

Revelations

Have you been to school recently? If you haven't, you should. Schools have changed a lot since you went, especially if you attended school twenty or more years ago. You will be surprised by what you find. Whether that surprise is pleasant or not depends upon what you expect to find. It also depends upon your education since you have left the school room. If you have kept up with trends in education, if you have grown with the school system, continued to learn, to keep an open mind.

This week in November is a good time to attend the school in your community. It is National Education Week. Many parents will go at the invitation of their children and their children's teachers. But even if you have no children, or if your children have graduated and gone on to college or the world, you ought to go to school this week. You owe it to yourself as an investor to find out where your tax dollars are going, how they are being spent. Certainly if you express opinions about your schools, you should have a little first-hand knowledge. You can't have an honest opinion without knowing at least a few of the facts. Statistics can be dull and boring. They can also be shocking and alarming. It all depends upon what they are used to prove, or disprove, by whom they are used and for what purpose. You can take the same set of figures and prove two opposite theories if you are clever enough in your interpretation of the figures.

Pick up any current magazine. Almost surely you will find an article or a series of articles on "What is wrong with our schools?", "Why are the schools falling?", "Crisis in the School System," etc., etc.

You can pick any title at random, often several pieces with the same title. You can read them all, mark them well, digest the figures offered to prove the theories of the author. You won't be much wiser when you have finished. Too many of them diagnose the disease but offer no cure; more of them deal in generalities with no specific recommendations for improvements except physical ones.

We all know, the authors of these articles as well as the readers, the teachers, parents and taxpayers, that our schools are overcrowded and understaffed. But so are all other public institutions. Even private schools are crowded, straining their facilities to the breaking point. The price of everything in a school room goes up year by year, but the teachers' salaries are the slowest of all. In a few years the problem of overcrowding will be far more acute. By 1960 the high school enrollment will be up to two million and still going up.

We look at our tax bill and shudder at what will come then. We wonder if we can build new buildings at such a rate, if after we get the new buildings and new equipment, we can staff them adequately. Where are the teachers coming from to teach all these students?

I believe that without teachers, good teachers, all the shining new equipment is worthless. A truly good teacher will inspire a love of learning in her students no matter how poor the physical facilities. Conversely, a poor teacher will not use the most modern equipment wisely, and may do a child much harm, instilling in him a hatred of school, or even worse, any higher authority. . . since to him government and school will become almost synonymous, and he will have contempt for both.

Teachers hold in their hands the destinies of our children, and the future of our country. No profession is so rewarding or so little rewarded. A teacher must have a sense of dedication, a love for her work and for the children under her, to rise above the lack of cooperation, the incessant and usually baseless criticism that she has to endure.

It is a doctrine of Christianity (St. Luke X, 7) that the laborer is worthy of his hire. We have never applied this to our teachers for some short-sighted reason. No person in the community is of greater importance or so grossly underpaid. We might well consider Plato's reminder that the direction in which education starts a man will deter-

mine his future life.

So during this week at least, take time to visit your school. Look around you, listen to what you hear. If you have any ideas of your own for the improvement of the school, then write them to the teacher, the school board, the principal. If you find things worthy of praise, then for goodness sake, give the praise where it is due. If you don't understand things, then ask questions. There is no better way to learn anything.

Just don't sit back at home and find fault with the schools, the system, the teachers. You have no right to do that, certainly if you haven't taken the trouble to find out what you are talking about. And you may learn a lot of things you never knew before.

HELEN CALDWELL CUSHMAN

Author's Note:
During the time when I lived in Duplin County, I had occasion to visit the schools often, especially those in Kennesville. I was amazed, am still amazed at what I found there. I found better schools than in most places in which I have lived, finer teachers, more eager pupils. Most important to me was the real cooperation between the schools and the citizens of the community, men and women of the calibre of Dallas Herring, for instance, who has done so much for education and the schools of Duplin County. I found a deep interest in the schools in the farmers, the lawyers, the business men, the club women of the county. The parents attended school functions in great numbers. And I am convinced that nowhere in the United States is there a better art and music festival than in Duplin. The children will lead richer, fuller lives because of their interest in the citizens. How much other places suffer by comparison. ! !

As Lord Broughham wrote, "Education makes people easy to lead, but difficult to drive; easy to govern, but impossible to enslave." If American ideals are going to survive the battle for the minds and loyalties of men, we must have a well-educated citizenry."

Hurricane Damaged Trees Are Susceptible To Bark Beetles

If trees blown down or partially uprooted by Hurricane Hazel are allowed to remain as they are now, they are likely to become "an extremely serious breeding ground" for bark beetles by next spring and summer.

This warning was issued last week by Robert L. Scheer, in charge of forest tree pest and disease control work for the Department of Conservation and Development's Division of Forestry.

Pine stands in many sections of the State, especially in the eastern area. Scheer said, were already seriously weakened by the severe drought of the past two years and the recent hurricane helped compound their weakened condition, thus making them more susceptible to attacks from insects.

The Ips engraver beetle, Scheer said, is now scattered over much of Eastern North Carolina. "This insect," he added, "ordinarily causes little damage, but it has grown increasingly aggressive as the drought continued. This beetle is now killing trees which would usually be able to resist its attacks. The addition of pines downed or injured by the recent hurricane could make conditions so good for this type of beetle that it might well cause substantial damage to our trees."

While the southern pine beetle, which is a far more serious killer of three than the Ips engraver beetle, has not been reported in the area hit by Hurricane Hazel, Scheer said it is "quite conceivable" that the Southern pine beetles might begin to appear in the eastern section unless killed or damaged trees are given the proper kind of attention. The Southern pine beetle, Scheer added, is now known to be infesting pines in several western areas and some have been reported in past years in the sections hit by the recent hurricane.

Scheer urged landowners to salvage for pulpwood and saw timber all of the three that were downed or damaged by the hurricane. The

salvaging should be done during the winter months. Insects and diseases are already damaging North Carolina woodlands to the extent of about \$10,000,000 annually and should a bark beetle epidemic result from the hurricane damage, the annual losses would be materially increased, Scheer said.

Most every man knows his own business, but it is often difficult to make his neighbors believe it.

Opportunity sometimes comes to the man who waits, but the hustler secures a key to the door of success.

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Health For All

No Athlete's Heart

"Athlete's Heart" is a myth, judging by results of a series of tests made recently on former champion athletes. It used to be said that athletes suffer enlarged hearts and die of heart diseases before their time. The fact is that former athletes are in better condition than the average middle-aged man.

The average former athlete tested had a more efficient heart and blood circulation, better feet, stronger hands, wider shoulders, smaller hips, and less body fat than others of his age. Their general condition showed they are more ready for action and better able to tolerate stress. They are more agile and have better muscular endurance.

There were, of course, a few exceptions—men who, after winning a title, lapsed into a sedentary life, ate heavily, smoked and drank too much, and so tore down the magnificent physiques built up by athletic training. Those who kept active, however, are physically superior, and so is the average of all the champions tested.

But what of the man who has never been an athlete, who has led a sedentary life until reaching middle age? He is somewhat overweight, has rising blood pressure and sluggish circulation, doesn't sleep well—just doesn't feel very well. Can he change his ways and start to improve his condition, or is it dangerous for him to begin to be physically active so late in life? He can and should begin to recondition himself, with the approval and guidance of his doctor. With conscientious exercise in moderation and with a sensible diet, he can lengthen his life and make it well worth living.

Most people will agree that the last sparrow would be a more welcome bird than the first robin.

This column sponsored in the interest of better health by Wayne County TB Association.

Lots of men live to see the day they can rejoice because they didn't get what they wanted.

Words of the Wise
We must be as courteous to a man as we are to a picture, which we are willing to give the advantage of a good light.
—(Ralph Waldo Emerson)

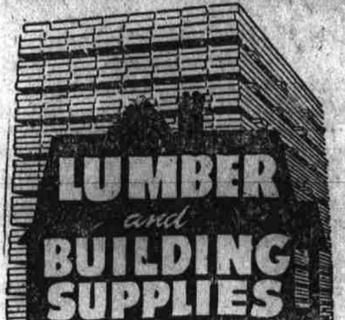


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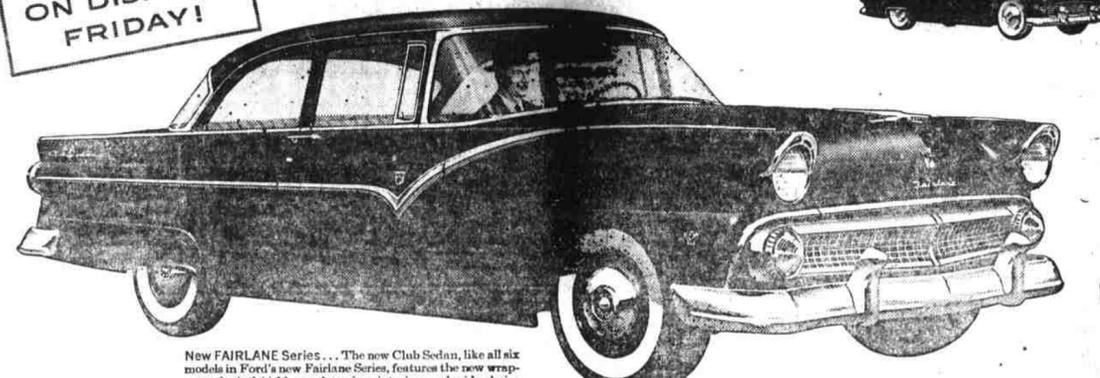
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New FAIRLANE Series . . . The new Club Sedan, like all six models in Ford's new Fairlane Series, features the new wrap-around windshield, new luxurious interiors and wide choice of stunningly new, single and two-tone exterior colors.

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We invite you to see for yourself. And we tell you in advance you'll be amazed. For this new Ford is totally new—outstanding in style, and in thrillingly different performance.

The long, low lines of the Thunderbird were its styling inspiration. In fact, you'll be greeted by rich, roomy luxury . . . new features never before offered in a motorcar.

Mighty engines, mightier than in any Ford before—supply its exciting power. And each of Ford's three new engines offers the safe, split-second response of Thunderbird's Reserve Power.

Your ride will be up to 10% smoother. Best of all, you'll find your kind of car, for there are 16 body styles in four fashionable lines.

When you come in, don't be surprised if you tell yourself: why look further—why delay—you just can't buy better than Ford.

New CUSTOMLINE Series . . . The Tudor Sedan (above) and Fordor offer a wide selection of new color and upholstery combinations. Like all '55 Fords, they have a new wider grille, new visored headlights and sturdier, extra-narrow pillar-posts for better visibility.

New STATION WAGON Series . . . The new 6-passenger, 4-door Country Sedan (above) is one of five new do-it-all beauties. There's also an 8-passenger Country Sedan, an 8-passenger Country Equire and a 2-door, 6-passenger Ranch Wagon and Custom Ranch Wagon.

New MAINLINE Series . . . Each of the three Mainline beauties offers the same outstanding advancements, the same graceful contours and clean lines that distinguish all '55 Fords. Features include: illustrated above.

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2. 182-h.p. Y-block Special V-8
3. 120-h.p. I-block Six

(1) The new 162-h.p. Y-block V-8 has a higher (7.8 to 1) compression ratio, greater displacement. And, like all '55 Ford engines, it has Ford's famous deep-block build . . . short-stroke design.

(2) The new 182-h.p. Y-block Special V-8 (offered in combination with Speed-Trigger Fordomatic on Fairlane and Station Wagon models) features 4-barrel carburetion, dual exhausts and extra-high (8.5 to 1) compression ratio.

(3) The new 120-h.p. I-block Six has a new higher (7.5 to 1) compression ratio. It's the most advanced six-cylinder power plant in the industry.

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