



# MOTOR NEWS



## Parent-Teacher Notes

### THE YEARS BEFORE SCHOOL

What are you doing to prepare your child for school mentally? "Oh, Mary knows all of her letters." "John has read half through one book." "Tommy can spell lots of words." Thus many mothers answer the above question. Any normal child can be taught some reading and spelling before he enters school but it usually is a sinful waste of time. With the average child it will come much more easily later. Unless the mother understands modern methods in the teaching of reading she is probably doing much more harm than good. In attempting to teach the child to read. At any rate, unless the child has completed the first year of work, so that he can enter into an advanced class, fully equal in all subjects to the average of that class, the mother has probably handicapped her child. Under the present organization of our school system a child must enter a class and keep pace with the average in that class. If he is too far advanced he must either go into the next higher class, or stay in a class where the work is too simple for him. If a child enters school with sufficient knowledge so that he is too far advanced for the beginners and is not yet ready for the more advanced class, he is likely to develop habits of laziness and inattention if he works with the beginners and is possibly doomed to failure if put with those more advanced.

The average pre-school child has no time to learn to read. There are so many other more important things that he should learn. There are many habits and abilities which, if not developed early, will never be as easily or as well developed later. These years are the time for learning muscular control through climbing, running, jumping, cutting, pasting, clay modeling, and drawing. Give the child plenty of things to do with his hands. Let him learn the joy of creation. See that he forms the habit of finishing what he starts. Teach him to attend to one thing, at least for short periods of time. Teach him to follow simple directions. Allow him to do things for himself. See that his wraps are easy to put on and then let him help himself. Teach to put on his own rubbers. It is almost a super-human task for a teacher to bundle up forty children properly and it is much better for the child to learn early at home to care for himself. Develop the "I can" spirit. There is nothing so conducive to success as self-confidence. The mother who continually says "you can't you are too little," is doing immeasurable harm to her child. See that the child succeeds in most of the things he starts. Let him know that you respect his ability. "Nothing succeeds like success" is an old maxim. The normal child who goes to school with a faith in his own ability has already won more than half of the battle.

Speech  
Why, or why are parents so anxious that their children shall learn to read early, and yet are unconcerned over their inability to talk? Baby talk is often encouraged, even admired. It is "so cunning." People like to hear the little fellow talk. The family even adopts the dialect for their own use when talking to the youngster. He enters school. The teacher has scant time to try to understand his pitiful attempts at expressing himself. The children laugh at him. The sound of the spoken language as he knows and uses it, does not correspond with the sound of the letters as they are taught in school. Is it any wonder that he has trouble both with his spelling and phonics? How can Johnny know and recognize the "i" sound in milk when THAT word, he has always called "Milk?" Will he be as likely to spell the word correctly laboring under the handicap of years of incorrect pronunciation? Teach your child to enunciate distinctly and speak correctly. The child who says, "I seen, I done, a'nt," who drops his "g's" and sturs his consonants has much to overcome. Let him start school with speech habits that need no correction. This may mean that you will first have to revise your own careless methods of speech. I know of one

mother who in attempting to break herself and two children of using the word, "ain't," made a game of it. The children were to watch for the word and correct the mother and she was to correct the children. Of course, they were at once interested. It was such fun to catch mother in a mistake. In a surprisingly short time, neither the mother nor the children used the objectionable expression. Usually, unless there is some physical defect, a child will speak as he hears those about him speak. If he seems unable to make certain sounds, see a physician. He may need a slight operation to remove some defect.

The child who hears plenty of good stories from the earliest years will have a much greater ability to talk well than the child who hears few stories, and those not particularly well chosen. Besides forming a taste for good literature, reading to a child increases his vocabulary and helps him in his attempts to express himself.

(Continued next week)

## Sales Reported

- Purchased Ford Roadster**—The Claycomb Motor Co report the sale of a Ford roadster to the American Tobacco Co. at San Francisco.
- Purchased Ford Touring**—The Claycomb Motor Co. report the sale of a Ford touring to J. L. Calvert, of Grants Pass.
- Purchased Ford Touring**—The Claycomb Motor Co. report the sale of a Ford touring to Guy Barnett of Ashland.
- Purchased Ford Tudor**—The Claycomb Motor Co report the sale of a Ford tudor to H. D. Spencer of Ashland.
- Purchased Star Touring**—The Star agency report the sale of a Star touring to J. E. Rose of Hornbrook.
- Purchased Chevrolet Coach**—The Automotive Shop report the sale of a Chevrolet Coach to Alan Autery of Ashland.

## SNAKE DANCE DRAWS MANY

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz., Aug. 25.—Persons who witnessed it are still talking about the annual observance of the oldest most colorful religious ceremonial on the North American continent—the world-famous Hopi Snake dance. In all the world there is no ceremony like this. It is a religious rite performed exactly as it was, twenty centuries ago a strange relic of the old stone age, when the dividing line between magic and religion was not clearly defined.

It was witnessed by travelers from distant places. Men came in automobiles complicated products of the up-to-date Twentieth Century, to watch the desert Indians perform rites that were time-worn when Europe was an unpeopled wilderness.

**A Prayer for Rain**  
The snake dance is an annual prayer for rain—an invocation to the gods that live in the sky and control the clouds and to the gods that live under ground, joined in by the residents of six Hopi vil-

## What the World Is Doing

(As Seen by Popular Mechanics Magazine)

### Sahara Desert Once a Forest

Dense forests once grew on the Sahara desert and a race of people who lived by hunting and tilling the soil inhabited the region, according to Prof. James H. Breasted, of the University of Chicago. A clue to this "lost chapter of history" has been obtained, he declares, by deciphering inscriptions and markings on a large rock in the desert. This monument, has been called the "Lost Temple," but is not a structure made by man, simply a rock shaped to resemble a temple by the winds and sands. Judging from small statues and other objects found in ancient graves during recent excavations, the early Egyptians and other peoples apparently thought of the life beyond as a realm where joy and merrymaking abound, he said.

### Record Dairy-Cattle Growth with Screen and Camera

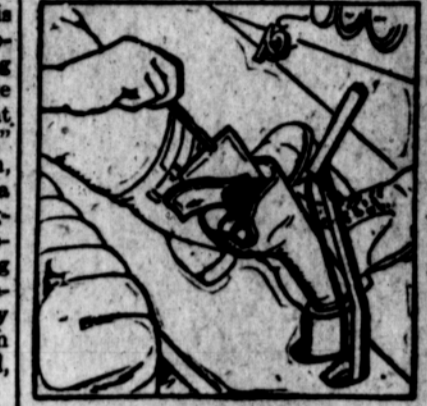
Accurate records of the growth of dairy cattle on the department of agriculture's farm at Beltsville, Md., are kept with the aid of a camera and a specially ruled screen. The animal is led onto a level platform in front of the scaled background, which is marked into six-inch squares and is exactly the same distance from the



camera each time a picture is taken, from the calf's birth to maturity. Comparison of the photographs shows the cow's development in terms of the increased area covered by its body.

### Handy Holster for Revolver in Auto

When a revolver is needed while driving, it will be found very convenient to have the holster attached to



the gear-shift lever for quick action. A western fish and game warden carries his revolver here while traveling in his car. The method of mounting it is clearly shown in the illustration.

### Hints on Connecting Aerials

When building the aerial for your radio, keep the connections as few as possible. Try to have the aerial wire in one piece; this can be done by threading the wire through the end of the insulator at the lead-in end, taking two turns around the horizontal wire and continuing on down with the same wire for the lead-in. Keep the horizontal part of the aerial as straight as possible, without bends. This also applies to the lead-in wire; do not try to fit it around corners. When planning the aerial, see that the lead-in wire will reach the set by the shortest way. The ground wire should also be as short as possible. For these short connections it is necessary to carefully consider the location of the set in the building and of the aerial on the roof.

### Drinking Glasses Made of Ice

Sanitary drinking cups and glasses of ice are formed in a freezing apparatus devised by a Dutch engineer. They are said to last thirty minutes in a warm room and have an outer cover and an inner core for strength and easy handling. Besides keeping the liquid cool, they eliminate the danger of communicating disease, as frequently occurs with a common cup.

### Fruit Picker Saves the Trees

Cherries, plums, crabapples and other small fruits are gathered without using a ladder or climbing the trees by a picker that clips the stems and allows the fruits to fall down a chute directly into a large pocket worn by the worker. It is therefore not necessary for the human hand to touch the crop and, besides protecting the trees from broken limbs and damaged bark, the picker is said to



nearly double the amount one man can gather in a day.

This ceremony is supposed to protect from snake bites in the dance that is to follow.

All these ceremonies are performed by priests of the Antelope. While they are thus engaged, the men of the Snake clan go north, east, west and south to catch the deadly rattlesnake for the snake dance. When a rattlesnake is found a prayer is offered, meal is scattered on it and it is seized alive and brought back to the village. The Indians catch the snakes with uncanny skill. Four days are consumed in this snake hunt.

On the evening of the last day of the hunt the Antelope priests dance in the plain. On the morning the snake dance begins.

It starts with the race of the young men. Long before sunrise the young Indians start for a place far out on the plain, beside a sacred spring. They cover the intervening miles with remarkable speed, looping up the sloping mesa to the cheers of the crowd. The

priests receive them, and each runner deposits prayer offerings at the altar.

Then the captive snakes—sometimes there are as many as a hundred of them—are washed in the

(Continued on Page Five)



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lages on a long mesa north of here.

First the Snake and Antelope clans meet to study various meteorological signs and determine the date for the dance. This year's ceremony was set for Aug. 21. Then come many days of preparation. In no Christian church are preparations for a sacrament more carefully made.

A town crier announces the date from the houseposts. The priests of the Antelope clan meet to set up the altar. They make a mosaic of different colored sands, which are sprinkled on the floor, with clouds and lightning represented symbolically.

Then the prayer sticks are made with prayers and invocations at each step of the procedure. Each participant smokes the sacred pipe and the altar is consecrated and blessed morning and night. Sixteen songs are chanted each day.

### COME TO THE CHECKERED FLAG FOR



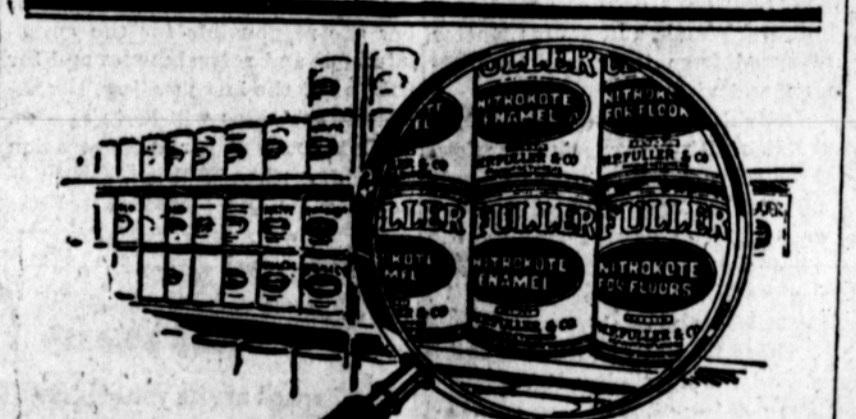
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to the accompaniment of rattles shaken by the priests.

In the snake "Kiva", a sort of underground council chamber, the snake charm liquid is made. An Indian basket is placed on a special altar. In it are placed shells, charms, crushed nuts, and sticks. A priest, with much chanting and ceremony, pours water into it from the north, east, south and west. Other priests circle about it, chewing some desert herb and putting the liquid in the basket.

### Priests are Anointed

At last the charm nears completion. Each priest waves a "snake stick," with eagle feathers attached, and the sacred pipe is lit, the smoke being blown into the liquid. Four songs are chanted. Then the little chamber rings with the fierce Hopi war cry, the head priest mixes the liquid with corn meal, sprinkles it to the four points of the compass, kneads it with white clay, and rubs the resultant paste on the bodies of the priests.



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