

# The Eccentric Explores B'ham on a Hot, Summer Day



A SPECIAL TIME for summer school students at Seaholm High School is the 10-minute break between classes when they can relax and talk about their courses—or what

activities are scheduled for the afternoon. This year there are 1130 students enrolled in the summer program.

## Reporter's Comment Earns 'Special' School Assignment

By DAVE PHILPO  
Staff Writer

"Gee, I feel sorry for those poor kids who have to go to summer school."

This was my comment about three weeks ago as the mercury zoomed high into the 90's. Little was I to know then that the managing editor had overheard and was preparing a "special assignment" for me.

"Dave," he says, "I want you to go back to school Friday—find out what the students are doing—what they're wearing—why they're there—and come back and write a feature story."

I departed from the cool comfort of the air-conditioned office with a vague sense of foreboding, which was quickly reinforced by a blast of hot air as I opened the door.

"I am taking typing for extra credit," she said. "Not only am I learning something useful, but summer school also gives me something to do."

MICHELE EXPLAINED that the big difference between summer school at Seaholm and regular sessions at Marian is the presence of boys. Marian is an all-girl school.

Within five minutes after the break, the students were back in the classrooms and the halls were quiet once again.

As I walked down the deserted corridors, bits of various lectures came from the rooms:

"If you outlaw one political party this is the first step down the road to . . ."

"Use your lips as if you were going to kiss. Say: 'Betty Becker saw that the bit of butter had made her butter better.'"

AND FROM another classroom the vaguely familiar: "Je cherche un ami" and "Est-ce Jeanne?"

In a brief visit to the modern European history class, I talked with Kathy Killik, 2199 Derby Road, who was graduated from Seaholm in June.

"This is my first summer school," she explained. "This course is only offered in the summer and I want to bring up my average. I want to go to Central Michigan this fall."

Kathy likes the summer school program because "you go

at a faster rate, yet you have adequate time to get all the work done because you can devote all your time to one subject."

JIM SPEICHER, 8 Hickory Hollow, a senior at Groves next year, agreed.

"It's easier during the summer and it also gives me something to do and keeps me off the street." He is taking the course for advanced credit toward the time when he enrolls at Virginia Military Institute.

The modern history course will be helpful to Ken Bradburn, 1400 N. Glengarry, when he visits Europe with his parents later this summer.

"This way I can first read about the countries and then see them," he said.

Art Delvero, history instructor, admitted that it sometimes got too warm in the classrooms.

"For a few days last week, it was so hot that my students had difficulty concentrating on history and you can't really blame them. Most of the time, however, it isn't too bad."

LATER, FROM Charles Buell, director of the summer school, I learned that:

• Less than 40 per cent of the summer school students are repeating courses. Most are enrolled for advanced credit or enrichment work of some type.

• There are 1,130 students enrolled in the Seaholm program including youngsters from Groves, Seaholm, Brother Rice, Marian, Bloomfield Hills, West Bloomfield, Queen of Martyrs, Royal Oak, Dondero and Kimball and Barnum and Derby Junior High schools. There are no restrictions on who may attend.

• Percentage of failures are quite low in the summer. This is attributed to small classes with more individual attention, only one subject to concentrate on and the fact that some are repeating courses.

Classes, which last two hours, run from 8 to 10 a.m. and 10 to noon. The summer school began June 17 and will continue through Aug. 9.

(Note to editor: Thanks for the assignment. I enjoyed it.)



MAJORITY OF STUDENTS are not repeating courses in summer school but are taking the subjects for advanced credit toward college. Kathy Killik, a June graduate of Seaholm, plans to enter Central Michigan this fall. Art Delvero, instructor, explains a point about modern European history, a course which is offered only in summer school.

### TO CITY'S POSTMEN

## Funny Things Happen . . .

By LARRY EVOE  
City Editor

Work goes on pretty much the same during the hot summer months at the Birmingham Post Office.

Although the volume of mail is sometimes slightly reduced during July and August, the mail that does pass through the

office often requires more handling.

Postmaster Rollie Reese says much of the mail needs additional handling because people are out of town and either want the mail forwarded to a summer address or held until their return.

"Last summer there was a definite drop-off in the volume

of mail," Reese said, "but so far this year there is no sign of a let-up."

THE BIRMINGHAM Post Office's 175 employees work on a round-the-clock basis. The office serves between 75 and 80,000 persons.

The area includes Birmingham, part of Bloomfield Township, West Bloomfield Township, Beverly Hills, Southfield Township and a small segment of the city of Troy.

Although the nice weather should allow a letter carrier to complete his route faster this season works out, Reese said. "In the summertime people stop and talk to the carrier, whereas in the winter the carrier hardly ever sees the people on his route," declared Reese.

THE SUMMER months often find carriers accompanied on the daily trek by a group of the neighborhood youngsters or dogs.

Reese recalled that there was one letter carrier in Bloomfield Township that has a whole pack of dogs following him each day.

"A group of dogs will begin to follow him and after a little while a dog will drop out, maybe because he's afraid he won't find his way home, and another will join the group," Reese said.

THE MAILBOXES often produce unusual things in the summertime, Reese said.

"Boxes near drugstores often yield such things as ice cream cones, candy bars and other bits of food," he said.

UNUSUAL THINGS happen right in the post office itself, too, according to Reese.

Early this spring a possum wandered onto the dock in the rear of the building and walked into the sorting room.

Although most of Birmingham slows down and relaxes during the summer the mail "must go through."



OUTFITTED IN THEIR summer uniforms Birmingham postmen leave the post office each morning at about 8 a.m. The day begins early for the letter carriers. The men are on the job at 6 a.m. sorting and preparing the mail for distribution. Shown here are Ken Gillespie, William Allen and Joseph Bixion.

STUDENTS WERE changing classes as I arrived at Seaholm High School and the mass of young humanity flooded into the halls and spilled down the steps in front of the building.

I smiled a rather pretty young lady, standing at the curb, waiting for her mother to pick her up.

"Within a few minutes I learned that her name was Michele Grenier, she lived at 32343 Sylvan Lane, Birmingham, and she will be a senior at Marian next year."

"Why are you attending summer school, Michele?" I asked.

## It's 'Sunny' School

By ETHEL SIMMONS  
Staff Writer

Sunday school is more fun when it becomes Monday-to-Friday school for two weeks in the summer.

This is what kids and teachers too, discover at Birmingham-area churches scheduling vacation schools.

At the Congregational Church of Birmingham, which ended its school Friday, Mrs. Harry Wettlaufer, head of the primary department, explains: "The thing I like about vacation church school is that we can start and complete so many projects. You can't do as much in just one hour of Sunday school."

SHE POINTED to Mexican pinatas the children have been working on each day, building layers of papier-mache that will be colorfully completed by the time school's out.

Related clothes are also part of the fun of classes in the summertime.

Mrs. Wettlaufer was wearing light blue sneakers that matched the shade in her blue and white dress. Many of the children and one of the teen-aged girls assisting with the class wore Bermuda shorts.

Mrs. Ray A. Laitner, 1457 Cedar Bend Drive, Bloomfield Hills, is directing the entire school including nursery, kindergarten, primary and junior classes.

SHE RE-EMPHASIZED the time advantage of summer classes—that last from 9 until 11:30 a.m. (juniors meet from 9:30 a.m. to noon).

"Crafts is a minor part of Sunday school," said Mrs. Laitner. "We just don't have time."

But in these timeless days of summer, there are hours to spend in making pinatas, clay sculpture, drums from oatmeal boxes and other creative projects.

"We had a good summer music program," according to Mrs. Laitner. "Professional musicians appear at our classes who don't have time to do this during the regular year. They're singing in the choir then."

IT WOULDN'T be church school, even though vacation school, if the lessons didn't have a tie-in with a religious theme.

"Friends Around the World," the subject of the Congregational Church of Birmingham children's program, gives lessons in loving peoples of other nations and provides explanations of their individual customs.

Summer also means outdoor activities for church schools. When the nursery class was visited by The Eccentric, the preschoolers were playing and singing "The Farmer in the Dell" with their teachers on the side lawn at the church.

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