

PTA Organizations Said Valuable to Education Process

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The Parent-Teacher association (PTA) is an important part of the school organization. Many PTAs are extremely active and valuable to the educational process.

The basic part of any PTA is its membership. Interested and cooperative parents combined with good leadership usually will lead to the type of PTA which is most desirable. A most important factor is the philosophy within which the organization operates.

Working Relationship
PTA activities should be educationally sound. Teachers should be represented on the executive board. A close working relationship between the school and parents is the beginning of the kind of organization which is an asset.

A great deal of caution must be practiced. Political activity might cause a split in the membership which could lead to a lessening of its effectiveness as an educational group.

As in most organizations, the more each member contributes to the well being of the group the more value each individual member will receive in return.

Willing To Help
There are many educational organizations which will be pleased to forward information of help to PTAs. The two major groups are the National Education Association (NEA)

and the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. Both are located at 1201 Sixteenth st., NW, Washington, D. C. They offer consultant services in addition to many publications.

Neighboring PTAs and local school officials also can be helpful. The PTA will be most pleased to have volunteer workers. Contact the school principal, who can direct you to the PTA president.

Nudist Colony Visit Embarrassing

Torquay, England—(UPI)—Officials said it was "all in the line of duty" when three unsuspecting firemen were dispatched to a local nudist colony.

The firemen, sent to the Holiday Camp to fill a swimming pool, realized it was a naturalist retreat when they were admitted by an "unclothed woman."

The men set to work, but faced a crisis at lunchtime when they had to line up with the carefree sun worshippers at a cafeteria-style counter.

"If you are embarrassed at being the odd ones you are quite free to disrobe," suggested one woman.

The firemen reported they declined the offer and decided to go without lunch.

YOUNGSTER SIGNED
Los Angeles—(UPI)—A four-year-old boy was signed to a \$100-a-week television contract Thursday. James Bradley Jr., who plays the drums, will receive his \$100 salary for 26 weeks with ten 13 week options at salaries up to \$200 a week. The three year contract with Paramount Television Productions made the boy the youngest performer ever signed to a long-term television pact.



BUILDING DEMOLISHED—This was a solid fuel curing building at the Hercules Powder Company in Bacchus, Utah, before it was demolished by an explosion Thursday. The violent blast left three men missing and presumed dead and three injured. (UPI)

Prisoners of Pathet Lao Tell Stories of Brutal Treatment

Washington—(UPI)—Two Americans, released last week, had been subjected to brutal treatment while they were prisoners of the Communist Pathet Lao in Laos, the Army said today.

The Army said one of the men was kept in pitch dark solitary confinement for a full year. The other was led like an animal with a rope around his neck.

The two were identified as Maj. Lawrence R. Bailey, 39, Laurel, Md., and Sgt. Orville R. Ballenger, 28, Spring Lake, N.C.

The Army revealed the brutality in an announcement that the men were being flown home and would arrive at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., today.

Due Hospital Treatment
Both will be treated at Army hospitals in the east. The Army said neither will be available for press interviews until they have recovered from the effects of their imprisonment.

Bailey, who fell into the hands of the Communist Pathet Lao in March, 1961, when he parachuted from a C47 transport disabled by ground fire, was subjected to the "black box" solitary confinement. Both he and Ballenger resisted all efforts to break their will and turn them against the United States.

"Major Bailey, suffering from malnutrition, intestinal parasites and malaria, told Army authorities of spending a full year imprisoned in a pitch black room under heavy guard," the Army said.

Saw No Light
"At no time during this period of black box incar-

ceration was natural or artificial light permitted to enter his room."

The Army said his guards allowed Bailey outdoors only at night. He usually was taken outside four times nightly for periods of from one to three minutes each time.

"Thus for a full year Bailey spent but a few minutes out of every 24 hours away from the total darkness imposed on him by his captors," the Army said.

It said Ballenger "received equally brutal treatment, though of a different type."

Though suffering from malaria, parasites, a bone disease and malnutrition, Ballenger resisted repeated attempts to get him to compose

statements condemning U.S. support of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization, the Army said.

Like Animal on Leash

Captured in April, 1961, Ballenger was stripped of his personal effects, tied with his upper arms close to his body and led "as though he were an animal on a leash" with a length of rope looped around his neck until he reached his place of confinement, the Army said.

"En route to his place of confinement, he was paraded through several villages where he was held up to public scorn," the Army said. "On one occasion during this march, a guard sent a rifle bullet crashing past Ballenger's ear as a gesture of derision."

Later, Ballenger was held in a room with other American prisoners where sanitary facilities were "abysmal" and "filth and stench sickened the prisoners," the Army said.

"They had their feet locked in stocks while lying on their backs and were forced to remain in this immobile position for 12 to 14 hours daily," the announcement said.

Accidents Checked By Medford Police

Two accidents were investigated by Medford police Wednesday. No citations were issued, police said.

A car operated by Blanche Olive Moulton, 64, of 101 West Clark st., struck a parked truck registered to Burnath Maurice Morgan, 609 Dakota st., about 7:22 a.m. on Cedar st. between Clark and Bliss sts.

Laura Barbara Wicker, 809 Adams lane, reported to city police that an unknown truck had struck and damaged about eight mail boxes near her home sometime before noon Tuesday. The driver failed to leave information at the scene of the accident.

JUST HIS LUCK

St. Louis, Mo.—(UPI)—Telephone engineer Jack W. Bell quietly played hooky from his job and took his son David, 8, on a sightseeing trip. Bell hoped the boss wouldn't find out. But the secret was revealed when he strolled into the old courthouse at the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial and was greeted by photographers and top officials of the National Park Service. He was the millionth visitor.

Medford Man Found Guilty in Court

Ira Herschel Imhausen, 22, of 911 Beatty st., Medford, was found guilty this week by a Jackson county district court jury of failure to remain at the scene of an accident.

Imhausen is scheduled to be sentenced on the misdemeanor charge Sept. 4, in district court. The charge resulted from an accident July 8 on Table Rock rd., Medford.

District Court Judge L. L. Sawyer found Laura Settell, 205 West Ninth st., guilty of drawing a bank check with insufficient funds to pay in full. Imposition of sentence was suspended for 12 months on condition she make restitution and not open a checking account for one year. She made restitution.

Farm Marketing Receipts Figured At \$17.4 Billion

Washington—(UPI)—The Agriculture Department estimates cash receipts from all farm marketings during the first seven months of 1962 at \$17.4 billion, up 1 per cent from the January-July period of 1961.

Crop receipts accounted for nearly all of the increase, the department said in a review of the demand and price situation.

Farm output in 1962 is expected to be down 1 per cent from 1961. While livestock production is expected to be about the same as for 1961,

crop production is expected to be less. Expenditures Figured
Consumer expenditures for food in the first half of 1962 were 3 to 4 per cent greater than in the first six months of 1961. This was a continuation of the trend for consumers to use higher priced foods and foods with more packaging and services. Consequently, they have to pay a higher marketing bill. While consumer expenditures were up, the farm value of the food apparently was about the same as for the first half of 1961. The per capita consumption of food so far this year was about the same as a year earlier. Unit prices at retail also are about the same.

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