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PEOPLE'S COLUMN

A MENACE TO OUR YOUTH

There is a real menace creeping into our high school and community in the form of literature, so depraved and blood curdling that it forces Eleanor Glyn, "Diamond Dick," and Conan Doyle into everlasting oblivion when a comparison is made. Only in the past week or so two literary "gems" have found their way into my office, the first a book "Unseen Hands," (The name apparently taken from two horrible, partially visible hands which adorn the front cover) and the second a monthly publication entitled "So this is Paris." They were both taken from junior high school boys who were feverishly devouring the contents whenever an opportunity presented itself, and who very reluctantly parted with their prized possessions. These are only two of numerous instances in which session room and class room teachers have removed such treasures from unwilling hands.

I readily agree that practically every boy passes through an age in which a good detective story holds a tremendous and usually harmless appeal but I also attest that there is a limit past which one cannot go without plunging into the depths of horror and obscenity there to meet with degrading influences which often leave a deadly and permanent mark.

If there is a class of people who demand such stuff to satisfy their weak, perverted minds, of course the writers and publishers must satisfy them but what a shame that by their example, some of our fine, wholesome boys and girls are encouraged to follow in their questionable footsteps.

The school is attempting to do its utmost to provide suitable reading matter and that it is appreciated by a large number of its pupils is attested by the fact that the library is filled practically every hour of the day and often during the noon hour and after school.

It has not been my desire in this brief article to criticize any single agency that has to do with the dissemination of reading matter. I realize that such agencies attempt to satisfy the multitude. But I do express a sincere hope that the libraries, newsstands and book stores use some caution in the sale and distribution of questionable literature to the youths in our schools and that parents inform themselves as to what their children are reading and guide them in making wise and honorable selections.

MELVIN C. HART,
Principal, Baldwin High School.

STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Oakland. At a session of said Court, held at the Probate Office in the City of Pontiac, in said County on the 25th day of April A. D. 1925.
Present, Hon. Ross Stockwell, Judge of Probate.
In the Matter of the Estate of Philip B. [illegible]
On reading and filing the petition duly verified of said decedent praying that [illegible] may be granted to [illegible] or to some other suitable person.
It is Ordered, that the 25th day of May, A. D. 1925, at eight o'clock in the forenoon, at said probate office, be and is hereby appointed for hearing said petition.
And it is Further Ordered, That public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy of this order once each week for three successive weeks previous to said day of hearing, in the Birmingham Eccentric, a newspaper printed and circulated in said County.
ROSS STOCKWELL,
Judge of Probate.
A true copy.
DAN A. McGAFFEY,
Register of Probate. 2-4

STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Oakland. At a session of said Court, held at the Probate Office in the City of Pontiac, in said County, on the 28th day of April A. D. 1925.
Present, Hon. Ross Stockwell, Judge of Probate.
In the Matter of the Estate of August [illegible]
Harry L. Schultz, having filed a petition praying that an instrument filed in said Court be admitted to Probate as the last will and testament of said deceased and that administration of said estate be granted to Philip Sergaeck, the executor named in the will, or some other suitable person.
It is Ordered, That the 25th day of May A. D. 1925, at eight A. M., at said Probate Office, be and is hereby appointed for hearing said petition.
It is Further Ordered, That Public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy hereof for three successive weeks previous to said day of hearing in the Birmingham Eccentric, a newspaper printed and circulated in said County.
ROSS STOCKWELL,
Judge of Probate.
A true copy.
DAN A. McGAFFEY,
Register of Probate. 2-4

"Knights And Ladies Of The Round Table" Are Proving Successful Here

By Louise Hastings.

Law is the only road to freedom, according to 133 Junior High School students who committing less than three "crimes" have been placed on Good Citizenship Honor Roll for the last five weeks period, during which character and service have been the objectives, and as a reward were given a free movie Friday afternoon. Scholarship, which is to be the aim for the next five weeks period along with character and service, make up the three orders of The Knights and Ladies of the Round Table toward which the 195 members of the Junior High School are striving.

This very interesting plan which solves the most difficult problems of conduct is bringing most encouraging results under the supervision of Mrs. J. J. Hornback, principal of the Junior High School, who is working on the theory that more responsibility should be placed on the students. Going into the lower halls of the Baldwin High School one is challenged with a grim, what-do-you-mean-by-disturbing-our-halls stare from polite but very serious monitors. Rudeness is taboo. Within the session room, half a dozen pairs of sharp eyes (much sharper than any teacher's) see that all young ladies and gentlemen between the ages of ten and fifteen years make studying their all-important business.

"Margaret" one of the all-seeing six finds "Mary" writing a note and promptly places the criminal in the observation ward, directly in front of the principal's desk, along with the other patients who are awaiting for "operations." Another member of the important six is in deep perplexity over the proper punishment to be dealt out to a bold young man who has deliberately left his seat to lower a sun-shade, forgetting that there is an official window-curtain-raiser. A "faculty," a secret spy system, a "timekeeper" who cares for excuses and tardiness are among the interesting features of the system. The former have served so commendably for the past five weeks period that they will probably be "rehired" for the next five weeks.

The whole idea may sound more like a penitentary than a school room, yet in reality the plan is far more natural than the old hickory stick notion. Like the latter, however, a sense of fear plays a great part in the psychology of the scheme—a fearing of 104 fellow students rather than one grim school teacher. "Reward for virtue ought to be made just as important as punishment for crime in our school system," declared Mrs. Hornback who hopes, however, the number of misdemeanors to a minus quantity among members of the Round Table.

The following students have been placed on the honor roll for the five weeks period just closed: 7B—Dorothy Anderson, Margaret Arnold, Phyllis Bause, Jane Carnahan, Charles Cummings, Richard Elfarby, Elizabeth Forrest, Edith Gaskill, Harold Gilbert, Clare Gillespie, Rosemary Grimmelsman, Junior Hardware, Virginia Hugg, Frederick Jones, June Longcliff, Donald McDonald, George McKinney, Thomas Martindale, Lily Moldenhauer, Julia Myers, Myrtle Oelmeke, Mary Olson, Esther R. Raney, Gerald Rochelcau, Doris Root, Harold Service, Dorothy Tremaine, Margaret Verwey, Stoddard White, and Lauretta Drake.

From 7A, Pearl Bickford, Ruby Bickford, Jean Brooks, Betty Brown, Catherine Camp, Margaret Cooney, Laura Drury, Georgenia Erb, Evelyn Gill, Clarabell Hathaway, Doris Hoffman, Katherine Hunt, Margaret Harson, Lilah Johnston, Alberta King, Dorothy Kist, Doris MacConnodale, Jane Koppelton, Irene Raymond, Julina Ryder, Alice Smith, Joy Stewart, Patricia Stirling, Ramaine Thomson, Virginia Thomas, Sylvia Weir, Mary Wenzl, Elsie Zabel, Gordon Chamberlin, George Crain, William Dean, Oak Dolberg, Orville Dennison, Malcolm Ewer, John Fisher, Gerald Higby, Robert Howard, Charles Jewell, Warren Jewell, William Melvin, Colter P. Pierson, Charles Sdunek, Robert Stanger, Nicholas Wener, James Winborn, Harry Winborn, Clarence Wilding.

From 8B: Carson Bingham, Stewart Clark, Hartwell Ladd, Earl Maxwell, John Moss, Lin Raymond, Frederick Rollins, Vernon Richardson Van Salisbury, Vernon Schliesche, Vernelle Ward, Gertrude Ashwell Leah Baldwin, Irene Bany, Nancy Bingham, Betty Brede, Enid Cockereline, Veneta Cook, Doris Cox, Louise Curry, Ruth Groves, Thedora Henry, Esther Kist, Betty Kidder, Irene McDonough, Frances Manchester, Lulu Pompletonn, Violet Prentice, Margaret Pullin, Lillian Rusch, Doris Smith, Marjorie Shepherd, Lillian Walton, Gwendolyn Willr.

Clara Bickford, Lucile Black, Katherine Brown, Isabel Green, Lucile Hoffman, Annette Kiley, Olive Kriegar, Bernice Kresge, Helen Lovelace, Helen McClelland, Dorothy Manson, Marjorie Porter, Winifred Quarton, Eleanor Smith, Floyd Doherty, Arnold Ernsberger, William Grass, Carl Kalmback, Gilbert Mintling, Clifford McKinney, John Merchberger and George Wolf from 8A.

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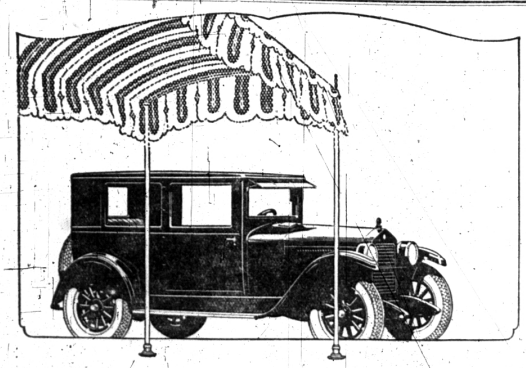

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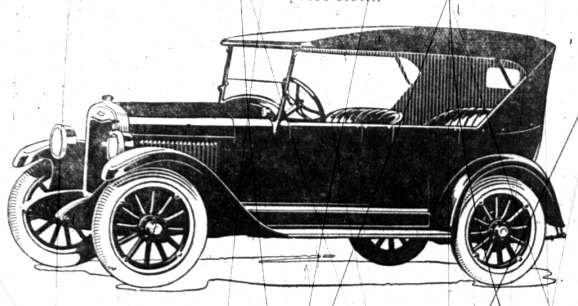

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