CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ACTIVITIES

(continued from last week)

This discussion touches really only one point in the misunderstanding which seems to divide the friends of our schools here.

In the last analysis, it seems to me, the sole criterion as to whether this or that arrangement in the school system of Kent County is best is, not whether it costs a few more or a few less dollars but what is the best for the child. Education of the best possible sort is a social and political necessity for every citizen. It is a legacy we owe all our children if we want to think of Kent County as becoming each year an even better place to live and maintaining an intelligent citizenship.

It cost last year $183,000 in round numbers to run the schools of this County for 3,000 children. Of this sum $108,000 came from local taxes and $68,000 from the State of Maryland. If my calculations are correct, it cost, therefore, around $61 to give each child his schooling and of this amount the State paid around $20, leaving the net cost to the taxpayer per child of $41. This sum pays for, in many instances, carrying him to and from school, housing him, giving him custodial care, providing him books, and teaching him.

4. Kent's Farm Service

Another vital element in our picture of Kent is the co-related services rendered the farmer and the farm home by the County Agricultural and the Home Demonstration Agents.

It is the business of the former to act as the farmer's scientific advisor in the battle to protect his crops and his livestock against disease, to decrease his costs, and to increase a quality production. Here is Kent he and his assistant interest themselves particularly in improving milk and poultry production, the major agricultural efforts in the County.

In their work, they have made highly successful use of such means as the 4-H Clubs and cattle judging, the main object of which is to keep farm boys interested in the farm. The work of our county agents in cattle judging has been oustanding, as several Kent boys have acted on state teams and the present assistant agent, a native of Kent, when a boy was on the American team that competed in England against a British team.

All this work has enhanced Kent's reputation, given it unusual publicity and, best of all, has developed a number of splendid young farm-citizens.

The sphere of the Home Demonstration Agent runs somewhat parallel to that of the County Agricultural Agent. She promotes educational and social club work among farm women and girls, visiting each of the Women's Clubs once in two months and the Girls Clubs once a month. It is her job to develop the home-making arts among these groups, such as dressmaking, canning, cooking, nursing, and home decoration. She takes care, too, of exhibiting farm home products. Under her supervision and stimulation one young girl canned 700 jars of food last fall— enough to keep her family through this winter of scarcity otherwise for them.

The total cost of this work amounts to $10,030 of which $3,600 comes from Federal aid, $3,130 from the State, and less than one third of the entire cost, or $3,300 from the County. This sum covers four salaries, office supplies and equipment, travel expenses for the staff of three, and home demonstration materials.

This service has done outstanding work in connection with the Kent County Flower Shows and the Maryland Turkey Shows. Any educational project in the County may be assured of the finest cooperation from our extension workers.

5. Kent's Health Service

Kent's Health Service is outstanding. As our protection against disease the County and State have provided a full-time health officer, a white nurse (supported by the County) and a colored nurse (allocated to us and supported by the State).

In order to detect in their beginnings disease and physical defects which jeopardize life, health, and normal usefulness, this staff holds, or calls in experts to hold, tuberculosis; eye, ear, nose and throat; venereal; dental; pre-school; orthopedic (for crippled children); mental; and nutrition clinics.

Besides manning the first line trenches against diseases of the types named, the County Health Service must be constantly on guard against the outbreak in this area of communicable diseases and, if they once get started, the Service must battle to keep them under control.

To the end that such maladies may either not get going or get short shrift if they begin, the Service sets up such preventive measures as the toxin-antitoxin innoculation against diphtheria, and vaccination against typhoid and small pox.

Upon the shoulders of the Service the State has laid the responsibility for getting suitable hospital treatment for those unable to pay and also for getting them to the appropriate hospital.

The intelligent activity of Kent's Service has brought national attention to the County. For instance, two years ago Kent won first place in cities of its class, 20,000 population and under, in the Inter-Chamber Health Conservation Contest conducted by the United State Chamber of Commerce and the American Public Health Association, and last year it won second place. Also through the colored nurse, Kent's National Negro Health Week has for three successive years won first place among all the rural counties of the nation. These facts not only point to our County's substantial achievement in the field of public health but afford a vigorous stimulation for further much-needed advance.

This Service is greatly assisted by the Kent County Public Health Association, a small body of interested County citizens to whom belongs much credit for advancing the health work in the County.

In round numbers the County Health Service costs $11,000 of which sum the State pays $7,800, the County $2,200, and private benevolence $1,200.

6. Kent's Developments

Unless one travels a good bit around Kent County the new developments, as one comes upon them, may prove a considerable surprise. Down at Rock Hall, the Hawthorne Terrace development is growing rapidly through the enterprise of Frank O. Puppe. Attractive little homes have been erected and bought, the grounds are being well landscaped and Rock Hall has a suburb it may well take pride in.

Tolchester Estates has not shown growth in the last year or so but undoubtedly will do so before long.

Kentmore Park has attracted many Delaware and Pennsylvania families who have bought homes for summer use. Several families are making an all-year-around home site of the picturesque development on the hillside bordering the Sassafras River. Every lot has the advantage of a clear view of the water.

Betterton is growing and is becoming more conscious of its attraction so that it is taking more pains to tell the world about it. During the past year a two-page circular was issued giving illustrations and a good pen picture of the beauties of the town. Into every letter replying to inquiries about Kent County which comes to the Chamber office has gone a Betterton circular. This circular was also sent with pictures of the Chester River to the National Motor Boat Show at the Grand Central Palace which was held in New York in January, 1933.

Other colonies along the shores of Kent have sprung up and are contributing new citizens to the County.

7. Kent's History and Charm

Next to the fertility of its soil and the fineness of its people, Kent County's greatest assests are it history and its natural beauty. Because he has grown up amidst his present surroundings, the native Kentian often fails to appreciate the spell which this section if country works on the visitor and the outsider, who might often be induced to be an insider. Personally, ever since I came to Kent I have been thrilled by its old houses and by its many unsurpassed water front views. Then, too, Kent's rolling wooded landscape is to me lovely beyond compare.

My point here is that every one should awaken to the value of these features in his suroundings, and by value I here mean their money value. If he will call to mind the number, comparatively small though it be, not of visitors, but of permanent residents who have been attracted to Kent County in the last ten or fifteen years and if he could compute their money value to the County, he would find, as many another place in America and particularly those in Europe have already found again and again, that Kent's history and its loveliness are among its biggest permanent assets, bringing as they do tourists, seasonal and permanent dwellers who always add notably to the monetary wealth of the section they visit or in which they reside.

We, of Kent County, should therefore increase our intelligent appreciation of what we have, advertise it appropriately and more extensively, and, furthermore, we should seek to improve what we already possess.

From this point of view, the Washington College Sesqui-Centennial and Kent County's Bi-Centennial of last June brought into more definite focus some of Kent's previously somewhat vague traditions and thereby stirred the interest of many people who before had not cared a hoot for such matters. George Washington's connection with Kent County, for instance, heretofore a blurred tradition, suddenly became a clear-cut fact.

The marking of houses and highways, a prominent part of these two celebrations, constitutes only a beginning of what Kent might do for its own people and to bring to the attention of all those who pass through it its historical interest. The temporary museum, set up in the Catlin House for a week last June, as well as historic displays in the several store windows, contributed much to the opening of the eyes of people to the desirability of establishing somewhere in Kent, perhaps at Washington College, a museum of Kent County and Eastern Shore history. In fact, such a museum has already seen its small beginnings at Washington College.

It was in this spirit that a group of citizens endeavored last year to retain for Chestertown the beautiful panelling in the Catlin House which the Baltimore Museum bought out from under our very eyes, carried across the Bay, and set up for the delectation of visitors to that institution. Every one who pays an admission fee to see this panelling might very well have contributed, not to the Baltimore Museum, but to a Kent County institution, had we been able to retain the trophy. Indeed, I am hoping that some affluent dweller or lover of Kent may some day purchase the Catlin House in order to develop further our history as one of the assepts of this county.

Kent County is beautiful. Its towns possess an atmosphere of charm lacking in newer parts of the country. I am hoping that the time may come when the dwellers in these towns may possess the means and the desire to realize the beauty which they already have at hand and when they may enter upon a conscious program of beautifying, not only their own properties, but the towns in general.

Taking Chestertown as an illustration: the park cries aloud for some treatment which will make it a center of attraction for an even more beautiful Chestertown. Some people feel that a dignified post office, with well kept grounds, would prove most appropriate; others feel, with equal sincerity and enthusiasm, that the park should be kept as an open space and that some program of beautification should be undertaken. Perhaps out of this current discussion some one will come forward with money enough to endow the square, thus providing for its proper landscaping and subsequent permanent maintenance.

8. Kent's College

Few Kent Countians appreciate the business value, aside from other greater values—which a college represents in a community. From the point of view of amount of money involved—a property worth $560,000, an annual budget of $123,000, and an actual expenditure in this county of over $100,000 a year—Washington College does not bulk as large in popular thinking as a factory would which spent half as much annually.

Then, too, since Kent students at the local institution pay about one-third ($137.50) of what it costs a year to educate a student—roughly $410—and since this year some 88 Kent students are enrolledl at the College, Washington is returning something like $24,000 in educational service to this County.

This, then is our picture of Ken. County.

II

Some Activities of the Chamber

During the year 1932, the Chamber of Commerce has engaged and assisted in the following activities:

1. Maintenance of a County information bureau.
2. Housing the capitol of the 34th District of Rotary International.
3. Promoitno of the Bi-Centennial.
4. Development of the Saturday Farm and Home Market.
5. Promotion of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge.
6. Furnishing a secretary, telephone, and other office accessories and office for
7. Cooperation with County Health Authorities in Promoting Interest in Public Health.
8. Kent County Ambulance.
9. House-renting Service.
10. Employment.

Maintenance of a County Information Bureau

c. Kent County Welfare Association.

Unless he has sat for some hours in the office of the Chamber of Commerce, no one can appreciate that it is one of the busiest places in Kent County. A typical day for the secretary of the Chamber would be about like this:

The day starts at 9.00 a. m. when the secretary enters with the morning mail. Today there is a letter of inquiry about Kent's farming lands from a man in Oregon. It sounds like scores of others that come in, "I am looking for a milder climate for farming;" there is a letter from the Baltimore office of the War Department asking for photographs of the Chester River, interesting to motor boat enthusiasts, for display with a map of the Baltimore area at the National Motor Boat Show in January in New York; there are two letters seeking help from the County Welfare Association.

While the secretary is reading the mail, the telephone rings and a turkey buyer announces that he is in the market for a load of 300 birds for the next day.

Again the telephone rings and a contractor from Millington asks for the list of names of unemployed men in that vicinity which the Chamber had compiled. The list is found, read over the phone, and the contractor advised to go to a leading merchant in Millington to get hold of the men with the least loss of time.

Just as the secretary begins the search by telephone for the required photographs for the War Department, two men come in. They are asked for their cards and after much fumbling give up the effort to find them. They want her to get four girls to comb the town for them as they are buying old gold. Their looks do not impress the secretary. She says she will see them in half an hour. After they go, she calls the president of the Mercantile Section who is, himself, a jeweler. Mr. Kreeger says that there are plenty of men going about buying old gold and giving little in return—nowhere nearly as much as the refineries offer—and agrees with the secretary that there should be no dealing with the pair. On their return, the men show jewelry they have already bought, mention names from whom it was bought, and exaggerate the price paid. Indignant that they cannot operate under the sponsorship of the Chamber, they immediately leave town.

After much telephoning the secretary finds pictures of the Chester River regatta of last year which she forwards with literature about the County to the Baltimore War Department office.

After attending to other correspondence, the secetary starts the telephone search for turkeys. As they are getting scarce, it is a long hard job to find the 300. When after several hours that is accomplished the phone continues busy with incoming calls offering turkeys now that one neighbor has told another.

In the meantime two little colored boys come in to see if the Welfare has any shoes they can wear. The boxes are brought out and the best fitting shoes are given the youngsters.

The other welfare cases have next to be looked after. The district leader in the vicinity from which the morning's letters have come is contacted. In one case she can do something. In the other, the neighborhood is wearied with helping. Although it is a case for the County Home, the individual refuses to budge. Mrs. Beck is then contacted and promises to investigate.

During two leisure moments when the telephone is not busy with out-going calls requests have come in for information as to the population of the County in one case, and for the Matapeake Ferry schedule in the second case.

(Concluded next week'

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

REAL ESTATE ONLY

This is to Give Notice, That the subscriber has obtained from the Orhans' Courto pf Kent County letters of administration d. b. n., c. t. a. on the estate of

CHARLES BUSH

late of Philadelphia county, deceased. All persons having claims against said deceased are hereby warned to file in said Court their claim against said decedent, with the vouchers thereof legally authenticated, on or before the 4th day of August, 1933; they may otherwise, by law, be excluded from all benefit of said estate. All persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment.

Given under my hand this 31st day of January, 1933.

V. GILPIN ROBINSON,
Administrator d. b. n., c. t. a.

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STAR SKETCH



Story of EDNA MAY OLIVER by Richard Dix

SHE makes you think of somebody's aunt . . . she has that "aunty" look. Maybe it's because she was born in Boston. There's something about being born in Boston that you never quite get over . . . and being a decendant of John Quincy Adams is, even for Boston, an added attribute of that "aunty" look.

You might not think to ask her, but she prefers the polka to the waltz and dances a mean gavotte, as well. She's afraid of being alone in the dark, never walks under step ladders and would no more think of whistling in a dressing room than picking her teeth in public.

That last superstition is but one of the hundreds you collect in the theatre . . . and she has known the theatre for years . . . first as a musical comedy actress . . . in dramatic plays like Owen Davis' "Ice Bound," and then in farces like "The Cradle Snatchers."

As "Patty Ann Hawkes" she bossed Mr. Ziegfield's "Show Boat" for three years and then decided she'd trouped long enough to rate a home of her own . . . She was tired of tin bath tubs in tank towns . . . and bad coffee on Pullman jumps. Now any actor or actress will tell you that the way to have a home life and an acting job too, is to come to Hollywood. She came, she was seen, she conquered.

Fans started laughing at her first in "Cracked Nuts," and increased their giggles at her antics in "Cimarron," "Laugh and get Rich," "Fanny Foley Herself," Ladies of the Jury" and Hold 'Em, Jail."

She likes cello solos . . . the acting of George Arliss and old fashioned bean soup. She favors pastel shades in her clothes and will take a third helping of spaghetti if urged. She enjoys the books of Romaine Rolland . . . modernistic art and elevator boys who can tap dance.

In answering a questionnaire about herself she said she could speak German and Italian, ate asparagus with her fingers and couldn't play football!

She's five feet seven inches tall, weighs 140 pounds without her arctics on and has ash blonde hair and grey blue eyes. She looks very much like somebody's Aunt . . . yes sir, it's Aunt Emily of the Hartford branch of papa's family. Which reminds us, we've got to write Uncle Zeke. How are all your folks?

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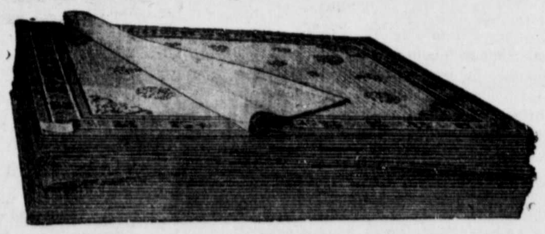
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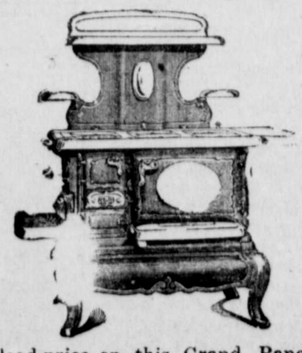
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