

SUGAR AND SPICE

by Bill Smiley



If You Want A Laugh

For teachers on the verge of suicide, puzzled parents, and anyone else who, worn by winter, needs an injection of warmth and humor, I have a spring tonic. Buy a copy of "Up The Down Staircase", paperback 95 cents, and read it. I came across it on the weekend and changed my mind about quitting the teaching profession.

It's called a novel, but isn't. It's a record of the first term of a young, pretty high school teacher in a huge New York secondary school.

It's tender and touching and utterly hilarious. And beneath the fun is a shocked and often bitter indictment of what the educational system is doing, or failing to do, for the vast mass of teenagers. As educators and others have pointed out, the cream of the crop will rise to the top. The bottom ten per cent. is having millions of dollars spent to help them. It's the great mob in the middle that gets the dirty end of the stick.

Conditions in the school described are much worse than those in the average Canadian high school, but the parallels are there.

Avalanches of paper, most of it unnecessary. Crowded conditions everywhere. The administration thinks discipline more important than learning. The librarian doesn't like the library used because the kids don't put the books back on the shelves straight. The nurse isn't allowed to dispense even an aspirin. And the counsellor tries to analyze all the kids with phony Freud.

And the teachers are there: the workhorses, the whiners, the beaten, those who don't like kids, and those who, in spite of it all, know they're doing the most important job in the world.

But it is not basically a bitter book. And most of the humor comes from those fascinating animals, the kids themselves.

The teacher asks the kids to tell briefly why we study ancient myths and the Odyssey.

One answer: "I'm sure there are many reasons why we study these things, but I missed it due to absence."

Another: "Because everybody in high school at one time or another had to read it, and now it's our turn."

Another: "We read it because it's a classic."

The young teacher has a "suggestion box" where her students were allowed to drop ideas, anonymously. Some were scurrilous, some threatening, some funny.

Samples. "My mother has been living with me for 16 years but she still insists on cross-examining me."

"Don't worry, we're behind you 85 per cent."

"Get lost and stay there. Singed, Poisen."

"Having sprained my ankle, the nurse gave me a cup of tea. is that supposed to help my ankle. Athlete."

"This is the first class I enjoyed failing because of looking at you."

What emerges from the book? Several things. First and most important, the yearning of the young for some contact with some one who respects them as people. This is the age-old individual demand for respect and human dignity.

Second, the requisites of a good teacher: physical toughness; understanding; mental and emotional vitality; a genuine liking for fellow humans, especially kids; and, of course, something to teach: you can't fool kids with games and gimmicks.

Third, the massive, frustrating task of educating the masses. The money; the things: chalk, paper, steel and stone; the teachers; only the best is the aim, but it's too laden with trivia to attract the best.

Ah, well, read the book. It'll do you good. Last sample of its flavor is a cartoon the teacher had on the bulletin board. It went:

Teacher: "There are two words in the English language you must never use. They are "swell" and "lousy."

Pupil: "O.K. What are they?"



ONTARIO

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND FORESTS

TENDERS FOR CRAWLER TRACTORS

Tractors are required for scarification work in the following locations:

- Colter Township - - - 150 to 200 hours
- South of Caramat - - 200 to 250 hours
- Wintering Lake - - - 150 to 200 hours
- Bain Township - - - - 150 to 200 hours
- Parent Township - - - 150 to 200 hours

Tractors must be of 112 dbhp or greater (150 net horse power for torque converter machines), equipped with winch and hydraulic blade.

Equipment rental offers in triplicate will be received by the District Forester, Geraldton, Ontario, until May 6th, 1966, on Equipment Rental Offer Form A.206. Forms are available from the District Forester's office or any Chief Forest Ranger Base.

Offers must be made on the basis of an hourly operating rate. Rates shall include operating costs and operator's wages. Transportation, board and lodging is to be supplied by the owner.

Enquiries may be made at the District Office, Geraldton, Ontario.

G.E. MacKinnon,
District Forester.

HI-C YOUTH RALLY HUGE SUCCESS

- by Joanne Brown

Due to the support and co-operation of the people of Terrace Bay, the HI-C Rally was a tremendous success!!

On Thursday evening registration took place from 7 - 9 p.m. and when those invited were welcomed and wished a pleasant rally weekend they were assigned to their billets.

Early Friday morning worship was conducted by our local minister, Rev. T.G. Husser. Following this an address was given by Rev. G. Jardine of Broadway United in the Lakehead, dealing with "Youth and God--Do They Mix?" Following the discussion on this topic we were honoured with the Mill Manager of Kimberly-Clark, Mr. John Ferrier who spoke about "Choosing a Career".

After lunch at the Church a bowling tournament was held at the Recreation Centre. Bowling was enjoyed on both Friday and Saturday afternoons.

A barbeque-hootenany was enjoyed at the mouth of the river on Friday evening.

On Saturday morning a worship period was conducted by Rev. F. Muldrew of Schreiber then Rev. Dr. McNally of Marathon spoke on "Accepting Responsibilities". Rev. T.G. Husser discussed the topic "The Use of Leisure Time."

The Ladies Auxiliary of (Continued page 8)

COMING EVENTS

Don't miss the Kiwanis Talent Show to be held Friday, May 6th at the High School Auditorium. Any performers interested in registering, call the Recreation Office at 3542 as soon as possible.

Junior Hockey Bingo- June 8 - Rec. Centre Arena, sponsored by Schreiber-Terrace Bay Junior Hockey Club.