

KNOX HATS



MADISON AVENUE



Urbanity
in
fine felt

When a man wants to see "something smart," we show this hat first. It marks the wearer as one who knows the value of a good appearance... and knows how to achieve it. And the smart lines last, thanks to the "Crater-Crease" crown and welt-edge. See it on yourself... today.

\$15.00

Young's
OF
Birmingham

203 Pierce St.
OPEN FRIDAY EVENINGS

USE ECCENTRIC CLASSIFIED ADS
FOR BEST RESULTS



When the
skies are
stormy or
bright...
wear the
coat that's
always right!

Alligator
PLATINUM LABEL

\$49.75

Rainy day—any day, here's the coat you'll live in! And you'll be smartly dressed in style... smartly comfortable, cool, smooth, rich, firmly woven fabric with long lasting water repellent finish tailored in the inimitable Alligator manner for your rainy day, any day enjoyment!

Young's
OF
Birmingham

203 PIERCE ST.
OPEN FRIDAY EVENINGS

Ann Landers Describes How She Won Her Famous Column

By ELAINE EIKENBERRY BAYLIS
Bham High School Sophomore

During the past week, Birmingham high school welcomed Ann Landers, of news-column fame. (What used to be called the "love-or-love" column has been changed to an "advice column" by such outstanding columnists as Ann Landers.) During talks she gave at an assembly program and at a press conference afterwards, Miss Landers made several interesting remarks about herself as well as covering a number of teen-age topics.

She first started writing letters as a young girl. They went to friends and relatives just because he "liked to write." When she moved to Chicago, she decided to try the Chicago newspaper that ran the "Ann Landers" column to ask if "Miss Landers" needed an assistant.

THE STARTLED newspaper editor told her that "Miss Landers" died a few weeks previously. She completed with other applicants for the job of becoming the new Ann Landers—and she won. When he first started writing, her name was kept secret.

This gave an air of mystery to its readers. Everyone could picture her in their own way. Later she revealed her identity to her readers.

Miss Landers stated she received about 5000 letters monthly. All of them are personally answered. She reads through every letter. Her letters are from many different kinds of people. Teenagers account for about one-third of her mail.

ABOUT FOUR PER CENT of her letters are phony. These she just disregards. When really confused on a question she consults one of her many friends, who is an authority. She has an 18-year-old daughter, Margie, whom she also uses for "reference."

The most common letters contain problems such as human relations

between the sexes and "maladjusted parents."

"About 50 per cent of my mail comes from males. A few years back a man wouldn't be caught

dead writing to a columnist," Miss Landers stated.

AFTER MANY of the reader's problems are solved, she often receives "progress reports."

Because many people are too bashful and embarrassed to talk to friends or relatives regarding their particular problem, they can write to a stranger on personal matters," Miss Landers said.

Miss Landers touched on many teen-age topics, including advice on going steady, smoking, drinking and sex, which she assured the student body was "here to stay."

Some Middle East Couples in Love Must Meet Secretly

By V. OHANIAN

This is the second of three articles in which teenage dating customs of Amman and Middle East are compared. The author is V. Ohanian, an instructor at Hazel Park high school. Before coming to America, he taught junior high school students in Baghdad.

If we leave Amman and travel 80 miles west to Jerusalem, we will find it entirely different than those already mentioned. The people of Jerusalem having been under British rule, have attained a higher degree of education and thus come to accept some of the liberal outlooks of social life.

Where the individual self was not important in the societies mentioned, in Jerusalem it stood out as the important factor in the preservation of life. Here some of the schools have gained co-educational status and even were established so that the boys and girls may have the chance to meet and exchange views.

Such relationships no doubt result in close friendship and this ultimately may lead to dating and love. But since dating is not openly allowed, some couples who are not satisfied with group gatherings have to arrange for secret meetings.

IT MIGHT BE well to mention that even though a church is considered a religious place, it is a perfect "hide out" for sweethearts in Jerusalem. There are churches in Jerusalem that are open 24 hours of the day and are large enough to be lost in if you do not know your way around.

It is interesting to know what happens to those who do arrange secret meetings. Oftentimes such meetings stimulate true love.

AMERICANS who are in love often take for granted that love results in marriage. This is not true in the Middle East. Marriages are arranged by the parents. This is a very sad state of affairs. Frequently the two young people concerned do not share their family's approval of the match.

Of course, there are exceptions and some do get married, contrary to the wishes of their parents. But still it is not a large percentage. Then, if you ask me what happens to the couples in love, here again I have to divert from the American approach and state that such loves as do exist between couples are platonic in nature.

JUST TO give you an idea, how platonic love works, I had a friend who was in love with a girl and he wanted to speak with her. He feared that love (which was a fragile thing to him) might lose its meaning by close relationship with the young lady involved.

Another major city in the Middle East is Cairo, the capital of Egypt. Even though I have never been there except for one day, I had a friend who often wrote to me.

One day he wrote that he was in love with a girl. He was a class distinction, that is he was from a wealthy family, while the girl was from a poor family (the boy was from a poor family). Because of class distinction, his parents opposed his idea.

These are the reactions to American life of the American Field Service exchange students in Birmingham area schools.

2020, Germany's school laws require that the youngsters remain in school full-time for at least 9 years, starting at the age of 6 and continuing through the 15th year.

This period may be spent in 2 or more of our 4 different school institutions, each of which has progressive academic standards, and segregates the boys from the girls by classes.

Telling you more about the 4 German systems, let me describe to you the school career of an average boy or girl.

EACH YOUNGSTER must enter elementary school at the age of 6. This elementary school is free of any school fees, but the boys and girls have to buy their own school books.

This school educates its pupils for 9 grades; and during this time the better pupils are given special abilities, are promoted to a higher school system, (about which I'll tell you later).

After having finished this elementary school, by having learned English as the only foreign language, and mathematics and physics besides many common courses.

Then he goes out to take a job. About 50 per cent of all children receive their schooling and graduation certificate from an elementary school.

After having finished this school, a three years attendance of a vocational school is required.

(See As Others See Us, Page 5-B)

with bitterness and threatened they would disown him if he went contrary to their wishes.

UNDER THESE conditions the couple could do nothing but meet secretly, at parties and in school. There was no hope of marriage for them ever. Dating in Cairo followed the pattern common to all Arab countries.

In places where there was no freedom in dating, these secret meetings often are very dangerous. Any couples seen together lead to unpleasant gossip and the family pride is "degraded."

Since young people are not important in the companionship of older people and is well adjusted to dating.

Is it all right to date a person who is several years older or younger than yourself?

Somehow, I have to choose between the coke or the beer boys.

The choice in this case is strictly a personal one. Needless to say, there are a great many young people who are a lot more mature than their fellow students.

A boy or girl who has had older brothers or sisters, or both, usually has more dating "know-how." He will often decide to settle on something in which he is reasonably good as well as interested.

Do you have a question that your Teen Panel can work on?

Write it down, sign your name and address, the school you attend, and send to: TODAY'S YOUTH EDITOR, c/o The Birmingham Eccentric.

Are blind dates OK?

Blind dates are fine if they are arranged by a reliable and trustworthy friend. Many times you can get stuck, but a friend is usually truthful about the person.

When a blind date is arranged it may be a good idea for the boy to call the girl beforehand. They then will at least have a speaking acquaintance and know each other a few ideas for future conversation.

Blind dates shouldn't be accepted if they are arranged by a casual acquaintance or someone whose actions you do not quite approve of. They can end in a disastrous evening!

How do you find out what you want to be when you grow up?

I have some abilities and some interests and hobbies but I am not sure what I want to be after I leave school.

Very few young people have a positive idea of what they want to do with their lives. They are the lucky ones who can start right out working toward their goal, but many of them change their minds along the way. Most of us, however, are pretty sure of what we want for the future. Those of us who are planning on going on to col-

FOR AND ABOUT TODAY'S YOUTH

MARTHA V. HURD, TODAY'S YOUTH EDITOR



After the Last Bell Rings

When school's out, many Birmingham area high school students head for jobs such as baby sitters, clerks and grocery carry-out boys. At S. S. Krespe's store on W. Maple Lorna Moore takes an order from Birmingham high school student Elizabeth Schulte. Penny King and Sally Ann Poppe, dates and for future college expenses at after-school and weekend jobs.

clock, Luciana Cognasso, American Field Service student from Milan, Italy who attends Kingswood school, was among the high school students who worked at the dime store during the Christmas holidays. Many teen agers earn extra money for clothes, dates and for future college expenses at after-school and weekend jobs.

Birmingham's Buying These Top Ten

Compiled Each Week from Sales of Birmingham's Three Leading Record Shops
Reported by Carl Reynolds
Bham High School Senior

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. 26 Miles | Four Preps |
| 2. Get A Job | The Silhouettes |
| 3. Click Click | Dickie Doo & Don'ts |
| 4. Short Shorts | Royal Teens |
| 5. Catch A Falling Star | Perry Como |
| 6. Dede Dinah | Frankie Avalon |
| 7. You Are My Destiny | Paul Anka |
| 8. The Silhouettes | The Crescendos |
| 9. Too Soon to Know | Pat Boone |
| 10. Sweet Little Sixteen | Chuck Berry |

Up and Coming Discs:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Bad Motorcycle | Storey Sisters |
| 2. Rallard of a Teenage Queen | Johnny Cash |

Detroit Area's Top Ten

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Get A Job | The Silhouettes |
| 2. Short Shorts | Royal Teens |
| 3. Big Guitar | Bradley Taylor |
| 4. You Are My Destiny | Paul Anka |
| 5. I Beg of You | Elvis Presley |
| 6. Oh Julie | The Crescendos |
| 7. The Silhouettes | The Diamonds |
| 8. Dede Dinah | Frankie Avalon |
| 9. Are You Sincere | Andy Williams |
| 10. Click Click | Dickie Doo & Don'ts |

trick, Birmingham, Mich. The Teen Panel will liberate the question, and

the answer will appear shortly thereafter in these columns.



Interesting News Items Gleaned from Our Elementary School Newspapers

Next week it will be that very special day for boys and girls to send Valentines to their friends. Do you happen to know that there are many different stories as to why Valentine's Day is celebrated on the 14th of February? Do you know why it is called St. Valentine's?

Do you know where the word "candy" came from?

We thought it would be fun for you to know something about these facts because you know candy comes in red satin hearts on Valentine's Day.

According to one of the

many legends about Valentine's Day, the birds chose their mates on February 14th, being and the name naturally came into being because Marco Polo called the bird, Zaitun. You pronounce it satin.

The word candy comes from Sanskrit, an ancient language once spoken in India. The Sanskrit word is khanda, which means "piece." You pronounce it candy.

So now when you go to school with all your pretty valentines and slip them into your gaily decorated Valentine mail-box, you'll know a little more about Valentine's Day, won't you?

THE WORD satin is the name of a kind of cloth brought back from the Chinese port of Taitung and the name naturally came into being because Marco Polo called the bird, Zaitun. You pronounce it satin.

The word candy comes from Sanskrit, an ancient language once spoken in India. The Sanskrit word is khanda, which means "piece." You pronounce it candy.

So now when you go to school with all your pretty valentines and slip them into your gaily decorated Valentine mail-box, you'll know a little more about Valentine's Day, won't you?