

Around The Cracker Barrel

As Knowledge advances, the need for more knowledge increases. Can't you just see the Fathers of this country, gathered together in 1787, writing a provision for free schools into their new constitution? They were the aristocrats of their times, being not only the landed gentry but the intellectual aristocracy as well. They provided, wisely, that every child who would forever in this country be given an education at the public expense.

But in 1787 knowledge was very limited. An education meant principally a drilling in the three R's. In an age when few people could write more than their own name, when few could read and fewer still "figure", the educational concept of our forbears was limited indeed.

By 1949 Man has learned much. He has probed the secrets of Nature, has divined some secrets of space, has harnessed physical principles to his use. Man has developed for himself a very complex world, and in every phase of human inquiry he has pushed back cur-seums almost limitless. His intelligence has grown, and his need for more and more knowledge constantly increases.

In this very complex world our children are born. Their need for training and skills is much greater than the needs of their parents. The competition of trained minds makes every success a stiffer battle. We have built a world where none of the most highly trained can survive. Education is becoming a must. The unskilled man, in every walk of life, is finding himself panned by the man with knowledge and a trained mind.

None of us would knowingly fail to give our own children at least an equal advantage in life. None of us would knowingly endow our youngsters with a handicap. For we know, from our own difficult experiences, that the struggle for success in life is difficult enough even with all the advantages we might have.

Well, we in Birmingham will have a decision to make next Monday, November 7. We will have to decide just what sort of an educational future we will give our children. We will have to decide whether it will be one of advantage to our youngsters, or whether it will be one of inadequacy.

Your Birmingham schools are not now able to properly give your child what he deserves. Already your schools are vastly over-crowded, and youngsters are having to be treated en masse, rather than as individuals with individual proclivities. We can forecast whether today's conditions are temporary. If we knew that people would leave Birmingham in numbers, and take their children with them, then we might see the advantage of a do-nothing course.

But this isn't likely to happen. Instead, the opposite will well happen. With the nation-wide trend of reducing city populations in favor of suburban life, it would seem that Birmingham is likely to continue to grow. But, even if Birmingham stopped growing now, we would not be able to educate your children rightly.

A normal child can't learn when classes are 40 to 50 per teacher. A teacher, no matter how much she may be paid, can't be effective work under such conditions. And a child can't learn when they only attend school half the time.

Yet one of these courses will have to be followed if the people rejected the building plans of your Board of Education next Monday. Not that we maintain for a minute that the plans of your Board are the only plans which might be made. But after five years of work, after consulting with experts in every field involved, it is my belief that your Board has conscientiously examined almost every possibility.

The proposal by your elected representatives, who devote much of their time without compensation, is one which has been scrupulously examined in every minute detail. Friels have been eliminated, and non-essentials have been stricken out of the plans. The cost to all of us has been ever in mind, and countless compromises have been made in the interests of economy.

Your Board knows that building costs are high. But it also knows that an education can't wait. When the children are here they have to be educated. And it is because costs are high that so much care had to be taken to eliminate non-essentials. Those of you with whom the Board has visited, have almost always asked why the auditorium was eliminated, why the swimming pool was eliminated, or why something else was eliminated. It just had to be that way if we, who are already over-burdened with taxes, could afford even this great necessity.

The few criticisms levelled at the Board's plan have been of a destructive nature. Not one person who has criticized a portion of the plan has, to our knowledge, offered a better or more economical substitute. In the absence of which your Board of Education feels that its work has been well-done, and its plan is worthy and sensible.

In this column we haven't burdened you with details. You've already seen what the costs are. You and I can afford what is being asked. We can afford it for our children. We can afford it in order to be sure Birmingham continues as a city of homes. We can afford it because we all know that the biggest value we will ever buy is education. Someone gave you an education, and paid for it. You will, I know, do the same for that someone in the next generation.

Ross S. Campbell, Proprietor.

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SOCIAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Mrs. Vaughn Greene was hostess at a luncheon last week in the Bloomfield Hills Country Club. The affair honored Mrs. Charles Burgess who was celebrating her birthday.

Mrs. Marnet Richards of Berwyn, Ill., spent several days last week visiting with her sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Stubbs of Oxford road.

Weekend houseguests of Mr. and Mrs. John L. Lovett of North Adams road were their son-in-law, Guy G. Lovett of Lansing, Mich. The weekend before, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Stubbs of Oxford road, Calif., visited with the Lovetts.

Last Friday evening, Miss Merne Anderson was hostess to 25 of her friends at a Halloween party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Ford of Pebble Beach, Calif., visited with the Lovetts.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Grindley of Puritan road have returned to their home here following a week's trip to the east. They stopped in Schenectady, N. Y., for a visit with their son, Bob who attends Union College there. En route home, they went to Cleveland where they were the guests of Mrs. Grindley's brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Stiles Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. Carson Bingham entertained Mr. and Mrs. John Kluber, the Roy Carters and Mr. and Mrs. James C. Nunneley at a dinner party in their Bingham road residence last week. The occasion was the celebration of Mr. Bingham's birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. Don B. Webster of Frank street had as their houseguest this past weekend, Miss Ruth Moore of Indianapolis, Ind. The Webster's son, Bob, a student at Ann Arbor, was also down for the weekend.

Miss Jane Carolyn Breitenstein, who is to be married on Nov. 25 to Elwin M. Peacock, will be honored at a luncheon on Nov. 9 which Mrs. David Nethercott is having in her home on Puritan road.

Around the middle of November, Dr. and Mrs. Alvin Lambert will be moving from their present house on Chesterfield to a home on Guilford road, Bloomfield Hills.

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Campbell's Village Store

Rayon Home Frock

The Birmingham Puppeteers of AAUW held their October 25th meeting at the home of Mrs. Russell Stephens on Charing Cross road. This ambitious new group, just a year old, is not only making a name for itself but is also planning its performance to be given on a full length circuit party of the Women's Association of St. John's Woods in Berkeley, Feb. 15. This year's production is "The two playlets, 'Mr. Rabbit Foals' and 'The Curious Child' and 'The Crocked Man'." The puppet will climax the show by distributing gifts to the children from his roof-top scene on stage. The casts include Mrs. Robert Von Maur, Mrs. Claude Urvig, Mrs. James J. Lamson, Mrs. Russell Stephens, Mrs. Morris Purdy and Mrs. Charles Bigelow. The director is Mrs. Calvin Denison and Mrs. Rodney Craighaid.

The next puppet meeting will be on Nov. 8 at the home of Mrs. M. B. Whittlesley, Jr., on Brookdale. Anyone who is interested in making of puppets or production of the plays is cordially invited to join this group by calling Mrs. Calvin Denison.

Pierce PTA Fair Chairmen Named

Mrs. Elliott Redies and Edward Codner, co-chairmen of the Pierce PTA Fair to be held on Nov. 18, have announced their committee chairmen. Mrs. Richard Patterson and Mrs. William Mayhew; candler, copndor Mrs. James J. Lamson and Mrs. Edward Codner; elder and donuts, Mrs. Robert Calver and Mrs. Thomas Solberg; fish party, Mrs. Merrill L. Anderson; Mrs. James T. Slayden, Mrs. Donald Fish and Mrs. Donald Cummings; Mrs. Robert Calver, Mrs. W. L. Smith, checkroom. Mrs. Philip McNeill and Mrs. Walter O'Leary, baked goods; Mrs. Dean O'Leary, refreshments and Mrs. L. L. Smith, checkroom. This is the PTA's sole money raising event, proceeds of which are used for school equipment and activities.

Little Symphony Tickets Object of Clawson Man's Hunt

Power of the press! In the music section of a Detroit paper Sunday edition, recently, an announcement was made of a concert out of town concert on the Detroit Little Symphony.

The story was read by Richard Osborn of Clawson who immediately started in search of information regarding tickets. Finding the symphony is going to cost Osborn more than the average citizen in view of the fact of the many long distance calls he made. Upon phoning the Detroit paper for this information, he was sent to the Little Symphony office whereupon he was again referred to Peggy DeSalle, general manager of the concert arrangements. As he talked to Mrs. DeSalle, he decided he would come to Detroit and pick up the tickets, not only for himself, but to get a total of 20, which he did. Osborn was hoping they would all be sold at one PTA meeting in Clawson. Tickets for the concert are available through Mrs. Herbert H. Gardner or Mrs. DeSalle.

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 WOODWARD—NEAR MAPLE

AAUW Puppeteers Meet on Nov. 8; Plan Performances

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Miss Ruth Church Will Become Bride Of Albert MacCleery

Miss Ruth Church of Pierce street has announced the forthcoming marriage of his daughter, Ruth to Albert M. MacCleery, son of Mrs. Watson A. MacCleery of North Chickadee, N. H.

Legion Auxiliary Pot-Luck Supper

The American Legion Auxiliary of Charles Edwards Post 14 will hold an old-fashioned pot-luck supper jointly with Post members this Saturday, Nov. 5 at 6:00 p.m. in the Home on South Woodward. Mrs. James Wade, chairman of the evening, is being assisted by Mrs. Mell Collins, Mrs. John L. Inlison, Mrs. Dell Miller and Mrs. Roy Webb.

Student Program at Baldwin PTA Open House Tuesday

Nov. 8 is the date of the Baldwin High PTA Open House. Parents are to gather in the school gym at 8:00 p.m. The evening will be opened by the Baldwin cheer leaders under the direction of Miss Alice Price. Taking part will be Mary Halladay, Betty Beardsley, Jane Mills, Virginia Dare, Mary Lou Gregory, Sarah Stringer, Robin Renfrew, Jane Kohr, Amy Morrow, Dick Shalberg and Ward Abbott, Kinch Swartz and Bob Beals.

'HE-MAN' GIFTS FOR BOYS

A trio, "The Naked Three" will represent the seniors' Pet Oldstead of the junior class will present a ballie dance and pianist Sandra Fisher will be the representative of the sophomores.

young lad goes west his very own toiletries

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