

Questers Mark Sixth Year

Quakertown Chapter of the Questers held their January 26 meeting in the home of their president, Mrs. H. P. Adams. This meeting was the sixth anniversary of the Quakertown Chapter formation.

Refreshments were served to members and guests at an attractive buffet table centered with a colorful arrangement of pink carnations and heather. Assisting in pouring was Mrs. R. W. Shaffoe.

Following a short business meeting with plans for coming events, the meeting was turned over to the speaker for the afternoon, Mrs. Wilfred Zimmer-

man. Members heard a very interesting talk on "The History of American Glass" with many lovely old examples to supplement her talk.

The Questers welcomed a new member, Mrs. M. B. Bressler.

The next Quester Meeting will be at the home of Mrs. L. Draper and the topic will be "Modes of Dress." The speaker will be Mrs. K. P. Davidson.

The Questers is a study group learning about antiques and their historical background. Those interested in attending or wishing further information are asked to call Mrs. Adams at EL 6-3463.



THE FARMINGTON OPTIMIST CLUB played host to the Lt. Governor of the Southeastern Michigan Optimist Zone at their regular dinner meeting held Tuesday evening, January 25, at the Botsford Inn in Farmington. Officers of the Farmington Optimist Club are pictured above with their distinguished

guest (L to R) Ralph Bartholomew, Robert V. Greene, President Royce Norton, Lt. Gov. Al Skow, Vice President French Davis and Don Y. Moore. Bartholomew, Greene and Moore are all members of the Farmington Optimist Club Board of Directors.

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Teachers Explore Mental Health

By MARJORIE EICHER
Community Relations Coord.
Farmington Public Schools

The responsibility of the teacher in the preventive areas of mental health was outlined by six experts at a workshop for elementary teachers, Jan. 26 and 27.

The speakers were in agreement that the classroom atmosphere is an important factor in the mental health of the school child and that teachers must become more knowledgeable in recognizing mental illness. Teachers must also be aware of the resources for treatment that are available in the community, the 400 elementary educators were told.

Discussing the manner in which anxiety interferes with the learning process, keynote speaker Dr. Kenneth Davidson, Wayne State University psychologist said, "There have to be freedoms in the classroom freedoms to be different, freedom to inquire and freedom to make mistakes." The chief anxiety we impose upon children, he pointed out, is the sense that they are failures if they don't know the right answers.

IN ADDITION to lessening anxieties Dr. Davidson stated that teachers have an obligation in the area of mental health to observe behavior and draw objective inferences from what they see.

Mr. David Cason of Merrill-Palmer Institute outlined dynamic community-school programs existing in Flint and Detroit. "What happens to a child outside the classroom doors, in the community itself, can distort or interfere with the learning process," he stated. Cason, a sociologist, urged teachers to know their community better in order to be better teachers.

Evelyn Kidnigh, Oakland County Health Department director of nursing assessed Farmington as a community of young, well-educated, affluent people. "The median age is 24 years," she cited. "Sixty-eight per cent have completed high school and 15 per cent have completed college — and one-third of the population earn more than \$10,000 annually."

ALL OF THESE figures are favorable in terms of the county and national averages, Miss Kidnigh said. "But we must not be content with this if tomorrow's health standards are to be better than today's," she warned.

Farmington's infant death rate, for example, is above the county average, due principally to prematurity and birth defects, according to Miss Kidnigh. "We can lower this statistic if we can change the cultural pattern of our teen-agers to the point at which it is fashionable to be nutritionally well-fed," she concluded.

"Elementary school is the place where preventive mental health belongs," stated Dr. Virginia Svagr, Oakland Schools psychologist.

Dr. SVAGR cautioned teachers to think of mental health as a three-dimensional concept involving a child's attitude toward himself, the degree to which he relates to reality and the effort he makes to master his environment.

"Help him understand the idea of flexibility and the alternative behaviors he can display in a situation, help him build a personal stability so that he has degrees of adaptability, so social skills, initiative, modest optimism and a feeling of well-being." The individual can then be effective in a crisis, according to Dr. Svagr.

"Weave these concepts into the classroom and you will be doing a good job of preventive mental health," she concluded. "As teachers, we know what kind of things contribute to learning," said Merrill-Palmer's Dr. Armin Grams, head of that institution's human development program. "This is the important area in which parents and teachers should be working together."

Dr. GRAMS feels that a great deal must be done in suburban society with parents. "We must be very careful about who we label deprived," he said. "There are many kinds

of deprivation and they're not all economic."

Some specific changes Grams would make in education include:

- Starting boys in school one year later in recognition of their maturation difference to girls.

- Having men teach at the first grade level.

- Promoting the idea that the finest teachers should be teaching at the primary level.

- Bringing the present teacher-pupil ratio of 1 to 28 closer to the 1 to 4 teacher-pupil ratio of a good nursery school.

"I've seen a child who has had four solid successful years in school and he can stand up to any classroom stress," Dr. Grams concluded.

Dr. James Sonnegge, staff psychiatrist at Hawthorne Center startled the audience of professionals by stating, "There are 500,000 mentally ill children in the United States and only two per cent of them are receiving some kind of treatment."

PSYCHIATRIST, he said, is moving in two directions: "Away from the couch and toward the public through the schools and toward the laboratory." Dr. Sonnegge described some of the experiments and medications available today for the treatment of mental illness, but proclaimed that he was on the side of preventive techniques.

"For the best interests of the child in the public schools, we must find more ways of involving the fathers as well as the mothers," he stated.

The annual workshop was under the co-chairmanship of Douglas Smith, interim director of Special Education; and Margaret Cottrell, Eagle School principal.

Proposes Label

On Throwaways To Stop Littering

State Representative Raymond L. Baker, Farmington Republican, last week proposed that beer cans and throwaway bottles be required to carry warnings against littering.

Baker's bill comes as a result of last summer's House Liquor Committee hearings at which much concern was expressed about littering caused by the careless discard of beer and ale throwaways.

"We learned that throwaways comprise about 90 per cent of the littering problem and present real hazards to machinery, livestock and individuals," Baker said.

"WHAT IS NEEDED," he claimed, "is stricter enforcement of existing anti-litter laws and increased public awareness of the penalties involved and the desirability of cleaner roads and parks."

"Printing of a warning on containers will not only provide a deterrent, but also add greatly to needed education on the subject," he said.

Baker labeled a proposal to outlaw throwaway containers introduced last week "as too extreme and not standing much chance of passage."

"We ought to try this approach first, since the problem is chiefly one of education," he concluded.

Serves Aboard New U-S Navy Submarine

Navy Lieutenant Richard N. Charles, son of Mr. and Mrs. Reg F. Charles of 2803 Farmington Road in Farmington, participated recently in the commissioning ceremonies of the Navy's newest nuclear-powered fleet ballistic missile submarine USS Kamehameha at Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Vallejo, Calif.

The new "Polaris" submarine, the 32nd in the fleet of this type of submarine, is named for Kamehameha the Great, first monarch of the united Hawaiian Kingdom.

After completion of a "shake-down" cruise, she will join the Pacific Fleet Submarine Force, and will be homeported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Bridge Clubs Combine Here

Al Collins of the Mayfair Duplicate Bridge Club has assumed the directorship of the Birmingham Duplicate Club which meets on Thursday nights at the Birmingham YMCA, 400 E. Lincoln St.

Mr. Collins has been in the bridge business for two years and directs two weekly games on Tuesday and Friday evenings in Farmington, Michigan. He is an electrical wholesale supply salesman by day, having been employed by the same firm for nineteen years. He is a resident of Birmingham, Michigan, where he lives with his wife and four children.

The Thursday evening game will have the same format, as under the previous owner and director. Game time is 7:45 p.m. and every effort will be made to start promptly. Master point night will be the second Thursday of each month. For further information, call MA. 6-2109.

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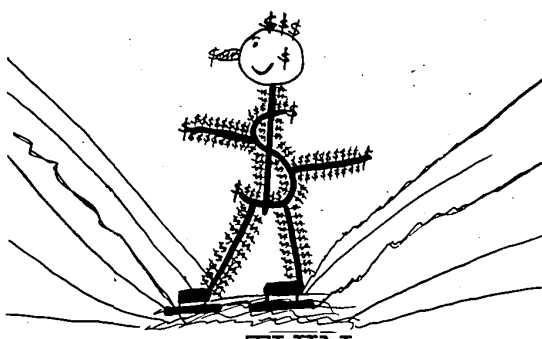
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