

These Students Are Capable But Motion, Sight, Speech Give Them a Big Challenge

By DENI SCANLON
Staff Writer

In the Birmingham School System, there are 35 children who are intellectually as capable as any other students in their class.

The only difference is that two of the 35 are blind. Several have severe sight or hearing problems. Others have crippled hands or braided legs or cannot write quickly because a brain injury has caused poor coordination.

INTELLECTUALLY, however, these students "have the stuff" to perform in a normal classroom. All they need is help when it comes to special problems.

The Birmingham Special Services Department gives that help through its program for the physically handicapped.

Now in its second year, there is one teacher-counselor who works with the 35 physically handicapped students.

The special teacher meets with each child two or three times a week. Her role differs, depending on the type of disability.

THIS TEACHER spends a portion of her time obtaining special materials such as slates in braille for the blind. She often reads a test to the blind student. Or, she may spend two hours giving a test to the child who cannot write as neatly as fellow students who may only need one hour to complete the examination.

Students who are confined to wheel chairs, who wear braces or crutches, need the special assistance by locating their classrooms on the first floor of the building so that little moving about is necessary.

The teacher also takes the cerebral palsied child and dic-

tates spelling to allow for the slow speed. She also helps students by scheduling their classes to meet each one's need for rest, speech correction or physical therapy.

THIS TEACHER counselor has other tasks too. The classroom teacher has to be told the capacity of each special case—how much the student can do for himself—when to help him out and when not to.

The teacher-counselor for the physically handicapped works closely with the parents too. She helps them with special problems and shows them how to give their child the assistance he needs.

ACCORDING TO Bernard Maslanik, head of the Department of Special Services, the most severe physically handicapped cases in the Birmingham School System are in the following classes in Ferndale, Farmington, Berkeley or Royal Oak.

At an example, Maslanik said, "we handle only those who can function in a normal classroom."

The number of physically handicapped children, he commented, is increasing as population increases. It is the same as the ratio of the mentally retarded.

MASLANIK MADE a point of saying how much the physically handicapped child can be helped by the program—if the Special Services Department knows about them.

Next week: The adjusted study program.

well on their academic way but even their studies. The annual school census, he explained, reveals many of the handicapped cases that are not of school age. "Many of these parents don't know where to turn for help. We wish they'd come here."

In addition to the program for the physically handicapped, the Birmingham Special Services Department also assists about 600 students in need of speech correction.

Five speech correctionists travel from school to school to help mild to severe cases.

They conduct half-hour classes for from five to 10 children, meeting with them twice a week.

According to one of the speech correctionists, the program is aimed at getting children to listen to sounds they hear and to teach them how to recognize the sounds and words into their everyday speech.

THE BULK OF the speech correction cases are in the lower elementary grades, the teacher explained. A continuation of infantile habits is often the reason for immature speech.

Other than that, the teacher said, it is very difficult to generalize on the cause of poor speech. It is hard to pin down the cause of a cleft palate or faulty dental structure.

Whether it is poor speech or a physical handicap, the Birmingham Special Services Department will try to meet each child's predicament so that he may speak and work as effectively as possible in the normal classroom.

The Birmingham Economic Features

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NATURE NOW

By Lydia King Frehee
Special Writer for The Birmingham Economic

Great Horned Owl Shy but Ferocious

All morning we listened to the raucous call of the crows, screaming and circling in one of our tallest oaks. It was not until mid-morning that my neighbor discovered the cause of their agitation; a large owl was perched silently in their midst and almost hidden back of the tree trunk from my point of view.

The size of this bird and its pointed "ears" (crests or tufts) are sometimes found as far south as Florida. However, they are so shy that they seldom drift into cities or towns.

THE GREAT horned owl is among the largest and most ferocious of his kind. His blood-curling scream and his booming "who-who-who" are familiar to all who share with him the secluded forests and swamps where he makes his home. He needs only the light of his eyes to see his prey in the dark of night. He has a long, hooked beak and sharp talons.

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opossum, cats, rabbits and such birds as partridges and hawks.

SMALL PREY is swallowed whole; but larger animals are torn into chunks. When the flesh is digested, the hair, bones and claws are regurgitated as neatly wrapped pellets. From the study of these ornithologists can accurately determine the amount and kind of prey needed to rear an owl family.

Not only the nest but the earth below is decorated with the debris which has accumulated during the 12 weeks which comprise the nesting period.

THE YOUNG OWL now resembles the sooty-brown of his parents. His black feathered "horns" are two inches high as they stand guard above the fierce yellow eyes. His sharp claws are masked with feathers. His powerful body, now grown to a length of two feet, awaits the command of his silent wings to carry it away on its first death-dealing flight.

The great horned owl is a nocturnal bird. It hunts at night, yet it can see perfectly in the day. It is unusual for anyone to see it at all.

MOST REFERENCES to the great horned owl mention its being mobbed by noisy angry crows. We spoke to a neighbor who said that her father frequently used a stuffed owl as a decoy when out to shoot crows.

At any rate, we watched this nature drama the rest of the morning. The owl seemed impervious to the threat of his enemies and made no move except an occasional turning of his head. Several of us came on the scene and stood directly under his perch but neither crows nor owl paid any attention to us.

THE OWL continued oblivious to the shouts of the two men in the neighborhood began coming home from school.

Their usual noise and laughter was his signal to depart and lifting his great silent wings he flew away with the angry crows still in pursuit.

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Please note that no exchanges of Christmas Gifts can be made after January 3rd, 1962

Abuse of the exchange and return privilege can cause a great deal of unwarranted expense. Therefore, as a matter of assistance to the merchants of Birmingham who wish to continue to make this service available to you, we ask your cooperation.

Birmingham Chamber of Commerce

DOWN TO EARTH Novel Ideas Provide Christmas Decorations

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Economic

A Christmas tree sprayed black and hanging upside down from the ceiling in the dream come true of John Kline, well known artist with hair and shears at 141 North Hunter, it hangs in the window with spotlights on it for all to admire.

On the black enameled tree, which is approximately four feet high and bushy, are many red birds of varying sizes.

Here is the story of the Christmas Miraculous Birds: They were colored from the blood of Christ at the cross. The Israelites were sent out special food for these birds because it was believed that the birds would bring luck, health and happiness. Adventurers with design and materials is always fun, a purple ribbon for John.

ONE OF THE finest Christmas shows is always held at the Detroit Historical Museum and this year it was co-chaired by Mrs. Robert Vanderly, of Birmingham, on Dec. 4.

Here the visitor sees the accomplishments of the leading designers in Greater Detroit, all shown under one roof. It is heartwarming to see the many people from all walks of life welcomed to share in the beauty and spirit of the holiday season. It is sponsored by the Michigan Horticultural Society.

Your reporter is always looking for simple suggestions to pass on to you: one tree was adorned with cranberries and small size marshmallows threaded on a long string. This is a perfect idea for the mom with a four- or five-year-old child underfoot during her rush hour. I think it would be fun to make a string while watching television.

A LARGE, ROUND plastic box had boughs arranged in it with a white Madonna. This was very effective and would be easy to duplicate.

A brandy snifter had a few pieces of holly with some berries on it arranged at the bottom. On top of this arrangement was one large red satin ball with a smaller size satin ball attached on top of it. On top of this masterpiece was an appropriate Christmas sculptured motif.

A compact table tree had all of the same size and color of balls with boughs of two colors of ribbon tied together.

A STUNNING modern tree was formed from tinker tops which had been painted a bright Chinese red. On the arms of the tree, which were opposite each other, was a pair of artificial fruit and leaves in an espaliered design.

A tree was selected for a table decoration. For the trimming were dots of pink carnations placed in tubes of water, with pink bows securing them to the tree.

Here is writing about these beautiful ideas and return to my

Holiday Cards Can Be Help In Decorating

Christmas cards can be the key to a host of exciting decorating ideas in the home.

A pair of scissors, some cellophane tape, a ball of colored yarn, the Christmas mail—plus a little imagination is all that is needed to create a sparkling holiday atmosphere in the home.

THESE LITTLE "extras" can create a real holiday-at-home atmosphere in any home or apartment—place a brightly-hued card in the center of the holiday wreath on your door, preferably one with "Christmas Greetings" in large letters.

—many of this year's cards are cut-outs, some are actually shaped and colored like Christmas tree ornaments, and have tinsel cords hanging.

—if you have a glass top coffee table, place an assortment under the glass. Try using a single, then a winter scene, floral, Americana, religious.

—create a striking religious tableau on a small table or mantel by standing religious cards about the family Bible opened to St. Luke's narrative of the first Christmas.

—and don't forget the kitchen. This room is given less attention than any other when it comes to decorating at Christmas time.

The University of Michigan Speech Improvement Clinic, founded in 1932, was the first of its kind in the nation.

WEEKLY VISIT

He's Branching out into New Field

By IRMA N. DAVIS
Staff Writer

Ken Mitchell is one Birmingham father who is branching out into a new field this Christmas tree is a cinch.

After all, he has just recently completed a 200-foot-long, old-fashioned axe and plenty of elbow grease to do the job. He hopes to see all of them up at night, near the Birmingham Bowling Alley, on Webster near Hunter Boulevard.

The venture is Mitchell's first try at selling Christmas trees and he has business should be jumping. The lot was used by rebound tumblers this summer.

THE CANVAS JUMPING apparatus has long since gone. Rod Smith and his father, who operate the bowling alley and own the lot, are happy to have their mechanic running the Yule tree business. He likes to see the lot in use.

Mitchell, 27, has already picked out his own tree, "a big one." It will go up on Christmas Eve in the living room of his home at 1407 Cole. His two older children, Debbie Lynn, 7, and Kenny, 5, are convinced by now that Daddy is Santa's number one man.

He's a busy man, but he doesn't he, they tell their awe-struck friends.

Father's Social Class Linked to Delinquency

A father, just by being in a low social class, may contribute to his son becoming a delinquent, says a University of Michigan psychologist.

Evidence drawn from recent studies shows that younger boys in general compare their fathers to the American image of "the successful man" as reported by Survey Director Martin Gold (PhD) of the U. of M. Institute for Social Research.

He suggests that a father's lower class status has the effect of meaning his son's job prestige, and allowing the boy, in the face of other class-linked provocations, to become delinquent.

THE IMPLICATION is, Dr. Gold notes, that the father's social class plays an important part in checking his son's delinquent behavior.

From the material Dr. Gold and his colleagues at the Institute have collected recently in extended studies of delinquency and youth, the U. of M. psychologist reports.

First, that in a study of delinquents, occupation was cited most frequently by the boys as the characteristic of a man which makes him most likely to be a delinquent.

Second, that the number of boys who wanted to be like their fathers decreased as the job-prestige of their fathers diminished.

This explains in part the relative ineffectiveness of the lower class father's control over his son, notes Dr. Gold, who is also an assistant professor in the U. of M. Department of Psychology.

AFTER COMPARING 92 delinquent boys with 92 non-delinquent boys, Dr. Gold reports that on the whole the delinquent boys' father-son relationships were poorer than that of mother-son.

Specifically, they were "less likely to take personal interest in their fathers, or to participate with them in work or recreational activities."

"Delinquents are more likely to disagree with their fathers about standards of proper behavior and to ignore their fathers' wishes when in work or recreational activities."

"IN FACT, Mitchell says, several of them even wanted to buy a beautiful Michigan grown-tree that stood near the edge of the lot. "I would like to say with a grin, 'it was part of the landscaping, owned by the bowling alley.'"

"The rest of the tree is in a healthy looking," he adds. "They must be if people can't tell which ones are cut."

Holiday wishes

At this Yuletide season, we extend to you and yours our thanks for your patronage, and a most sincere wish for a very Merry Christmas.

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