

This Program Lends Helping and

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first in a series of six articles on the Birmingham School System's Department of Special Services. The following stories deal with the role of the diagnostician, the visiting teacher, speech correction and the physically handicapped, the adjusted study program and the mentally retarded.

By **DEMI SCANLON**
Staff Writer

One of every eight children in the Birmingham School System needs help. Whatever his problem—or combination of problems—it is for the Department of Special Services to determine the best program to give him the best education.

Bernard Maslanik, head of the department, strives to do just that—fit an educational program to each student—according to the child's needs. Aalia Wald, school psychologist, and a staff of 22 professionals assist him.

He may be blind. He may be deaf. He may be so aggressive in the classroom that both he and his fellow students suffer from the disruptions or he may just be a very emotionally confused youngster.

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BIRMINGHAM offers five major programs in its Department of Special Services.

FOR THE CHILD who is mentally retarded, the School System offers a series of programs.

About 60 children in the Birmingham district are far enough below average to demand this kindergarten through high school plan.

The retarded youngsters are first evaluated and then placed in one of two divisions:

1—**EDUCABLE** and potentially socially competent.

2—**TRAINABLE** but will always require supervision.

Birmingham handles division A students here. Type B students are being sent to special classes in Berkeley.

THE ADJUSTED study program is for boys between 8 and 14 who have displayed a consistent pattern of aggression.

Ten Birmingham young boys are in this experimental program now; 22 have been processed since it was started in the fall of 1959.

The boys are "fighters." Always of average or above intelligence, they get intensive individual attention academically and are usually retained in the regular classroom situation after training.

THE CORE of the whole special services program is the school diagnostician system. It classifies the type of training a youngster needs.

Maslanik and Miss Wald study and evaluate 150 children with problems yearly.

Physical, mental and emotional aspects are tested by the school people. Sometimes it is necessary to carry out more extensive studies with the assistance of other consultants in the community.

When these tests end, a decision is reached by the experts and the child is placed in an appropriate program.

Periodically, the child is re-tested for progress and to see if the program is appropriate for the youngster's needs.

THESE PROGRAMS—diagnostic visiting teacher, speech correction and physically handicapped, adjusted study and mental retardation—are sizeable topics.

Each of the five programs are usually retained in the regular classroom situation after training.

NEXT WEEK: The role of the diagnostician.

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The Birmingham Eccentric Features

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NATURE NOW

By Lydia King Frehse
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

White-Tailed Deer Delight of Woods

To those of us who have spent long seasons in the north woods, the white-tailed deer has become so familiar an image of delight that woods and animals are almost synonymous in our minds.

The life cycle of the white-tail is lived in such seclusion that he is ever a stranger to his ways. In May or June the mother hikes her tiny fawn in some protected spot within range of the cedar swamp where she browns and drinks. His spotted body is not more than 16 inches high and he weighs not more than five pounds. He instinctively obeys her soft pleading voice which cautions him that his safety lies only in being quiet and hidden from his enemies.

IN THE early dawn or late evening when all is safe, he follows the white beacon of her upraised tail as she leads him through the woods to a marsh or pool. Here, as summer waxes, he learns to nibble at tender moss and lily pad, to see his image reflected in the silent pool as he stoops to drink. When he has reached his bend to listen for the crack of a twig and to know it as a sign of danger. During the day, the pair return to the deep woods to rest.

BY SEPTEMBER he is weaned and has learned the basic lessons for survival. He has lost his spots, is about half grown and his coat takes on the grey tones that blend with a winter landscape. When he has reached his second spring, two little knobs appear upon his forehead. By August these have grown into soft horns, and by September they harden into bone. The velvet which covered them is gradually rubbed off and throughout the winter they become polished and shiny.

ONLY THE MALES develop these antlers which are worn three or four months and are shed each spring. By following October the buck has reached maturity and is ready to seek a mate. During this period when he is contending for his place in the herd, he fights with his kind often damaging his horns and wounding

STRICTLY FRESH

A cross-country runner and a fisherman have one thing in common—a lot of wind.



Make-up is an art of work for a work of art. The fellow that knows the ropes is less likely to be tied down. It could be said that in this country there is a crying need for babysitters.

WEEKLY VISIT

His Job Puts Him 'on Display'

By IRMA N. DAVIS
Staff Writer

On not more than one occasion the window deer at Jacobson's was responsible for a few local sore-heads—until the store's Robert Mounsey saw to it that the windows were taped.

Mounsey and his staff, who design and execute the displays at the three local Jacobson's stores, had produced a three-dimensional effect, so effective that passers-by lost sight of the glass. Leaning forward for a closer look, more than one resident bumped his head.

THE 29-YEAR-OLD decorator is used to customer reaction. Shoppers come in and ask to buy the "props" take time to comment favorably on a window and sometimes hold up traffic as they slow their cars to get a good look at the colorful displays.

Shying away from any title as an impression manager, Mounsey prefers to be called simply "display man," a position he has held for the last four years. His headquarters are in the basement of Jacobson's apparel shop on W. Maple.

Felts of every color, containers of glitter and sequins, bolts of cardboard ribbon, tall rolls of paper and posterboard mingle with hammers, scissors, tools and bottles of glue.

ALTHOUGH HE has had no formal training in his field, Mounsey said he supposed that art was his "major" in high school. With this as a starting point, he jumped right into his career when he obtained a position in the display department of a Detroit department store.

DOWN TO EARTH

Greenhouses Provide Year-Long Gardening

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Winter gardening can be enjoyable pursued with the use of a small greenhouse. Even though greenhouse-trained, this is the first time you, a columnist, has had her own greenhouse which is 6'10" x 8'7".

IN ORDER to know the answers on construction problems, I have had the experience of subcontracting the various stages of development.

Here is one conclusion for you if you have ownership of a greenhouse at the top of your wish list: The total cost will amount to between three and four times as much as stated in a garden magazine.

THE CONSTRUCTION, which includes the underfooting, brick work, heating and plumbing, electrical work, and superstructure, are important steps in the total realization of your dream house. Benches and accessories, plus the plants, follow the completion day.

If you have a piece of magic tape, you will find it a good compromise to the beauty of Mrs. Burlingame the plants, especially if the sculpture has a fountain. F. M. music also adds to your pleasure while putting in your winter garden.

Plastic buckets are ideal for the storage of soil, moss, sand, and as a waste receptacle. The bright colors of plastic make the glass house gay. It is best if the plants are grown in their own pots and then nuzzled into a pea gravel.

BY HAVING THE plants in their own pots you can move them with ease as your whim dictates and you can control the spreading of disease.

The growing of plants in pots rather than soil has many points in its favor. Cuttings can be grown in containers with sharp sand. Plants in pots can be elevated to give the effect of a bank of texture by placing them on an inverted pot.

At this moment, it is late at night, and the wind is blowing. Somehow you feel as though you are right with the world as you step out into the greenhouse and look through the glass ceiling at the stars. The tight, opening buds and the experiments with sunny plants somehow make tomorrow very important.

THE MOST successful windows of Jacobson's are the "pretty" ones and the "gimmicked" ones," Mounsey said, following this with an explanation of one of the latter types.

A one-time amateur magician, Mounsey said he especially enjoyed a window he had once decorated with a full clean-up theme. He employed his special brand of magic on this one by borrowing garbage cans, fertilizer, ladders and stencils. The "man" mannequins were quite dressy cloth for contrast.

He and his assistants work in a variety of media, varying from paper mache and paper folding to collage and painting.

PAPER MACHE was the messiest, he said, and "a little goes a long way."

Nevertheless, the decorations committee for this summer's Art Festival Ball found that Mounsey was more than willing to go a long way—spending hours instructing them in the technique.

As for inspiration, he gets suggestions occasionally from department managers, "once in a while from a customer."

"They're real helpful in another way," Mounsey grinned. "They come in to tell us if a bottle of perfume has blown up or some candles in a display are melting in the sun."

"And especially if a mannequin falls over," he added.

Buy an annuity and live

Financial insecurity can lead to a barren and lonely existence for the older person. Those years after 60 can also bring the fear of out-living capital and the worry of managing the savings of a lifetime. The result—often severe stresses that can be dangerous to both physical and mental health.

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