

RICKETY STAIRWAY IMPERILS CRIPPLES

Paul Revere School Building, Although in Use, Is Falling Into Decay

PROTEST FROM MOUNT AIRY

Officials of the Board of Education are constantly receiving complaints about the condition of school buildings. In rapid succession personal appeals and long petitions signed by whole communities are sent to the educational headquarters at Nineteenth and Ludlow streets.

One of the most confused and dangerous conditions to be found today exists in a school, not over old, in a good community, where the rooms are overcrowded and by special switching of classes it has been found necessary to accommodate five different classes in two rooms in one day.

The Belmont School has already been subjected to one serious fire, in 1916, but fortunately it occurred after school hours. Had the children been in the building there would have been a gruesome tragedy, for in the mass of seats and classrooms aisles are designed by signs as passageways from room to room.

Matters are made more serious by the presence of a large wooden stairway in the center of the building, surmounted by a glass skylight. Fire inspectors who went through the structure lately condemned it, for it would be a fire which would quickly convert the entire building into a raging furnace of flame in the event of a fire.

The space now used for the stairway used to be interior classrooms. They were so dark that in 1880 they were torn out and a stairway of wood installed. The hallway on each floor leads directly to the classrooms, and nothing would impede the flames that might find their way up the chimneylike space.

Every effort has been made by J. Wesley Foote, the principal, to improve conditions and keep as many children in school as possible. He has utilized every possible bit of space. He has turned two former classrooms into an auditorium in an effort to use that as a study hall and thus provide space in other rooms for recitation.

The entire building is antiquated and unfit for a modern school. There are twenty classrooms and twenty-nine classes a day are held in them. There are no corridors in the buildings, and all classes must pass through other rooms. As a result the 1356 children attending often experience difficulty en route.

594 Pupils on Part Time
So that the large number of children may be accommodated 594 are on part time. Classes begin at 8 A. M. and continue until 4 P. M. Certain classes are held while others are at lunch and the complicated system re-

CLASSROOM IN BELMONT SCHOOL



In this school, at Forty-first and Brown streets, the rooms are so overcrowded that five different classes must be accommodated each day in two rooms. Dilapidated condition of the school is considered a grave danger to pupils

quires that each day eighty-six different bells be rung announcing the end of periods and changes. The bells are controlled by an automatic clock, but if the clockwork fails it requires one teacher's entire time to ring them.

The Belmont School was built in 1808 at a cost of \$35,000. In 1900 six classrooms were added at a cost of \$38,500. It is listed on the plans of the board to be entirely rebuilt at a cost of nearly \$300,000.

Not far from this school is an old building now known as the Paul Revere School, at Thirty-sixth and Ludlow streets, where special classes for crippled children are held. Here every possible aid is given the unfortunates that have to be brought in automobiles and carried into the classrooms. Here the teachers enter into the spirit of the children and try to give the little handicapped ones all the cheer possible.

But the building—it has not the chance to afford help. It is of the old style and is fast decaying. The yard where the little ones hobble around is uneven and rough. The drinking water runs out of old-fashioned wooden hydrants. There are no fountains, so the child must bend down under the faucet.

Stairway Is Dangerous
In the rear there is a stairway into the yard which is fast wearing away. The children must use it as one of the exits. The steps are uneven, and mold and decay are evident in all the woodwork. The handrail is gone, broken off one day when a child on crutches slipped on the perilous steps.

The school was built in 1866 at a cost of \$13,481. It was remodeled in 1910, at a cost of \$2001, for use for the crippled children. It was known as the Newton School at first and then later as the Newton Annex. This last year it was renamed the Paul Revere and detached from the Newton School.

Residents of Mount Airy are incensed over conditions at the Mount Airy Public School, Allen lane east of Creshelm road, and are getting signatures to petitions today at all the polling places in the district.

Citizens Plan Protest
A citizens' committee will meet next Friday evening in Odd Fellows' Hall, and prepare to lay before the Board of Education a demand for better school facilities.

The present school building was erected about 1871 and has had no improvements except about 1902, when a few more windows were provided.

Dr. T. H. Carmichael is chairman of the citizens' committee which has drawn up a severe indictment of the school. The petition sets forth that the building has no corridors and that there is only an outside uncovered fire-escape, perilous in the winter months.

There is insufficient natural light in the antiquated structure, the petition continues, and artificial illumination is furnished by inadequate gas burners. There are no cloakrooms and clothing must be piled in the schoolrooms. The outside toilets are described as a menace to the health of pupils.

Many parents, the committee asserts, are sending their children to private schools rather than have them undergo the inconvenience and physical danger attendant on studying at the Mount Airy School.

Means of proper ventilation in the school are entirely lacking, the committee asserts further, and all the rooms are greatly overcrowded. The erection of new homes in that section will mean still more overcrowding, the committee points out. The school building has no retiring room for teachers and no assembly hall.

Of the 680 children on the rolls of the school 102 are on part time.

The committee meeting next Friday will be open to the public. Among the committee members are Dr. Zeller, Dr. P. W. Thomas, George G. Ziegler, Jr., Harold S. Sherts, Lewis E. Ferguson, W. Wainuman, Charles S. Sney, F. H. Krantz, E. Schacter, William Blackwood, Mahlon Pickett and Everett S. Elwood.

Sub-committees are gathering data on the exact number of children in the district sent to private schools because of conditions at the Mount Airy school, and information regarding the assessed valuation of property in the district served by the school.

The Board of Education, in its plans for new school buildings and improvements to existing schools, proposes the erection of a new building costing \$180,000 on the site of the Mount Airy school. Lack of money to finance the new building plans is retarding the board.

Tomorrow's article will tell of conditions in the Herbert school, at Frankford avenue, Foxford street, and the Camco school, at Salmon and Someract streets.

are greatly overcrowded. The erection of new homes in that section will mean still more overcrowding, the committee points out. The school building has no retiring room for teachers and no assembly hall.

Of the 680 children on the rolls of the school 102 are on part time.

The committee meeting next Friday will be open to the public. Among the committee members are Dr. Zeller, Dr. P. W. Thomas, George G. Ziegler, Jr., Harold S. Sherts, Lewis E. Ferguson, W. Wainuman, Charles S. Sney, F. H. Krantz, E. Schacter, William Blackwood, Mahlon Pickett and Everett S. Elwood.

Sub-committees are gathering data on the exact number of children in the district sent to private schools because of conditions at the Mount Airy school, and information regarding the assessed valuation of property in the district served by the school.

The Board of Education, in its plans for new school buildings and improvements to existing schools, proposes the erection of a new building costing \$180,000 on the site of the Mount Airy school. Lack of money to finance the new building plans is retarding the board.

Tomorrow's article will tell of conditions in the Herbert school, at Frankford avenue, Foxford street, and the Camco school, at Salmon and Someract streets.

BOYS FIND MAN'S BODY

Gloucester County Police Probe Mystery of Pond

Gloucester County authorities are investigating circumstances surrounding the finding of the body of Edward Nacy, fifty years old, of Swedesboro, in Mitchell's Pond late yesterday.

The body was found by two school boys while canoeing. It was almost hidden by thick underbrush and the upper part of the body was in the mud.

Nacy was released from the County Jail several days ago after serving a thirty-day sentence for being intoxicated. He lived with a sister, Mrs. Andrew Morrison.

TOOK AUTO AS "JOKE"

But Magistrate Can't "See" It as He Holds Three Youths

Three young men who said they took an automobile for a joke were held in \$900 bail each for court today by Magistrate Lindell at the Germantown police station.

They are Harry Gordon, nineteen years old, 6125 Musgrave street; James McMahan, eighteen, 5134 Wakefield street, and Mike Luppiacel, eighteen, 444 East High street.

According to Frank Coffey, owner of the automobile, the trio broke into his garage at 424 East High street last night and took a joy ride in his car. When he missed it he notified the police and District Detective McCarty is said to have arrested the three in the automobile.

"I can't see the joke," Magistrate Lindell remarked dryly. "Perhaps there will be a heavier dose of humor than I have in the higher court."

INCREASES THE BEAUTY OF THE SCENE. The reproduction of the photograph, whether it be of a local, a national or a foreign personage, place or incident, is increased in beauty by the soft sepia tones of the Photogravure section of the Sunday Public Ledger. "Make It A Habit."—Advt.

Office and Bank Supplies
For Xmas
Waterman's Fountain Pens
William Maran Company
329 Market Street

California via Golden State Route

Southern Pacific "Golden State Limited" from Chicago, Rock Island (La Salle Street) Station at 6:30 p. m. daily. Southern Pacific through "Golden State Limited" sleeping car from St. Louis, Rock Island (Union Station) at 9:03 p. m. daily. Connecting train for Southern Pacific "California" leaves St. Louis, Rock Island (Union Sta.) at 8:45 a. m. daily.

Arrive Los Angeles 1:10 p. m. 7:55 a. m. (3rd day)
San Diego 2:45 p. m. 2:45 p. m. (3rd day)

Apache Trail Highway

Detour via Globe and Phoenix, Roosevelt Dam and the Tonto Cliff Dwellings, at slight additional cost.

See the Imperial Valley, Carrizo Gorge and Old Mexico on the only through route to San Diego. Sleeper to Santa Barbara.

For reservations and illustrated booklet, address
F. T. BROOKS, General Agent
Southern Pacific Lines—Second Floor, 1602 Chestnut St., Tel. Spruce 6577, Philadelphia, Pa.

Southern Pacific Lines

The Book of Knowledge

The Children's Encyclopaedia

Wherever There Are Children
! BOOKS !

Taken From the Introduction to
THE BOOK OF KNOWLEDGE
by John H. Finley, LL. D.

Book Week has come again and with it the important task of selecting just the right kind of good, wholesome, delightful books for the boy or girl who is our greatest joy and chief anxiety. Shall we buy books that entertain or instruct—serious books or books for the leisure hours? First of all let us make it the kind of books that the children enjoy, for they will get little from any other. Surely it is THE BOOK OF KNOWLEDGE which stands first in the hearts of the children. Is your child still waiting for the greatest educational advantage?

THE BOOK OF KNOWLEDGE is the simplest system of universal knowledge. It is based upon one of the most important principles of education—continuity. Each new step is linked up with the one that has gone before and each new stage of learning with the facts and experiences of the child's daily life. This is only possible in a work written with that purpose ever in mind. It is the greatest gift to growing minds. Celebrate Book Week by placing THE BOOK OF KNOWLEDGE in your home.

A Book in the Hand
Is Worth Two
on the Shelf

THE BOOK OF KNOWLEDGE has a magnetism for the mind of the young which is unsurpassed, with its 10,000 striking pictures and its brief but authentic story articles. Hand a volume to a child and he is immediately lost to his surroundings. You come back at the end of an hour and he has not lifted his head. Children will not read books of information with the forbidding A to Z arrangement. It is like trying to make water flow uphill. They will read THE BOOK OF KNOWLEDGE by the hour and until a whole subject in simple form has been mastered.

Most books of reference need a key, the grown-up technical name of the thing that they wish to find, and even then it only unlocks one little compartment. There is little following-up of the subject possible without more knowledge and names than most children have. THE BOOK OF KNOWLEDGE has performed a great service in giving the children the foundations of knowledge and putting the keys to the World Wonderful into their hands.



Give your child the opportunity to read and study
THE BOOK OF KNOWLEDGE
15 minutes a day for 3 years and he will know more about the earth and life on it than the wisest men knew a few generations ago.

Can You Answer
Your Child's Questions
on Just One Subject?

What makes the wind whistle?
What changes the way of the wind?
Where does the wind begin?
Why can't I see the wind?
Where does the wind go to when it does not blow?
What is a whirlwind?
What are trade winds?

THE BOOK OF KNOWLEDGE answers every question a child can ask in the simple language which a child can understand. This remarkable work begins with the children's first eager questions and is developed from the simple to the more difficult by such easy steps that the child does not feel the gradual upward climb.

CUT THIS COUPON FOR FREE ILLUSTRATED BOOKLET

The New Education
THE BOOK OF KNOWLEDGE has made for the parent a wonderful selection of the important knowledge of the world in 16 Great Departments:
Nature Science History
Physiology Literature
Biography Astronomy
Art Poetry
Educational Occupations

This free booklet contains 82 pages, 130 pictures with colored plates and shows all of the Great Departments of Knowledge. The brief articles make plain the method of teaching the child the most difficult subjects quickly and easily, and the 16 three-minute talks to parents and teachers explain the use and meaning of the work in the home and school. Send for this FREE BOOK to help you decide. It will give the children a happy hour.



The Grolier Society,
606-7-8 Vandam Bldg., Philadelphia
Telephone, Filbert 3900

Please mail Free descriptive book containing specimen pages and illustrations from THE BOOK OF KNOWLEDGE with 16 three-minute talks by the Editor.

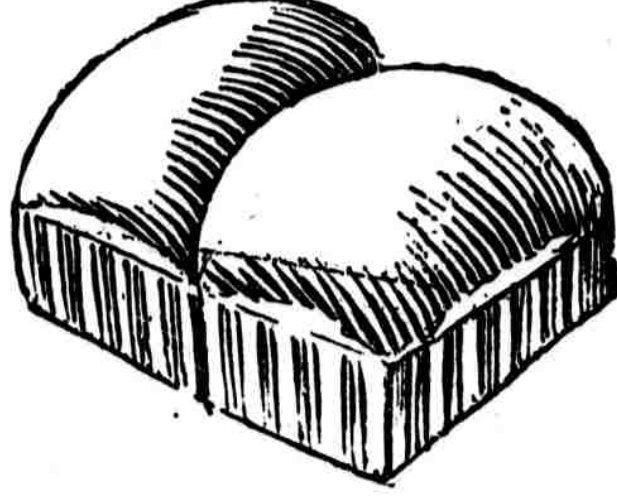
Name

Address

CLIP THE COUPON

GROLIER SOCIETY 1003 Market St. Philadelphia
TELEPHONE FILBERT 3900

A Sale of Gigantic Value to Thousands of Housewives!



Victor Bread

Regular Pan Loaf **5c**

THIS huge sale is proving a tremendous success over the entire acreage of four States. The demand absolutely proves what we have always maintained about the quality of this delicious golden-brown loaf of wholesomeness. Our three big bakeries are working night and day to supply the countless thousands of housewives who are demanding this quality loaf. Buy it today, tomorrow—always.

Bread Supreme Extra Big Loaf **9c**
Our master bakers' masterpiece. Why pay 12c or 14c for a loaf if its size, when Bread Supreme is only nine cents?

Sold only in American Stores—everywhere in Phila. and throughout the principal cities and towns of Penna., New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland

