

Mother to Take Her Battle Against Public School 'Regimentation' to Missouri Courts

By GEORGE SITTERLEY
CALIFORNIA, Mo. Oct. 20 (AP)—A test of Missouri's compulsory school attendance law is headed for the Circuit Court because Mrs. Mary L. Schoenheit wouldn't give up her fight against formal education for her 7-year-old daughter Mary.

With the volunteered help of a St. Louis attorney, she has appealed a Magistrate Court order that she put Mary in public school by Monday or serve out a 10-day jail sentence and pay a \$5 fine.

W. G. Heidbreder, Moniteau County magistrate, sentenced her Wednesday after he found the former school teacher had refused to send her daughter to school.

WAVES DAMAGE SHIP
LE HAVRE, France, Oct. 20 (AP)—The French liner Ile de France arrived from New York today 12 hours behind schedule, her superstructure damaged by a violent storm. Ship officials said waves at one point flooded six cabins. No one was reported injured.

Mrs. Schoenheit argued that public schools just turn youngsters into "trained seals." She said she has given her daughter "substantially equivalent" instruction at home.

Freed from Jail
Mrs. Schoenheit went to jail, but a few hours later was released on her promise to put Mary in school. Late Thursday, Ward Driscoll of St. Louis called Mrs. Schoenheit to offer his help as an attorney and they decided yesterday on the appeal.

Why did she start the fight in the first place? What made her "flee from society?"

Possibly the biographical notes she typed out at home in the old rural house, "on 20 acres of Missouri brush," provide a key.

She was born and reared in Cameron, a small agricultural center in northwestern Missouri. She grew up to become an accomplished musician, a public and private school teacher and later a book reviewer and lecturer.

She married a former Kansas City Philharmonic flutist, Brown Schoenheit, and he became her manager during the years she lectured to groups in California.

Then, she said, she found out she was just a "pseudo-intellectual." She wanted to quit the lecture circuit but her husband dissuaded her.

Shortly after that, she found she was to be a mother and "I vowed to become a model parent and conventional member of society."

"We moved to the suburbs. Immediately my troubles began, due chiefly to the intelligence and temperament of my infant. I tried everything."

Years of Experimentation
"Back of me today are seven years of experimentation, disappointments, study, research, thought and suffering."

She said she studied the textbooks and books on modern teaching methods. After going through them, she said, "If I didn't know better, I would say they were written in an insane asylum."

Mrs. Schoenheit says "Brilliant children are quiet, sensitive and dignified. They do not do well in school. They can't adjust to being like everyone else. They become behavior problems and suffer dreadfully."

That's when the guidance counselors — she calls them "brain pickers" — step in and finish the job, she says.

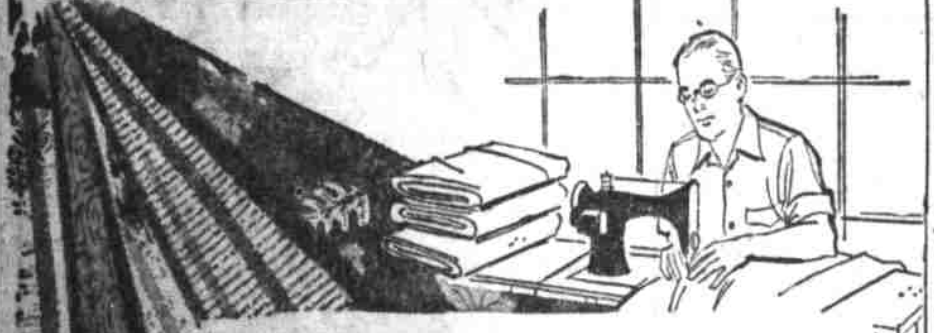
"Their Torture"
"I made up my mind I could never submit to their insults or surrender my child to their torture," Mrs. Schoenheit said.

If she loses her fight here, she says she may move to Mississippi or Alabama — "we have relatives there and they won't treat us the way we've been treated here."

She says she has received 60 or 70 letters from other persons who, like herself, have complained against education systems now in operation. All but one cheered her for her stand, she said, and one writer even sent her \$5 to help finance her private "war."

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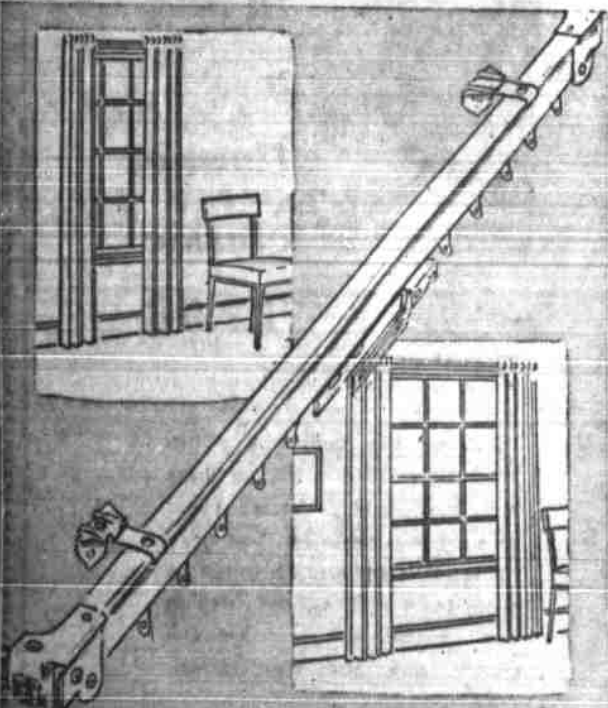


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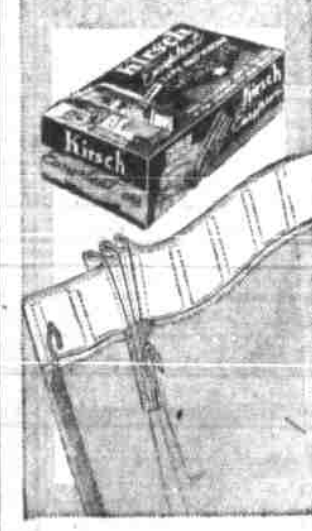
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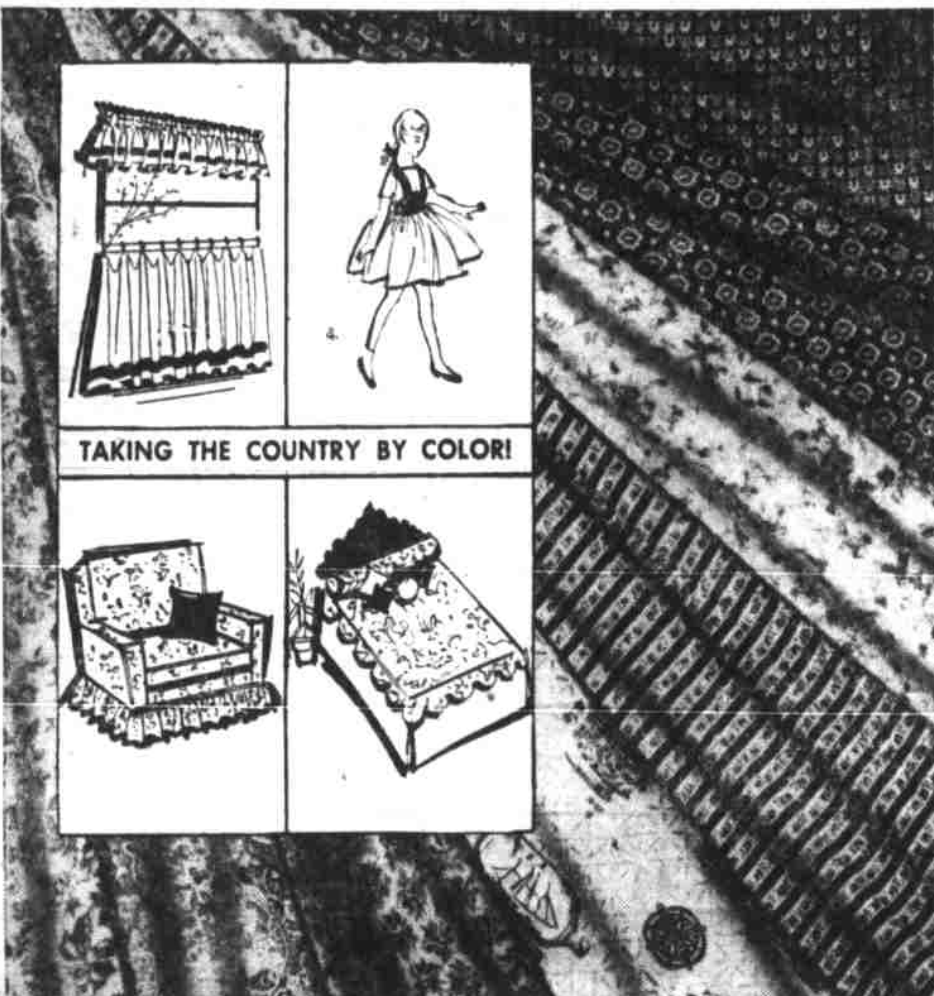
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