

Lots o' Learning Going on There

Editor's Note: AFS student, Eleanor Sims, describes the school she is attending in Namur, Belgium. The Seaholm senior is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Sims, 72 Judy lane, Bloomfield township.

By ELEANOR SIMS

In Belgium, schools are either state schools or parochial schools, which followed the same curriculum as the state schools, since they receive a sum of money from the state. The preference is for boys and girls to be in separate schools, which is the way it is in Namur, but in smaller communities, of course, the classes are mixed for there are not enough students, teachers, room, or money for separate schools.

THERE ARE nursery schools for little children of 3 or 4 to 6, which are mixed. There are primary schools for children of 6 to 12, which are separate for girls and boys. There are separate secondary schools for teenagers of 13 to 18, called "lycees" for girls and "Athenee" for boys.

In some ways the schools are more normal than ours but in some less so. For instance, the students remain standing at the beginning of class until the teacher tells them to be seated, and they rise whenever an adult comes into the room; they also rise to recite, but this is just a perfunctory chair-scrapping and slight rising.

On the other hand, the class in Morale, which is what the non-Catholic girls have, is very interesting, and which is an interesting discussion on Philosophy, or History of Religion, or Sociology, depending on the class level, is conducted on a round table basis.

STUDENTS ARE divided into grades Sixieme to Premiere, the latter being equivalent to our senior year. They are also divided into about five sections: Latin-Greek, Latin-Mathematics, Latin-Science, Latin-Modern, and Rhetoric (I'm not sure yet just what this latter is). So, for identification, Françoise is: Françoise Guilmin, Deuisme, Latin-Greek.

Students here take a large number of subjects, class hours of which range from one to five. Each class runs for fifty minutes to end the class hour, but not to begin the class since classes start when the students get there. The time varies according to the distance from the last class.

They don't have the mixed kind of classes we do where each class has with another group of people whose schedules happen to coincide, but they have all the classes with their respective sections.

SCHOOL starts at 8:25 a.m. and again at 1:40 p.m. There are usually four classes in the morning with a ten-minute recess between the second and third, and usually three in the afternoon (although one can take more in the afternoon). Three afternoons a week (Wednesday, Friday and Saturday for me), are reserved for these days one usually has an over morning class which is over at 12:45 p.m.

Each morning, at recess, and again in the afternoon, the students line up behind the teacher and march in a line in supposed absolute silence to their next class; they rarely achieve this and there are not many teachers who insist on it.

There is no such thing as a home-room. I have no idea where they receive the information of the sort we get in home-room except maybe from French teachers or their first hour teachers. They have nothing like our lockers, so that notebooks (little ones—not big binders), books, pencils, etc., are carried in big leather brief-cases, and coats and jackets are hung on hooks outside each classroom. This is rather necessary, for there is a lot more going out here to classes than at Seaholm where you can always take an inside route in preference to an outside one.

IN CASE anyone is interested, the girls wear heels to school. Not until this week did any of them wear socks of any sort; (I shall probably shock them with my knee-socks) but they do wear tights.

Yesterday, for example, it was cold and rainy. I was wearing my walking boots, looking out of place but warmer than in flats, but many of the girls were running around in heels and no socks.

Now to return to the curriculum. As I said before, they take many subjects, class hours of which range from one to five. The schedules are not orderly.

FRANÇOISE'S subjects include Latin (Cicero, Horace, Ovid and Virgil), talks on Greek and Roman life and civilization, French, English, Flemish, Spanish, mathematics (algebra, geometry, and trigonometry), sciences (biology, physics, chemistry and geography), history, "morale," physical education (plus an hour swimming), and art (one hour of drawing each week).

This schedule is typical of the ordinary student. By ordinary student, I mean the regular student in contrast to the "Eleve Libre" which is what I am.

The ordinary students, by the way, are supposed to wear smocks with their names and forms on the front. They are uniform only in so far that the names and forms are clearly marked.

I HAVE five hours of French; French grammar, and literature in French; four hours of history, geography (Belgian geography), morale, some classes in math which are interesting, and one hour of Latin.

There was no continuity to my

Kingswood Column

Tells of 4th Annual Religion Conference . . .

By JOAN McDONALD

"Values for Reality" is the theme of the Lake Erie Religious conference at Cranbrook Nov. 20-22 for the second consecutive year. Led by the Rev. Edward Roth, chaplain to the Episcopal students at the University of Michigan, the conference will center around the lecture of Major William Mayer, psychiatrist for the United States Army, whose tape on brainwashing in this area last year. Major Mayer will address the members of the Cranbrook institutions Friday evening, Nov. 20.

SATURDAY the delegates to the conference from the twelve participating schools will attend three lectures by Mr. Roth. Following each talk they will break up into smaller groups for discussion.

After the lecture and discussion period Saturday afternoon, there will be a tour of the Cranbrook institutions. Saturday evening a panel, composed of a Quaker, Dr. Wallin from Wayne State university, a Roman Catholic priest, Father Peters also from Wayne, and a Jewish rabbi, Rabbi Wine from Temple Beth El, will answer any questions of the delegates.

THE CONFERENCE will end Sunday morning after a chapel service at Cranbrook. The Kingswood delegates to the Lake Erie conference are seniors Sara Bartholomew, Hanley Bird, Jeanne Buffum, Abby Goldstein, Haavyn Frost and Squally Weckler, and juniors Bonnie Cohen, Julie Fitzgerald, Sally Mirra, Roxanne Rinaldo, and Liz Roegner. Alternates are senior Edith Foley and junior Estelle Loud.

Veteran's Day, Nov. 11, was commemorated at Kingswood by a talk from Kirby Mansfield on "Do We Appreciate America Enough?" This was preceded by an anthem sung by the senior glee club.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry D. Hoey held an open house for the senior classes of Kingswood and Cranbrook Sunday afternoon, Nov. 15. The preceding week the juniors had been similarly entertained.

3 Local Teams in State-Wide Argument

Seaholm high school, Bloomfield Hills high school and Cranbrook school have debate teams entered in the Michigan High School Forensic association 1950-51 competition. Charles E. Thumack is the Seaholm coach; Clarence C. Floum coaches BHS; and W. Robert Uelias coaches the Cranbrook team. The topic "Resolved, that the Federal Government should substantially increase its regulation of labor unions."

It's rather fun, and I try to remember all their names, and they have the times of their lives trying to explain things to me.

PHYSICALLY, the school is very odd. It is a group of buildings built around a couple of courts. The rooms are numbered for identification, but they do not follow too much order and they are in various places. I had one class this morning, the route to which was through five other classrooms.

Even though she is known as a serious student, she has a very elegant sense of humor which comes out very well with me. She is a beautiful girl; she has honey-colored skin and hair just a little darker with a natural blond streak in it; large eyes—really lovely. I don't think she feels strange with me either; at least I hope not.

Need that south forty cleared out? Southfield high school's Future Teacher's club is looking for pumpkins, colorful leaves, any old cornstalks or a few gourds. The girls need some decorations for their Nov. 25 dance to contribute to the fall motif. Leave a message at the high school for Claudia Stafford, she's clean out that old corn field.

Honor Guard

CULVER, IND. — Michael J. Handren, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick C. Handren, 1070 Puritan has been elected to the Cadet Honor council at Culver Military Academy. The Council is responsible for promoting the Honor System at the college preparatory school.

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"So this is Birmingham!"

"Alice" of "Alice in Birmingham," meets some "Birmingham" residents. The people and the place are concoctions of Seaholm high school imaginations. They are the characters and setting for the all-school variety show being staged at 8 p.m. Nov. 19 and 20 (today and tomorrow) in the Seaholm gymnasium. Whitney Walker is Alice (seated). Surrounding her (from left) are Kay Botsford, Pam Nicols, Trudy Fritz, Becky Black and John Schmidt. Tickets are still purchasable from Seaholm seniors at \$1.