

## COUNTIES SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The December 10, 1986 meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. The committee held a brief discussion on the subject of the School Breakfast Program, and decided to obtain input from area schools and school committees.

Following this discussion, a list of recommendations to the Board's Budget Committee was drawn up. The County School Committee is recommended to lobby the Government for more funding, and it is advised that there should be more open support for the Trustees from the County School Committee. The Board should continue funding for late buses and field trips. School operating budgets should be maintained as more schools are finding the need to raise more and more money from fund-raising to cover basics of transportation and playground equipment. Core French should be extended to grade one and the Board should provide equipment required to implement the new Science program in grades 7 and 8. The Committee is also concerned that the amount of money required from parents for students to participate in grades 11 and 12 phys-ed will result in discrimination against lower and middle income families.

Reports were presented on the policy and practice of door-to-door fund-raising and the hiring of high school students by the Board for summer jobs.

A joint report on Property and Finance was then presented. This dealt primarily with the sale of Churchill Public School at Prescott, the building of an elevator for handicapped students at TISS, the elementary and secondary reserve for retirement gratuities, the reserve for working fund, and the continuation of the installation of intrusion and fire detection systems in buildings owned by the Board.

The County School Committee would like to send get-well wishes to Betty Haley. In a letter, the Director of Education, Leeds and Grenville County Board of Education, urges support for the Counties School Committee, and points out the benefits to schools which participate in the Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m. Next meeting is on January 28, 1987.

## RIDEAU REVIEWS

Monsieur Pamplemousse on the Spot by Michael Bond

A ribald farce about the disappearance of a famous French chef and the whereabouts of a very fine wine, set in the

mountains of Haute-Savoie in eastern France. The hero is a blood-hound named Pommes Frites, not as well-known as the author's children's favourite, Paddington Bear, nor in any way meant for children. Typical Gallic humour, a very naughty book. JR

The Pianoplayers by Anthony Burgess

A modest little novel from the author of A Clockwork Orange and Earthly Powers, but Anthony Burgess is nothing if not clever whether writing about popes, pianoplayers or prostitutes. He can turn a list of a hundred old music hall tunes from Bach's Air on a G String to Lady Be Good into good prose. Set in working-class England, it is the story of a pianoplayer who performed in the old silent movie houses, told by his daughter, La Belle Helene, who was herself a pianoplayer of a kind and who taught piano, all with a surprisingly happy and melodic ending. JR

The Titanic by Michael Davie

Interest in the Titanic has resurfaced since the discovery of the wreckage in 1985 and the loss of the Challenger a year ago now. The two disasters bear some disturbing parallels.

Man's highest achievement eluded him, too much had been taken for granted. All that happened on that terrible, starlit night in April 1912, when the world's largest liner went down on her maiden voyage with a loss of over 1500 lives, will never be known, but Michael Davie has examined every aspect from shipyard to graveyard in this new book. The Titanic was built and manned by the British but owned by American interests, at a time when power was passing from the old world to the new. Inquiries were held on both sides of the Atlantic and many were the insults hurled each way. It did result in stricter navigational rules and the establishment of an ice-patrol system in the North Atlantic, but remains a contentious, complicated and still unfinished story. JR

Nobody's Baby by Sheila Copps

That Sheila Copps has written a book, says Ben Wicks's Bill on the book's dust cover and it's just as harsh, abrupt and abrasive as she is herself. Copps likes to make waves in the House of Commons and rile Mulroney's Conservatives. She may call herself nobody's baby, but she's nobody's fool either. Her father, Victor Copps, was for many years

a much liked mayor of Hamilton and the advice he gave her was to tell the truth and work hard, which she does. She stood firmly behind John Turner in the leadership review and would be in a strong position if the Liberals were returned to power. Her aim in writing the book is to get more women involved in politics. JR

Death by Fire by Hugh Pentecost

Two fires erupt during a midsummer night in the small village of Lakeville. The Harder farm is the first blaze and the townspeople rush to help, leaving a clear field for the arsonist to burn down the Town Hall. Seth Harder dies with his farm and an unidentified skeleton is found in the remains of the hall. Uncle George Crowder, a lawyer, comes out of retirement to defend the young man accused of the murders. Two more deaths occur and it becomes apparent that the murderer is still at large and may be a villager. A solid mystery that whips along at an exciting pace. BS

Pat Nixon by Julie Nixon Eisenhower

Pat Nixon, although in the public eye for so many years, has remained a very private person. This biography sheds light on her early years, birth in a miner's shack, poor and hard-working school days and the early deaths of her parents. During the depression she and her two brothers tackled many jobs to enable each one to acquire a college education. She even became a movie extra for a brief period. Upon her marriage to Richard Nixon she became a public figure and the reader is carried on a rising tide of events in Washington to the inevitable Watergate affair.

reader is carried on a rising tide of events in Washington to the inevitable Watergate affair. This strong, serene woman was able to sustain a good family life in the glare of publicity. When reading the Watergate chapter one has to remember that this book is written by a devoted and loyal daughter, not only of Pat but also of Richard. BS

101 Year-Round Tax Tips by Brian Costello

One of several informative books on tax by this author. It is not intended to help you fill out your income tax form, rather it is for reading before that event and offers short chapters on many problems. For instance, how would you like a tax deductible vacation every year? Why not get Revenue Canada to furnish your office? Get an extra \$300 Tax Rebate on your RRSP? You don't have to be married to get tax exemptions, and 97 other tips, not all applicable to the average taxpayer. BS



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