



MIKE WAITES developed the domestic instinct when his class at Robert Little made a chocolate cake one afternoon. Looking on are Michael Fletcher and Cathy Robinson. (Staff Photo)



KEEPING A CLASSROOM PET teaches responsibility and respect for animals. Vicky Taylor and Donna Darby play with a tame rat who lives in a cage at the back of their room. (Staff Photo)

A learning environment in today's classrooms

Today's classrooms are breaking the tradition of teacher-domination and textbook learning. Education is becoming a total environmental experience emphasizing children's individual interests and challenging the individual imagination.

Teachers are encouraged to set up interest corners with things like plants, fish, small animals or rock collections. Spontaneous lessons may arise from the things which the children bring into the classroom on their own initiative.

Many classes have specific times set aside as project periods when students are allowed to work on whatever they choose. They may be on the floor, sit in groups, or work by themselves in

a free atmosphere. Discussion groups are becoming an intricate part of education. During such sessions, the children are free to compliment, criticize or make suggestions for the improvement of projects and lessons.

The role of the teacher is more demanding than ever in the new system. He no longer merely attempts to pour knowledge into children's heads. He must act as a guide to learning, providing the direction and materials that will enable the child to discover things for himself.

In the new philosophy, it is not enough for a child to watch someone else. Children must be involved in a real situation and devise their own ideas and solutions.

EBENEZER

Christmas babe adds happy note to concert

By Mrs. R. McLean

The combined Sunday-School and choir concert featured soft music with Mrs. J. Kitching on organ and Sue Ward on piano. Choir selections were "The Stars Bright", "Hear the Joyous Tidings", "Sleep Holy Babe" and "Here We Come A Carolling." The Junior Choir sang "The Friendly Beasts" and "The Angels' Song."

Soloists included Willie Wild, Shirley Moore, Paula and Jay Kitching and Sandra and Laurie Early. "A Christmas Acrostic" by Mrs. Joss's class had to have some members take extra parts because, unfortunately, Mr. Joss's only sister passed away that day. Sympathy is extended to the family, especially Mrs. Joss Sr.

Conservation men

Plan to move ahead by buying dam land

A plan to move ahead with the Grand River Conservation Authority's long-delayed flood control programs will be presented to authority members early next year.

The proposal is to start buying land for the five dams proposed in the \$30,000,000 program by taking advantage of a new scale of grants offered by the Ontario government.

The province will pay bigger grants to authorities prepared to spend more of their own money on conservation programs. Up to now, most projects qualified for 50 per cent grants.

By including \$2,000,000 for land purchases in its 1969 budget, the authority will qualify for a 65 per cent grant, not only on the cost of land for dams, but on all other work that would have qualified for the previous 50 per cent grants.

Authority chairman James S. Bauer of Waterloo, said the net cost of the land will probably be about the same to member municipalities. Although provincial and federal grants for the dam project would pay 75 per cent of the cost, land values in the area of the dams are rising at about 10 per cent a year.

The dams are proposed for West Montrose, Everton, Guelph, Hespeler and Ayr. They are needed for flood protection, summer flow in the river and recreation.

The Ontario government approved the program about two years ago and agreed to

contribute 37 1/2 per cent of the cost. Approval of a 37 1/2 per cent grant from the federal government has been awaited since. Technical discussions about the five dams have been going on between federal and provincial officials.

The total proposed budget amounts to \$5,108,798 of which \$3,464,960 will come from provincial grants. The rest will be raised by:

1. The general municipal levy calculated on equalized assessment which will raise \$509,805. This is about \$1.14 a head.

2. A special flood control levy to raise \$700,000. This will be paid by the 74 municipalities in the watershed on a cost-sharing formula based on benefits received from the five dams.

3. Special municipal levies totalling \$392,745 for such projects as valley land purchases and local parks which are paid for by benefitting municipalities.

Mr. Bauer said the land buying programs for the dams will be spread over about five years.

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STAGING A RADIO SHOW in Mr. Wheeler's grade six class at M. Z. Bennett, enabled these four girls to use their imagination and co-operate for a common goal. Cathy Quinn as Fruity was news announcer, Janie Drinkwater as Dutie took commercials and sports, Charlene Hubbs as Sunny was operator, and Debbie Funk as Brook was the engineer. The program of course, was Fruity-Dutie-Sunny and Brook. (Staff Photo)



CONSTRUCTING A SCALE MODEL of M. Z. Bennett school complete with new additions, will keep Sharon Gillespie, Carol Grant, Alan Simoni and James Davison busy for weeks to come. The grade six pupils are working from actual architect's blueprints of the school. (Staff Photo)

OBITUARY

Teacher for 30 years Mrs. Gordon Dennis dies

Helen Margaret (Ralston) Dennis passed away in Lethbridge, Alberta, on Dec. 14 at the age of 51.

She is survived by her husband, Gordon Dennis, daughters, Lynne at home and Colleen of London; her parents Mr. and Mrs. James Ralston of Acton, one grandchild, Patricia and four sisters, Mrs. John (Amy) Cook of Acton, Mrs. Claude (Thelma) Hume of Parry Sound, Mrs. Edward (Muriel) Gamble of Bramalea and Mrs. Maurice (Shirley) Roberts, Milton. She was predeceased by brother Ronald, who was killed while serving in Germany in 1957.

Mrs. Dennis was born in South River on Jan. 30, 1917, and attended South River public and continuation schools and North Bay Normal School.

She taught for over 30 years in the Ontario school system, retiring in June, 1968, and last August they moved to Lethbridge.

She was a member of church organizations, the Teachers' Federation and the Junior Red Cross.

Funeral service was at the church of Latter Day Saints, Lethbridge, with Bishop R. Wotmought officiating and elders of the church as pallbearers.

Interment was in Archmount Memorial Gardens.

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