

Room 1405 Auditors Building

June 17, 1943

*Office
of
Education*

Mr. Philip Bonn
% W. Howard Pillsbury
Superintendent of Schools
Schnectady, New York

Dear Phil:

I have checked over the first batch of negatives you made in Schnectady. I have one major comment to make, namely, you have shot too much of the broad things and not enough detail. In other words, you are doing a picture story. You need the adjectives, the adverbs, as well as the nouns. How about one or two youngsters, sitting at a desk? How about people? Close ups? How about faces? Around the school you are bound to find the little details, which, taken by themselves, don't mean very much, but, as a part of a layout, or exhibit, or feature story, they are most excellent.

Don't forget there is a great need for portraits, some full length of highschool youngsters. The English certainly want to know what American highschool boys and girls look like, how they dress, the white shoes, the half socks. These are all a part of highschool children's dress. What about some shots showing feet? Most kids come in with books on their arms, no brief cases for highschool kids. How about a picture of bow ribbons and the hair dress of highschool girls? What are the boys wearing? How do they get to school? What do they do at recess, lunch hour, etc? You will liven up your picture story a little, and you will make the entire story more useful for the Office of War Information in England. I know you have been instructed to get some of the architectural details, and you should get them by all means, but remember architectural details without people are a little bit dry. I will look forward to getting the rest of your pictures.

Your film is running O.K. Regards.

Sincerely,

Roy E. Stryker, Chief
Division of Photography
News Bureau

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