

## Child Observation Classes Part of Parents' Education

"Eric doesn't stick with one activity more than a few minutes. I wonder why?"

"Marcia stands back and watches the others. How can I get her to enter into things?"

"I wish I could break my Tommy of the habit of grabbing other children's toys."

TEN WOMEN are seated in a school room in Baltimore, Md., looking through a window at a group of pre-school children playing. The watching women are the children's mothers. They are participants in a Child Observation Class led by a teacher or sometimes a child psychologist. They keep a careful record of each child's activities, which they discuss at the end of the observation session.

"Such classes are just one evidence of an accelerating interest on the part of parents in learning how to bring up children in an age of change," says Robert A. Luke, executive secretary of the National Association of Public School Adult Educators (NAPSAAE). "They are being conducted in Los Angeles, in Baltimore, in Amherst, N. Y. They can be held in any school where parents and teacher will get together and organize them." (NAPSAAE is a department of the National Education Association.)

and women are taking this course in Arlington, and similar courses are being offered in many other communities.

In Los Angeles, parents are stampeding into a class called "How to Help Your Child Learn." In the same city, mothers and fathers and their teenage youngsters recently attended a series of school-sponsored forums on such topics as "What Do Parents and Youth Really Expect of Each Other?" "The Rocket Hits Our Schools," and "The Pursuit of Excellence."

THIRTY PARENTS in Washington, D. C., recently attended classes with their elementary school youngsters and marched out at 3 p.m. with homework under their arms. The classes are being conducted in seven schools to see if failures and drop-outs in higher grades can be reduced by increased language instruction and parent participation.

One Washington, D. C., parent has given her unconditional approval to the whole concept of parent education. Mrs. John F. Kennedy last year enrolled young Caroline in a Washington cooperative nursery school, with the full understanding of her obligation to assist one a week and to attend with her husband a monthly parents' meeting.

PARENT EDUCATION, an increasingly popular area of adult learning, has many aspects and appeals to many parent interests and needs. In one school system, parents of seventh-graders attend evening classes designed to help them cope with that particular age-group. Parents of fourth, fifth and sixth-graders have similar problem-solving get-togethers. Some public schools provide leadership for parents without partners, divorcees, widows, widowers, to help them tackle difficulties they encounter in raising a child alone.

Classes for parents of gifted children provide help in solving their unique problems. Parents of deaf, blind, and retarded children need specialized guidance, and many are finding it in classes offered by their public schools.

AS PARENTS grow more concerned about their children's classroom achievements, a new kind of adult course is pulling standing room-only attendance. In Arlington County, Va., the adult director decided to start a class in which parents could learn the new way of teaching junior high mathematics. Parents would then be able to give more realistic homework help. The director expected a limited response. To his astonishment, the rush to enroll almost beat the doors down. Today, about 200 men

### City Administrator Attends Meeting

LATHRUP—Jerald D. Stone, city administrator, attended the 48th annual conference of the International City Managers' Association from Sunday-Wednesday at Philadelphia, Pa.

Stone has been a member of the association for four years and has participated in various management courses in personnel, finance and data processing at MSUO, sponsored by ICMA.

### Being Tested

Marine Lance Corporal Charles C. Beard, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hascle E. Beard of 18215 Birwood, Birmingham, has completed a week of testing and screening, at the Naval Air Technical Training Center, Memphis, Tenn. The tests and interviews administered will determine his eligibility for technical training in preparation for duties with a unit of the aviation branch of the Marine Corps.

## We're Proud of Our Women



THERE COULD BE A WINNER AMONGST THEM

### Stature, Not-Status!

Our Community's current search for the "Suburban Homemaker of the Year" gives everyone an opportunity to stop for a moment and think about our sense of values—about whether we have been setting too much store by material objects, objects which may have built-in obsolescence.

We would like to repeat one vital point regarding the search for the 1962 Suburban Homemaker:

It is not a contest seeking out beauty, wealth, social position. It is, on the contrary, planned as a recognition of and tribute to our community homemakers. We want to credit our homemakers for what they are and what they do. Material possessions are not the key to our quest. We are seeking stature, not status!

### Let's Scotch This Rumor

"Suburbia"—whatever the term may mean—has come in for some hard knocks in recent years. It has been portrayed as a false facade behind which neurotics frantically strive to keep up with one another in acquiring "status symbols". It has been painted as a frantic rat race of club meetings, private lessons for the children, swimming pools and car pools, as the epitome of conformity and community "togetherness".

The picture is overdrawn, but it has, of course, certain elements of truth in it.

It is the hope of The Eccentric and of the other Suburban Press Foundation newspapers throughout the country that through this search for "Homemaker of the Year" our values can be re-assessed, our goals re-defined and a truer picture of "Suburbia" shown.

### — and Here's How to Do It!

The stories of our community's homemakers, as they are coming into our office through nominations made by families and friends, are refuting the negative picture which has been painted.

We are proud of the stature of our homemakers, as it is emerging through these stories and "between the lines" of these stories.

Birmingham has suddenly become a town of talent scouts, and as the contest deadline approaches—midnight—Saturday, Oct. 20, a flurry of last minute entries are flooding across our desk.

So if you have a favorite lady in mind, don't delay! Act now!! Within the next two days she may win a trip to Chicago (paid for by The Eccentric) and be the national winner of a \$5,000 cash award.

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