

Disagrees Adult Status For Age 16 in Court

Magistrate Kenneth M. Langdon of Georgetown, Halton County's senior magistrate last week spoke out against the Ontario law which compels courts to try 16 year old youths as adults, regardless of their mental and emotional lack of maturity.

"This court has some concern about the importance this law attaches to the sixteenth birthday," he told a Burlington high school student charged with the theft of auto radios, radios and parts. "In Ontario you are treated as an adult, in Quebec and British Columbia you would still be treated as a juvenile. If juveniles plead guilty, no criminal record is attached to them."

The court believes that branding youngsters as hardened criminals at this age is wrong. I know it is wrong. But it is the law."

The magistrate also found



MAGISTRATE K. M. LANGDON fault with the law that terminates parental control of children who have reached the age of 16. He took pleas of not guilty

on each of three charges. The youth was charged with stealing three auto seats from a car, which had been left at a garage for repairs. He was also charged with stealing a portable radio and also a number of auto parts.

The accused youth gave police a statement admitting the theft of the articles. His father and a former employer testified to his good character.

Magistrate Langdon refused to register a conviction against the student, but ordered that he be held in custody for one week for judgment, and for preparation of a probation report on the boy's background.

The magistrate admitted that remanding the youth in custody without convicting him was an abnormal procedure but he said he feels it is the only way the court believes it can do justice to the accused in the long run.

The magistrate has been criticized at various times by defence lawyers for his procedure of remanding accused persons in custody without registering a conviction. It has been

8000 Increase in County Population in Last Year

The population of Halton county continued to increase this year, but the rise was less than in 1967.

Figures released by county assessor Robert Boach shows the population this year increased by 8,079 to a total of 189,731. This represents an increase of 5 per cent compared with 6.05

per cent last year. The total increase last year was 9,197.

Georgetown showed the most spectacular increase due mainly to rapid residential development. The town's population increased by 1,905 this year, to 14,528. The increase in 1967 was 958.

Following are the population figures for 1967 and 1968, followed by the increase and percentage growth in brackets.

Acton: 4,429 to 4,604 (175 — 3.9 per cent)
Burlington: 71,781 to 76,075 (up 4,294 — 5.9 per cent)

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Georgetown: 12,623 to 14,528 (up 1,905 — 15.1 per cent)

Milton: 6,870 to 6,726 (up 56 — .84 per cent)

Oakville: 55,218 to 56,182 (up 934 — 1.7 per cent)

Esqueving Twp.: 8,037 to 8,605 (up 568 — 7.1 per cent)

Nassagaweya Twp.: 2,804 to 3,041 (up 147 — 5.1 per cent)

The only municipalities which didn't have a greater increase than in 1967 were Burlington and Oakville. Last year, Burlington had an increase of 6,323 while Oakville's population increased in 1967 by 1,237. Increases in the other municipalities last year were: Acton, 76; Georgetown, 958; Milton, 50; Esqueving, 436; Nassagaweya, 90.

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Happy Day Nursery Serves Pre-Schoolers

Happy Day Nursery School has put a new look on the old stone house at the west end of Limehouse.

As early as 7.30 in the morning, children begin arriving to spend their week-days in the spacious playrooms and enclosed backyard. Some stay as late as 5.30, depending on when their parents finish work.

Under the ownership of Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Regent, the school began operation this fall with a government license and a staff of three. Mrs. Regent was formerly in charge of the teaching staff at the Jack and Jill school in Brampton. Assisting her are Mrs. L. Pankovin of Georgetown and Mrs. Rose of Limehouse.

As a nursery school, the staff is not allowed to teach the children regular school work.

The program includes sing songs, story time, simple crafts and playtime under the willows outside. Lunch is served at noon followed by a rest period, before resuming afternoon activities.

Mrs. Regent firmly believes that children who attend nursery school are at a definite advantage when they enter the regular school system.

"We can help them with their co-ordination and improve their powers of memorization and their attention span," says Mrs. Regent. "Some of the children come from families with several children and the mothers simply can't devote too much time to the child. In nursery school they learn to share and get along with others."

Discipline can be a problem with young children. "The first week it was wild," admits Mrs. Regent.

She solved the problem with a 'naughty chair' where the

guilty party must sit while the others go on with the regular program. Missing the activity work, wond rs and now that the children have settled into the routine, they have very little trouble.

The girls and boys range from three to five years old. At present the school has an enrollment of 20 from the surrounding countryside and Georgetown. One little girl goes out two days a week from Acton.

Mr. Regent has a small school van for transporting the children to and from school and on field trips. Recently they toured Kortright water fowl park near Guelph, and more trips are planned in the future.

The school has been thoroughly checked by education in-

spectors for equipment and facilities. The playrooms are stocked with games and pictures. There are swings and a slide on the enclosed back lawn.

Mr. Regent has constructed wooden horses and a make-believe wooden boat for the children because he claims the commercial toys don't stand up under constant use. "The homemade kind encourage the children to use their imagination because they are less than perfect reproductions," he claims.

According to government regulations, a school must provide 30 square feet of classroom space and 90 square feet of yard space for each child. Happy Day Nursery has room for ten more children before full enrollment.



HAPPY DAY SCHOOL



Carrie Mann passes the cookies at lunch time.

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