

The Georgetown Herald, Wednesday, Feb. 23rd, 1949

THE GEORGETOWN HERALD

serving the communities of
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The Editor's Corner

SCOUT AND GUIDE WEEK

Boy Scout and Girl Guide Week is being celebrated from February 20-27 with appropriate ceremonies in Georgetown and Norval, where these organizations flourish. There is no finer training for our young people and those adults who give so freely of their time and talent are to be commended. The value of their work is noted in the following article which appeared in a recent edition of the London Free Press.

Colonel Wallace Bunton of Toronto, territorial prison officer of the Salvation Army, declares that the answer to the teen-age crime problem does not lie in psychiatry or psychology, but in the home, in the school, and in the church. During an interview in London this experienced and understanding officer asserted that it is too late to try to control children after they are fifteen or sixteen. The needed training must be given when they are much younger. To call upon the use of psychiatry and psychology by the time the children are teen-age and already delinquents is to put the cart before the horse.

In the same way to send a boy to a reformatory or a training school at that age, to teach them a trade, is useless. This is basic training which should have been supplied much earlier. It all comes back to the home which is "a city within a city, a country within a country, a world within a world," an appropriate description. Declaring that the North American educational system was the best in the world, nevertheless he advocated a survey of all schools teaching sixteen-year-olds with a view to discover which pupils have the quality of mind to permit them to follow successful professional careers. And those lacking such mind quality should be taught trades. It might be an excellent plan but the task of saying who is to be in the professions and who is to have a trade would be a most unpalatable duty.

It was good to hear Colonel Bunton speak so highly of the Boy Scout movement. In all his long experience, he said, he had only met two jail inmates who had been Boy Scouts. The Scout movement, he declared, was an example to all other groups of this kind, and if they have been able, as they have, to prevent juvenile delinquency and teen-age crime, other groups could do it. In this connection, the Scout organization is finding some difficulty in having an adequate supply of leaders. The Scout ethics and training are one of our most potent defences against Communism and it is to be hoped that leaders will be available in the future as they have been in the past.

No doubt, as Colonel Bunton says, the remedy for these juvenile errors lies in the home, in the school and in the church. The crux of the problem, however, is how to bring about the necessary changes in these three units so that the training of very young children will be supplied. It is an old but true axiom that example is better than precept, that it is better to show the child by one's own life how to behave, than by preaching and speaking and ordering. Which means that the parent, the teacher and the priest must exemplify the good life at all times — an imposing moral duty to set before them.

The problem of teen-age crime is a moral problem.

It demands active and self-sacrificing leadership. If as the Salvationist says psychiatry and psychology are not the answer — in so far as they may be applied to the children — they still may have a great deal of value as applied to all adults whose duties include the training of the young mind.

WHAT'S NEW . . . ?

This week another new column is added to the Herald for the enjoyment of readers. Under the heading "What's New?" Mrs. Harry Lewis will keep us in touch with the new wrinkles in merchandising and particularly with what she notes in local stores. While this column will occasionally mention specific merchants, there is no paid advertising involved, and the writer has been given "carte blanche" to use what she considers newsworthy. At the same time, mention of merchants will not be restricted to those who advertise in the Herald.

By way of introduction, Mrs. Lewis lives on King Street in the large house built a few years ago by Victor Diggins. Mr. Lewis commutes to Toronto, where he is an insurance agent. They have two children, Peter, a student at Pickering College, Newmarket, and Suzanne. Mrs. Lewis, who has used her home on many occasions for entertaining large groups of the neighbourhood children, has taken an active part in the organizing committee for the Recreational Council, serving as secretary of this committee.

POT POURRI

Bob Jones of Meadow Glen Growers, his wife and son David have moved into the new house in "The Pines" on Maple Avenue built last year by K. M. Langdon. Mr. and Mrs. William Dwyer and baby are occupying their former home at the park entrance. Bridge was very much to the fore on Friday when Mrs. Syd Orr and Mrs. W. E. Nodwell opened their homes for a large party put on by St. George's W.A. to raise money for the church Building Fund. . . Main Streeters raised their eyebrows one day last week as they saw a truck proceed from the church corner to the bank laying a full load of sand. Guess they weren't half as surprised as the unfortunate trucker who discovered the disappearance of his load only when the last grain was dropped. . . "Annie" says farewell this week and she will be missed by the many who have followed her weekly column. A new writer will take over the "Chatting" column next week. . . As an experiment, a new column "Over the Fence" appears this week, synopsis-ing items from district weeklies. If you like it, tell the editor and it will become a regular feature. . . Along the Boards was missing last week due to the death of the writer's father. "Steamboat" is back on the job again in this issue. . . The Lions Club St. Patrick's dance is the next big social event of the season and a record crowd is expected. . . The Modern Aires will play and the club plans to have an entertainer during the intermission.

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