

# nd Rap Around Rap Around Rap Around Rap



Kearney seniors, Barb Shaheen and Janet Miller use a relaxed, informal technique in teaching their young pupils.

## Kearney-Villa Project Helps All Concerned

By JOAN M. SMITH

STP doesn't mean the motor oil, or at least not in this case. They are the call letters for Bishop Kearney's community service group, Seniors Touching People, and they certainly do that, boasted Sister Damian, director of education at St. Joseph's Villa on Dewey Avenue. Sister referred to the seven Kearney young ladies who every Friday morning devote their time and energy to tutoring Villa youngsters.

The girls who act as teachers' aides follow lesson plans prepared by Villa teachers, and then instruct their pupils on a one-to-one basis. The girls have developed a rapport with the youngsters which not only makes their learning fun, but gives them a sense of friendship. Sister Damian exclaims, "The girls have an interest in the children without making them feel 'oh, you poor kid!'"

This volunteer action does coincide with the future plans of Kearney students like Barb Shaheen who confided, "I want to pursue special education," and

Terri Valenti who said, "I'd like to go into English or speech therapy."

The benefits are not all one-sided as Karen Schmitz noted, "When I first started everyone was a little nervous, but the kids by making a good impression put us right at ease, and make you want to come back."

This is the second year for STP participation in the Villa tutoring program. In fact, the Kearney response was so great in requesting to help in this area the Villa could not include them all.

As the children arrived smiling and eager to pursue their lessons Sister Damian happily stated, "It's a delightful experience to see these kids from Kearney come back to help. It gives you a real hope for the future to see the high school kids give of themselves."

The girls' attitude about their commitment was summed up by Pat DiFabio, "Coming makes you feel good — it's just trying to help someone — these kids really make you feel wanted."



## Winner's Circle

RapAround weekly will run a photo of a group of students taken somewhere in the Diocese. One person will be circled and if that person brings the clipping to the Courier-Journal before noon of the Tuesday following our publication date, he or she will receive \$5. This week's photo was taken at Cardinal Mooney High School during a student assembly. The person circled above should bring the clipping to Joan M. Smith, Courier-Journal, by noon, Tuesday, Feb. 18 to receive the \$5.



## Ring Ceremony

Members of the junior class at St. Agnes High School recently received their school rings at an assembly program. The rings were blessed by Father Walther Cushing, chaplain. Above, class president Patty Hall receives her ring from Principal Sister Mary Margaret as class moderator Mrs. Catherine Battaglia looks on. Also in photograph are the other class officers, Joyce Cometa and Kathy Donnelly.

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