

# Tragedy Of Eagle Is More Than \$200,000

The tragic fire at Eagle Elementary School has resulted in a great loss, much greater than the estimated \$200,000 damage to building and contents.

The district's insurance policies will recoup the structural loss and ruined equipment, but there is one loss no insurance company is capable of recuperating.

THE MONETARY value of that loss is beyond measure and can only faintly be gauged through the heart. THAT LOSS is the destruction of a number of handicraft projects labored on for weeks by the crippled children attending Eagle School.

Having toured the orthopedic facilities at Eagle, news of the fire and its damage to the building was followed by tragic, haunting scenes: the scene of that little girl without arms using an artificial arm to do a painting for her mother; the smiling young girl working patiently and industriously weaving a rug; and a young boy struggling with a wood project to make something for dad.

These projects are invaluable as therapeutic aids because the kids took great pride in the objects their own hands were making. You can read, almost word for word, the joy on a handicapped child's face discovering he can create something lasting and worthwhile.

I am sure, if I had the heart, I could also read word for word the expressions of dismay, sorrow and shock on the face of each kid when told his weeks of

labor had been wiped out by smoke damage. This is the real, gripping tragedy of the Eagle School fire.

THE BUILDING WILL be refurbished, classrooms cleaned up, and the school will open again. But nobody can replace the woven rugs, birdhouses and finger paintings.

Those haunting scenes of smiling faces are still much more visible than the billows of smoke and the charred black classrooms at Eagle. The kids certainly will smile again, undertake new projects, and probably even forget Monday's tragedy. Kids can do that. But I can't.

## EDITORIAL

If the vandal who started the Eagle fire is ever apprehended, he should be forced to view the ruined handicraft projects and then be introduced to those brave kids who struggled so long to complete their craft.

A year in jail reminding over that memory would be suitable punishment, but maybe too cruel.

I am bitter at the act of burning the school, although I have no bitter feelings towards the arsonists. But I hope, if he doesn't get caught, he will know now the terrible consequence of his actions.

EMORY DANIELS

# A Therapeutic Cure For Troubled Times

There are plenty of topics to choose from for this week's column — the Vietnam War, the Student MOBE, Kent State, the Environmental Crisis, the imminent crash of Wall Street, or My Dog Toby.

But all of these topics are equally gloomy and disheartening. Our current era requires a sense of humor to maintain a balanced view about what's happening around us.

But it's becoming more difficult to laugh and much easier to become angry. In a condition like this, it is best to keep one's mouth shut and go fishing.

**Daniels Den**  
By EMORY DANIELS

PROBABLY THE REASON for my gloom is that it's been awhile since my last fishing trip.

In order of priority, a fishing trip ranks second only to a sense of humor as psychotherapy. And when your sense of humor wanes, his time to dig out the tackle.

Fishing as a sport has little therapeutic value. If you take

warm sun, and stare at that red and white bobber dancing rhythmically in the cool, blue-green water.

Add to this the pleasure of the smell of seaweed and worms and you have a proper environment for serious reflection on problems confronting us.

THAT'S WHY it has to be still fishing and why the sports fishermen are doomed for a nervous breakdown.

Staring at that bobber provides the same kind of meditative environment the chess player enjoys hovering over the chess board.

I'm personally convinced Thoreau would have been better off dangling for bluegills than spending his time in the woods. And if Hemingway hadn't been continually after the big fish his life may have ended less tragically.

And that's why John Steinbeck knew what he was doing, traveling around America in a camper trailer and his dog Charley. Steinbeck appreciates the value of rocking in a dingy boat with a tall cane pole.

But my fishing trip will probably end in disaster. With my luck, the day I get out on the lake the fish will be biting like mad which would spoil everything.

## Harrison Will Be Ready

FARMINGTON Harrison High School Principal Lewis Schulman told members of the school's parent advisory group that the present outlook is that the school will open on time and with all facilities completed.

A RECENT inspection showed some 124 men working at the school. Great progress has been made especially on the third level academic area.

Installation of electrical fixtures, classroom walls, doors and lockers is moving along, and students should be able to enroll at Harrison in September 1970.

Barring unforeseen circumstances (strikes, etc.), the auditorium, pool and physical education facilities will also be completed.

THE STUDENT ADVISORY committee has been meeting and has been concerned with student representation. A plan has been adopted which embodies representation in two houses, one allocating students according to geographic location, the other reflecting grade classification.

Pre-registration of students has been completed. A preliminary tally indicates that of 1,072 students, 870 are enrolled in math, almost 600 in foreign languages, more than 600 in science, 800 plus in physical education, more than 500 in the area of industrial arts and 71 in business education.

Enrollment in home economics is somewhat disappointing, according to Schulman, but he feels this will improve as the school grows.

Tentative reservations have been made for 96 Harrison students to attend the Oct. 1 performance of "Merchant of Venice." Volunteer parents who might be interested in helping to sponsor and arrange the trip are asked to call Schulman's office, 477-5373.

## Seaman Studies

Navy Seaman Geoffrey L. Wendorf, son of Mr. and Mrs. Norbert V. Wendorf of 33234 Kingsland Creek, Farmington, was graduated from Basic store keeper course at the Naval Supply School at Newport, R.I.

## Brave

Continued from Page 1A door, officers rushed into the store. In bewilderment, Pam asked what was wrong. The alert clerk said, "There's a dirty old man following you."

PAMELA chuckles about this in her husky voice, her dreamy brown eyes lighting up. She finds it a little more difficult to chuckle about one of the loves of teenage life-driving, a car.

"When I know the other kids are driving and I can't, it makes me so sad. It makes me unhappy to hear about driver's ed."

But then she puts one of her beloved Beatle albums on the record machine, or plays with her best friend, her dog, Dawn, or thinks of how she's going to convince the latest boyfriend to let her do things for herself.

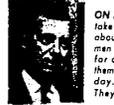
## Lieutenant Now

James S. Engstrom, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Engstrom Jr., 23708 Beacon Drive, was commissioned a second lieutenant upon graduation from the Officer Candidate School at the U.S. Army Field Artillery Center in Fort Sill, Okla.

Gunnery was the primary subject taught during the 23-week course, designed to prepare men for officer duties in artillery units.

Engstrom entered the Army in April 1969 after graduating from Farmington High School in 1968.

**John and Bill say:**



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By ANNE M. PHILLIPS MA 6-6335

This is my easy week — and how I do appreciate it!

I'd like to pin a medal on Michael Flecher because he called me up with the news that his parents, Donald and Norma Flecher, had taken him and his two younger brothers to visit our nation's capital.

They flew down May 4, took as many of the sightseeing tours as they could crowd in and found it all very inspiring. They also had an opportunity to visit relatives in Virginia before flying home.

FRED AND ZELLA Missal, and Bill and Helen Weightman, also arrived home last Sunday afternoon. Zella wrote up for me the following account of their trip:

"The Fred Missals and the William Weightmans took off by a chartered Swissair jet with 111 others for Zurich, Switzerland.

"Here they transferred to an electric train, of which the Swiss system is one of the best, and traveled four hours through magnificent mountain scenery and Swiss villages to the Swiss Riviera of Montreux on Lake Geneva.

"The month of May in Switzerland at the lower altitudes is very much like the month of May here. The fruit trees and the flowers were abundant and well maintained vineyards were everywhere on the slopes between the Swiss Alps and Lake Geneva.

"Some of their sightseeing trips took them by motor coach, cog-railway and cable cabin car. One of these excursions took them through the Rhone Valley, then up to the picturesque village of Diablerets, a winter sports resort; then by cable car to Glaciers where they could view the magnificent highest peaks in Europe.

"Other excursions took them to the home of world famous Swiss cheese — Gruyeres, to beautiful Interlaken, Berne, and Gstaad. Another trip took them to Zermatt and Gornergrat, where they could view the ski slopes of the majestic Matterhorn.

"Their trip will long be remembered. There are many more highlights to be remembered. They say this has been a delightful taste, a first course, of Switzerland. They must go back for more."

ONE MORE OF our Florida families has returned. Dick and Grace Taylor got back to Wood Creek last week Friday.

As they have now bought a home down there they have sold the houseboat, but Dick just must have a boat so they are enjoying a cruiser. Wood Creek did not give them too warm a welcome but we do hope they will stay here for a good visit.

The next Womens Association meeting will be June 2, in the home of Helen Snodgrass on Danvers Drive. Our new slate of officers will take over. They are: Nancy Brassett, president; Lee Kay, treasurer; Wilma Sieloff, recording secretary; Lou Lewis, corresponding secretary.

JUNE 6 IS Family Fun Day — always a very delightful occasion.

Again this year it will be held in the spacious home and grounds of Dick and Pat McGrath, 29128 Wellington.

The crowd will gather at noon for pony rides, a cone island lunch, ice cream, and pop. This will be followed by organized games with prizes.

Come all you teenagers and help with the festivities to make it the best possible Family Fun Day.



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