

Republican Women Call March Meetings

Bloomfield Township Republican Women's Club will meet at 10 a.m. Monday at 7055 Pinewood Court, Birmingham. Michigan Supreme Court Justice Harry F. Kelly will be guest speaker. Southfield Republican Women's Club will be at 8 p.m. March 23. Meeting place has not been determined. Further information may be obtained by contacting Mrs. Spademan. Speaker for Southfield's meeting will be Paul Goehle of the University of Michigan Board of Regents.

Give Children Time To Be Themselves, Says Headmaster

By IRMA N. DAVIS Staff Writer
See photo inside Sec. A

CRANBROOK — When does today's child have time to be just a child? asked John P. Denio, headmaster-to-be at Brookside School Cranbrook. Tall and tweedy, he said, "Sometimes a child's hours are too organized." One of his remedies is "seat-of-the-pants learning," just leaving young students time to be themselves. Denio, who planned originally to teach at the high school level, said he wouldn't change his life work "for anything." He will replace Miss Jessie Winter who will retire as the school's headmistress in June. She has been associated with Brookside for 23 years.

A NATIVE of Massachusetts, Denio is currently chairman of the Middle School at Shady Hill Academy, Cambridge, Mass. He holds a BA degree from Amherst College and his masters in education from Boston University.

He served three years in India and Egypt with the medical corps of the U. S. Air Force. Denio is excited about his new position, particularly as he will be working with children in the formative years of their educational life.

"Of course, no one can take Miss Winter's place," he said. "Another remarkable woman, the headmistress at Shady Hill, told me on working with young children," he added, "and I'd do it all over again."

RETURNING to the problem facing modern children, he said: "The pressures on parents today naturally multiply those on children." "They need time to dream and to run. That's why I don't believe in extending the school calendar." Youngsters at Brookside have a full day with just enough homework, he said, and "every child of the type attending here is gifted, I believe." His own two children, Anne, 9, and Kathryn, 8, will be attending Brookside and the family will move sometime this summer to a home in Bloomfield Hills.

Ann is an avid stamp collector and her current interest is archery. Her younger daughter, Denio said, "has the largest collection of dolls you ever saw and they require a great deal of dressing."

THE DENIOS have spent their summers for the last 13 years at girl's camp where he headed camp activities and his wife taught tennis and assisted with the camp's program. Their own girls have been campers since they were seven.

He hopes to be teaching at Brookside, though much of his time will be taken up with administrative tasks. Denio said he was in charge of administration for the fourth, fifth and sixth grades at Shady Hill.

"Our school there was hard hit by Kennedy," he chuckled. "We lost about a dozen children to Washington, D.C., when their fathers received appointments in government."

"You know, one of them was from Yale, too," he added with a big grin. HE LIKES sports and has coached athletics on the junior

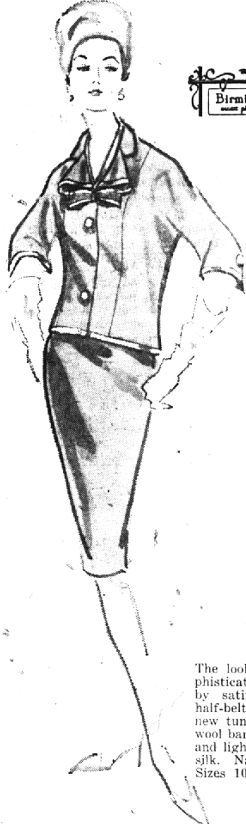
high level. He reads voraciously with a special interest in history and enjoys music. He plays the cello, his wife the double bass viol. Denio's third trip to Cranbrook last week, was made by "plane, train and pony express" due to the airline strike. He is delighted with the facilities and opportunities provided by Cranbrook and is as "excited as a child at the prospect ahead." "There has been so much emphasis on the high school level as though interest in education starts at the top and works down," he noted. "As one of the Ford Foundation people said, "We need a vice-president in charge of heresy," he quipped. However, he noted that attention is now turning to elementary education and "great changes and strides are being made, especially in teaching math and science."

HE SAID he was happy with the great interest he had noticed on the part of parents of Brookside children. "I want to share in helping these youngsters to grow," he said. "That's why I enjoy teaching so much. Children at this age are learning, exploring, inquiring, discovering." "If it doesn't happen in the early grades, it never will," he noted gravely. "Kids need a good 'kick off' to develop properly." He paused. "These are the years in which to make the most imaginative use of teacher time and methods. Working at Brookside is going to be a wonderful experience for me." An exciting time is ahead for Brookside, too.

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