

Antique display planned for house tour

By LAURIE TOWATA-ROY (649-2296)
By SANDY HILL (649-2653)

Masonic Hall during the house tour. Articles connected with Claremont's past are especially appreciated.

same day. For further information call Jill at the library or Lillian Gauslin at 649-2115.

ing access to clothing from the last 150 years, especially from the 1920s and 1950s. She is hoping to hold a fashion show in town for the Sesquicentennial. If you can help call 649-3030.

Jill Wollin is asking for articles for the Antique Display at the

items will be fully secured and returned to the purchaser the

Karen Marks would be interested in talking to anyone hav-

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Hectic beginning

Home and school roaring success

By KATE GILDERDALE
When the Orchard Park Home and School started in Sept. 1987, it was with feelings of excitement, enthusiasm and a certain amount of trepidation on the part of all those involved.

After all, it had been a number of years since a parent teacher group had been active at the school; was such a group necessary; would enough parents support it; and could it provide real assistance to the staff without adding to their workload?

After seven months of frantic activity, fund raising and school support programs, president Jean Edwards feels that the organization has not only achieved its goals, but has surpassed what anyone had anticipated, especially in the area of fund raising.

"The enthusiasm and support of the many people who have volunteered has amazed us," she said.

Mrs. Edwards also praised the co-operation of the staff, and the enthusiasm and energy of principal Jan de Laet, as well as the time and effort put in by members of the executive.

"Many people view a home and school organization purely as a fund raising group," Mrs. Edwards observed. "And although that is an important part of our role, it is by no means our only function. We are here to provide services such as room parents, safe arrival and fluoride programs; as well as acting as a communications channel between families and the school."

All these services require a considerable amount of time on the part of willing volunteers, who often spend several hours a week on school activities.

In the period since September, over \$6,000 has been raised through various activities including hot dog and pizza lunches, cup cake sales, a sale of Christmas wrapping paper and a Christmas raffle, which was generously supported by local merchants and individuals.

To date the Home and School has supplied sweaters for school sports teams, small playground equipment, spirit buttons for students who display special school spirit (an idea suggested by the staff) and most recently, a full set of curtains for the stage.

As part of the communication program, regular newsletters are distributed via the students, and the Home and School also holds periodic evening meetings.

The organization is arranging for information workshops on topics of interest to parents; and at the next meeting on April 20 at 7:30, the topics scheduled are Family Life/Sex Education and AIDS.

There will also be a question and answer period with Mr. de Laet during the meeting.

Areas to be covered in future meetings include Loss of Childhood, Partners in Action (library program), and a computer workshop.

Mr. de Laet has high praise for the work of the Home and School. "I'm tremendously impressed with this organization," he commented. "They have been extremely supportive and helpful. I can't commend their efforts enough."

Mrs. Edwards hopes to see future fund-raising efforts directed towards areas outside the school budget, such as cultural enrichment programs.

"We encourage parents to air their views and share information with the school," she said. "I think a healthy home and school (group) is one sign of a good school."

Judging from the attitude of both the organization and the school staff, it appears that Orchard Park is fostering a satisfying and productive enterprise that can only benefit all concerned.

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