

# Visiting Teacher—'School Social Worker'

By DENI SCANLON  
Staff Writer

Some two per cent of the students get "out of step" during that march toward the high school diploma.

They need help understanding themselves. They need help adjusting. They need someone to intercede with parents and teachers.

In the Birmingham School System's Special Services Department,

there are five women who give that help. Called "visiting teachers," they might better be described as social workers for the schools.

The visiting teacher is concerned with the personal and social adjustment of students and how it affects their academic progress.

HOW DOES THE visiting teacher work?

Teachers and counselors are usually the first to contact a "V.T." about a problem student.

The teacher and parents confer; then they explain to the youngster that someone is going to talk to them about their troubles.

At this point, the visiting teacher meets the student. A get-acquainted period follows. The student and visiting teacher build a confidential relationship and before long—either through conversation or play—

they discuss the problems that are causing the student to come out.

THE STUDENT TALKS about his troubles—his stealing, or aggressiveness or shyness or partying. In many cases, the home and school mixed with personal and social attitudes all have a part in the solution.

THE VISITING teacher will not work with a student unless parents volunteer cooperation. On occasion a parent will call to request help from a teacher or counselor.

And once, according to the one local visiting teacher, a child came in with another child and said, "My friend has a problem. Can you help him too?"

Statistics show that there are many more boys than girls requiring attention at the elementary level. But a look at figures at the secondary level reveal a 50-50 ratio.

ONE BIRMINGHAM visiting teacher pointed out, "Most of the children do not feel a part of anything. We try to help them build self-esteem and develop insight into their own problems. We want them to understand themselves."

"We also have to confer with parents to help them find and correct the negative attitudes in their child," she continued. "And, of course, each new classroom teacher must be filled in on the case history. The teacher's cooperation is vital."

IN ADDITION TO working with

students, parents and teachers, the visiting teacher spends much time with community agencies, clinics and numerous teacher organizations.

She is a resource person who shuttles back and forth between many groups and agencies, including workshops and meetings to study new techniques.

Studying problems found in the Birmingham area, the visiting teachers here agree that one of the most prevalent difficulties is due to the excessive absence of the father.

"Children need fathers," one V.T. pointed out. "They need to see their Dad and their Birmingham fathers don't spend enough time with their children."

Sometimes, in the midst of working with a troubled child, a visiting teacher may give parents an assist. When marriage difficulties of parents are part of the youngster's adjustment, the visiting teacher may suggest a counselor for the adults, which in turn helps ease troubles for the child.

EACH OF THE Birmingham visiting teachers deal with approximately 40 cases.

Birmingham School System's visiting teacher program was set up in 1944 and was one for the first in Michigan.

Expanded in staff and services, the program now helps more than 300 students "get back into a comfortable cadence."

NEXT WEEK: Speech correction and the physically handicapped.

Bernard Maslanik, head of the Special Services Department, confers with his staff of visiting teachers (from left) Virginia

## The Birmingham Eccentric Features

DECEMBER 14, 1962 PAGE 7

### DOWN TO EARTH Columnist Describes 'Heralding Holidays'

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Last week your columnist gave you some ideas on how to start to trim the outside of your home for the holidays. Today let's turn our interest to the inside of the house. First, assemble all of your trimmings of past years. Second, walk around your property and look for evergreen boughs which you overlooked in fall grooming. You would be wise to secure a spray of gold wire for the mechanics of putting together your arrangement.

A can of gold spray, plus some glitter will suggest endless possibilities for beauty.

THIS YEAR YOU can secure from your florist a new ribbon on the market which looks like velvet and will make beautiful bows. Make a list of the locations you hope to trim so that you won't waste time to make a couple of gift arrangements for friends.

Here are some ideas gleaned from the superb Christmas Show of the Birmingham WNFCA. Mrs. Burlingame entitled, "Heralding the Holidays" and directed by Mrs. Marvin Katke.

At the entrance to the auditorium of the Community House I saw an appropriate wall or door motif made up of evergreen boughs with a huge red velvet ribbon and large gold balls below the bow nestled on the needles.

FOR A DORWAY, Mrs. William Drecher had used a large fishing creel with leather trim and placed within the container was a large red and green velvet bow with trout flies attached to the flowing ends of the bow. Congratulations, Mrs. D.

Mrs. William McCallum had a crescent door arrangement with large blue ribbon with blue grapes to match. In the center of the crescent was an heirloom of three cowbells with a glorious tunc.

Mrs. George Citer had an arrangement each side of one of the auditorium fireplace by using the red same tips as the sole trim on pump evergreens in a tub. For home adaptability they could be lighted with one-color Italian lights.

MRS. HARVEY BUSHNELL had a most attractive table where she had used as her cover a cut square of red oil cloth with appropriate greens at the base of a glass container of candy canes. This is a terrific idea for mothers of small fry. They will love the Holiday decor. Mother and Dad can eat quietly by candle light.

Mrs. Edward Sipe had used a black container with an arrangement of holly. Bright red apples provided the accent at the base of the design.

AT ONCE I was happy as I viewed Mrs. Clyde Hagerman's Nordic Christmas table. Mrs. Hagerman had used a bright red textured handwoven cloth of many hues. The china was a strong blue in color with a colorful Viking sleigh

### WEEKLY VISIT She Works in Volumes

By IRMA N. DAVIS  
Staff Writer

Sitting in what she describes as a "50-cent chair" behind a two-dollar desk in her office at the rear of the Village Bookshelf, Elaine Nagle gestured at the cutters of books and papers.

"I swear it's all clear every morning—but by closing time I'm knee deep in papers again," she said. Catching my inquiring glances at a four-tiered set of wire baskets on the desk top she explained, "I keep her records 'somewhere' sorted out into 'orders' correspondence, 'reviews,' and 'for rent'."

"I HAD ONE extra basket to begin with," Miss Nagle said with a grin, "but it isn't 'for rent' any more. It's filled with miscellaneous items."

Her whimsical way with the tongue was evidenced again when she said she decided to open her bookshop "before they took it in a wheel chair—it's something I'd always wanted to do."

Whenever facts, she added her interest in books dates back to her childhood when she "practically lived in a public library" at Albion. Praising her future, it's spending money, "50 cents an hour answering the phones."

FOLLOWING her graduation with a degree in literature from Albion College, she took a business course and moved to Detroit.

After she found herself reading "by the room" again—this time however, it was correspondence in the personal shopping department of a metropolitan department store.

During the latter part of the depression she switched to Jam

### NATURE NOW Wild Turkey Rich Part Of American Wilderness

By Lydia King Freese  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

The subject of Plate I in Audubon's "Birds of America" is appropriately enough the wild turkey. Great naturalist, yet, many bird biographers.

The history of the wild turkey's disappearance over vast tracts of territory is the history of his retreat before the advance of intensive settlements. Audubon writes of the time of his great abundance.

IN THOSE days when autumn came, gobblers would gather into great flocks to move gradually toward the rich lands of the river bottoms. They would still be busy guarding their families of half-grown chicks and would travel in separate parties intent on gathering up their families in the woods.

Both parties of Mrs. Freese's flock were of the same composition, taking only when chased by an enemy or when blocked by a body of water.

By late November the flock was reunited for the winter. In snowy weather they remained on their coasts in the trees, but in mild weather they would resume their travels. Their strong legs could carry them at so fast a pace that they could out-strip most animals and even out-run a man on foot.

IN MID-FEBRUARY the courting period began with much gobbling and strutting. Now the two great shows of loveplay until the brooding period began in mid-April.

### HER HOME is furnished in "comfortable contemporary" and much of its charm is due to her own facility with the paint brush.

She has started a Christmas tradition in the shop which is currently decorated with hundreds of mobile stars hanging from the ceiling—a few more are added each day. In the rocker near the front window to sip coffee or bro wase among the book-filled shelves.

An occasional autograph party brings a well-known face. Vincent Price during the first year, Ann Dillards, more recently.

The homey atmosphere of the shop is enhanced upon occasion its owner said, by what she considers "the height of something or other—someone coming in and asking us if we sell books."

ASKED IF HER store followed the Bible, she smiled and said, "To tell you the truth, we sell more cook a mile and before long I had more building going on around me than I had bargained for."

But her customers—whom she refers to as "public friends" didn't seem to mind "climbing around piles of brick or dodging the snow." A 30-foot snowdrift on her own shop contributed to the "hey-day" after being banned in this country for 27 years.

"Now," says the vivacious Mrs. Nagle, "I have moved to not only sides of me," referring not only to her shop but to her home on Baldwin.

Her 400-year-old house has been completely remodeled since she bought it in 1956 and she noted with a twinkle in what used to be the kitchen.

Then the hen searched out a dry place the ground, there to make a shallow nest lined with straw. This might be at the side of a log or under a thicket of sumac or briars.

HERE SHE WOULD lay as many as 20 cream-colored eggs spotted with dull red. She was very secretive about her nest and in her absence protected it from crows and other marauders by covering the eggs with dried leaves.

Sometimes several hens made a common nest. Audubon reports that he once found three hens sitting on 42 eggs. In this case one hen was always left on guard so that no enemy could approach.

The young chicks were able to leave their nests a few hours after hatching. However, the mother continued her vigilance over her first leading them to higher ground where they would keep dry.

THUS THE little family foraged over woodlot and clearing finding the grain, fruit and nuts which the wild turkey so abundantly provided. They were especially fond of those that no enemy could approach.

Sometimes they dined on beetles, tadpoles and small lizards. With the coming of winter the flocks were again united and by early spring they were ready to repeat the pattern of their lives, being joined by the young cocks and hens in the same courtship play of the previous season.

Like the passenger pigeon and the buffle the wild turkey is longed to the great American West. A remnant of his kind is yet to be found in our Southern States. A remnant of his kind lives out this same life-cycle and what is left of the virgin woods in the mountains of the West.

Such a splendid target, a great affect as being made by game commissions to restore him to more desirable status. The game has been successful in areas of Virginia and Pennsylvania and on Drummond Island in Michigan. Here a hunter can once more return from the field carrying a bronze gobbler over his shoulder.

But no one can restore those rich autumn of the long ago, for much of the great American wilderness is gone, taking with it a young partner, who walked with the sunbeamed woods, his sketch book under his arm.

**EDWARD J. HALEY**  
Funeral Director  
24525 Northwestern Highway  
(At 10-Mile Rd.)

62 YEARS EXPERIENCE  
RESIDENTIAL and COMMERCIAL ROOFERS  
Getters & Developers  
**J. J. Raulander**  
ROOFING COMPANY  
561 E. VERNON HWY., DEPT. WC. 2-0512

**PRECIOUS BEYOND PRICE**



Have A Portrait by **bill williams**

Open a Charge Account at Bill Williams

LI-3-480  
1107 Crooks Rd. (at Main) Royal Oak

"the best in photography"

"it wouldn't be CHRISTMAS without Sanders candy!"

**Sanders Holiday Greeting Box**

To make your greeting something truly distinctive, let this assortment do your talking. It says it so clearly! Here are luscious dark and milk-chocolate coated nougats and caramels, peanut clusters, fruits in cream, coconut delights, cherry nut royals, regents and others all staying, "Merry Christmas!"

1 1/2-POUND BOX \$275

**Sanders Fruit Cakes**

Unsurpassed quality, flavor and lots of candied fruits and nuts! Whether you prefer the traditional dark better or the deluxe light, it's fruit cake at its very best!

1 1/2 Lb. Dark (Round) \$195  
1 1/2 Lb. Dark (Round) \$275  
1 1/2 Lb. Deluxe Light (Round) \$245  
2 1/2 Lb. Deluxe Light (Round) \$325  
4 1/2 Lb. Deluxe Light (Round) \$650

**Pavillon Chocolates**

A favorite old name—but an excitingly different assortment! Tempting nougats and caramels, peanut clusters, and orange and pineapple in cream will vie for your favor with coconut delights, cherry nut royals, regents and many more. 1, 2, 3 and 5-pound boxes. Please specify your choice of dark or milk chocolate coatings.

1 POUND \$135

**Peppermint Candy Canes**

The traditional Christmas treat! Glistening 10-inch canes with colorful red and green striping. Wonderful to hang in your tree—wonderful to eat!

BOX OF 12 \$59¢

**Sanders**

SINCE 1870 A SYMBOL OF QUALITY IN GOOD THINGS TO EAT

Visit the Sanders Dept. in your nearest National Food Store

499 S. Hunter Blvd. • 74 E. Maple Rd. (Troy)  
32930 Middlebelt Rd. near 14 Mile Rd. (Farmington Twp.)  
And a Sanders Store at 273 Pierce • 250 N. Woodward  
3357 N. Woodward near 13 Mile Rd. (Royal Oak)  
1213 W. 14 Mile Rd. at Crooks (Clawson)