

College-Trained Housewives Being Used To Solve Education Problem

OF SMITH & MEN

By Jack Smith

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Having no girl children, I have complacently believed I would never be shaken loose from my sanity by that hideous of sounds - the automobile wolf whistle.

That hateful "woo woo" was something that could happen only to less fortunate fathers, whose toothsome daughters were being delivered at their front gates by less well-bred scions than my own.

All complacent attitude came to an early end. I got a woo woo last Sunday afternoon.

An end-of-the-week nirvana had settled on the household. My older son was reading a review of "Spain '68." I was working the crossword puzzle and was stumped by what turned out to be the Chaldean sun god. My wife was combing the burrs out of the dog. The hi-fi was playing "Jellybean."

There was a woo woo at the door.

"That can't be for us," I said. My boy went to the door and pulled it open.

"Daddy!" he shouted. "It's Doug. He's in a hearse!"

I rushed to the door. It was Doug. He was getting his sleeping bag out of a yellow Cadillac hearse. There was a man at the wheel of the hearse I had never seen before. He smiled and pulled something. The hearse went woo woo.

The hearse, it turned out, is the family car of one of my sons' colleagues in the Boy Scouts of America. He explained that they think of it as a station wagon.

"It came from San Francisco," he said. "It's had 13 years of experience. It's still got the turntable in it."

He had been on a week end campout with the Scouts. "It was really primitive, Pa," he said. "We had to dig our own latrines and I fell in the hole we dug for the dishwasher."

"How'd you manage to do that?" I asked.

"We were playing football in the riverbed," he explained, "and I was trying to catch a high pass."

As it turned out he vindicated himself by cooking hotcakes.

"The only trouble was that the griddle was too hot and they got burned," he said. "You mean the griddle?" I said.

"Yes," he said, "the griddle. The minute you put the hotcakes on it they went psst and were black."

"Were you warm?" my wife asked. That seems to be a mother's main concern. A boy could come home from the Battle of the Bulge and three months in the Rue Figaille and his mother would want to know if he had been warm enough.

"Half the time," he assured her, "I didn't even wear my T-shirt."

"Did you have enough to eat?" she asked. That's their second concern.

"Plenty," he said. "We had burned eggs, too. The griddle was too hot. But I caught a crawfish and a horned toad and a lizard."

"Good Lord!" I exclaimed. "You didn't eat them!"

"No," he said. "I turned them over to a boy who is going to college and is studying animals."

"Did you have enough water out there in the wilderness?" I asked.

"No, Pa," he said, "there wasn't any water at all. We had Kool-Aid. Is there anything to eat?"

"I suppose your mother can whip up something," I said, "as soon as she gets her girdle hot."

"Good," he said. "Pa, do you think we could get a hearse?"

JUDGE DIES
Baltimore - (UPI) - New Jersey Superior Court Judge Nicholas A. Tomasulo, 54, died Saturday.



EX-MOBSTER RELEASED—Mickey Cohen, former mobster, sports a heavy beard as he leaves the Los Angeles jailhouse on \$100,000 bail. He has been in jail for the past two weeks on tax indictments. Sandy Hagen, his latest girl friend, accompanies him as he leaves the jail. (UPI Telephoto)

Graduates Help English Teachers Correct Papers

By LOUIS CASSELS

UPI Correspondent
One of the America's wasted assets is being put to work in some communities to help solve a serious educational problem.

The asset is the brainpower of a large corps of college-trained housewives.

The problem is the teaching of English composition.

Colleges and employers have been complaining loudly in recent years about the inability of many U.S. high school graduates to compose a passable letter, theme or report.

They have pointed out that it is well nigh impossible for a young person to succeed in college or a career unless he has a reasonable facility in communicating information and ideas in writing. And they have demanded to know why high schools were failing to equip a large proportion of their graduates with this essential skill.

Doesn't Come Naturally
The answer is not hard to find. Skill in writing doesn't "come naturally" to anyone; it is developed only through practice - a great deal of practice.

And the average American high school student is not getting much practice in English composition.

Ideally, each student should be required, as part of his high school English courses, to write at least one theme or paper a week.

But studies by the educational testing service of Princeton, N. J., show that many high school English students are assigned only four papers a year.

Dr. Paul B. Diederich, director of the educational testing service, says the paucity of writing assignments is a simple matter of "self-preservation" on the part of overworked high school English teachers.

Many of them are asked to face classes of 35 to 40 students each, for five or six successive periods each day. Their total teaching load may be 200 or more students. That is twice as many students as the maximum recommended by such educational authorities as Dr. James B. Conant. **Wouldn't Have Time**

Obviously, no English teacher can be expected to correct and grade 200 themes a week, or even a major fraction of that number. She wouldn't have time to do so, even if she devoted all of her evenings and most of her week ends to the task.

That's where the college-trained housewives come into the picture.

With the aid of Ford Foundation grants, distributed through the Educational Testing service, high schools in 16 widely-scattered American cities have been conducting an experiment during the past two years.

They have hired housewives, with college degrees in English, to correct and grade compositions in collaboration with regular high school English teachers. The "theme readers" usually work at home, while their own children are in school. They are paid for their work - in some places on the basis of 25 cents per theme, elsewhere at a flat rate of \$1.25 to \$2 per hour.

More Frequent Assignments
With this system, English teachers can assign themes much more frequently - and give their students the supervised practice which is indispensable to the development of proficiency in writing.

There seems to be no good reason why high schools throughout the country should not adopt this idea. The college-trained housewives are available in every community - and eager to be useful. The extra cost will not be excessive for any school district that attached real importance to mastery of the 2nd R.

Retired Employees Hear Several Talks

Col. C. L. Williams reported on the Oregon State Federation of Retired Civil Employees' meeting in Eugene as a featured talk during the local chapter meeting in the Army Reserve center at Columbus and McAndrews rd. Friday.

Local chapter, state and national activities of the National Association of Retired Civil Employees were discussed. Robert Worrell, Rogue River, talked on inventors and the process of obtaining patents.

Next regular meeting will be Nov. 18 at the same place, at 2 p.m.

Army Personnel To Attend Center Dedication Nov. 11

Personnel representing two divisions and Tenth Corps quartermaster will participate in ceremonies marking formal dedication of the new Army Reserve center on Nov. 11. Maj. Gen. William F. Dean, retired, will address townspeople and reservists during the program beginning at 12:30 p.m.

Recently completed at a cost of more than \$250,000, the building at 701 North Columbus ave. is headquarters for the area commander and his two assistants, as well as

CLERGYMAN DIES

Middletown, Pa. - (UPI) - The Rev. Robert S. Marsden, 55, widely known educator and clergyman who helped found the Orthodox denomination of the Presbyterian Church, died Sunday. He was executive secretary of the Westminster Theological Seminary at Philadelphia at the time of his death.

four Department of the Army civilian employees. This staff advises and assists Headquarters 6337th Infantry Division, headquarters and three companies of 2nd Battalion 414th Regiment 104th Division (training) Receiving Company of 104th Division (training)

and headquarters of the 382nd Quartermaster Battalion. The building is designed to provide facilities for administration, supply and training of these units. In addition, many community organizations find the building to be an asset. Activities such as the recent county-wide police training school and various civic club meetings have been held here. The Veterans Day queen selection and the winter flower show will also make full use of the classrooms and assembly hall. Organizations may inquire about use of the building by telephoning Maj. Ray E. Stewart, SP4 2-9295.

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Quotes From the News

By UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

Boston - Former Democratic Congresswoman Mrs. Helen Gahagan Douglas, brushing off an egg-throwing incident at the Ford Hall forum before which she spoke: "With a campaign people often get carried away."

Los Angeles - Tamas Kallai, a Hungarian immigrant who mistakenly received a check for \$100,021.20 instead of one for \$21.20: "I dreamed for a few minutes of what this would buy and then I came back to reality."

Washington - Vice President Richard Nixon, promising hotter developments in an already intense campaign for the presidency: "You haven't seen anything yet."

London - Eddie Fisher, replying to a claim that his wife, Elizabeth Taylor, was too plump to start filming her next picture "Cleopatra": "What's wrong with 38-24-38?"

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