

# HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

**HOLIDAYS**  
The question has come up whether or not schools should close in observance of the birthdays of famous men in American history.

Basically this is a splendid idea. We should never lose sight of the fact that our country has lived and grown strong through the efforts of a small group of men who commanded the admiration, respect and support of the millions who make up our nation.

Nevertheless, there are a couple of points which come to my mind and cause us to question whether or not closing schools for the day is paying any real homage to these men.

If we recall our own childhood correctly, Lincoln and Washington should simply become a reason for getting out of a few classes. They would not remain in our memory as great men but as an excuse to stay home and have fun.

WE WON'T DENY the fun would be appreciated, for its worth. We won't deny there would be any number of things more interesting than history, arithmetic, diagramming sentences and so on down the line.

At this time of year the farmers were beginning to tap the maple trees and that certainly was more fun than a lesson in biography, unless you happened to be working with a camera.

We feel, instead, that remaining in school can become something of far greater value to the child and be a greater tribute to the man.

Every American school child is familiar with Columbus, Lincoln and Washington. They know one discovered America; one freed the slaves; one helped build the United States. They have had dates about all three crammed down their necks endlessly. Dry, dull facts are too often the backbone of what they know about these men. They lose sight of the real man.

INSTEAD OF closing the schools on observance of their birthdays or the accomplishment of something historic, why not let the kids take over—at school?

If they were given an opportunity to make their own studies into the lives of these great men, repeat on them, the man, himself, would come to the fore.

They could have fun looking for different stories of the men in books and magazines. They would become familiar with the man as a person. He would get to be a real human being to them, not just a figure who lived a hundred years ago and is responsible for their having to memorize a flock of dates.

AS PART OF their regular school work, children could prepare papers and plays about these famed men. The youngsters would learn a great many of the facts and figures painlessly.

They would come to appreciate these persons as living men, rather than dim figures whose deeds are marked by a couple of red figures on the calendar.

We speak from experience here.

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**BOYS PRACTICE IN NEW HOLY NAME SCHOOL GYM**  
Coach Ken Barnowski gives basket shooting pointers. (Joe Wheeler Photo)

One of the highlights of the newly remodeled Holy Name school is the spacious gymnasium.

This new modernistic addition has fulfilled a much needed function for both the school and church. When not used for gym activities, it can seat 672 persons.

cause we remember one teacher who did it. We remember a year of plays staged without costume or props, but dear to every one of us because we wrote them, directed them and acted in them.

We remember Betsy Ross, her family, her friends, because that particular teacher drove to Syracuse to get books about her life for our research.

WE LEARNED Abraham Lincoln, as a boy, was especially fond of cold mush with black treacle on it. We found that George Washington not only rode a highly prized horse to death, but raised an orphan colt on a bottle.

We found that Columbus not only sailed the ocean but also had a fondness for cats and carried several aboard his ship.

We learned Admiral Perry carried about with him a small picture of his ship, drawn for him by a six-year-old son of one of his ship's crew.

To us these men and women, who are the backbone of our modern life, became real. They lived and breathed for us as they strode down the path of history.

WE KNEW they, like us, were once boys and girls. We found out they, too, ran afraid of parental law. We even learned Lincoln was once arrested in Springfield for drying his horse at an excessive speed. We learned to love these men and women because we learned to know them.

Roaming around the "sugar bush" staying home, or taking a shopping trip with parents never could have done these things for us. Observe their birthdays? By all means, but not particularly by closing the schools.

Can still suspect, and still reverse himself in lowliness of heart. —Wordsworth

If you don't want it, someone else does—sell it thru an Eccentric Classified Ad!

Each Sunday, three masses are held there.

Athletic functions now possible are indoor tennis, volleyball, badminton and basketball. Boys and girls gym classes are conducted by Ken Barnowski and Miss Anne McElroy.

To accommodate larger crowds at basketball games, floating bleachers have been ordered.

and assemblies are possible. The room is equipped with complete motion picture apparatus and an electrically operated screen.

Because the auditorium adjoins the kitchen, dinners can be held with a table capacity for 327 persons.

There is a separate outside entrance with a public lobby to the new gymnasium.

**FRANKLIN NEWS**  
By ANGELA DADSON  
MAYfair 6-2448

**Southern Tour**  
Mr. and Mrs. James Robinson and daughter Betsy of Meadowdale lane and son John, a student at the University of Virginia, have just returned from an extensive tour of the south. John joined his family at Memphis, flying there from school. After short stays at New Orleans, Waukulla Springs, Fla., and Sea Island, Ga., they stopped at Savannah to celebrate their 29th wedding anniversary.

Their trip took them on to Charleston, W. Va., Durham and Charlotteville, N. C., and Washington, D.C., with stops to visit several friends and relatives.

The Nelson McCarthys Wellington road, left Feb. 22 for Florida. Their holiday headquarters will be at Lake Worth and at Palm Beach, where they will visit Mrs. McCarthy's father P. J. McCarty, at his winter home.

**Social Jottings**  
The Chester Hards of Mill road had as their weekend guests: Mrs. Fred Hunter and children Cheryl and Boyd, Jr. The Hunters, formerly of Bingham road, now live in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

The Arthur Sannous were hosts to 50 guests at a branch party at their home on Wellington road Feb. 18 to welcome to the Woodcreek area their new neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. William Dornan and Mr. and Mrs. Alger Clark.

The dinner-dance and annual president's ball of the Franklin Community association, at the Plum Hollow golf club last Friday, was well attended. The Glen Shoemakers, Hugh Whites, Ralph Woodburns and Charles Bakers held cocktail parties at their homes before the ball for 70 guests.

The Bakers were hosts again on Saturday night at their home on the Romney Way, entertaining their

bridge club. Guests from Rosedale Park were Mr. and Mrs. Lee Collins and Mr. Mrs. Ed Collins.

Mr. and Mrs. John Runsey entertained at an informal dinner last Friday night. Guests of honor were the Robert Wipers from Birmingham.

**Poppleton Cub Pack Notes Anniversary**  
Cub Pack 13, sponsored by the Poppleton school PTA, celebrated its first anniversary Friday evening. Highlight was the presentation of pack colors by members of Charles Edwards Post 14, American Legion.

Jack Emerson, past commander of the Post, dedicated the flag and congratulated parents for the work they have done with these boys during the year.

**Brownie Troop**  
The Franklin Brownies held an international friendship program Feb. 20 at the Franklin school with the Walnut Lake Brownies as their guests. Highlighting the program were talks by four students from Marygrove college, telling of Girl Scout activities in their homelands, Panama, Pakistan, Lithuania and the Philippines.

**Meetings**  
The Discussion group will meet on Sunday, March 4, at 8:15 p.m. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh White, 27200 Scenic Drive.

Edward Alton will discuss "Soil" for the Franklin Garden Club when it meets at 8:00 p.m. tonight at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Woodburn, 32055 Telegraph road.

An open discussion of incorporation was on the agenda of the Woodcreek Men's association when it met last Thursday at the Wellington road home of the Albert Cornwells.

**Welcome, Neighbor**  
Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas J. Rosiello and children Judy, Jean and Michael moved last Friday from Grouse Pointe Woods into their new home on Colony Hill road. Rosiello is an attorney with the General Motors corporation.

Page 4 THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC March 1, 1951  
**What Your School Board Is Doing . . .**  
Regular meeting of the Board of Education was held February 20, 1951 at 8:00 P.M. in the Hill School Building.  
Resignation of Louise Howe, teachers at Barnum Junior High, was accepted.  
Resignation of Dave Martin and William Kirklm, custodians, accepted.  
Appointment of Rosemary Burgess and Susan Sutfin, teachers, approved.

Appointment of Ernest McGinnis and Sarkis Hagopian, custodians, approved.  
Purchase of stage curtain and cyclorama for the Pierce School gym was approved.  
Accounts payable and transfer of funds to other accounts in the amount of \$266,632.20 approved.  
New purchases in the amount of \$4,540.63 authorized.

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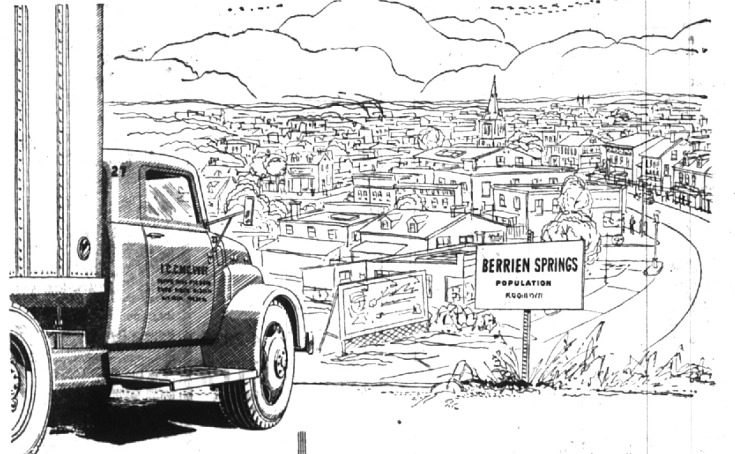


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