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Good Neighborliness Spirit Brought Back by Torch Drive

The Torch Drive brings the spirit of good neighborliness back to Detroit. In earlier days, neighborliness was direct and personal. Cornhuskings, log-rollings, harvesting a crop for a widow or a sick man brought a glow of satisfaction to a community. A sincere welcome and a helping hand to a stranger are part of the American tradition.

But these things are usually rather impractical in a modern industrial city such as Detroit. The will to give a hand to an unfortunate neighbor or a stranger remains, however, and that is where United Foundation provides the opportunity. The volunteers who solicit funds during the Torch Drive, Oct. 17 to Nov. 3, will make possible many acts of kindness. Health and Community services appealing for funds under the Torch Drive extend a helping hand in more than 140 different directions. How these services make life brighter for the very young and the future citizen has been told in previous articles of this series. There are other services whose functions are even more directly in line with the tradition of being good neighbors.

NEW NEIGHBORS from far countries, casual visitors in Detroit, men and women in service and thousands of residents of the metropolitan area feel that Detroit is a mighty fine place in which to be. The organizations which develop this feeling come in contact with hundreds of thousands of individuals and are manned by experts. The personal touch of neighborly kindness, however, forms the basis of their efforts.

This year the United Foundation is taking cognizance of the emergency, occasioned by the Korean War, and the thousands of

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HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

By ALICE E. MORGAN

OUR SCHOOLS

It was no good fortune, one day last week, to have a long talk with a visitor from the west. He comes from a community quite like Birmingham. It is about the same size and it has three of our major problems: too many cars for the amount of space; too many youngsters for the number of schools; and growing so fast that the city fathers are beginning to wonder whether it will be better to stop drinking or washing when the well begins to run dry.

In her town the parking problem is still at the cussing stage. Everyone admits, freely and vigorously, that there's no place to park and more or less let it go at that. The schools—well, they are in nearly the same class as the parking.

She traveled around Birmingham and saw the progress made on the two new schools. She saw the addition to Holy Name and the others. She looked with amazement on the size of the new Troy school.

SHE COMPARED the number and size of the schools already in use here to those of her own community. She admitted it came out a poor second.

She listened to the things which are offered to Birmingham boys and girls, especially the radio workshop at Barnum junior high school, and declared herself ready to move here.

Then she began talking about her home town.

"It's a prosperous place," she said. "True, it is more or less a rural area, but it has a good deal for an industrial area, but it is still prosperous."

HER COMMUNITY obtains most of its income from farmers and firms dealing with farm products. It has a branch plant of one of the country's most noted manufacturers and packers of cheese. It has a creamery which ships hundreds of pounds of butter daily. It has a large fruit depot and a huge milk station. Tank cars of milk and cream leave there every day, bound for New York City.

It is a community of several

of such troubles at their source. In communities where they have been established over a period of years, their value is appreciated by other citizens, governmental agencies, and business people.

Family stability makes a neighborhood a better place in which to live and do business, and its preservation is one of the greatest privileges of volunteer solicitors and contributors in the Torch Drive.

lodge rooms, a large library, two fair large hotels, a better number of stores than Birmingham, five banks and a large hospital. Its income is steady, for it deals mainly with food products. It is constantly growing, yet there is little or nothing done about schools. Kindergarten classes are being held in the court house basement in the county seat. The police and fire department have spare equipment, and, actually, the reserve coal bin.

OTHER CLASSES are held in the library, various churches and lodges. There are four community class meets in the kitchen of the Grange hall. The high school mechanics do their book work at home and their shop work in the back of a hardware store.

In the past six years two schools have had two additional classrooms added to them, neither of which was large enough and neither of which is adaptable to the use for which it was built.

There are four schools in town, only one with an outdoor recreation area. This is at the high school and is not available for younger children due to a strong sports schedule.

IT DOESN'T seem possible that such conditions exist in a community of this size," she admits. "Whenever a group of parents start demanding a school they will get it. It is too costly for the state for action. We don't like to do it, because the men on the board of education are our neighbors and friends, but we must do something."

"We have nothing like the Community House for recreation for our youngsters. They have to depend on the three movie houses, the sewer pool hall, the road houses just outside the town. Our juvenile crime rating is nearly the top one for communities of our size in the state. We feel a good part of this is due to the fact that the youngsters are being shoved from pillar to post."

MY OWN SON and daughter are always bringing home report cards showing gaps in attendance at class. They have over a mile to go to the class to another on some days.

"Too frequently the sign on the front of the theatre has more appeal than making cookies at the Grange hall or a stand in the

backroom of a dirty, dusty hardware store. I'm not condoning their action, I'm just saying, I can't really blame them!"

It was not, of course, during the war, to travel all over the country with my husband. I don't think I've ever seen a community as education-conscious as this one. The residents are to be congratulated, for there are a lot of them who support the school program who have no children enrolled.

The board of education you

have here should be put in a glass case and treasured. I think they are one in a million!"

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From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

New Use For Old Windmills
 I drove past Larson's farm last week and saw his perched on top of his 75-year-old windmill. "Still planning on tearing it down?" I shouted up to him.

"Not on your life," says Curly as he climbs down. "I'm getting myself a television set from Buzz Ellis' and he says this windmill is going to come in mighty handy."

"You see," Curly went on, "I'm going to put my TV antenna right on top of it. Since the windmill is higher than the house, I'll get the best reception around here—but

if it wasn't for Buzz and his advice, I had scrapped it."

From where I sit, Curly's success as a farmer and his popularity in town is due, in a large part, to his open-mindedness and his willingness to listen to people and their opinions. He'll listen to Buzz Ellis over a matted milk or he and I can talk politics—each with a glass of temperate beer. Yes, Curly's as modern as television itself!

Joe Marsh

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