



The Nation's Ten Schools
TEN CENTS

From infancy, both boys and girls show a great affection for... well, in the case of the little Susans, they want their dollsies, and the playing of keeping use. For little boys it's not long before a puppy dog attacks itself to the toddling Johnny and Billy. The inherent wanting to have something to love never ceases to last.

BOTH YEAR—NO. 45



They Saved Tractor Driver

Albert B. Dickerson owes his life to these two lads. Blake Noyes, left, a senior at Bloomfield Hills high school, and Gary Shannon, right, a senior at Birmingham high school, saw Dickerson, 1335 E. Lincoln, plunge through the ice at Wing Lake Jan. 4. Dickerson, 30, was sweeping the ice with a tractor which broke through in 15 feet of water.

Blake, with an assist from Gary, pulled the man from the water at the last moment. Blake is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John R. Noyes, 4235 Carey lane, Bloomfield township. Gary's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Shannon, 2766 Heathfield road, Bloomfield township. The boys are kneeling where the tractor broke through in the ice.

\$100,000 Fire Saturday Biggest in 20 Months

Non-Conformist Hutchins Rips Educational Theories

By JULIE CANDLER

"I'm for non-conformity," said the brilliant Dr. Robert Maynard Hutchins to his Birmingham Town Hall audience last week.

Dr. Hutchins practices what he preaches. He's a non-conformist in so many ways. He's a non-conformist in his thinking about American education, and it leads him to some interesting conclusions.

"Non-conformity," he says, "is a source of variety, richness and progress in life."

"I'm for good manners and morals," he explained.

BUT AS FOR schools teaching conformity and "adjustment to the environment," the president of the Ford Foundation said.

"We're here to change the environment, and not to adjust ourselves to it," he believes.

Still the schools' concentration on matters like "adjustment" is of little interest to parents, Dr. Hutchins felt.

Of little interest, that is, until it begins to pinch them financially.

SO SAID DR. Hutchins in an informal conversation backstage at the Birmingham theatre last Friday. It was only minutes before the start of his second appearance at Town Hall here.

The handsome Dr. Hutchins, who will be 50 tomorrow, gestured with a cigarette in his right hand.

"When the cost of education begins to pinch," he said, "then people begin to evaluate the worth of the subject matter their children are getting in schools. That they ask questions, 'Should we have driver education, and so on?'"

"THE BEST THING that ever happened to the University of

Chicago," said the progressive university's former president, "was the depression."

"What do you think of the extra-curricular activities, class projects and so forth that keep today's high school students on the go?" we asked the six-footer.

"I think it's terrible," he exclaimed. "The thought seems to be that when the extra-curricular activity is completed, they get around to education. It ought to be the other way around."

"A VOICE CALLED, 'One minute to go.'"

Dr. Hutchins reached for his notes, penned on typewriter paper.

"A few minutes later, he began his speech in a deep, clear voice. His salty wisdom was spiced with humorous touches.

He titled his talk, "Education on Trial." Not once did he mention the word for the Republic, its independent entity of the Ford foundation which is studying civil liberties and seeking to eliminate racial and religious discrimination.

"WE SHOULD PUT every energy behind developing to the maximum extent the intellectual power of everyone in this country," he told his audience.

"The educational system should have some relationship to the problems of the country," he said. "And don't anyone tell me that training is a primary problem to be solved."

He repeated that statement by blasting a commonly accepted theory on education as a "celestial curtain."

"Can't," he called them.

First, can't, he says, is to say that we haven't the money to support a great educational system.

Second, can't he criticized is one that says, "the federal government need not support education."

"It's absolutely unjust for a child to have a bad education because he lives in a state like Mississippi, which simply does not have the resources to afford good education. Federal assistance in the form of programs or scholarship aid, he said, would not give the government dangerous control of education."

"I'm for federal standards," he added. "We have 30,000 school boards, but no educational program."

PARTICULARLY important in high school education today, he said, are mathematics, physics, chemistry, and foreign languages.

He pointed out that only five per cent of the United States student population study physics today.

Other subjects he regards as education are history and literature.

Another can't, he claims, is to say that all education needs is more money.

"If most of the things you do are going out not worth doing, and you spend more money on them, it won't get better," he said.

HE DESCRIBED AN elaborate high school in New York state, with many gyms, swimming pool, ceramics room, guidance room, clothing room, even a room marked "living."

That building used 22 per cent

of its total area for subjects formerly regarded as education, he said.

Can't, too, is the theory that education should train anybody for anything. The attempt will deprive the student of the education he should receive, and will handicap him for what it purports to train him for.

Technological change makes what the student has learned obsolete by the time he completes his four years' training.

After completing school, he claims, "You can learn in two or three weeks what that industry requires for that moment."

HUTCHINS SAW the need for a change in our economic attitude that would provide adequate rewards for teachers, scientists and engineers.

"You could buy the whole faculty of a small college for the price of one General Motors executive."

Education has been steadily deteriorating, he asserts. From pressures from parents who want their children promoted automatically.

He feels children should be advanced as fast as they can progress, without concern for keeping them with the group.

In the same vein, it's unfair to children classified with a youngster who cannot keep up.

ALSO DETERRORATING education, he said, is the pressure of the "occupation that wants to be a profession," pushing for a college department teaching that occupation.

They seek to limit competition by having their states pass laws that no one can practice without a degree from that college.

Such pressures inhibit the turning out of "people who will do what ought to be done—not people who have been taught to do one thing or the other."

Chiku-Rin Gallery Is Guttled

Birmingham's first major fire in more than 20 months partially gutted the Chiku-Rin gallery, 316 N. Woodward, Saturday night with loss estimated by Fire Chief Park H. Smith at \$12,000.

The blaze came just 11 days after the end of one of the best years, three-wise, in the city's history. Birmingham's 1957 per capita loss of 21 cents was the lowest since 1911.

The last fire of any proportion occurred on May 22, 1936, when fire damaged a home on W. Maple to the extent of \$6,500. Another home fire, Oct. 20, 1935, on Euclid was the last blaze where damage approximated that suffered Saturday. The loss in the Euclid fire was \$8,500.

THE LOSS in Saturday's fire more than doubled the city's entire 1957 fire loss.

Passersby reported the Chiku-Rin fire simultaneously to the police and fire departments at 8:05 p.m. Three pieces of heavy equipment—a ladder and an engine truck from the Adams station and an engine from the Chesterfield station—were dispatched.

Chief Smith said the fire had a 30 to 45 minute start before discovered. There was no one in the two and one-half story frame structure at the time.

The gallery's owner, Norman McBride, 28135 Fairfax, Southfield township, had left the business at 6:15 p.m.

Owner of the building is Mrs. John McKee, 392 Fernside, Birmingham.

DETERIORATED MORTAR in a fireplace being used to heat the building was the cause, Chief Smith said.

The fire chief said hot joints and flames went through mortar joints in the fireplace, located in the center of the front room, and set fire to a partition in the building's stairwell. Flames spread up the stairwell, where the biggest fire was involved.

Firemen fought the blaze an hour and 47 minutes.

Chief Smith said the building was damaged more than 50 per cent. He listed damages as \$8,000 to the building and \$4,000 to contents. The loss was covered by insurance.

Contents of the gallery included chairs, lamps, novelties and rug and drapery displays.

This and That

by George R. Averill

Britain's young Queen will abandon the traditional social custom of receiving debutantes in her court, after this year's roster of young females has courted. Because of this, more than the normal number has sought invitations. Each deb spends a small fortune on clothes for the occasion, and some also pour plenty of diamonds into the purses of older women who open "schools" to teach the girls how to perform. As the Good Book says: "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity."

For every juvenile who gets into trouble with the law, there are many thousands who do not. The same ratio applies to adults, too. Please remember this when your newspaper headlines show youthful delinquencies.

It is reported that more perfumed products are used by men than by women. (But don't the women make up for the difference in their use of honeyed words?)

Bushy-browed labor leader John L. Lewis doesn't like George Means, president, or Walter Reuther, vice president, of the AFL-CIO. Quoth Lewis: "As leaders of the American labor movement, they are not proving a success."

The miners' boss says Reuther is an earnest Marxist, characteristically indicated by the exuberance of his own verbosity. (Lewis did admit that he doesn't know, so that far at present in comparing Reuther with the Communist type of Marxism.)

Antagonism in some high political and court circles against the tactics of the Teamsters' president, effect and reveals that there's plenty of hot stuff going on to prevent Jimmy from succeeding disgraced and convicted Mister Beck.

Feet-on-the-ground American educators hasten to warn the public that Russia's emphasis on scientific learning should not panic our citizens. Certainly not to the extent that they will overboard and demand too much abandonment of those other studies necessary to balance business. (See THIS & THAT, Page 8-A.)

Ad Exec Injures Head In Skating Rink Fall

Clarence Hatch, 216 Arlington, Birmingham, is recovering from an operation Saturday for a serious head injury suffered while skating at the Crankbark Ice rink.

Mrs. Hatch told The Birmingham Eccentric yesterday morning that her husband "is getting along fine."

He is at St. Joseph Mercy hospital, Pontiac, where he was taken following his doctor's examination at home an hour after the accident.

HATCH IS executive vice president of Campbell-Ewald advertising agency, Detroit.

Skating Saturday morning with his son, Peter, K. Hatch apparently did not see a chest-high rope used to divide the rink into two areas.

The rope knocked him backward, and his head hit the ice when he fell.

He drove home and a doctor was called. Examination showed a concussion and skull fracture, and he was ordered to the hospital for the operation.

Detailed plans have been announced for the first state convention to be held in Birmingham, the 20th annual meeting of the Pennsylvanian state philatelic society, at which the Birmingham stamp club will be held.

The club plans to celebrate its 20th anniversary at the convention and exhibition at Birmingham Community House, April 12 and 13.

General chairman is Marvin Preston, 430 W. Woodland, Ferndale, and chairman of the exhibits is Leo Moses, 184 Mechanic, Pontiac. Dealers are invited to secure a lounge table through Larry Brunker, 1165 East, Birmingham, who is club president.

PERMITS were also issued for 18 new businesses and one new institutional building, the new YMCA structure on which work was just recently begun.

The total valuation of new buildings on which permits were issued was \$2,544,842.

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Construction of the Pine sewer will end a 10-year wait by Quorton residents. It was originally scheduled for installation along with a new Maple avenue sewer. At that time, Maple sewer costs considerably exceeded estimates, and the money was "borrowed" from the Pine street job.

Last September, the city included the Pine sewer relief along with the building and Chesterfield City engineers had estimated the project's cost at \$159,400.

Work will start immediately on the Pine street sewer, which is to be finished before April 15. Reusing and Chesterfield sewers are to be ready by June 15, according to the city commission's award Monday night of a contract to Greenfield Construction Co. of Detroit. The bid was \$1,929,555.

COMMISSION action came only recorder such regulations if the real estate industry gave it much greater support.

"We had the feeling the industry supported such regulation more than apparently is the case," explained Commissioner Florence Willett.

COMMISSION'S action came

Less Building Here in '57

Last year wasn't as good a year for building as 1956.

The annual report issued by city building inspector Andrew F. Butt shows both the valuation and number of building permits issued in 1957 fell well below the 1956 level.

The valuation of 500 permits issued by the city in 1957 was \$3,097,111 in 1956.

The total valuation of 507 building permits was \$4,914,370.

Last year's permit total included 51 new single-family residences, one new two-family residence and multiple family residences, the latter totaling 45 units.

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Eastover School Addition Okayed

Bloomfield Hills board of education Monday approved an addition to Eastover school, awarded contracts for an elementary school at Pine Lake, and accepted an offer to buy an elementary school at Quorton and Bayley roads which it has been going through condemnation proceedings to obtain.

Superintendent Eugene L. Johnson said the board's actions place the district in a good position to continue the small classes and provide facilities in fastest-growing areas.

At a special session, the board reviewed population trends. After learning the new suburban school of 75 homes, are under way in the Eastover area the board decided to proceed as soon as possible with a seven-room addition.

CONSTRUCTION is expected to start within six weeks with the addition to be ready for use by the next Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The Nielsen construction company, Royal Oak was named general construction firm for the elementary school on Long Lake road at Pine Lake with a bid of \$212,898.30.

The board felt this was an opportune time to continue its building program, Johnson said, as bids for the Pine Lake area school gave approximately 25 per cent more space, providing a library, permanent

offer from the Mary B. Jenkins family to sell 16,642 acres at Quorton and Bayley roads for \$1,000 an acre for a total price of \$66,258.

While the school district had been awarded 20 acres of the property at \$3,000 an acre in condemnation proceedings, the board felt it best to accept the offer in view of future court costs being paid.

The board accepted a written decision was being appealed.

Special Election Monday in Hills School District

Residents of Bloomfield Hills school district will vote in a special election Monday on two proposals, one of which will provide a badly-needed library building on the east side of the township.

The Hills board of education also is asking voters to approve sale of the old Hickory Grove school building acquired when the Hickory Grove district was annexed last June. In compliance with insurance regulations the building now is boarded up and used only for storage.

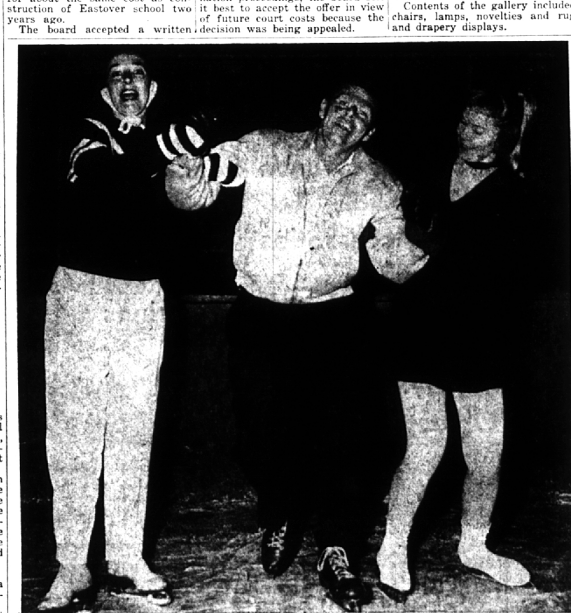
THE FIRE STATION site is a 150 by 150-foot parcel on the western edge of Eastover school Township Supervisor Arno Hulet has assured the board that the station, which will provide the building and the entire east side with better fire protection, will be assigned to blend with existing buildings. Plans now are on view in the township office.

Assessment ballots are available at the superintendent's office in Bloomfield Hills high school through Saturday. It is not necessary to be a property owner to vote on these proposals.

Men Enjoy Winter Sports

Capades at the rink. Helen, former Ice-Capades trouper and wife of Forestry and Parks Director Charles Gale, teaches children's classes at the rink. Classes are sponsored by the Birmingham recreation department.

To properly enjoy winter sports, a man has to take lessons. Like Art Fitch, here trying to stand on skates with the assistance of the two skating instructors at Eton park ice rink. Helping him are Marge Hauck (left) and Helen Gale. Marge teaches the adults' skating class from 7 to 8 p.m. every



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Amusements	5-C
Bits of Birmingham	8-A
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