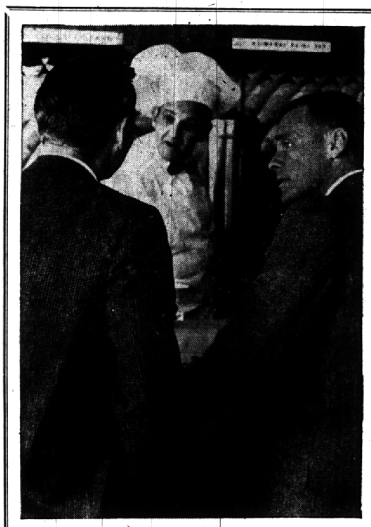
The Light Touch *by Jeanne Westerdale*

NO FOLLOW THROUGH

Before I market, expertly,
I always make a list for me;
But when among the shelves I roam
I find I've left the list at home!



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People's Column

Meaning in Life Most Important To Our Youths

To the Editor:

After reading some articles, a person feels the urge to walk around, to move or bend or wash walls. Anything at all in order to get the recently absorbed thoughts 'digested.'

Clifton Fadiman's introduction to his soon to be released book "The Case for Basic Education" reacted on me in just this way.

In spite of pulling up a bushel basket full of crabgrass, walking around the house a couple times in this autumn sparkling afternoon, wiping off the front window of fly specks, his 'message' won't evaporate.

(Why would it immediately after declaring such ideas as these?)

INSISTING THAT most people, young or old, want something much more out of life than 'security, comfort or luxury', he states they long for MEANING in their lives. He adds that if their culture and leaders don't, or can't, offer them great meanings, objectives, great convictions, well, they WILL settle for shallow and trivial meanings. (Fadiman says there is no compulsion to believe this.) But, if we do not? Presto! Out the window goes our case for basic education.

"Overhaul the school system in the light of a conception that man is:

A continually adjusting, pleasure-seeking, pain-avoiding animal."

WITH THE courage that Daniel displayed in rather dangerous den, Fadiman has no fear in expressing what he believes is wrong with our educational set-up.

It's not an unbalanced curriculum, inadequate emphasis on any one subject. Neither is it in poor teaching methods, too few facilities or in underpaid instructors.

The root of our trouble, he firmly believes, lies in the embarrassing situation that our schools are giving diplomas to 18-year-olds who do not know:

WHO they are. WHERE they are. Or, HOW they got there.

UNDER THESE circumstances, Fadiman contends, the high school graduate will settle for "shallow and trivial meanings."

If he has not been convinced in his 12 years of schooling that Newton, Shakespeare and Lincoln are more admirable and interesting than say, Frank Sinatra, Jerry Lewis, and Patrick Boone, the 18-year-old boy or girl will find answers to his questions in: Sinatra, Lewis and Boone.

FADIMAN FURTHER declares, with no hesitancy, that if the graduate learned little or no history, geography, science, mathematics, foreign languages, (or English) he will naturally enough learn in later life:

Golf, quail-shooting, barbecuing, and a few specialized techniques of buying and selling. Then?

According to his luck, says Fadiman, and his temperament, he may become happily lost. Or, unhappily 'lost'. But, the author added as his summary to the introduction to his new book.

"But lost he will become. Lost he will remain. Lost he will die."

And closing on a gripping thought which would make any reader want to take a walk around the house to get the world back into its proper shape, he said that if we allow these 'lost ones' to multiply indefinitely, they will see to it that our country is lost also.

Some articles do stick in the mind. For a long time. This was one. For that? There is gratefulness.

RUTH VOGT
5922 E. Millerway
Gilbert Lake

LEGAL NOTICES

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION of the Birmingham School District of the City of Birmingham, Michigan, will receive bids on the Materials, labor and related items for Landscape Work at the Wylie Groves Junior-Senior High School, Evergreen Road at Thirteen Mile Road, Beverly Hills, Michigan, until 12:00 o'clock noon E.S.T. Tuesday, October 13, 1959, at the office of Linn Smith Associates, Inc., 894 South Adams, Birmingham, Michigan.

Proposed forms of contract documents, including plans and specifications are on file at the office of Linn Smith Associates, Inc., 894 South Adams, Birmingham, Michigan and may be obtained on or after Friday, October 2, 1959, by depositing $10.00 with the office of Linn Smith Associates for each set of documents so obtained.

The Board of Education of the Birmingham School District, Birmingham, Michigan, reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities in bidding.

No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of thirty (30) days subsequent to the opening of the bids, without the consent of the Board of Education, Birmingham School District, Birmingham, Michigan.

Birmingham School District
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Bennett W. Root
Secretary

30, 31

George F. Fulkerson, Atty., 1025 Maple Road, Birmingham, Michigan
73,224

STATE OF MICHIGAN — The Probate Court for the County of Oakland.

At a session of said Court, held at the Probate Office, in the City of Pontiac in said County, on the 18th day of September, 1959.

Present, Honorable Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of Lulu Cotcher, Deceased.

Reverend Dorr Foehler, Administrator with will annexed of said estate having filed in said Court a petition, praying for license to sell at private sale the interest of said estate in certain real estate therein described.

It is Ordered, That the 19th day of October, 1959, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, at said Probate Office, be and is hereby appointed for hearing said petition, and that all persons interested in said estate appear before said Court, at said time and place, to show cause why a license to sell the interest of said estate in said real estate should not be granted:

It is further Ordered that notice be given to all interested parties as shown by the records in this cause by delivering a copy of this order to each of them personally, or by mailing such copy to each of them by registered mail with return receipt demanded addressed to their respective last known addresses as shown by the files and records in this cause.

And it is further Ordered that public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy of this order once each week for three successive weeks prior to said day of hearing in the Birmingham Eccentric, a newspaper printed and circulated in said county.

ARTHUR E. MOORE,
Judge of Probate.
29, 30, 31

Raccoons — Lower Peninsula

The Conservation Commission, by authority of Act 230, P.A. 1925, as amended, hereby orders that for a period of five years from October 1, 1959, it shall be unlawful to trap raccoons in Zone 2 except from November 10 to December 15, inclusive, and in Zone 3 except from November 15 to December 31, inclusive, in each year.

Approved July 9, 1959.

29, 30, 31

Hungarian Partridge

The Conservation Commission, by authority of Act 230, P.A. 1925, as amended, hereby orders that for a period of five years from October 1, 1959, it shall be unlawful to take or attempt to take Hungarian partridge, except in Chippewa County.

Approved July 9, 1959.

29, 30, 31

Norman Lyle Squadron Plans Fall Programs

Prospects and plans for a vigorous fall and winter program featured the September meeting of the Norman Lyle Squadron, AFA.

After a review of several items of old business, Commander Saltsman discussed the highlights of the Air Force association's national convention in Miami, Florida which he attended as the squadron delegate from September 4 to 7.

THE COMMANDER'S experiences and report on the exhibits, demonstrations, seminars and business sessions generated wide interest and a desire to attend the next national convention, to be held in San Francisco next September.

The many and varied squadron accomplishments during its inaugural six-month period were reviewed and considered by the participating members with some pride and also as a basis for experience in planning future activities.

The future program anticipates wider activity in the fields of community relations and youth education toward a better understanding of the Aero-space Age, its problems and potential.

ALLIED WITH this would be our government's activities and accomplishments in this field for purposes of peaceful as well as military application.

Several committee appointments were made in furtherance of these goals which includes a membership campaign to develop wider participation by all interested area residents.

As a supplement to the April meeting where an informative talk was given by several members of the 2031st AACS Squadron, a group from the local AFA Squadron visited the tower and control facilities at Selfridge AFB on Friday evening, October 26th.

ALL WHO attended were privileged to get first-hand knowledge and observe the crew of Air Force specialists handling this vital phase of Air Force and Airway Control operations.

Upon conclusion of this visit, the members who attended were convinced that the local control situation is in capable hands.

The next regular meeting of the Squadron will be at the Community House on Monday, October 19th at 8 p.m. and an open invitation is extended to anyone interested in the AFA Program whether or not they are Air Force veterans.

500 Attend Curriculum Workshop

The Michigan Education Association and Clear Lake camps were visited, Sept. 24 and 25 by about 500 Michigan educators, including Eugene Johnson, Superintendent of Schools, Bloomfield Hills, and a number of teachers from the Birmingham area. They met for the Michigan Curriculum Workshop.

Members of various state curriculum committees heard Dr. Lynn Bartlett, Superintendent of Public instruction, and outside speakers. Action for the current year was planned.

DR. WILLIAM Van Til, Head, Department of Secondary education, New York university, discussed the need for more news about education in newspapers and other mass-communication media. As the keynote speaker, he discussed "Education's Responsibility —Today and Tomorrow."

Various grouping systems were criticized by Dean W. C. Olson of the University of Michigan's School of education.

Separate committee meetings dealt with advanced placement and other new programs now in operation in schools in this area.

COMPLIMENTS were paid to Don Grothe, Seaholm counsellor, who made a motion picture with his sociology students on the subject of alcohol, and to Carl Zwinck, Seaholm science instructor, whose articles on alcohol have appeared in the Eccentric.

Distributed at the Workshop held near Battle Creek were several new publications of the state department of public instruction, including the Basic Instructional Policy for Education in Michigan. This important document sets forth the objectives of public education, and outlines state and local responsibilities.

Greater cooperation is necessary at all levels if we are to improve education, it said.

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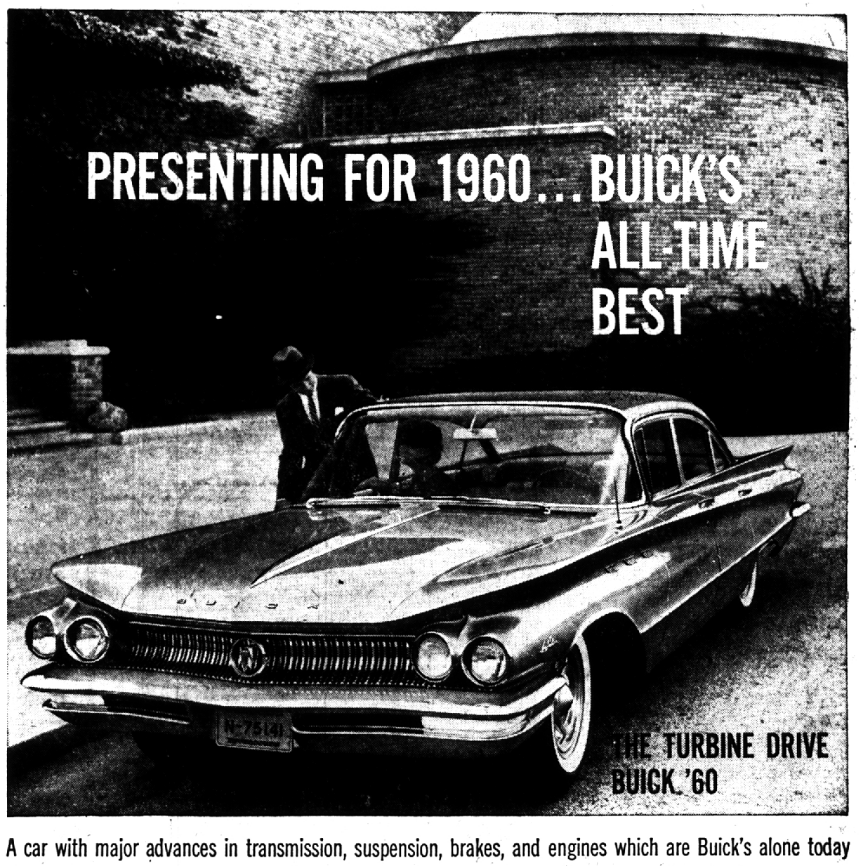

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