KENT COUNTY HOT LUNCH PROGRAM LAUDED

Receives Nation-Wide Attention

The following article appeared in the monthly bulletin of the State Department of Health and has attracted nation-wide recognition. It refers to the hot lunch program in the schools of Kent County and shows its direct affect upon the health of the children and the school attendance.

The article follows:

An illustration of the effectiveness of cooperative endeavor for community health is shown in the results obtained in Kent County in the last four years through the school lunch program.

When the school attendance records of the counties were published in 1936, those of Kent County were said to be among the lowest in the State. Challenged by the low rating, the school lunch program was started experimentally in some of the schools, by the home demonstration agent of the county, as a means of building up the health of the children and strengthening their resisance to the recurring colds and other infections that were largely responsible for absences from school.

For the first two years the work was carried on in selected schools under the leadership of the home demonstration agent of the county, Miss Helen Schellinger, assisted by the home demonstration clubs and parent-teacher associations, resulting in marked improvement in the attendance in these schools. The assistance of the County Health Department was requested at the beginning of the school year in 1938, in establishing a county-wide program. Since then the work has been carried on jointly.

Dr. A. F. Whitsitt, Health Officer of Kent County, in a recent report, gives the following account of the joint undertaking:

The Health Department staff immediately began an intensive educational campaign on the importance of adequate diets for school children, and on the requirements for such diets. Questionnaires filled out in the class room by the children and collected by the home demonstration agent, revealed some interesting facts about the dietary habits of the children, their daily schedules of living and huors for sleep.

In several schools a hot lunch program was found to be well carried out by the teachers assisted by the children in the sixth and seventh grades and by some of the parents. Every school was visited at least once a week by the health officer or public health nurse; class room talks on nutrition were given and many conferences were held with the teachers. The parents were visited or were reached through the parent-teacher association meetings. These activities resulted in a marked increase in the number of schools putting on a hot lunch program and at the same time there was substantial improvement in the adequacy of the lunches served.

The present school year—1939-1940—was started with a definite plan of campaign prefaced by a county-wide nutrition institute conducted under the auspices of the County Health Department, by Miss Catherine Leamy, Nutritionist of the State Department of Health. The institute lasted for a week and the sessions were held at the headquarters of the local home demonstration and parent-teacher groups, reaching in that way, the leaders in such activities in eleven widely scattered communities. The program for each session included illustrated talks, demonstrations and discussion of adequate diets and of the comparative values and costs of various foods.

By the close of the current school year, the hot lunch program had been established in all but one of the twelve white schools in the county, and in all of the twelve colored schools.

Surplus commodities were a great boon to the program in the white schools and were the core of the program in the colored schools. The commodities were shipped to the Department of Eductaion and were efficiently distributed to the schools from that office, under the direction of Mrs. May Beck, in connection with the school bus service.

The entire program was integrated with the regular school schedule. In some sections it was handled by the teachers and 4- HClub boys and girls. One school had two National Youth Adminsitration workers; two schools employed women in the neighborhood—but in most of the schools it was a Parent-Teacher Assoociation project; the food was cooked at home and carried to the schools in large containers and was served by parents and teachers. In one section the children brought their hot dishes in mayonnaise jars, which were placed in a pan of hot water early in the morning and heated thoroughly before the lunch hour. In the colored schools, the arrangements were carried on largely by the teachers and pupils as a part of the school curriculum. Bread was made in a number of schools by the children and baked in the homes by the mothers.

The influence of the school lunch program on the general health of the children and in the attendance ratings is indicated below:

The teachers reported less illness among the children; fewer colds or very mild ones; greater energy and less fatigue at the close of the school day.

In 1937, the average attendance for the State was 90 per cent. After the introduction of the school lunch program the attendance at the Kent County schools was 91.8.

In 1938, after the inauguration of the county-wide program the elementary schools in the county had an attendance record of 93.4 per cent and the high schools of 95.2 per cent.

The attendance records for 1939-1940, according to preliminary reports of the County Superintendent of schools, Mr. Louis C. Robinson, were again above the average.

Other by-products of the undertaking may be summarized as follows:

There was a better appreciation

(1) of the nutritional requirements of grownig children;

(2) as to what constitutes an adequate breakfast, lunch and dinner for school children;

(3) of the difference between food facts and food fancies.

There was also very practical training in the preparation and serving of food; as well as training for leadership, particularly in the teacher-pupil lunch program.

ON THE SCREEN AT THE NEW LYCEUM

Nick Carter in the Panama Canal Zone. Walter Pidgeon again plays fiction's famous detective in the latest of the series, "Phantom Raiders," in which he solves a mysterious shipwreck case. The new thriller comes on Friday and Saturday, July 26, and 27, to the New Lyceum screen with Florence Rice, Joseph Schildkraut, John Carroll, Donald Meek, Nat Pendleton and Steffin Duna in featured roles.

"Andy Hardy Meets Debutante" brings Lewis Stone, Mickey Rooney and the rest of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's popular Hardy Family, with Judy Garland as "guest star," to the New Lyceum Theatre on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, July 22, 23 and 24th, in an adventure that proises to top all the previous chapters in the saga of this typically American family.

Glamorous Manhattan Island provides the background for a story that mingles laughs and thrills, tense drama and poignant human interest, the swank of a socialite coming-out party and the inspiration of American idealism. The picture starts in Carvel with Mickey Rooney, in his familiar character of Andy Hardy, falling in love with magazine photographs of a New York debutante. He is taunted on his one-sided romance by his highschool sweetheart, Ann Rutherford, and protects himself by boasting that he knows the debutante. Judge Hardy, played by Lewis Stone, is called suddenly to New York to defend the Carvel Orphanage against financial machinations and he takes the family with him. Thus Andy is faced with the necessity of making good on his boast that he is a friend of the debutante.

The Judge Almost Loses

How he manages to make the acquaintance of the debutante provides a score of hilarious situations. Judge Hardy meanwhile almost loses his case until "Ma" Hardy supplies him with a clever legal stratagem. Another highlight is a visit by Andy and the Judge to New York University Hall of Fame where the Judge proves to Andy that true American ideals are better than any ambitions to be a cafe society notable.

With Stone and Mickey are the rest of the family, Fay Holden, Sara Haden and Cecilla Parker, while Judy Garland makes her second appearance in the series as little Betsy Booth, the New York girl who is an avowed admirer of the energetic Andy's rescue by introducing him to songs in the picture and comes to Andy's erscue by introducing him to the debutante when all seems lost. Diana Lewis, who appeared last with Eddie Cantor in "Forty Little Mothers," plays the glamorous debutante, and George Breakston again appears as Beezy, Andy's school chum.

Assuring the new film the human down-to-earth flavor that characterizes the Hardy Family series, is the fact that George B. Seitz, who has piloted all but one of the pictures, again directed.

GALENA

Miss Mary Elizabeth Boyd is visiting her aunt, Mrs. Joseph Wilson, in Philadelphia.

Mr. Price Stradley returned home last Thursday after taking up government preparatory work, in Anacosta, Va. In a few weeks he will leave for Pensocola, Fla., for more advanced work.

Mrs. Daniel Hywett, of Wilmington, Del., spent last week at her cottage on the Sassafras River.

Mrs. Burgess Schrieber and daughter, Anne, erturned home last Sunday after a week's visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Mulford.

Miss Mary Cruckshank, of Cecilton, Md., is visiting her sister, Mrs. Jesse E. Ireland.

Mr. Keith Cochran, of Elizabeth, N. J., returned to his home last Sunday after a ten day's visit with his mother, Mrs. Keith Cochran.

Miss Dorothy Gambrill, of Baltimore, returned to her home last Sunday after several week's visit with her counsin, Miss Marian Pennington.

The Philthea Sunday Sunday Class was entertained last Tuesday evening at the home of Miss Marjorie Todd.

Mrs. John Crouch and son, are spending this week with relatives in Rock Hall, Md.

Miss Louise Cochran is visiting her brother, Mr. Keith Cachran, in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Misses Kitty and Nancy Cochran, Harriett and Kitty Ford and Agnes Cochran passed their Life Saving Badge while attending the Fire Scout Camp in June.

Miss Jenevieve Cochran returned home Friday after spending several days in Caldwell, N. J., with Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Chambers. While there she attended the New York World's Fair.

The Bernard Cochran family spent Saturday last with his sister, Jenevieve Cochran.

Miss Aliene Gillespie, of Murpeesboro, Tenn., returned home last Sunday after a visit with her brother, Mr. Warren Gillespie.

Patsy Cochran returend home last Saturday after spending several weeks with her aunt, Mrs. Edward Kruser, in Philadelphia.

The Philathea Class will sponsor a Lawn Fete on the Dr. J. Earle Gilfillan lawn, Wednesday, July 24th at 8:00 P. M. An interesting programgram will be given. Gov. Herbert R. O'Conor has been invited to be the guest speaker of the evening. Ice cream and cake will be for sale. Come and enjoy a pleasant evening with us.

First Boaconstrictor — "Whatja swallow that dog for Didn't you just have a rabbit?"

Second Boaconstrictor—"Yes, but I felt like I wanted a chaser."—College Humor.

Human Hair Count

The number of hairs upon the human head will vary, according to the hue and age. It has been found that while a fair-haired woman has from 140,000 to 150,000 hairs on her head, a black-haired woman has from 100,000 to 110,000 hairs, and a red-headed person has only about 30,000 hairs on her head.

Oil Boom for Boys

Discovery of oil near Falls City, Neb., brought an unexpected fortune to the town's enterprising boys. The youths took hundreds of small bottles to the first gushers, filled them with loose oil and sold sample bottles of the oil and two pictures of the derrick for 25 cents to the curious thousands.

THE TRUTH SIMPLY TOLD

Today's popularity of *Doan's Pills*, after many years of world-wide use, surely must be accepted as evidence of *satisfactory* use. And favorable public opinion supports that of the able physicians who test the value of Doan's under exacting laboratory conditions. These physicians, too, approve every word of advertising you read, the objective of which is only to recommend *Doan's Pills* as a good diuretic treatment for disorder of the kidney function and for relief of the pain and worry it causes.

If more people were aware of how the kidneys must constantly remove waste that cannot stay in the blood without injury to health, there would be better understanding of why the whole body suffers when kidneys lag, and diuretic medication would be more often employed.

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