

FAMILY COUNCIL

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, three editors and a women's editor. Each article is a summary of a family disagreement presented to the Council. The Council deals with problems, major and minor, encountered by guidance counselors and social workers. Edited by Mrs. Alma DeWitt. (Copyright by General Features Corp.)

Henry M. - I hate school. It's so boring.
Mrs. J.M. - There's a good reason for every subject.

Henry M. - I'm 11 and in the fifth grade. Why must school be so terribly boring? I met a boy at camp last summer who loves school, because he goes to a farm school where they don't learn with books. They learn swell things like fixing wagons, and taking care of animals, and gardening and things like that.

Instead of studying things I want to know. I must memorize the latitude and longitude of Newfoundland and practice penmanship. I wish my mother would talk to the principal, so school wouldn't be such a waste of time.

Mrs. J.M. - That's what I hear at 8 a.m. every morning and at homework time in the evening. I'm not going to school to insist that they teach what Henry wants, or what I want. I have enough confidence in the Board of Education to feel that they know, from long experience, what subjects will help a boy most.

School was boring for me, too. I tell Henry that many a boy who knows farming well wishes he had more "book-learning." Now's the time for the three R's and books, and if he's bored, well too bad. He should be patient. In junior high school he'll get new subjects. I'd like him to study French, etiquette, religion - many things. But it's not up to me or to him.

The Council: If everything which people think should be taught in school were added to the curriculum, there'd be no time for the 3 R's - which is the primary reason for school. But if anything is added, we wish to put in a bid for the "survival subjects," that is, skills to produce an adult who is "safe."

Recently a director of traffic education began in kindergarten, so that the child can become a safe driver, and also be safer from other drivers. This raises a similar argument for the teaching of psychology in grade one. Henry would explore what makes Sammy cry so fast? Why does Daddy worry? And how about a neat syllabus in sex education, say from the third grade on? This would be real safety education, in the widest meaning of the term. Not merely the physical and chemical aspects of this force would be examined, but also the social, legal and economic ramifications. Then, there's the example of France where they teach boys of Henry's age how to help with household tasks.

Come to think of it, the new "teaching machines" being introduced via automation advances may enable children to teach themselves most of the old three R's, leaving time and the live, human teacher, for exploration, enrichment and experimentation.

British educator A. S. Neill, Headmaster of Summerhill, a progressive school in Suffolk, England - feels that traditional schools stuff the kids with useless knowledge, such as quotations from the classics, while neglecting vital fields, such as their outlooks on life. "They have been taught to know," he accuses, "but have not been allowed to feel."

It should console Henry and his mother to know that curriculums and syllabuses are constantly under scrutiny and usually under fire, from some powerful quarter. While doing his lessons, even under protest, Henry may rest assured he's acquiring time-tested tools. Through her PTA and other groups, however, his mother can campaign for more, or different, ones. After all, we've come a long way from the early British classes which offered boys only Latin, Greek and football.

1963 State Fair Plans Slated for Discussion

Salem - Plans for the 1963 State Fair will occupy the Oregon Fair Commission at a meeting in Portland next Wednesday.

One of the items is selection of a publicity firm to promote the fair. There are a dozen applicants.

Record Number of New Areas Added to National Park System

By Congressional Quarterly Washington (CQ) - The largest number of new areas ever authorized within the National Park System in a two-year period were added during 1961-62 by the 87th Congress and the Administration.

In that time, 13 new national parks, historic sites, memorials and monuments were authorized by the 87th Congress, Kennedy by executive order. In all, there are about 200 areas in the National Park System.

The Administration is already in the running for making a record number of additions to the National Park System, with 13 new areas authorized totaling 232,544 acres.

The Theodore Roosevelt Administration (1901-09) added 19 new areas totalling 1,152,645 acres, including such famous national parks as Grand Canyon in Arizona, Crater Lake in Oregon, Olympia in Washington and Mesa Verde in Colorado.

The Coolidge Administration (1923-29) added 26 areas totalling 3,616,513 acres, including the nation's most popularly attended national park, Great Smoky Mountains, in Tennessee and North Carolina.

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Administration (1933-45) added 37 areas totalling 3,562,227 acres, including the first national seashore park, Cape Hatteras, N.C., and the two national parkways, the Blue Ridge in Virginia and North Carolina, and the Natchez Trace following the old Indian trail between Nashville, Tenn., and Natchez, Miss.

Change in Emphasis

A new trend is developing in additions to the National Park System. More emphasis is being put on adding small areas of great historic interest, adding areas closer to major population centers, and reserving seashore areas as well as majestic mountains within the protective custody of the National Park System.

Thus it is unlikely that the Kennedy Administration will match the acreage included within the park system of that added by the Coolidge and Franklin D. Roosevelt Administrations. But the areas added during the Kennedy Administration will be located in all parts of the country, not mainly in the West and South, as in the past.

Of the areas added to the system in 1961-62, six were located in the South or border areas, four in the East, and one each in the Midwest, the West and in the territorial Virgin Islands.

New Park Additions

Three new seashore parks were added to the National Park System, which previously had only one - Cape Hatteras. They are Cape Cod, Mass., with 67 miles of public shoreline; Point Reyes, Calif., with 84 miles of public shoreline, and Padre Island, Texas, with 162 miles of public shoreline. Both Cape Cod and Point Reyes are near major population centers - Boston and the San Francisco Bay area.

These new seashore parks are rich in history as well as sandy beaches. Vikings and Pilgrims were the first men to set foot on Cape Cod. Point Reyes figured in the early Spanish explorations of the Pacific Coast and may have been used by Sir Francis Drake in 1579 as a stopping place on his trip around the world.

Padre Island was first discovered by the Spanish in 1519. Since then its principal inhabitants have been longhorns and mustangs, once owned by Nicolas Balli, the Spanish Padre for whom the island was named, who acquired it about 1800. Padre Island has the longest shoreline of any of the four national seashore parks.

New Historic Sites

Five new historic sites were authorized by the 87th Congress. They were the Theodore Roosevelt birthplace in New York City, Sagamore Hill, the Theodore Roosevelt home on Long Island, and three key frontier

forts, Fort St. Marks in Florida, Fort Davis in Texas and Fort Smith in Arkansas.

Sagamore Hill is expected to become one of the most visited areas within the national park system. It is a natural tourist attraction, as it is rich in Theodore Roosevelt mementos and is readily accessible by auto and railroad, only 29 miles from New York City. "Teddy" Roosevelt lived at Sagamore Hill from 1897 to 1919. The home and its 85 surrounding acres overlook Oyster Bay and Long Island Sound.

Ind., which was Abraham Lincoln's boyhood home; Cedar Hill in Washington, D.C., home of Frederick Douglass, a famed anti-slavery leader and one of the nation's early Negro leaders; and Buck Island Reef, an 850-acre island and reef near St. Croix, Virgin Islands, famed for its coral barrier reef.

The national memorials added to the National Park System in 1961-62 were the Grange, Alexander Hamilton's home in New York City; the 80-acre farm on Pigeon Creek in Spencer County,

the White House henceforth will receive more protection. Mrs. John F. Kennedy spearheaded action on this measure after she found Lincoln china stored in cracker barrels in the White House basement and a Monroe table being used as a saw horse in a White House carpenter shop. (Copyright 1962 Congressional Quarterly Inc.)

tourist magnet within the National Park System as soon as the Hamilton home is moved to a new site in New York City on the campus of the College of the City of New York overlooking St. Nicholas Park. Congress also established the White House as a national monument in 1961 to assure that the furnishings which belong to the public rooms of

Pendleton School Superintendent Quits

Pendleton - Wallace McCrae, superintendent of Pendleton city schools for 14 years, has submitted his resignation to the school board.

PAINTER GIVES UP

London - Sign outside a newly painted shop in Convent Garden - "Wet lather - lather - lather - paint!"

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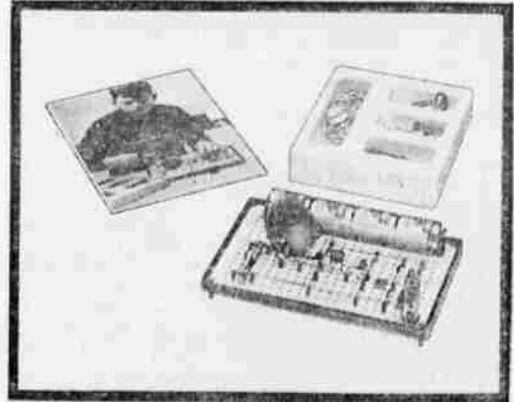
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