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NOTES and COMMENTS

Hometown Friendliness

A friend of ours from the city dropped in to see us the other day. On the way to the newspaper office he walked through the town's business section. He was greatly impressed.

"Practically everyone on the streets said, 'good morning' to me" he told us. "I like that. People in the city are so busy rushing about their own affair that they can't be bothered even to smile let alone give a stranger a friendly 'hello'!"

That started us thinking. We had always rather taken for granted the friendliness of our hometown and it had never occurred to us that it might be something visitors would be surprised about. We realize now that it is a unique feature of our way of life and a significant characteristic of our smaller Canadian communities.

City folk with little knowledge of day-to-day living in towns and villages sometimes comment on the interest small town people take in each others' affairs. To the uninitiated this might appear to be simply "nosiness." But anyone acquainted with the facts can tell them that it is something else altogether.

In small communities where the tempo of life is a bit more leisurely than in the cities we can afford to take time to get to know our neighbors, to talk with them about their activities and ours, to watch for a chance to lend a hand to the fellow who needs help or to put in a word of encouragement when it will do some good. That's why we say "good morning" to strangers as a matter of course.

It's a good thing, too, this business of friendliness and co-operation and looking out for the other fellow. Good for our neighbors and good for us.

Too Few Finish High School

The defence department is advertising for young men to train as officers in the Canadian Army Active Force. While in training, the youths will receive second lieutenant's pay. To qualify for admission to the training course the candidates must be single, physically fit, 18 to 25 years of age and high school graduates with at least junior matriculation diplomas.

High school graduates with minimum standing of junior matriculation are also being sought to train as nurses and public school teachers. For some time Canada has had an acute shortage of workers in these and other fields of community service. The solution of the problem depends to a considerable extent on an adequate supply of high school graduates.

But the supply of high school graduates is limited and, according to a recent survey by the Canadian Education Association, the situation may not improve for some time. The 127-page report entitled "Your Child Leaves School" revealed that of every 100 children enrolled at school every year only 22 finish high school. About 70 per cent of the girls leave school at ages 16 to 17, the majority at Grade X level, that is, after two years in high school. Boys drop out faster than girls.

Particularly disturbing is the fact that a large proportion of the "drop-outs" are above average intelligence. The committee learned that in 1948, the year of the survey, the high schools lost 44,000 pupils with above-average learning capacity.

Why do so many young persons leave school before completing higher education courses offered them free of charge? The significant finding was that in most cases the explanation was dissatisfaction with the school rather than economic or personal reasons. When asked, the larger proportion of pupils said they were bored with the "hodge-podge" of courses; some believed they could never make use of the education offered them, and some felt it was preparing them for jobs they did not want or thought they could not get.

The situation is challenging to everyone concerned about the nation's progress. Millions of dollars are annually being spent on the operation of high schools, yet half the students for whom they are being operated do not want to stay long enough to complete even the courses for junior matriculation. Yet this is a minimum requirement for admission to occupations that are essential to the maintenance of everyone's health and welfare.—Toronto Star.

FOR PARENTS ONLY

(By Nancy Cleaver)

SWIMMING TIPS OR LEARNING TO SWIM SAFELY.

Every Canadian boy or girl should have the chance to learn to swim. This is a land of streams and rivers and lakes. There are community swimming pools or bathing areas where swimming instruction is given in most communities. Hundreds of campers each summer graduate from a "Beginners' Pool" into a Swimming Class.

Many children must look to home help in learning how to swim safely. If converting a child into a fish falls on mother or dad, the parent need not be an expert in order to do a good job.

The first step in learning to swim is to overcome fear of the water. The little child who paddles in the shallow water and plays with floating toys gradually becomes accustomed to the feeling of the water.

Learning to swim is like anything else, the child must really want to swim himself. No amount of urging on the part of parents, no coaxing of brothers or sisters, or teasing of chums can substitute for the child's own desire to become a swimmer. Better postpone instruction until the child himself is eager to learn.

Swimming is a matter of balance and one of the first rules which must be followed is "Keep your shoulders under water!" Illustrate this with a small wooden stick. If one end bobs up out of the water, the other end sinks down below the surface.

Breathing is very important in swimming and a child can have excellent land drill in blowing bubbles into a hand wash basin. Teach him to breathe in through his mouth, duck his face into the water and blow bubbles out his nose.

When he becomes good at this, have him walk into shallow water, and blow bubbles in the same way. Encourage him to gradually open his eyes. Make a game of having him duck after small objects on the bottom of the lake.

Floating gives a child the self-confidence he must have if he is to make progress. He is likely surprised to find after he reaches to the bottom for an object in shallow water, how quickly his body returns to the surface.

Show your child the "Jelly Fish Float". Have him wade out into

water waist deep, take a deep breath, then duck under the water and grab both ankles with both hands.

An instructor can give a child a little support under his chin when the youngster is learning to swim. Show him how to grab the edge of the dock as a support and practice kicking. Inflated tubes or small wooden "kicking boards", eighteen inches by ten inches and one and a half inches thick are used in some Beginners' Classes. But do not let the boy or girl become too dependent on a support. As quickly as possible try to get him to swim unaided to the instructor. Stand a short distance away and have the child try to swim to you by dog paddle, breast stroke or any movement he wants to use.

Even a little child quickly understands that there are two swimming motions. One is a "propulsive" or pushing-the-body-forward movement and the other the "recovery" or getting-back-into-place ready-for-the-next-push motion. The more relaxed and unhurried are the movements the better is the swimming.

Once a child can swim even five feet, stand a little farther away from him. Thus little by little he gradually learns to swim a longer distance. If he is frightened and falters, hold out your hands to him, and take a step forward to reassure him. Never fool a child. One bad scare may put him off swimming for weeks.

Children are great imitators and if parents swim and enjoy the water their children will likely follow their example. That goes for observing safety precautions too.

Don't take any chances with your own or your child's life in the water. Never swim all alone; always have a companion. Don't go swimming for one and a half to two hours after the noon day meal. On a very hot day, cool off a bit before going in the water. If you are in a boat when it overturns, even if you are a good swimmer, don't strike out for shore. Cling to the boat till help comes. Obeying this one rule has saved many lives. Parents must continually remind their children that learning to swim is fun—but sensible swimmers must observe the safety rules.

DAYS OF YORE

27 Years Ago

Bethesda—On Friday evening about one hundred neighbors and friends met at the home of Mrs. Sanderson to express their regret that she and her daughter were moving to Yonge street. A beautiful upholstered rocking chair was presented.

Alfred E. Thomas of Flint, Mich. and Glen H. Thomas, and Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Copeland, also Mr. and Mrs. E. Dunsmore of Toronto, visited on Tuesday with Mr. and Mrs. G. R. W. Thomas.

Ex-Reeve W. E. Morden has purchased the trucking business of W. Swift, and will resume his former occupation.

The Brantford Expositor sees in the Herb Lennox picnic in North York a return of coffee and sandwiches into the political arena. Herb Lennox—or to be more correct T. Herbert Lennox, Conservative ex-M.P.P., is being groomed to run against Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King in North York at the next election—Hence the Lennox picnic this time.

Judge Mahaffey visited over Sunday with his sister, Mrs. Jas. Hand.

Dr. D. C. Smith has been visiting this week at his boyhood home in Woodville.

10 Years Ago

School 80 Years Old—The Dickson Hill school plans to hold a reunion in 1942, for which an organization meeting was held at the school. Councillor Albert Reesor was elected president and Mr. Edwin Byer secretary.

Mr. Glenn Ratcliff motored to Parry Sound over the holiday.

Harry Brillinger is nursing an injured foot, as a result of having it badly squeezed by a log. It's a busy time for a vegetable grower to take a holiday.

Brougham—Mr. and Mrs. C. Balsdon of Pickering visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. Hamilton during the weekend.

Bethesda—Chas. and Fred Clubine, Allan Wideman, Gordon Bolender, Earl Bolender, and several girls from here attended Kitchener camp last Sunday.

There was a white frost on the vines and over the meadows early Wednesday morning, and it was decidedly chilly all night. However, the frost did no harm to any crops, farmers report.

5 Years Ago

Out on the milk ranch of Mr. A. D. Huckerby, 6th concession, Markham, there is but one pullet on the place. In ten days the little mite of a bird between three and four months laid eighteen eggs. Not just pullet eggs, but grade A hen eggs.

Women leaned from upstairs windows, girls shouted, and the whole of O'Brien Avenue was agog this Wednesday morning. Down on the street a small animal moved along from house to house bunting into door ways, into the sides of houses, and running into this and that, yet still moving slowly. It had a can completely fastened over its head, so securely that the little fellow with bushy tail and positive white stripes down its back, could not see where it was going. Finally the services of Charlie Atkinson were solicited. He walked up cautiously to the little hooded animal, and with a heavy stick came down with an unerring blow that brought instant death to the skunk.

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