

Bo-Me-Hi News

The Curriculum

(This is the Third of a series on the courses taught at Booth Memorial High School setting out what the School is doing)

Some people seem to think that one of the great rewards of adult life is its relative freedom from arithmetic. A writer in the "Atlantic Monthly" points out that unless one wishes to teach it or is in one of the few professions that deal in mathematical calculations, then life is made calm and peaceful by having no arithmetic to worry about.

The writer points out that the occasion on which one has to figure one-half or two-thirds of a cup of flour, or how many times six and three-quarters goes into 2½ yards of cloth does not constitute a major worry. Most people count no change, balance no check book, regard any extra money as so much gravy and to find the cost of their gas they just look at the pump. Don't be misled by this rosy picture. The world moves on mathematics. With this in mind, those who plan curriculum have arranged that a student in a B.C. High School can secure more credits in mathematics than any other subject, yet of the seven courses available between Grades 9 and 12, none are compulsory for all students. University entrance students must take at least three courses and Commercial students one.

In grades 7 and 8, where all students must study the same subjects, the mathematics course meets the need of three groups: 1. Those who use mathematics in daily life to find out how much the pay envelope should contain and to do their elementary budgeting. This group must have the addition, subtraction, multiplication and division which it learned in the elementary schools reviewed, and if possible improved. This group also receives a bare introduction to more advanced mathematics to have a foundation for future studies or at least understanding and appreciation of the work done by mathematical specialists.

2. The technicians of the future. This group includes all those students who will eventually become the accountants, engineers, statisticians and scientists.

3. The thinker in the field of mathematics. This last group is very small, but its importance in the world is out of all proportion to its size. Two of its members were (1) Gauss who in 1837 originated the theory which was needed to defeat the German magnetic mine, and (2) Einstein, who in 1905 mathematically calculated the possibility of atomic disintegration.

From Grades 9 to 12 the student may, or may not, study mathematics. There are, however, special courses for students who wish to enter the Commercial field, who wish an University Entrance Certificate, or who need special vocational mathematics. It is the duty of the teachers to guide students in the senior grades into the field of study which will be of most use to them in school and after they leave school. In this guidance program the abilities and interests of the student are improved in spite of all the modern methods of testing students. It is not too easy to assess the student's continuing ability; and unless he greatly desires to achieve success in mathematics, he will not have the personal drive to put his ability to work.

Students looking for the easy way through high school should not study mathematics. Although great satisfaction can be found in solving a problem to which there is only one answer, this

requires work more work than some students are prepared to do. If a student really wishes to become an expert in mathematics, he must be willing to forego some of the outside school activities and put the time thus saved on home work. In Booth Memorial High School, as in most British Columbia High Schools, over 90 per cent of the students study some form of mathematics in Grade 9. This percentage gradually decreases until in Grade 12 about half the students are enrolled in mathematics courses.

Smiles'n Chuckles

Mike: "Know what the ceiling said to the four walls?"

Ike: "Nope."

Mike: "Hold me up, boys, I'm plastered."

Advertisement of the month: For Rent: Modern six room flat, with bath on the car line.

Jim: "What does your father do?"

Tim: "He cleans out the bank."

Jim: "Janitor or President?"

Teacher: "What do ducks and cows remind you of?"

Tiny Tot: "Quackers and milk."

Husband: "Are you ready yet dear?"

Wife: "I wish you'd stop nagging me. I told you an hour ago I'd be ready in a few minutes."

"Who was that lady I saw you out with last night?"

"I wasn't out. I was just dozing."

CHRISTMAS

ONCE again the halls of Booth School were decked with holly and snatches of the old carols might be heard as classes jaunted merrily from room to room before the Christmas closing at the first of the week. In the classrooms gaily dressed trees and other bright decorations told their story while students happily anticipated the Yuletide season and the coming holiday.

Christmas is a happy time and so it should be for it is the celebration of the greatest event the world has ever known. Nearly two thousand years ago the birth of Christ brought joy and awe to the multitudes. Angels sang, shepherds left their flocks, wise men came with gifts to offer. So, today, in a world vastly changed and changing, Christ still brings its ancient message of good will and cheer.

At this time we join in sending Christmas greetings to our teachers. We extend to them our best wishes for a wonderful Christmas and a happy holiday!

E. H.

VALUED LOOT

BURNABY, B. C. (C)—Burglars who broke into several places here the other night had a fine sense of values. Besides a typewriter, silverware and jewelry they took a roast of beef



TISN'T POLITE—With sweets rationed in London, little Johnny Wright, four, can be forgiven if he appears to be hogging the frosting on a cake served at a children's chocolate party.

SPORT INNOVATION

The first catcher's mask was worn in 1875.

JAVÁ IN BRAZIL

Brazil is the largest producer of coffee in the world.

CHEWING CENTRE

Mexico is the world's leader in producing chicle for chewing gum.

HEALTHFUL MEAT

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Music Treat—

Oregon School Band Is Coming To Prince Rupert Next Week

Prince Rupert music lovers of all classes are in for a rare treat. A High School band from Eugene, Oregon, will present a concert in the Civic Centre next Wednesday. This band, which is reputed to be one of the finest in the Pacific Northwest, has over 30 members. Its leader, Byron Miller, has had much experience in band work and he feels that this year's group is the finest yet.

Equipped with new uniforms, the group will tour British Columbia and Alaska. Mr. Miller has been identified with band work in Juneau and his love of the beautiful country and the merit of his players have prompted him to make the trip.

A highlight of the concert will be the playing of an orchestral selection at sight. Mr. Miller does not hesitate to add that these renditions are not perfect but he says they provide good entertainment and prove the ability of the band members. In the orchestra are several soloists of great renown among High School musical circles. A 9-piece orchestra will accompany the band.

The Students Council, which is

sponsoring the concert, is confident that it will be well received in Prince Rupert.

EASTERN LAND

From its most northerly point to the sea coast in the south, Western Pakistan covers a distance of nearly 800 miles.

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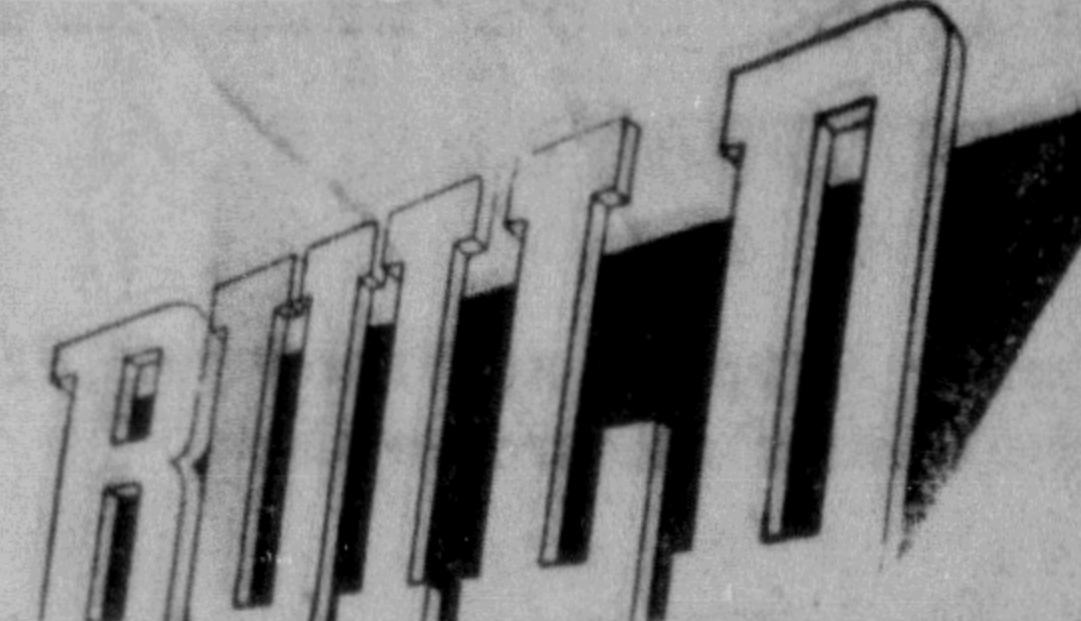
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"Good heavens! What a filthy rug!"

ISLAND TRAPPING

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld. (C)—Newfoundland's beaver trapping season is a busy one this winter. More than 47,000 licences have been issued to date.

SUCCESSFUL SLEUTH

CHATHAM, Ont. (C)—By studying bullet holes in the windows of a house here, Constable Tom Bird figured out where the bullets came from. The result—two air rifles confiscated from over-eager boys.

AN OLD NAME

Prince Edward Island first got its name near the end of the 18th century.

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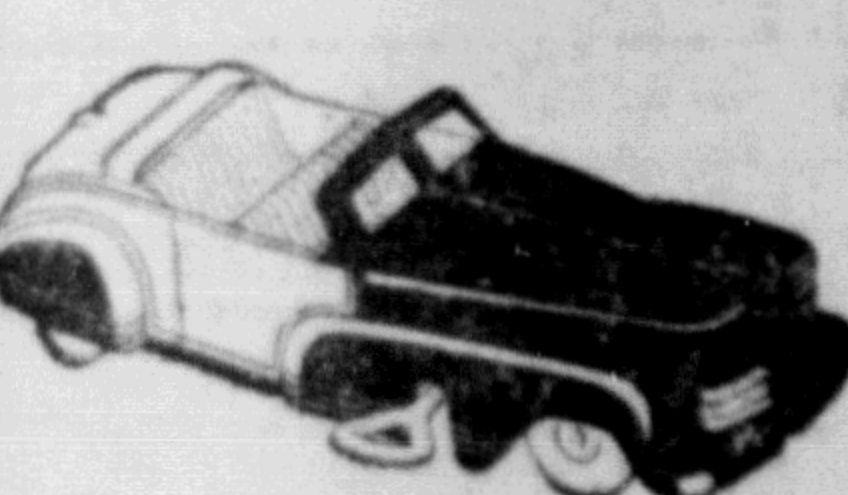


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