

Comment . . . TELEVISION and RADIO

By John Crosby

EGGHEAD PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL KIDS

If the Sputniks have done nothing else, they have helped bring eggheads back into fashion. Anti-intellectualism, which has by no means altogether vanished, has at least gone into hiding. Westinghouse Broadcasting, by a miracle of timing, just happened to have on hand a series of filmed programs called "Adventures in Numbers and Space," which is an earnest attempt to make mathematics fashionable. It may not work, but it's an admirable try.

The program, says Westinghouse boldly, is dedicated to the novel proposition that "TV can inspire children to look, learn and like mathematics." (It can now be seen on Channel 5 in New York and on the five Westinghouse TV stations in Boston, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Cleveland and San Francisco).

"Adventures in Numbers and Space" has been planned as a part of Westinghouse Broadcasting Company's continuing campaign on all of our five television stations and six radio stations to help our nation turn out more scientists, mathematicians and engineers," declared Donald H. McGannon, president of the company. "If America is to have as many scientists in the future as our national needs require, then we've got to start now. We've got to reach the children first, for without a solid foundation in mathematics they can't even begin to take up careers in science."

The series stars Bill Baird and his marionettes and had the help of Professor Howard F. Fehr, head of the math department of Teachers College, who points out that "A bottleneck seems to develop at the junior high school level (in promoting math). The greatest factor is that of motivation. Children do not tend to continue to study a subject that they do not like, in which they do not succeed, and for which they can see no real use. What is needed is a dynamic approach that shows mathematics as an exciting, creative activity in thinking that has marvellous application to all careers in life, as well as being an enjoyable pursuit in itself."

That's a tall order. In the first program, "How Man Learned to Count," marionettes Snarky and Gargle with Bill Baird, started

their explorations in cave dwelling days and progressed to ancient Egypt, Rome, Carthage and India. They traced the development of arithmetic from the cave dwellers' use of simple sticks to the discovery by the Hindus of the zero symbol, one of the important events in the history of mankind as it led to modern mathematics.

On the second show, "Quicker Than You Think," marionettes Snarky and Gargle take counting from the early concept of a quantity as a "heap" to electronic calculators which Bill Baird tells Snarky and Gargle are still high grade morons because all the work has to be planned for them. The next program is "Mysterious X" which shows how algebra forms the key for most math in business and industry. Number 4 delves into geometry which the marionettes learn enabled the Egyptians to build the pyramids.

Number 5 delves into some of the familiar uses of mathematics from the dial phone to a housewife arranging the living room furniture, to the numbers of different combinations in a dining car menu. The sixth, "How's Chances?" explores statistics and probability. Snarky and Gargle go into research samplings and are taught how the Army and insurance companies use probabilities. One episode shows how 17th century gambler Chevalier De la Mare gave birth to a new branch of mathematics when he got curious as to the probable result of an interrupted card game and consulted the famous mathematician Pascal.

The last three are on "Sine Language" or trigonometry, topology, one of the newest branches of math ("the study of what remains unchanged where you subject a thing to many changes and pressures so that almost everything else changes"), and finally "Careers in Mathematics" which will consist largely of a recap of everything that has gone before and visits with important figures in the world of mathematics who will say how rewarding math careers can be.

Richard M. Pack, vice president in charge of programming, says: "We decided before we started production that kids can absorb a lot more than we par-



HOLDING MODEL OF 6.4-inch test satellite, J. Paul Walsh, deputy director of "Project Vanguard," tells Washington news conference "highly successful" firing of second stage of America's satellite rocket was conducted recently at Cape Canaveral, Fla. (International Soundphoto)

TABLE ROCK Automobile Lands in Ditch

By R. E. NEALON

Table Rock—A Buick touring car left the road at the curve near the Leverette feed barns about midnight last Friday and landed bottoms up in a ditch partially filled with water. Buddy Robinson, just returned from his shift at the mill, heard the crash and drove to the scene to help.

There he found four people trapped in the vehicle, two men and a woman and small child. He succeeded in getting the woman and child out through the trunk, taking a lot of abuse from the trapped men who seemed to be in an intoxicated condition while doing it. While he was gone for help to release the men, they managed to free themselves, but were reluctant about identifying themselves according to those at the scene.

At this writing, Thursday, the car is still in the ditch causing many inquiries from passers-by and a fitting monument to liquor and recklessness.

ents sometimes give them credit for. Also, this series is aimed basically at the junior high school level. However, Teachers College and we think we can interest high school students and adults. I like to think of the show as being designed for average youngsters and bright adults." (Copyright 1957 New York Herald Tribune, Inc.)

There will be a Thanksgiving dinner Sunday, Nov. 24, at 5 p.m., for Grangers and their families at the Grange hall. Turkey and coffee will be furnished and those attending are asked to bring salads and dessert.

"Things are not what they used to be" says Mrs. Bill Darling, who said they signed up with the Jackson County ASC committee for a job of land leveling, with the ASC to pay half the cost. After some delay they were given the go ahead signal and in and did the job which amounted to some \$1,500, but when the bill for half the amount was presented to ASC they were informed that there was no money available, leaving the Darlings holding the sack for the full cost of the work, which they say they wouldn't have undertaken otherwise.

Grandad Doran, and Mrs. John Dickey were recent victims here of the flu, Doran being a patient of Rogue Valley hospital in Medford, and Mrs. Dickey being quite ill in her home.

The Mail Tribune is now going to Sams Valley, Beagle, Gold Hill, Rogue River, Wimer and way points by carrier, giving its readers in these localities the days news the same day, just a few hours from the press, with the ink hardly dry. Mrs. William Reed's route having been divided, she taking the south end, and Walter Baker the north end and carrying on through to Wimer.

The death of Mrs. Ruby Hitzler, which occurred in Medford recently, reminds us that the Hitzler family were for several years residents of the Table Rock community, having come here more than 50 years ago, and built the house now occupied by the Ray Bosworths.

The following clipping from the Central Point Herald in the Table Rock correspondent's items called "Table Rocket" of 1906, might be of interest to local M. T. readers. "The Messrs. Bissell and Hitzler are kept pretty busy putting in a crop and working on their houses, which when finished will add much to the appearance of 'Pummy Avenue.' Hitzler and Bissell were brothers-in-law, and had bought 40 acres each from J. W. Merritt. Bissell building his house on the site now occupied by the J. L. Nealon home.

The past few weeks of unlooked for wet weather has stopped, or slowed down much farm work here, including the picking and shelling of the corn crop. Since our notes about local corn being shelled, dried and marketed here, many farmers have come to the conclusion that we could and should grow many of the products now shipped in. Among these are hay, which is trucked in despite the fact that we have a surplus and should be shipping

HILTS Woman Honored At Lunch

By MRS. M. F. CAVIN

Hilts—Mrs. Aristeo Perez was the honored guest at a luncheon given by Mrs. Al Simmen Nov. 11 at her home on Front street. Mrs. Mel Barron was co-hostess.

Mrs. Perez came to this community in late August and is the wife of the third and fourth grade teacher of the local grade school. They have a six-month-old son, Aristeo Jr.

After the luncheon, food courses were served. Word games provided entertainment for the remainder of the afternoon, and winners were Mrs. Nick Fremeyer, Mrs. Aristeo Perez, Mrs. Don Fremd, and Mrs. Donovan Ward.

Others present were Mrs. John Brannon, Mrs. William Wiley, Mrs. Robert Fremd, Mrs. Doug Whittaker, Mrs. Rodney Eastman, Mrs. Audomar De Clerk and Mrs. Lester Chase.

The Hilts Community club met Nov. 14 at the home of Mrs. Ernest Spannaus.

A business meeting was held and Mrs. Gilbert Luper was appointed representative on the committee for the Community Christmas tree.

Canasta was played with prizes being awarded to Mrs. William Wiley, high Mrs. Frank Ohlund, second high, and Mrs. Fred Haynes, low.

Refreshments were served at the close of the afternoon.

The PTA Country Fair held Nov. 2 at the club house, proved to be a very successful affair. Several new attractions were added this year, such as a Tacos' booth, operated by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Burns and Mrs. Vern Burns; homemade candy was made and sold by Mrs. Dave Sage and the cake walk operated by Mrs. Bob Fremd.

The home of Mrs. Don Powers was the scene of a bridal shower for Mrs. Ethel Bernheisel on the evening of November 16, with Mrs. Al Powers, of Yreka, as co-hostess.

Guests were Mrs. Rodney Eastman, Mrs. R. M. Cavin, Mrs. Dick Williams, Mrs. Charles Vieira, and Mrs. Arlie Clyburn and Mrs. Jim Clyburn of Hornbrook. Those sending gifts but unable to attend were Mrs. M. M. Sief, Mrs. Joe Vieira and Mrs. Orval Grien of Ashland.

Games were played with prizes going to Mrs. Arlie Clyburn, Mrs. Jim Clyburn, Mrs. Vieira and Mrs. Eastman.

Refreshments of cake, ice cream, coffee and tea were served.

Mrs. Bernheisel is a former resident of this community, and will become the bride of Edgar Carver, coach of the Alturas High school. No definite date has been set for the wedding.

Mrs. Dorothy Watson and daughters, Patty and Debra, returned to her home in San Francisco recently, after spending several weeks at the home of her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Gwinn.

Mr. and Mrs. William Raybould, Mr. and Mrs. Don Hootenpye and daughter of Cloverdale visited last weekend at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Fraley. They returned to their home Monday afternoon.

Miss Lena Fagottia was a weekend visitor at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Hasseman in Medford.

Recent dinner guests at the Vic Van de Weghe home were Mr. and Mrs. Florent Van de Weghe of Hornbrook, Mr. and Mrs. Leland Stockney, and Mr. and Mrs. Les Boardman of Medford.

Mrs. Margaret Weston re-

turned to her home in Etna on Thursday, after convalescing from a recent illness at the home of her sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Maguire.

Mr. and Mrs. Marion Penfield left recently for Arizona, where they will make their home with their son, Don Penfield, and family.

Mrs. Edith Newcomb of Ashland spent several days at the home of her niece and nephew Mr. and Mrs. Joe Vieira.

William Tollis, who suffered a heart attack last week and has been undergoing medical treatment at the Ashland General hospital, returned to his home Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Al Powers, Mrs. Ethel Bernheisel and daughter Renee, of Yreka and Edgar Carner of Alturas were weekend guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Don Powers and son David.

WELL EQUIPPED Fitchburg, Mass. —(AP)—Under Massachusetts law, police must make a careful inventory of all items found on anyone arrested. A Vermont woodsman, arrested here after a spree, had 129 articles on his person, including three jackets, two pairs of trousers, a World War II discharge button, one stale roll, a glass cutter, a Junior G-man badge, a horseshoe and 80 cents in change.

Boy Scouts

Troop 15

Troop 15, Phoenix, will hold a pancake feed Sunday, Nov. 24, at 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Phoenix Community club. Explorer Post 15 will assist in the cooking for the feed.

The troop will offer all the pancakes, eggs and sausage people can eat at the feed. The event is to be supervised by the Boy Scout committee, according to Otto R. Caster, chairman.

Applications Being Taken for Meteorologists

The civil service commission is accepting applications for meteorologists.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Chester W. Silliman at the Medford post office or by writing to the civil service commission, Washington 25, D.C.

An automobile hood is called a bonnet in England.

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