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Country Store Will Feature Area JA Firm

Ty-Ty Enterprises of Birmingham will be one of 10 Junior Achievement companies displaying and selling early American products at Junior Achievement's first old-style Country Store at the Northland Center geodesic dome Jan. 22-27.

The JA Country Store will feature such merchandise as wrought iron foot scrapers, bellows and wooden fruit trays.

THE SMALL manufacturing firms will also sell oak planter barrels, children's swings and log carriers as well as decorator table lamps, wooden handle goblets and personalized wall plates.

The Country Store will be open to the public from 9:30-5:00 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and 9:00-9:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday.

Special entertainment featuring Junior Achievement's only band, "The Bel-Tones," will be presented Jan. 27 from 2 to 5 p.m. Mr. and Mrs. Achievement of 1962 will also appear at the Country Store at that time.

A JA COMPANY "production line" operation will be demonstrated Monday through Wednesday 8-4 p.m., Thursday and Friday 8-4 p.m. and 7-3 p.m. and Saturday 11-12 noon 5-8 p.m. and 8-9 p.m.

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Representatives of school newspapers in the Birmingham educational system meet with school officials in the first of a new program of student press conferences. The hour-long meetings, which will be held once a month, enable the student bodies of the various schools to acquaint themselves with the district's news and problems through the student reporters. Interviewing Supt. of Schools Otis M. Dickey (center), Deputy Supt. Daniel Nesbitt and Administrative Assistant Walter Piel (foreground), are (from the right of Nesbitt) Jean Van Loan of Seaholm, Sue Evislizer of Barnum, Judy Turcott of Barnum, Kay Heikinen of Seaholm, and Mike Saylor of Barnum.

Birmingham Schools Initiate Student Press Conferences

Birmingham School System has initiated a unique program of student press conferences between representatives of secondary school newspapers and school officials.

Headed by Supt. of Schools Otis M. Dickey, the series of monthly conferences got under way Jan. 8 when eight journalism students from Seaholm Senior High, Grove Junior-Senior High and Barnum Junior High interviewed Dr. Dickey, Daniel Nesbitt, deputy supt. in charge of curriculum, and Walter Piel, administrative assistant.

Questioning the school officials on the system's present and future plans and activities in the board of education room, the student reporters acquired news of the district for their respective newspapers.

ATTENDING the hour-long conference were Jean Van Loan and Kay Heikinen of the Seaholm Highlander; Marilyn Owens and Tony Kenny of the Groves Scripitor; and Sue Evislizer, Jim Bouse, Judy Turcott and Mike Saylor of the Barnum Inkplash. Reporters of the Derby Dateline also will participate in future conferences which are scheduled for 4:15 p.m. the first Thursday of each month.

Among the subjects covered at the recent press conference was the teacher situation. Dr. Dickey commented that 18.6 per cent of the teaching staff left the system at the end of the 1960-61 school year, and said that the high turnover rate should be decreased to eight per cent.

He cited increased salaries and relieved assignments as the most important factors in encouraging teachers to remain in the Birmingham School System. Reduction of the teacher-student ratio is necessary to decrease teachers' work load, said Dickey. Addition of 14 teachers over the past two years, he said, has been a step in improving the ratio to some extent.

ALSO HELPING to decrease the work load is the use of lay readers. Made up of citizens, mostly parents, they are hired to read students' compositions. A three-week period has been planned for next semester to test the effectiveness of a lay readers' program.

Another point of interest pursued by the student reporters was the possibility of increasing the number of school days.

Nesbitt explained that rather than lengthen the school year for all students, the board of education prefers to strengthen the summer school program for those students desiring to enrich their education.

MANY STUDENTS, said Nesbitt, don't have time to take all the courses they want during the regular school term. Therefore, he said, the summer school program, which is two weeks longer than most, provides the opportunity to take the extra subjects.

The recent millage increase also found its way into the conversation, and Dickey noted that the board of education plans obtaining more modern instructional equipment and more guidance counselors for the system. In addition, school officials budgeted for improved facilities to four elementary schools and a junior high will be constructed, and a new grade school and junior high are planned.

Dickey commented that he is proud of the community interest in the school system, citing the millage increase as proof.

"HOWEVER," he said, "it takes, on a continuing basis, outstanding support from the community to provide an outstanding school system."

Prospects for a community college also were discussed. School officials agreed that Birmingham individually could not afford such a school but that working together with Southeast and Bloomfield Townships would increase the chances of creating a local college. Dickey said the matter is being seriously considered.

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Banquet Will Kick Off 'Y' Membership Drive

A 20 per cent increase in membership was forecast for the Birmingham YMCA this week as leaders prepared to launch the organization's annual membership drive.

The four-week campaign gets underway with a kick-off banquet Jan. 26 at the Birmingham YMCA, 400 E. Lincoln.

Robert Salton, campaign chairman, said the forecast of a membership increase was based on experience in the Y's past three annual campaigns. Each campaign has achieved an increase in total membership of about 20 per cent. Present membership is 4,006.

SALTON, OF 1035 Wakefield, Birmingham, is Detroit area data processing manager for Michigan Bell Telephone Co.

Salton's chief aides in the drive will be Arlon Guiley, 1679 Washington, and John Handley, 835 Westwood, both of whom will direct groups of division leaders.

Salton said about 100 campaign workers were expected to attend the kick-off banquet. A victory dinner Feb. 19 will end the drive.

one YMCA in the nation.

THE Y ALSO schedules activities for 265 adult and junior swimmers, and for 48 bowlers in a fourth, fifth and sixth grade bowling league. Over 185 boys participate in G-Y activities at six grade schools.

Other Y-sponsored activities include Hi-Y groups at area high schools, classes in ballet, judo, yoga, golf and Latin American dance, and a ski club for grade school children. Twenty-one community groups use the YMCA's lounges and meeting rooms regularly.

In Basic Training

Richard A. Broegman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Broegman of 1832 Cole, Birmingham, began a nine-week basic training program Dec. 21 at the Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill.

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