

# Many Americans Turning to Private Schools for Children's Education

## Enrollment Up 66 Per Cent Since War II

**By LOUIS CASSELS**  
UPI Correspondent

Americans in increasing numbers are turning to private schools for the education of their children.

Enrollment in non-Catholic private elementary and secondary schools has increased 600 per cent since the end of World War II, according to statistical records of the U.S. Office of Education.

During the same period, Catholic school enrollment has increased 110 per cent and public school enrollment 68 per cent.

The term "private school" is used here in the same way it is commonly used in conversation - to designate a highly-diverse group of institutions which are not associated with either the public school system or the Catholic school system.

**Many Independent**

Some private schools are related to the Episcopal, Lutheran or other Protestant churches. Many are independent. The category includes day schools, boarding schools, military schools, "finishing schools" for girls and "prep schools" for boys.

One thing they all have in common is that they are fairly expensive compared to public or parochial schools. Tuition charges at private schools range from a minimum of about \$380 a year in some elementary day schools to as high as \$3,000 a year at some big-name prep schools.

In 1946, private schools were widely regarded as an affectation, or at least a luxury, of the rich. Their total enrollment was about 200,000.

Today they are educating more than 1,200,000 students, and many of them are swamped with far more applicants than they can handle.

**Six Major Factors**

What has brought about this dramatic shift in popular attitudes toward private schools?

Interviews with many educators and parents indicate that six major factors are involved. They are:

1. The overcrowding of public and parochial schools in many communities. The relatively low teacher-student ratios that prevail in private schools are a strong attraction to parents whose children have been placed on split-shift schedules, or in classes with 35 or 40 students.
2. A belief that private schools do a better job of teaching basic subjects, such as reading in elementary school, math, science and English in secondary school. Parents who are disenchanted with so-called progressive educational philosophies, or who feel strongly that reading instruction should be based primarily on phonics, are heavily represented among the new patrons of private schools.
3. The "got-to-get-him-into-a-good-college" complex which seizes ambitious parents almost as soon as their children are out of diapers. An increasing number of Americans are convinced that graduation from a "prestige" private school will be an important asset to their children in the intense competitive struggle for admission to big-name colleges and universities.
4. Actual or impending racial integration of public schools. This has been a particularly significant factor in the South, where a large number of new private schools have been established since the Supreme Court issued its 1954 decree.
5. The sharp rise in personal incomes since World War II. Private school tuition is now within the economic reach of many middle-class families which formerly could not afford it. In this connection, it is noteworthy that sending a child to private school has "status symbol" value for some parents who are moving up the social ladder.
6. A desire to have children educated in a religiously-oriented environment. This appears to be a dominant motive with a large number of parents who send their children to Protestant church-related schools (as it is, of course, with parents who send children to Catholic parochial schools). The motive has been strengthened in recent years by the increasing tendency of the courts to ban Bible reading, prayers or other religious exercises from public schools.

**ANIMAL HAVENS**

Washington - There are 275 wildlife refuges in the U.S. national refuge system.

**HORN-HONKERS LABELED**

Los Angeles—UPI—Dr. Fritz Redl, president-elect of the American Orthopsychiatric Association, Sunday proposed this "high-sounding phrase" to label motorists who can't resist sounding their car horns as they drive through tunnels.

"High vulnerability to manipulative gadgetorial seduction."

**TRAPPED MINERS FREED**

Iizuka, Japan—UPI—Twenty-four miners were rescued Sunday and the bodies of two others recovered after the 26 men were trapped in a mine near Nogata on Kyushu, southernmost of Japan's four main islands.

## Signs Beginning To Indicate Suburbia-to-City Migrations

By HENRY J. BECHTOLD  
UPI Financial Editor

New York -UPI- For 15 years we have been reading about, hearing about, and in many cases, participating in, the trek to suburbia.

Now there are signs, particularly in New York City, that there is a migration back to the city.

Until this past year the major portion of returnees were older couples who saw

their children married and now wanted to enjoy the comforts and convenience of city living.

However, indications today are that young couples with children who moved to the suburbs for such reasons as space, educational facilities, privacy, and country living, form the major part of the group retreating back to the metropolitan areas.

Realty Equities Corp., which made a study of the trend, said that although it is nearly impossible to get an accurate count on the number of people returning, there is adequate evidence that the big push is developing.

The company pointed out that there is a definite pattern in New York where it is estimated that about 4,500 families a year are returning to the metropolitan area.

There have been reports of this trend catching hold on a number of other major cities.

Fifteen to 25 per cent of the new building tenants in New York are said to be ex-suburbanites, and their average age is below 29 or over 50.

**Education Prime Factor**

The Realty Equities study showed that among the major reasons for return is one which had been a prime factor in the original suburban

exodus - proper education facilities.

The suburban boom has so over-crowded schools that many communities are running split sessions through the fourth grade. When added to the overburdening school taxes, many suburbanites are becoming disenchanted with their surroundings, and find the schools in New York City more attractive than heretofore.

**Other Complaints**

Other common complaints made by returnees are that it is slightly boring in the suburbs; communities are becoming as crowded as the city;

no opportunities for cultural life; high cost and time involved in commuting leaves less time and money for the family; parking at the railroad station is worse than

bumbling city parking problems; dire shortage of household help; and constantly increasing local taxes make it more and more expensive to live in suburbia.

**26 Flu Cases Are Reported in County**

Twenty-six cases of influenza were reported in Jackson county last week, according to Dr. A. Erin Merkel, public health physician.

Eleven flu cases were reported in Medford, 6 in Shady Cove, 5 in Ashland, and 2 in Rogue River and Phoenix.

Other communicable diseases reported to the Jackson county health department included measles, Gold Hill, 1; ringworm of scalp, Ashland, 1; whooping cough, Medford, 3; mumps, Central Point and Phoenix, 5 each, Medford, 3, and Ashland and Gold Hill, 1 each; chicken pox, Ashland, 4; and pneumonia Medford, 2, and Shady Cove and Central Point, 1 each.

## Civil Service Exams Listed for Positions

Current civil service listings include examinations for seven positions, according to the local civil service representative.

They are teacher, U. S. game management agent, chemist, metallurgical physicist, instructional aid (child guidance), and night attendant.

Additional information and applications may be obtained from the Medford post office, or the 11th U. S. civil service region, federal office building, Seattle, Wash.

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