greenwood.

Nine officers, plus four directors were given their oaths of office by Past Lions District Governor Ronald Faulkner. They included: Cecil Hill, president; Kurt Nitsch, first vice-president; Roy White, second vice-president; Ray Anderson, third vice-president; Nancy Stenger, secretary; David Nice, treasurer; Dennis Tucker, tail twister; Robert Ell, assistant tail twister; and Phil Stenger, lion tamer.

Directors are: Theima LeGrand, Pauline Ulrey,

Maurice Oldham and Richard Wayman. Immediate past president Gerald Ell also joins the board.

At the annual gathering the Lions also recognize an outstanding individual with the presentation of the "Citizen of the Year" award. This year's recipient is Dr. William Gommel, Chairman of the Earth Space and General Sciences Department at the University of Indianapolis.

Dr. Gommel, an Indianapolis native and graduate of Tech H.S., spent the early part of his career as a staff scientist and special advisor to the U.S. Air Force. The UCLA graduate was instrumental in the development of geosynchronous satellites, and three such vehicles now orbit the earth as surveillance vehicles.

Dr. Gommel is also a weather scientist, and worked with the Air Weather Service in Washington. He received his doctorate from Purdue University in 1973.

He retired from government service in 1965, then joined the staff at Indiana Central. TV viewers may recall seeing him also as a weatherman on Channel 13.

Active in meteorological circles, he is founder of the Hoosier Association of Science Teachers and the Indiana Chapter of the American Meteorological Society.

Dr. Gommel and his wife, Vivian, are parents of two daughters. He's active in Methodist church work, singing in the University Heights UMC choir, and also the Scottish Rite



Dr. William Gommel

Chorus. He is a three-time Masonic Potent Master.

Dr. Gommel was nominated for the Lions award by Dr. William Green, who stated, "As an educator of 26 years, very involved Christian gentleman, and a truly fine teacher, I can think of no one more deserving of being recipient of this honor."

The Spotlight

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Indianapolis...Twenty-two teachers recently completed an intensive geography workshop sponsored by The National Geographic Society, The Lilly Endowment, Inc., and the State of Indiana. The Geography Educators' Network of Indiana (GENI), an Alliance of the National Geographic Society Education Program, conducted a 17-day Geography Institute in Indianapolis from June 14-30, 1989.

Dr. Rick Bein, Chairman of the Geography Department at IUPUI, was the Director of the Geography Institute.

Among the topics of discussion were Central America, China, the African Sahel, and the Soviet Union, as well as soil types, climates of the world, and urban revitalization. The teacher-participants shared lesson plans and ideas during the two weeks of resident classes. They sharpened map skills and participated in field trips to the Children's Museum, The New Indianapolis Zoo, an urban tour of Indianapolis gentrified areas, a suburban soils exploration, and an overnight trip to Southwestern Indiana. A highlight of the Institute was a visit with Governor Evan Bayh and a tour of the newly renovated State Capitol Building.

- continued -

The following teachers were participants in the Indiana Geography Institute:

Constance Green, Washington High School, South Bend
Don Porter, Milroy Jr. High School, Rushville
Joan L. Troup, Lincoln Jr. High School, Plymouth
Mary Ann Couture, Lafayette School, South Bend
Rosemarie Bradford, Clay Middle School, South Bend
Janis Coffman, Belemont Jr. High School, Decatur
Kathleen Koch, Winchester Community High School,
Winchester
Beverly Tibbets, Richards Elementary, Columbus
Barbara Loverich, Hobart High School, Hobart
Charles Bowman, Tipton High School, Tipton
Joseph Krause, W. Lafayette Jr./Sr. High Sch.,
West Lafayette
Diane Black, Northview Middle School, Indianapolis
Marjorie Foster, Columbus No. High School, Columbus
Ted Springer, Harrison Jr. High School, Merrillville
Tom Blazejewski, Champion Middle School, Warren, Ohio
Louis Camilotto, McCutcheon High School, Lafayette
Judith Goodwin, Holman Elementary, Peru
Sally Petro, Krueger Jr. High Sch., Michigan City
Robyn Severance, Navarre Middle Sch., South Bend
William Gulde, No. Central High School, Indianapolis
Ginger Morris, Salem Middle School, Salem
Virginia Owsley, Rogers High School, Michigan City

The following teachers attended the National Geographic Society Summer Institute in Washington D. C. July, 1988, and were consultants who assisted in the development and operation of the 1989 Indiana Summer Geography Institute:

Dave Geyer, Penn High School, Mishawaka
Beth Steinert, Shawe Jr./Sr. High School, Madison
Carole Mayrose, Northview High School, Brazil
Steve Wilson, Frankfort Middle School, Frankfort

Don't give them sports without geography

By Michael Revzin

Munich, West Germany—An Associated Press report that I read here in West Germany said the editor of *The Kansas City Star* and *Times*, Joe McGuff, recently startled an NCAA convention in San Francisco with his blunt statement that the concept of big-time college sports as amateur athletics "is pure fiction."

McGuff added, "In a college or a university, everything should be subordinated to education. I don't think anyone can look at the facts and figures . . . and say that is happening."

Some of those attending the conference felt that McGuff was too critical of the U.S. collegiate sports system.

As a Kansas Citian who has lived in four foreign countries, I am amazed that McGuff's comments were considered harsh. Having seen the education systems in other countries, I believe that McGuff vastly understated the case.

No other country in the world allows sports to dominate high schools and colleges the way the United States does.

Hardly a month goes by without some survey or another disclosing that American students think France borders on North Dakota—and they don't know where North Dakota is. Or that Americans rank among the lowest in the world in math and science skills. Or that many graduates of U.S. high school are functionally illiterate.

Each study is followed by a brief flurry of suggestions on how to solve America's educational problems. But none of these suggestions would be as effective as a method practiced by parents from Maine (that's way up there in the right-hand corner of the map) to California (that's on the other side, near that big ocean).

The method? Simple. "No dessert until you finish your vegetables."

In the case of education, sports should be the dessert—something extra. Something you enjoy after you've finished the essentials.

But in American schools—from junior high through college—football and basketball are often treated as the main courses. While children in Japan or Taiwan are devouring huge helpings of education's meats and vegetables—history, geography, science and mathematics—American students are subsisting on a diet of educational desserts and junk food.

While German children are learning English—to help them compete in international business—American students are attending pep rallies or football practice.

There's nothing wrong with sports or pep rallies—just as there's nothing wrong with apple pie or ice cream. But you don't give your children chocolate cake before they eat their vegetables.

How can American schools apply this parental practice? What if a student who wanted to participate in sports first had to pass a standardized academic test—sort of an SAT?

In geography, for example, what if he had to be able to fill in the names of all 50 states and capitals on a blank map of the United States before being eligible to play varsity sports?

What if college athletes had to be able to do the same with a map of the world before they could compete? Better yet, what if students had to pass a similar test before they could even be a spectator at a sporting event? How long would it take to achieve geographical literacy in the United States? Not long.

Similar incentives could be offered to develop proficiency in other subjects.

If Americans can learn the name of their baseball team's third-string shortstop, they can learn the name of the state and world capitals. Or the names of world leaders.

Of the thousands of American high school athletes who devote themselves to sports, only a small percentage will be good enough to earn a college sports scholarship. Of those, an even smaller percentage will ever earn money playing professional sports.

Meanwhile, the rest will have wasted their school years and will be unprepared for today's job market, where more and more jobs require a higher education or technical training.

In American schools, the player who scores the winning touchdown is the one who is paraded before a rally of the entire student body and heralded for his achievement. He is the one written up in the local newspaper. American students who excel at science or foreign languages are ridiculed as nerds. They receive little attention. In foreign countries, such students are admired.

If American universities need the money that big-time sports generates, then let them form minor-league teams, consisting of players who are openly paid for their services and who don't have to be students. If a player truly qualifies academically, let him take classes. If he doesn't, don't let him lower the academic standards.

One American industry after another has been losing ground to foreign competitors. Too often, when American workers lose their jobs to such competition, they don't have the education to qualify for any other job.

If American students continue to grow up on a diet of educational desserts, they have no right to cry "foul" when the Japanese and others beat them on the real playing field—the international marketplace

Michael Revzin, a Kansas City journalist, is working in West Germany.

GEOGRAPHICAL EDUCATION NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT

GENIP

Announces the February Publication of:

TEXT ASSESSMENTS IN GEOGRAPHY:

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BY

PATRICE ST. PETER

Minnesota Alliance for Geographic Education

Macalester College

St. Paul, Minnesota

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CONTINENTAL CARAVAN is a presentation of DIVA Productions, Inc., a non-profit, international organization based in Indianapolis that creates and tours a variety of musical programs throughout North America. Presenters may obtain fee support from the Indiana Arts Commission's Visiting Artist Program (VAP) or Presenter Touring Program (PTP) for all current presentations from DIVA Productions.

CONTINENTAL CARAVAN's development was funded by the Indiana Humanities Council, the Geography Educator's Network of Indiana (GENI), the Indiana Arts Commission, and the Moore Foundation, with equipment donated by HPS, Inc. Project Director is Dr. Audrey Leonard Borschel of DIVA Productions, with principal consultants Dr. Frederick Bein, Head, Department of Geography, IUPUI and Dr. Alan Backler, Teaching Resource Center, Indiana University. Music consultants include Dr. Patricia Shehan, Head, Department of Music Education, Butler University and David Amram, internationally known composer, conductor and world music specialist.

For additional information about performances and full-day residency with performance and smaller group workshops, please contact:

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This program made possible through a grant from

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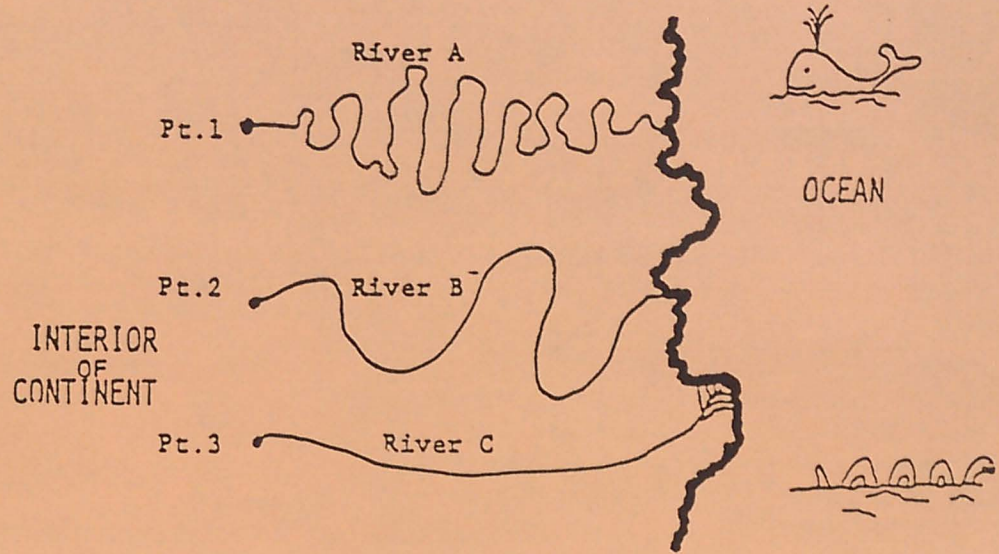
IIAC 

With the support of the
Indiana Arts Commission and
National Endowment for the Arts.

Geni Geograms

Look at the diagram below, then answer the following questions:

1. Which river flows most rapidly? (a) River A, (b) River B, (c) River C.
2. Which place has the highest elevation? (a) Point 1, (b) Point 2, (c) Point 3.



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