

IT'S A PROBLEM IN ENERGY

We find it difficult to dismiss as unimportant the epidemic of disobedience which has been breaking out recently in schools hereabouts.

First, the evidence:

ITEM: In Wilkes-Barre the student body of a high school, irate because the school board presumed to replace a popular substitute teacher, marched defiantly out of the school and along central city streets to the supervising principal's office where it submitted its demands en masse.

ITEM: In Dallas the pupils of the high school planned to conduct a "Senior Skip Day", when all students who wished would cut an entire afternoon's classes.

ITEM: In Plymouth three boys broke into the high school, stole master copies of an approaching examination and, before they were exposed and expelled, were selling the questions for a modest sum per set.

ITEM: In one school, where a trustful entrepreneur installed a nickel record-playing machine, or "Jook-Box", the collector, turning up after several weeks for his loot, found about \$2 in coins and a little more than \$4 in slugs.

We are willing to believe that there was no element of viciousness about any of these incidents. Most of the pupils involved were likable youngsters, of good families. What they did was silly, but not criminal.

On the other hand there was nothing honorable, manly or reasonable about any of these outbursts. We can sympathize with rebellion when it has a cause, but with the possible exception of the case of the substitute teacher, the motives behind these incidents were purely selfish.

It is easy to prove that these explosions of juvenile effervescence were characterized by a common disrespect for order, lack of appreciation for a free education, discourtesy toward older and wiser persons and, in two instances, downright dishonesty.

Scolding the erring pupils provides poor satisfaction. It is scarcely more reasonable to throw the responsibility upon the teachers. Both pupils and teachers must share the blame, but the real hope for an answer to the puzzle rests with parents, not as individuals, but as a group.

With the development of the public school system, the parent has found it easier to evade his share of the responsibility for the education of his offspring. Parents forget that education is a process which cannot be confined in a school room.

You cannot throttle the energy which drives youth toward new experiences. All you can hope to do is to direct it into more admirable outlets than student strikes, examination thefts, "Senior Skip Days", and counterfeiting nickels.

The facilities for fun in Dallas are limited. If the energy of youth is to be directed, if an environment conducive to the growth of honor, virtue and intellect is to be provided, the community must awaken to its responsibility.

The churches, the borough officials and the school officials must work together in providing recreation and opportunities for the mental development of young people. We need a library, a swimming pool, regulated coasting areas, ping pong tournaments, a Little Theatre, a community hall and more, and the answer is not that "such things cost too much money."

As for the youngsters themselves, we suggest they devote some of their excess energy to the task of helping their elders to achieve some of these objectives promptly. We'd like to have some letters from these young people, offering suggestions.

Old Street Car Station Is Being Remodelled

The old street car station on Main Street, Dallas, was leased this week by Howard and Rjssel DeRemer, who will establish The Only Radio Shop in the building.

CENTERMORELAND BABY IS NAMED FOR YOUNG MOTION PICTURE STAR

Mr. and Mrs. George Schoonover of Centermoreland have named their one-month-old baby daughter Gloria Jean, not only because they like Gloria Jean Schoonover, Scranton's child star, but because it's a pretty name anyway.

POST SCRIPTS

Pencil Marks on Brittle Copy Paper

The expose that never won a Pulitzer prize... stumbling over dead cows in a freight car with a politician who believed the cattle were tubercular... getting tar on a good pair of trousers climbing to the roof of a shack at 4 a. m. to watch cows being slaughtered... writing our stories for a week on a typewriter planted back of the men's toilet because city officials were trying to subpoena us...

OUR FAVORITE STORY...

about the mongrel and the poodle we used to see every morning at 2 when we walked home... one morning the mongrel was in the gutter, dead, and the poodle was sitting beside him cocking his head and pawing the carcass... when we came near the poodle growled and bared his teeth... protecting his dead pal... at dawn the police came and shot the poodle and threw both carcasses on the dump... pleasant memories of Galli-Curci... how we tried to escape the assignment because we'd been out in the rain all afternoon... our shoes were muddy and our pants were baggy... how she postponed her dinner to talk to us... how aghast we were when she walked into the room, gave us the only big chair,

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THE DALLAS POST

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER, A COMMUNITY INSTITUTION

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CIVIC PROGRAM FOR 1940

- 1. More community spirit in the Dallas area. 2. A concrete highway from Dallas to Tunkhannock. 3. Centralization of police and fire protection. 4. Better fire protection and lower insurance rates. 5. More sidewalks.

League Declares Quarrel Ended; Dissolves Unit

Lahr's Group Takes New Name; Smalley Invites Members Into Branch 22

The State Executive Committee of the American Progressive League washed its hands this week of any responsibility for the actions of the group formerly known as Carverton Branch, No. 28, of the League, which has withdrawn from the parent body and changed its name to the United Citizens' League.

"I hope this is the last we hear of this matter," commented Robert J. Smalley, State secretary, in announcing that the branch, which has been engaged in a fight with Kingston Township Branch, No. 22, for several months over territorial rights, had severed its connections with the League.

In a formal statement to The Post, Mr. Smalley said:

"Withdrawal of the Carverton-Franklin Township Branch, No. 28, from the League, and their decision to become known as the United Citizens' League, divorce that branch from any participation in the activities of the American Progressive League, Inc.

"The State Executive Committee will no longer be responsible for the actions of the group formerly known as Branch 28, which is now non-existent, the only recognized branch of the League being the Kingston Township Branch, No. 22. All debts of the former Branch 28 must be referred to the new organization known as the United Citizens' League.

"The State Executive Committee urges all members of the expelled branch who wish to remain in the Progressive League to attend the meetings of Kingston Township Branch, No. 22, every Wednesday night. They will be accepted for membership if they make request to Paul Hughes, president of Branch 22, or to Jesse Jones, secretary, at any of their meetings."

The quarrel began when Branch 28, headed by Herbert Lahr, began meeting in Kingston Township, which the League insisted was the exclusive membership territory of Branch 22. Mr. Lahr claimed his group could find no meeting place in its own membership area.

Dallas Escapes Meningitis Scare

No Cases Here, Despite Great Number Nearby

Although Luzerne County's year-old epidemic of cerebro-spinal meningitis, which has taken 13 deaths among 33 cases this year, has been taking its toll throughout the county, not one case has been reported in the Dallas area since the first outbreak last winter.

John Yaple, State health officer, commented on the unusual situation this week. The last case of spinal meningitis in this section was more than two years ago. A case of infantile paralysis was reported several months ago, but it was mild.

There are only three cases of contagion now in the area covered by Mr. Yaple, one case of scarlet fever and two cases of whooping cough. The nearest spinal meningitis case to Dallas was reported last Fall at Sweet Valley.

Netherlands Ready For Nazis, Dutch Visitor Declares

Alkemade Is Making Tulip-Selling Tour

If Germany's military strategy is to strike the Allies through the Netherlands, she may find that her delay has been fatal. Unprepared last September, the Netherlands are now ready to hurl back any Nazi attack, according to George Alkemade of the Hague, Holland, whose annual tulip-selling trip brought him to this section this week.

A vivacious, tall, blonde man, whose English, thanks to 20 years of visiting the United States, has scarcely any accent, Mynherr Alkemade has been in Germany, England, France and Italy within the last four months. He reached this country in mid-January, arriving aboard the Italian liner, Rex, after a trip through Belgium, France and Italy.

Since September, Mr. Alkemade says, the Netherlands has flooded great areas along the border, laid down fortifications and constructed tank traps. It has been a costly plan, because the engineers have

QUICK ON THE DRAW



Add Woolbert, Jr.

... who plays the part of "Lucky" Woolbert, a gun-slinging young out-cast, in "West of the Rio", the play to be produced by Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Company on March 7 and 8 in Dallas Borough High School. Well known for his athletic prowess, Mr. Woolbert will doff his uniform for sombrero, chaps and a holstered six-gun.

Transplant Town To Justify Title

Drama Is Now West Of The Rio, Not The Pecos

A frantic search for a new title for the play to be produced by Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Company on March 7 and 8 came to an end this week, but the committee almost had to apply for a WPA project to change the course of the Rio Grande for the sake of theatrical honesty.

The original title, "West of the Pecos", was dropped in a flurry of embarrassment after Roswell Murray tipped the amateur play-writers off to the fact that Zan Gray had used that title for one of his novels. The only other river that didn't sound like an Indian herb medicine was the Rio Grande, but that river, alas, is Southwest of Texas.

Then someone, poring over maps, discovered that in one place the Rio Grande actually makes a dip, and that there is one tiny bit of Texas which is really "West of the Rio." It was good enough for the committee. That was the title printed on the tickets and posters which went out this week and Sunday, the cowtown in the play, was moved to South Texas.

Mrs. Harold Rood, director, began rehearsing her cast on Monday night. Arthur Dungey, chairman of the ticket committee, began distributing tickets on Tuesday. Calvin McHose, chairman of the general committee, will make a report on the progress of plans at the regular meeting of the fire company tonight in the hose house.

No 'Hookey Playing' In Dallas This Week

Chief of Police Walter Covert, who had an eye peeled all week for any recurrence of the "hookey playing" episode which Dallas Borough school officials nipped in the bud last week, reported there were no cases of truancy uncovered this week. There were a number of absences, but they were excused by illness. Chief Covert has been making the round of likely places along Main Street every day on the look-out for truants.

Year-old Murder Mystery Is Revived As Police Deny Winchell's Forecast; FBI Agent Playing Lone Hand In Case

Rumors that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has decided to intervene in the unsolved Margaret Martin murder mystery were confirmed yesterday by reliable reports from the Centermoreland and Keelersburg sections concerning a man who displayed the credentials of an FBI agent in questioning residents there during the last two weeks.

Tight-lipped police, who adopted a policy of denying everything, were of little help in squashing the rumors, many of them sheer fantasy, which flooded this section after Walter Winchell, close friend of J. Edgar Hoover, FBI chief, broadcast last Sunday night his prediction that an arrest in the year-old case is imminent.

G-Man's Presence Confirmed

State police and the district attorney promptly ridiculed Winchell's forecast, but newspapermen uncovered enough information to satisfy them that an FBI investigator came to this section about three weeks ago from the Philadelphia branch to make a study of the case. FBI Chief Hoover declined to comment on the reports. He did not deny them, however.

It was near Keelersburg, 12 miles from Dallas, that the pretty Sunday school teacher's body was found, a few days after her disappearance from her home in Kingston in December, 1938. The investigator who visited there made no attempt to hide his identity, residents said.

There was no inkling of what had happened to arouse the investigation from its lethargy. The clue may have come over the tapped telephone wire to the home of William Martin, an uncle of the murdered girl. Police denied that, too, but a close friend of the Martins told a different story. He said the phone was tapped shortly after the girl disappeared. Since then, authorities have listened in on many of the

calls made by fanatics or sympathetic friends. A buzz which followed the usual ring signaled to the Martins that the connection had been made and occasionally they heard an unknown voice on the wire after the conversation had been ended.

Tip Sent Police To Dallas

Through such calls police received a number of tips, all of them useless until now. One call sent police to an address in Scranton, but the man named as the criminal was dead. Another one was from a woman who described a man she saw on the morning Miss Martin disappeared, standing at Kingston Corner newspaper photos of the victim. Another call sent police to Honey-suckle Inn, near Dallas, only to find that for the last five years the old inn has been the home of a Wilkes-Barre newspaperman whose reputation is beyond reproach.

Many of the stories circulated this week, such as the one which had the Martins receiving 32 calls from the murderer, were obviously false. Another fantasy had Attorney Miner Aylesworth of Sweet Valley receiving a letter from the FBI, asking his co-operation. Attorney Aylesworth, who assured The Post he has no connection with the Martin case, couldn't even suggest how the story might have originated.

Council Studies Fire Protection

Supervisors Invited To Conference On Problem

A conference of Dallas Borough councilmen and Dallas Township commissioners will be held on Friday, March 16, to discuss the request of Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Co. for funds to maintain the volunteer company.

Harry Ohlman, chairman of a committee named by the firemen, addressed council at its meeting on Wednesday night, asking for cooperation of the two governing bodies in sharing the cost of fire protection.

At the same meeting council extended an invitation to Robert Hall Shaig, general manager of Dallas-Shavertown Water Co., to confer with council next Thursday at 2 to discuss steps necessary to supply the fire plugs and a volume of water adequate for fire protection.

At the request of Wilkes-Barre City, council agreed to certify an amount up to \$150 in case any needy person from the borough is sent to the Wilkes-Barre Contagious Hospital.

A committee from Daddow-Isaacs Post, American Legion, having as members John Thomas, Paul Shavener and Joseph Adamez, asked council for \$100 a year to pay rent for rooms for the club's meetings. Council appropriated 50 for the purpose.

Secretary William Niemeier was instructed to ask Dr. W. F. Davison if the State Board of Health can take over the duties of the Borough Board of Health.

Wife-Beater Gets One Year In Jail

Lake Man's Brutality Angers Policemen, Judge

A burly Harvey's Lake man who thrashed his 130-pound wife, broke her nose, stripped her clothes from her body and bruised her so she had to be treated at General Hospital was fined \$25 and sentenced to a year in the County Prison on Wednesday.

"You're lucky your wife isn't my sister," Judge B. R. Jones told James Parkinson, 39, "or there would be two people in the hospital."

Parkinson was arrested on Tuesday night by Chief of Police Ira C. Stevenson and Assistant Chief Fred Swanson of Harvey's Lake police. When Swanson, who arrived at the Parkinson home first, reached the scene he found Mrs. Parkinson, nude, lying in a pool of blood on the floor. Spots of blood about the room gave evidence of the brutality of the beating she had undergone.

"The room was like a slaughterhouse," Chief Stevenson commented. Parkinson showed argument at first, but the obvious anger of the policemen silenced him and he submitted to arrest peacefully and was locked up over night. On Wednesday he was given a hearing before Squire Henry Davis and then taken to court for trial.

On Sunday night, Chief Stevenson said, Parkinson had beaten his wife and in turn been thrashed by his wife's brother. The brother, who lives in Alden, came to the Lake again Tuesday night and took the two children, aged 3 and 8, to Wyoming, to the home of Mrs. Parkinson's mother. The Parkinsons moved to Harvey's Lake from Wyoming last October and lived in the Sunset section.

Parkinson had been paid on Tuesday, but had no money when he reached home. He was under the influence of liquor, Chief Stevenson said.

George Coles' Skull Fractured In Fall

George Coles, 85, Dallas R. D. 3, was admitted to General Hospital at 11 Wednesday morning, suffering from a possible fracture of the skull. He received the injury when he fell down a flight of stairs at his home.

Dallas Township Bonds Sold To Emma Clark

Twenty \$1,000-dollar bonds, authorized by Dallas Township voters last November to finance construction of a high school annex, have been sold to Emma Clark of Kingston, whose bid was \$1,001 per bond.

\$1,400,000 Spent For Relief Each Week In State

Carson Sees Job Drive As Solution To Vicious Unemployment Problem

A challenge to the men and women of the Dallas section to help Governor Arthur H. James find a solution to a problem which is costing Pennsylvania taxpayers \$1,400,000 a week was delivered by William P. Carson of Philadelphia in his address at the Rotary Club's Job Mobilization Rally in Dallas Borough High School auditorium on Wednesday night.

"Pennsylvania has within itself the power to lift itself out of the depression," Mr. Carson declared. "The answer to this crying need is the Job Mobilization Campaign—a statewide effort to create job opportunities for the unemployed and thus cut unemployment, relief and taxes."

In emphasizing the necessity for swift action, Mr. Carson, who is manager of financial relations for the Federal Housing Administration and a member of the State job committee, gave a graphic analysis of the unemployment situation in Luzerne County.

"On November 15, 1939, when the Job Mobilization Campaign started," he said, "there were 55,195 persons, including 15,945 employables, on relief in Luzerne County. There still are 51, 622 persons, including 14,687 employables, on relief in the county, and it costs the taxpayers \$119,731 a week to support them.

2,500 New Jobs Found

"Through efforts of the county committee, 2,500 job opportunities have been created in the county in the seven weeks for which reports have been filed. This is 3.4 per cent of the total number of unemployed in the county."

In the last seven years, Mr. Carson said, a total of \$36,007,730 has been spent for general assistance in Luzerne County alone. Relief expenditures in the state in that time are six times the total assessed valuation of the taxable real estate in Luzerne County.

"If this vicious cycle of unemployment, relief and taxation is to be halted," declared Mr. Carson, "men and women of the State must do their part to create new job opportunities. That is the purpose of Governor James' Job Mobilization Campaign, which, with the help of 10,000 volunteers in all parts of the State, is utilizing every means of putting people back to work on private payrolls."

He urged his audience to encourage modernization and renovating of homes as one means of providing employment and explained how such improvements can be financed under the FHA plan, which enables the home-owner to borrow money and repay it in easy installments.

Women's Help Sought

Miss Ann Grall, who is associated with the women's division of the county Job Committee, explained how housewives can help by employing domestics. There is a dearth of trained domestic help, she said, and women who take untrained girls in their homes and teach them will be performing a great service, and preparing the girls for better-paying positions.

C. A. Albert, chairman of the meeting, introduced M. E. Kuchta, chairman of Rotary's Job Mobilization Committee, and a number of the women who are working with Mrs. G. A. A. Kuehn and Mrs. Henry Disque in the women's division in this section.

Reunion With Rives

When Rives Matthews became editor and publisher of The Somerset News of Princess Anne, Md., about a year ago he regretfully suspended his weekly column in The Post, so he could devote all his time to his new venture.

Under Mr. Matthews' editorship, The News has blossomed bravely, and this week the inimitable writings of the crusading Mr. Matthews appear again in The Post. His column, "Ricochets", joins the select company of Edith Blez, javie aiche, Jo Serra and F. R. Turner today on Page Three.