

The development of self-discipline is of tremendous value; it aids one on the job, against temptations that are harmful, encourages thrift, sets a good example to others. Exercise of self-discipline makes one master of his life.

The Birmingham Eccentric

Feeding Hungry School Kids Is Big-Time Operation

Cafeteria Managers Can Plan Menu Only One Month Ahead

Photo-Story by Ruth Anne Silbar

Every school day, starting at 11:30 and continuing at intervals during the noon-hour, thousands of famished students jostle down the hallways to cafeterias in the Bloomfield Hills, Birmingham and Southfield schools.

Cost-wise, it's a big-time operation, satisfying the hunger pangs of our growing population. In one day, Bloomfield Hills feeds about 700 in the elementary schools and 400 in the high school.

Although Southfield does not have, as yet, a hot lunch program operating in four of its elementary schools, it feeds about 950 grade school youngsters and 450 in the high school.

Birmingham tops the list, feeding each school day, approximately 1800 in five grade schools and two junior highs and 1,000 in the high school.

THE SCHOOLS do not attempt to make money on the hot lunch program, although Birmingham and Southfield does. Total cost of the program for the Birmingham system for 1955-56 was \$188,438 but taking in \$206,525 from paid lunches, state subsidy and other minor incomes, Birmingham ended the year \$18,086 ahead.

According to state law, these profits must be turned back into the hot lunch program. Since it may be used for labor, equipment, food or expansion, Norman Wolf, administrator of the program for Birmingham schools, used the profits primarily to equip and staff the lunch room at the new Derby junior high.

SOUTHFIELD'S profit last year was \$4,438. Glenn Levy, administrator of the

program, started a cafeteria this year at Lathrup school with the profits. Cost of Southfield's hot lunch program last year was \$103,850.

Bloomfield Hills board of education made up a loss of \$3,070 in the program at Bloomfield last year. Disbursements for 1955-56, according to Irving E. Menucci, assistant superintendent in charge of the lunch program, were \$75,434 and income totaled \$72,364.

THE THREE school systems make full use of federal surplus food distributed by the State. Cafeteria managers planning menus can plan as far as a month ahead to incorporate in the lunch program, surplus food available.

Types of surplus foods used by cafeteria managers in October were all-purpose, whole wheat and corn meal flour, dried apricots, grape fruit sections, green beans, tomatoes and oranges.

Commodities expected this month are butter, cheese, dry milk, dried beans, rice, canned hams, luncheon meats and canned pork with gravy. The allotment of surplus foods to the schools is limited by the lunch count, preventing schools from buying more than they can reasonably use.

EACH MONTH, the school must report to the state all cafeteria income, expenses, the number of lunches sold and the number of bottles of milk.

State reimbursement for a bottle of milk sold "extra" is 4 cents and for a complete lunch, which includes a bottle of milk, 5 cents. By law, schools must turn back to the state all monies over one month's operation, so it is to the school's advantage to turn their profits into food, equipment or expansion.



FAVORITE lunch at Birmingham high is hamburgers with a choice of soup, salad or vegetable and a choice of pie or dessert plus milk—all for 30 cents. Fix-ins for the hamburgers are on two tables where students help themselves to relish, mustard, catsup, onions. Every 15 minutes during noon hour, a double line of students pass the cafeteria's serving tables. Elementary school lunches in Birmingham are 25 cents; teachers' lunch, 40 cents.



HALF HOUR lunch periods in the three high schools are a time for friendly chatter. Favorite lunch for these Southfield high students, Mrs. Price reports, is Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, gravy with a choice of vegetable or salad and choice of fruit. At Southfield, high school lunches are 35 cents; elementary, 30 cents and teachers, 40 cents.



OH! OH! A Sloppy Joe—all over the flo'—Well, accidents do happen and this time it happened to Bill Murray, Bloomfield Hills high school student. Soon student cafeteria workers will come with the mop and trash pan. Each school system uses student help in setting up milk, chairs, trays, stacking dishes and clearing trays but never handle food.



RON DWIRE, a Birmingham junior, buys a double lunch, not an uncommon event for hungry high school kids. Last year, cafeteria workers had one out-sized tray, ready and waiting, for a lanky senior who every school day, bought four full lunches!



BIRMINGHAM high school has a snack bar where ice cream, potato chips, donuts, milk are sold as "extras." Mrs. Winifred Golt, assistant cafeteria manager, is in charge. Ice cream is sold only in the senior and junior high school in the Birmingham system.



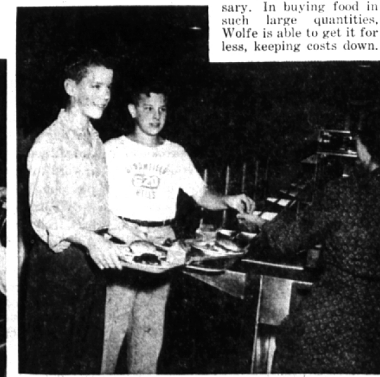
THROUGH the clean-up window—Ken McGuire and Mrs. Frankie Riley, cafeteria workers at Southfield high, do a quick scraping job.



MRS. BESSIE HELINE, cafeteria manager for Bloomfield Hills high school, reports spaghetti with meat sauce the favorite student lunch. Three elementary schools, Wing Lake, Vaughan and East-over also have a hot lunch program and each cafeteria manager plans the menus for her school. Students who bring their lunch may buy milk, soup or cookies as "extras."



MRS. GERTRUDE KILLING, Birmingham high school cafeteria manager, plans menus for the school. While each cafeteria manager in all Birmingham school cafeterias plan lunches, the menus are cleared by Norman Wolfe and purchases are made from the Birmingham commissary. In buying food in such large quantities, Wolfe is able to get it for less, keeping costs down.



DON WINEMAN (right) and Gerry McRae sold 35 cents for their noon day lunch at Bloomfield Hills high school. On the menu that day were sloppy joes, buttered corn, carrot and celery sticks, apricot- upside-down cake (to use up surplus food stocks) and a half pint of milk.

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