

Your Child And The School

By Miss Lucille Hunt

So often in the past all of us have been concerned with finding and correcting our faults in school work that we seldom check to see what is good. What is right with our public schools?

Occasionally, it is a good thing

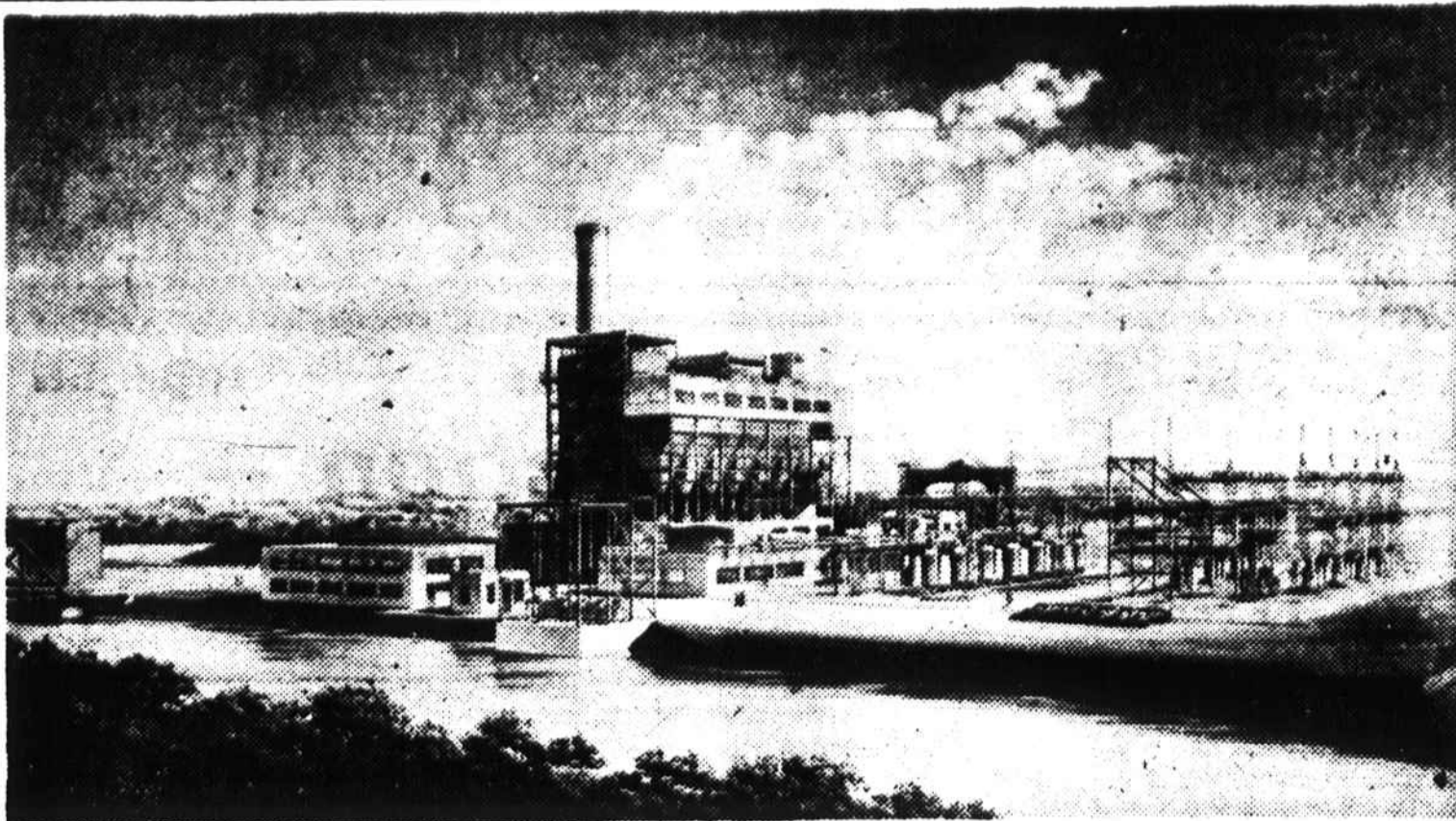
to assess the present strengths of our democratic institutions, not with smugness, but with a justifiable pride in achievement.

Criticism of our public schools raises its voice easily: high school graduates can't spell; the school doesn't teach enough phonics or grammar or bookkeeping; delinquency is the result of the failure of our public schools.

More thoughtful critics sometimes say: Cities have slum schools in buildings and equipment. The school doesn't do enough for the gifted pupil. The high school may crystalize the social satisfaction existing among its students when they enter school.

These criticisms should be and are studied carefully by school people. However, in all fairness, we must not overlook the great strengths of the public schools.

The following facts on the credit side of the ledger are given in the spirit of Denis Brogan in his book, "The American Character": "The American school is undertaking



NEW POWER PLANT — On the banks of the Neuse near Goldsboro, North Carolina, is arising a 200,000 horsepower steam electric generating plant of the Carolina Power & Light Company. This is an architect's drawing of the plant as it will appear with two 100,000 horsepower units. Much of the steel work has been completed already.

The first 100,000 horsepower unit is due to go into production by mid-1951, the second unit a year later. Together with the new Lumberton plant of the Company, it will provide 60 per cent more power for the company than it generated in 1949.

to do more than it can do (which is very American) and is doing much more than it seems to do (which is also very American)."

The public school is the greatest agency for citizenship we now have. In most communities, the public high school is the only place where all the children of all the people participate in common activities. The school is doing much more than instructing these youth. It is letting them instruct one another in how to live. The public school is the most potent weapon that we have forged for developing the social habits and attitudes that make up good citizenship.

The public schools contribute to the moral and spiritual growth of youth. Our public schools have always held worthy character as one of their principal aims. They leave to the home and the church certain phases of religious education, specific creed or doctrine, and ample time in which to do it. But they work for moral and spiritual values "inextricably associated with human relations, growth, and mental hygiene, and the devel-

ment of the total personality."

Through such procedures as cooperative planning, community participation, student government, camping, and other recreational activities, and the use of stories and biographies illustrating high ethical values, the modern public school takes its place as one of the great forces in developing character in a democracy.

The public schools have given the people of this country a very high literary rate. The record is still not good enough, but it is startlingly good. Never before has such a large percent of our population in the United States been able to read. Much of the credit for our steady advance of literary must be given to the public school. There are over 50 million copies of newspapers published daily with an average of two or three

readers of each copy. Book sales have declined in the last two or three years but still run ahead of even a decade ago.

Research suggests that the average reading level of adults in this country has risen appreciably in the last 30 years. Once again, the credit for this rise in general reading ability must go to the public schools. And because people can read better things they are beginning to do so. Who is responsible for this growth of the public schools? Every man, woman, and child who has contributed in any way to the growth, development, and appreciation of our public education of all the people. With all of its faults it is doing a great work and with the help of the citizens of our country we can and will make our good schools better.

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HELP KEEP AMERICA FREE

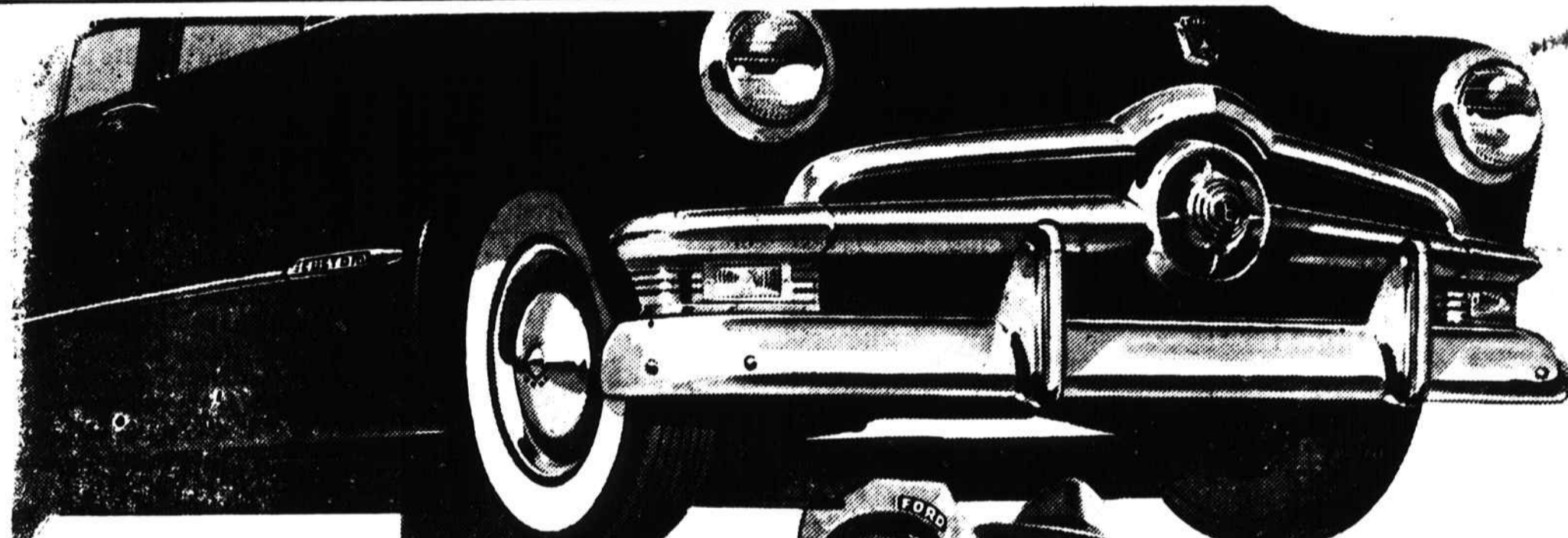
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