

There's a Teenage Void on Video

By DR. LEE S. DREYFUS
Assistant Director of Radio & TV
Wayne State University

"They went that way, partner" has now invaded the class A mid-evening hours of television via the so-called Adult Westerns.

In one programming leap, the "shoot-em-up" cowboy drama, with its good guys and bad guys, set the standard cast, is now no longer considered children's fare.

The point here is that the jump from a children's show to an adult show is just a short hop, for there really is no in-between level.

What programming is there that is aimed primarily at the teenager? TV's teenage video void is showing!

Radio, with its stress today of the disc jockey and rock'n'roll, is a natural teen attraction. For this reason, radio is still a heavy favorite of the younger set over television.

Commercial station operators, and more particularly sponsors, are just getting around to recognizing that the teenage market is not being tapped on TV. There's an amazing lack of foresight here on the part of sponsors, who somehow ignore the fact that today's teens are tomorrow's householders.

PERHAPS IT requires some initiative on the part of you in the 15 to 19 bracket. You're usually quite vocal, so why not write to TV stations and networks?

Why not begin considering a program of your own which would have commercial possibilities? A TV agency, station or network will listen to a program if it's a good one.

Already the video channels are beginning to drag and sag with this year's school looking as bad as 1947. It appears that they've "picked their brains dry" on Madison Avenue in New York. Now's the time to prove something that the video moguls have suspected for some time, namely: TV is a young man's (or gal's) game. Write. Write and move. Write my advice to any youngster interested in breaking the "video barrier."

TRY YOUR hand; write in the

school paper; write radio and TV scripts; and, when you think you've got something, send it to the program you have in mind. Just watch the credits on the screen and you'll see who the story editor or writer is.

Believe me, they'll welcome your ideas, stories and scripts. If you have a good short comedy idea, write it up and send it to Peter Strand of WKXZ-TV. He may be able to use it on "Soupy's On." If you prefer, send it to Jack Paar. Don't worry, it won't be ignored.

THE COMEDY writers are starved for new ideas or approaches, and they will read what you send. Try it and see! Get a gang together and pool your ideas. Write them down, mail them out and sit back and wait. This is a fresh new medium and it needs fresh new minds.

Now, what about Sputnik and President Eisenhower's challenge? His talks about our race with Moscow in the next five to ten years applies directly to you.

Where can you get the mental stimulation and development on radio and television? It's there, believe it or not! Try some college level courses on your own. They're on Radio and TV, WDET, Wayne State University's FM radio station, broadcasts actual lectures direct from the University classroom.

THEY COVER subjects such as literature, anthropology, criminology and pool. Lectures and discussions above the level to which you are accustomed are also broadcast on FM radio by WJOM, the University of Michigan Broadcasting Service. It's there for the taking.

Try stretching your brains in this modern electronic era. College courses of all sorts and adult education programs are available on WTVS, Channel 56. Get hep and get converted!

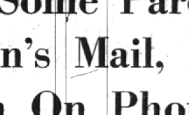
You don't have to wait until you're in college to try these mental exercises. It's there within reach; and with what the President said about the next 10 years, it may well be that you ought to use radio and television to educate yourself faster and better than the "zemskiki" in Moscow!

The present generation hasn't been "smart" enough to really use radio and TV for general education. It has been the national approach to these media up to now, but the ball is being passed to you, so pick it up.

You know, all college students in the near future may be TV "viewfinders" instead of classroom students.

I guess Plato or Aristotle at this time might say, "Go, Man Go."

Hi Life
by TOM MANHARD



"How's that, Peggy Sue?"

Teen Panel Question:

Why Do Some Parents Read Children's Mail, Diaries, Listen In On Phone Calls?

What if you just came home from school and found your mother or father reading your diary? What would you do? Leave home?

Maybe some of us would have to do just that. However, this is not a problem faced by many teen-agers. The ones who do have parents who read their private mail and diaries really do have a problem!

With the invention of the two-phone house, some unfortunate teens are plagued with the disease, "parents-on-the-other-phonitis." Of course, any teen who is half smart wouldn't say anything over the phone that they wouldn't say in front of their parents.

THE TELEPHONE, the letter and the diary should be private. But there shouldn't be anything said over the phone or written which couldn't be made public to one's parents.

If a teen has a suspicious parent, justifiably or not, this leads to a strained relationship between parent and teen. Parents should have complete trust in their children. Likewise the child should be able to trust his parent.

If the family is close, you don't hear of opening other people's mail or listening in on the phone. The natural private rights are respected by both parties. When this invasion of the child's rights is committed, the family relationship is unstable, uncertain and evades respect both by eye and ear occurs.

MANY TIMES a parent wishes to experience again with his or her teen-ager the joys of growing up. In doing this, they are often told about what happened on their son's or daughter's dates, etc.

Many teens, not understanding this, misinterpret their parent's sincere interest and vicarious pleasures of enjoying some of the teenage fun they have missed or would like to recapture.

Letting his parents "in" on some of teen-age world's happenings as well as problems will help bridge the gap between the misunderstood parent and the misunderstood teen-ager. In enjoying some of the teenage fun they have missed or would like to recapture, both parent and child show mutual respect and love for each other.

Describes Summer Spent In Germany and Holland

This is the first of three articles by Betsy Svalya, 16, who spent the entire summer in southern Germany, Austria and Holland, on the American Field Service student program. Betsy lives at 29531 Lathrup, Southfield, is an officer on the Senior Board at Southfield high school and a member of the Future Teachers Club and the Soroptimists, a girl's service club. She left for Germany June 20, returned home Sept. 9.

By BETSY SVALYA

A trip to Europe sounded like a dream to me when I first heard of the American Field Service program. It was open to all juniors who had two years of a language. My English teacher suggested that I enter the contest by writing an essay on why I would like to go: I did.

The American Field Service is an exchange program in which young people from Europe come to America to live with a family and go to school for one year.

In return the Americans go to Europe for two summer months. The purpose is to establish World Peace and understanding.

SIX OF US were then interviewed by faculty members and a representative from AFS. The field of six was divided to four, and we were asked to write a story on our families, interests, and a typical day in our lives. We also had to have a medical checkup. All of this information was sent to the New York AFS office.

That was all we heard until three months later, when a letter arrived on April Fool's Day saying I had won the scholarship. I really didn't know whether to believe it or not. I was finally convinced. Then, in March, I heard from the family I was to stay with in Germany.

The "great day" finally arrived and about 40 of us from around Detroit boarded the train for Montreal. We had packed as usual, checked, and soon we walked up the gang plank of the Arden. I was in the middle of 750 other young people from all over the states.

WHEN WE pulled away from

classes, forms on America and Europe, entertainment, cabin chats, and AFS's dinner exchange student program; he asked us if we would be interested in seeing a typical Dutch home. We were, of course, so we went to his home and met his wife. She couldn't speak English, but was very friendly and gave us coffee and cookies.

We left after seeing their spotlessly clean home, their quaint blue and white tile pottery, and their flower garden. We had to write the way back to catch the train, but it was worth it!

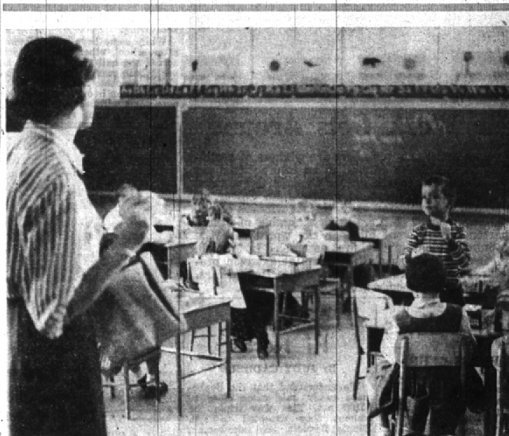
We traveled all day and I had to keep pinching myself to really believe I was in Holland, the land of tulips, windmills, and dikes. Late in the evening we arrived at Dusseldorf, Germany, where we spent the night in a youth hostel.

BETSY SVALYA

THESE YOUTH hostels are situated all over Europe and are for teenage travelers. For 25¢ you get a dormitory room and breakfast. (See SUMMER, Page 5-B)

FOR AND ABOUT TODAY'S YOUTH

MARTHA V. HURD, TODAY'S YOUTH EDITOR



Classroom Conversation

Completely unaware of the candid camera focused on him, a young member of a Birmingham Eccentric's Youth page photo field stands talking to his teacher, Mrs. Kay Millard (left) teaches the class of 20 children, who were photographed by The grade class at Vaughan school in Bloomfield Hills stands talking to his teacher, Mrs. Kay Millard (left) teaches the class of 20 children, who were photographed by The Birmingham Eccentric's Youth page photographer.

As Others See Us

By MARIT MAAREN
From Sondesford Norway
Now attending Birmingham High School

At home we just have that kind of a meal at Christmas. It is just a week until Christmas and I am very excited to celebrate it with an American family. I think it will be different from how we spend it in Norway.

We celebrate the 24th of December. For weeks previous we make many cookies and different kinds of candy and sweet things. We also buy all kinds of meat leaves and eat on the farms they make the leaves themselves.

THEN THE big day arrives at last. The kids can hardly wait until this day. We go to church in the afternoon and when we come home we have our Christmas dinner.

We have roasted ribs of pork sauerkraut and for dessert we have either ice-cream or berries which grow up in the mountains. After such a heavy, big meal we have fruit and cookies and other good things.

Now, the kids are waiting for Santa Claus to come with all the presents, just like American kids. One of the adults always dresses up like Santa Claus and he enters the house bringing a sack full of presents which he distributes to all the family. Of course, the kids think it is the real Santa Claus.

THE REST of the evening we all have a good time looking at and showing each other our presents. The next day we just stay home, recuperating. We play games and we eat again. The rest of the Christmas days we go skiing and skating, and we have lots of parties.

This year I will get to know your way of spending Christmas. I am really looking forward to it and I wish all the people in Birmingham a Merry Christmas!

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Caapple Corner

Interesting News Items Gleaned from Our Elementary School Newspapers

CHRISTMAS

Christmas is coming with bright lights and bollys. Santa will be here and bring me a dolly. With a fancy dress and long blonde curls. (He leaves them only to good little girls)

The tree will glisten with ice and snow. And on its limbs the bulbs will glow. An angel on top, like a shining fairy. To assure us this Christmas is happy and merry.

By BARBARA WICHMAN
Holy Name School

THE THREE LITTLE FROGS

One little frog was green, and the other little frog was brown. And both little frogs were happy.

With a cute little frog in town.

BEHIND THE PRETTY LACE

Dear old grandma, bless her soul. She wanted a car, that was her goal. She worked in a dress shop, every day. And when no customers, then no pay. She kept declaring, "I'll get my car! And that's the best by far. Well, one day she got it, That I dread to say."

By PATRICIA MILLS

DEER HUNTING

When we went to hunt deer, The weather wasn't very clear. When there, we see a buck. To hit it would be in luck. Of course with a rifle it would be easy. We were hunting with a bow

And it was quite breezy. The arrow hit a tree and shattered to bits. You should have seen him, My father was having fits! Another arrow soon was bought And the elusive buck we still sought. But now the deer had too much fear. And that's the story... No buck... no doe... no deer!

By WARREN SWANEY

THE TWO LITTLE KITTENS

Two little kittens playing in a house. One little kitten caught a little mouse. The other little kitten was tearing up a blouse. EDITOR'S NOTE: Both these poems are by Rosland Fredericks, 3rd grader at Quanton School.

Butterscotch Thistle Bars

The whole family will love these cake-bars. Have mother beat the oven to 350°. Grease an 8" square pan and line with greased waxed paper.

Melt 1/2 cup butter for substitute; stir in 4 cup medium brown-sugar gradually; cool; beat in 1 egg and 1 teaspoon vanilla. Add 1/2 cup flour, 1 teaspoon any baking powder and 1/2 teaspoon salt. Stir into batter mixture. Pour batter into pan. Bake 30 minutes.

