

Public Schools Are Placing Emphasis On Safety Classes

By JERRY BENNETT
 WASHINGTON (NEA)—If you want expert advice on how to avoid the hazards of life, ask a school kid. Chances are he can give you tips on how to survive everything from expressway traffic to the hydrogen bomb.

His knowledge stems from a new emphasis on safety education in public schools. Officials of the National Education Association explain that recent technological and social changes are responsible.

The interest in science courses is exposing more youngsters than ever before to dangerous chemicals. Junior rocket clubs, with all their potential hazards, are becoming popular among a growing number of youngsters.

Also more high school students are driving automobiles and riding bicycles to school. The growing popularity of water sports plus the use of new, more powerful shop machinery create a safety responsibility including almost the entire faculty.

Stanley A. Abercrombie, assistant executive secretary of the association's safety commission, explains:

"Teachers have to realize that young people are forward looking and adventurous, and that we cannot succeed in teaching by being potentially dangerous school activities from which students can gain valuable knowledge."

Teachers have found that little good can be achieved from trying to scare a youngster into being safe or forcing him to memorize safety rules. Abercrombie explains:

"A young person must fully understand why something is dangerous in order to appreciate the importance of handling it safely."

He should also be shown that the safe way is also the most efficient and the most fun."

One of the most effective methods used to make students enjoy being safety conscious is encouraging them to run their own safety programs.

An example is the National Student Traffic Safety Program which is operated by the safety commission and financed by the Firestone Rubber Co. Students in about 800 schools select traffic projects and work on them throughout the school year. Projects range from conducting safe driving publicity campaigns to locating community traffic hazards.

Each summer representatives of participating schools hold a

national safety conference. Certificates of merit and plaques are awarded to schools with the most successful campaigns.

In such academic courses as chemistry and physics, teachers explain hazards of natural elements such as fire and electricity. The study of accident causes and prevention has become part of social science courses.

Some schools teach students what to do in case of a nuclear attack. In most cases such instruction has been given by local Civil Defense officials.

Next year, however, the subject may be taught by faculty members. The U.S. Office of Education is preparing a special course on nuclear survival for high schools.



SCIENCE teacher gives laboratory safety instruction.

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HIGHEST FIRE LOSSES

NEW YORK (UPI)—Fire losses were the highest in history in the United States during 1960, according to the Board of Fire Underwriters.

The board reported Thursday that 1960 losses totaled \$1,107,824,000, a 5.8 per cent increase over 1959 and the fourth consecutive year that losses have exceeded the \$1 billion mark.

VATICAN PLEASED

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Vatican circles Thursday expressed satisfaction that Queen Elizabeth II has named Dr. Arthur Michael Ramsey as the archbishop of Canterbury.

In Roman Catholic Church quarters there was hope that the new appointment would help improve relations between the Vatican and the Anglican Church.

Pops To Met The Hard Way



By DICK KLEINER
 Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

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NEW YORK (NEA)—The Met's fine new baritone, Cornell Mac Neil, has been a boy on a dairy farm, a struggling young singer, an actor and a machinist in his time. And yet, if you ask him what he considers the hardest work, he'll say recording.

"For one thing," he says, "it has to be perfect, vocally. You always know that the critics—the amateur singers—are going to listen to every note. For another thing, I've always recorded op-



Cornell Mac Neil Perry Como

eras in Rome in mid-summer and that's hot work. The studio is small and there's an orchestra, a 25-person chorus, the principals and 450 tubes all giving out heat."

Mac Neil, nevertheless, will continue making operatic records. He says it is impossible to have a big career today without making records.

"But I don't have to like them," he says. "Today's records are more and more sound, but less and less of the performance. I don't know how to solve the dilemma, but somebody should do something."

Mac Neil is an Edina, Minn., farm boy who had a middling success as a light singer until he was 30. He had been on Broadway ("Where's Charley?" and "The Consul") and he had appeared at the Radio City Music Hall. Then he decided that what he really wanted to do was study and sing opera.

It was a tough decision. At the time, he had three children and a wife to support. Since he felt he couldn't sing popular songs and study opera at the same time, he

gave up his career completely to study. He supported himself and his family as a machinist, ending up as a \$200-a-week supervisor in a plant making rocket fuses.

He studied days, worked nights and slept when he could. After a couple of years of this, he made his operatic debut with the New York City Opera, but he really achieved his first great success in Italy, at La Scala. Since then, he's become one of Europe's reigning baritones, and currently his family (five children now) lives in Italy.

"I moved there to improve my Italian," he says. "So what happens? I get signed by the Met in New York."

Perry Como is known as a man with no temper or temperament, but his orchestra leader, Mitchell Ayres, pops that balloon.

"Perry has a temper like everyone else," Mitch says. "At recording sessions, he's a perfectionist and everything must be just the way he wants it."

"And he loses his temper at the normal things everybody does. When we're driving, for instance, and somebody cuts him off, he really lets the offender have it."

Ayres does say, however, that Como is "the most charming gentleman I've ever met," and that he lets his temper go only when he's off with his closest friends, in a car or on the golf links.

Dick's Picks: Johnny Tillotson should roll again with his new one, "Jimmy's Girl," on Cadence. Others: "Show Folk" (Paul Evans, Carlton); "Past the Age of Innocence" (Marilyn Michaels, RCA); "Tell Him for Me" (June Valli, Mercury); "Swiss Family Robinson Theme" (Camarata, Vista); "If I Didn't Care" (The Platters, Mercury); "Cimarron" (David Rose, MGM); "Joey's Theme" (Ray Ellis, MGM).

More percussion-type instruments, perfect for stereo and fine, too, on ordinary hi-fi. On the new Life label, Bob Florence and his band use "Bongos-Reeds-Brass" to good effect; on Decca, Henry Jerome has a new one, "Brazen Brass Goes Hollywood," which has a fine sound; on Command, Enoch Light's "Big Bold and Brassy" is more of his brass percussion technique. Audio Fidelity's latest in its "Doctored for Super Stereo" series are organist Eddie Osborn with "Baldwin Organ and Bongos" and Bobby Christian and his orchestra with "Percussive Big Band Jazz." UA has a new series, called Ultra Audio, and the best of its first batch of releases is the two-piano team, Ferrante and Teicher, with "Dynamic Twin Pianos."

Two fine recent classical piano releases: On RCA, pianist Victor Babin joins with violinist Henryk Szeryng and French hornist Joseph Eger on Brahms' Trio in E-flat, and Babin and Eger do Beethoven's Sonata for French Horn and Piano; on DGG, pianist Wilhelm Kempff, with Leitner and the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra, plays Mozart's Piano Concertos 23 and 24.

WORK COMPLETED

JODRELL BANK, England (AP)—American scientists working with the world's largest radio telescope at Jodrell Bank have been recalled to the United States, team manager William Young said Thursday.

The group which came to Britain 2½ years ago, comprises 8 electronics experts and 3 dependent families. They cooperated with British scientists in tracking U.S. space vehicles.

Their work has been completed with the end of the U.S. series of 56 rocket firings.

The remains of an earthen fort, a mystery to archeologists, is in Missouri's Van Meter State Park.

THINK! THINK! THINK!



Because they never learned how really to study, and as a result got poor grades in school, some people go through life thinking they are stupid.

Actually they may be quite bright or even potentially brilliant. A University of Southern California professor has proved that failure in school is often just a bad habit—one that can be eliminated and replaced with good habits that bring success.

How to establish such good habits is explained by Prof. Leslie J. Nason in clear and simple language that anyone can understand in a 15-part series starting Monday in this newspaper. It's called "You CAN Get Better Grades," and it's required reading both for students and for parents with boys and girls in school.

ACT! ACT! ACT!

And parents will want to send for Dr. Nason's 52-page booklet, "You CAN Get Better Grades." It's a complete guide on proper study habits that can be a valuable aid during a child's formative school years. See details on the booklet

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