

SPOTLIGHT

ON

VALLI LOU TRAYER

Valli was born in Coldwater, Michigan and she lived there for one and one half years. After Coldwater she moved to Jackson, Michigan, but stayed only six months. Moving on to Hastings, Michigan. She lived there for three years. Then she moved to Ball Lake and has been living there for thirteen years. She went to Dalton High School. Her hobbies are sketching, painting, playing the piano, dancing, and sailing.

Her plans for the future will be to go to Eastern Michigan University where she will major in music and minor in art. She hopes to become a high school music teacher.

She is now seventeen, has brown hair and eyes, wears glasses, is short and works in the Castle at the desk.

She also likes to babysit on her days off.

NATURE NOTES

A few days ago, a great chain of events took place. This chain brought a turtle to our Nature Museum.

It all began when Phil Boersma released a turtle he had. Soon afterwards, Susan Marty found the released turtle. She, in turn, gave it to Peter Idema, but Peter's mother said the turtle was too big to keep and to give it to Mrs. Noble for the Nature Museum. That is how the Museum acquired a new turtle.

THE POST OFFICE

This year our postmaster is Dr. Schrier of Holland. He held the position last year. Dr Schrier is connected with Hope College.

Our mail boxes were moved into the newly-built post office from the Castle a few years ago. The cottage-like post office has added much to Castle Park.

Anyone with important notices may put them on the bulletin board space available.

THANK YOU

THE BANNER would like to thank Fris' Book Store for their help with THE BANNER. If it wasn't for them, we would not have been able to put out last week's issue. The paper was ready for mimeographing when we discovered there was no more ink or paper.

We would like to thank Fris' Book Store for staying open after hours to give us our equipment.

THE LEGEND OF THE CASTLE

Back in 1893, there wasn't any sign of man around Castle Park. It was all woods and grassy fields.

One day a German named Schwartz came along and decided to build a castle for his family, a wife and two daughters. He planned to be the king of his small realm.

He had the proper bricks sent to him from Grand Rapids by wagon, a thirty mile distance. The building took many months to complete. It was about half as big as the castle today.

In the summer of 1894, Mr. and Mrs. John Parr and a group of students from the Chicago Preparatory School, came upon the Castle. Later the Castle was inhabited by a vacation camp run by the Parrs. After that, people came and built cottages.

(To be Continued)

GAMES AROUND THE PARK

There are a few minor sports around the park which have drawn special attention by young and old. They are shuffle board, horseshoes, and badminton.

The Shuffle board courts are in front of the Pro Shop. All equipment needed is kept right near.

Horseshoes are thrown on the green next to the north tennis courts. The equipment for this game is kept in the green boxes there.

The Badminton set is used quite often. It also is near the Pro-Shop and the rackets are found next to the museum.

All these sports have quite a group of good players.

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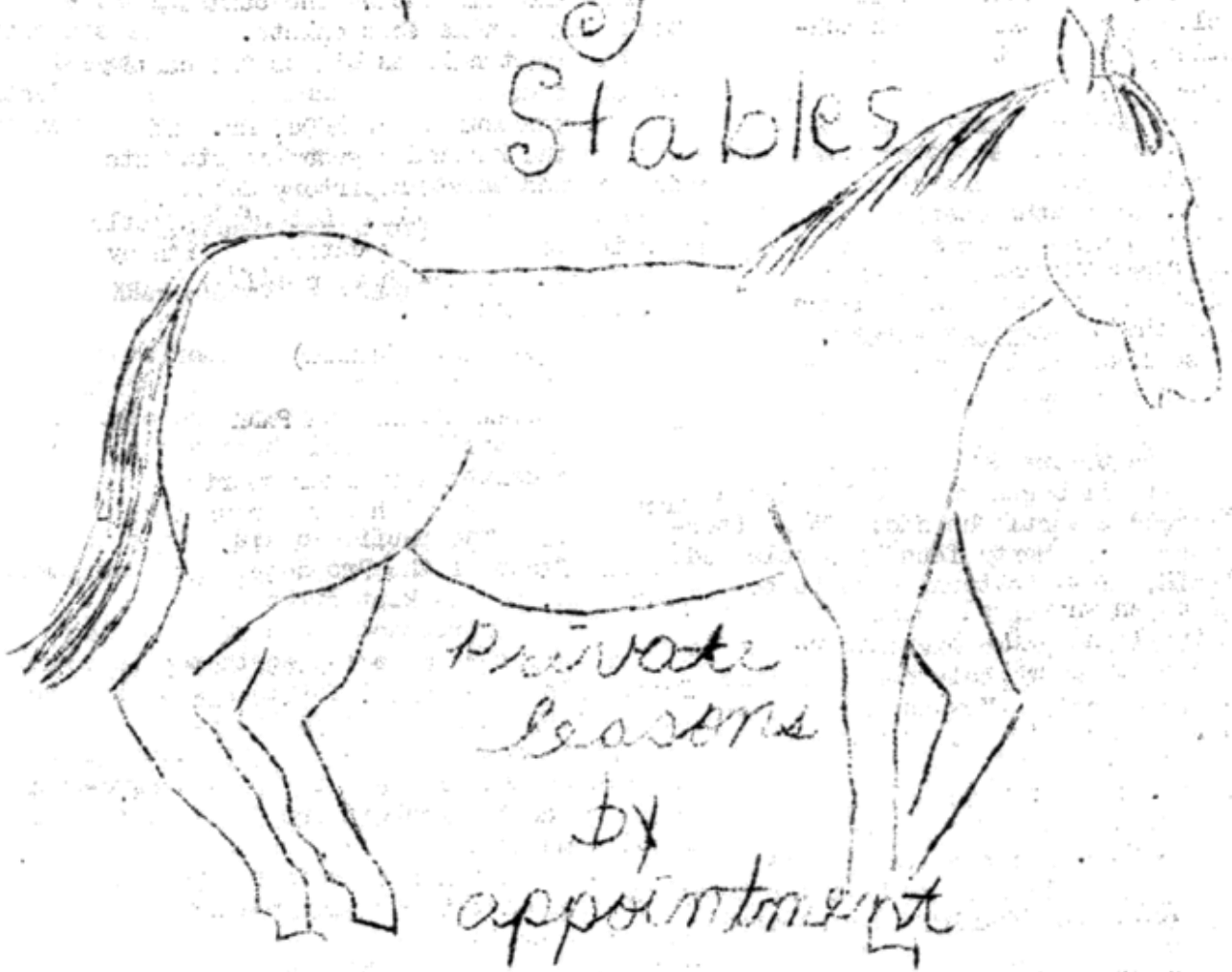
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FIELD DAY (Cont'd)

Boys 9 and over
 Three-legged race
 Steeple chase
 Pie eating contest

Girls 9 and over
 Balloon race
 Three-legged race
 Softball throw

Adults
 Cracker-eating contest
 Egg-throwing contest
 --by Phil Sweeterman

DEER FORREST TRIP

Tuesday the play class went to Deer Forrest, which is about fifty miles away. We all rode there in a big truck. When we got there, there were many things to do and see. First, we went to feed all the deer. They were in a big pen and everyone went inside to feed them. They were just as tame as a baby kitten and ate right out of your hand.

There were many animals there, including cows that stick their tongues out at you, The Three Little Pigs, Mary's Little Lamb, The Mouse That Ran Up the Clock, and many other animals. They had a monkey show and a dog show, and they did many tricks. There was a kind of pigeon called the Bleeding Heart Pigeon because it looked like it was bleeding on its breast. It was a very enjoyable trip.
 --by Jack Arnold

WOLVERINE TRIP

Today the play class will take a trip on the Wolverine up Black Lake and back out to Lake Michigan.

The trip will last for two hours, costing 50 cents per person. The truck leaves for the boat before 9:10.
 --by Prather Palmer
 and Tommy Palmer

NEWS FROM THE HORSE WORLD

This past weekend Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Reynolds and family saw the American Derby at Washington Park in which Native Dancer ran. Eddy Acara was the jockey. He won by two lengths. He got a layer of roses.

The Horse Show will be held September 2 in Castle Park. The show will start promptly at 9:00. The judges are Mr. Harry Nichols, who will judge the English division, and Mr. Warren Comstock, who will judge the western and gaited.

Many of the entries have shown here before. Anyone wishing to donate to the Horse Show Trophy fund may turn their contributions in at the Castle desk.

(cont'd next column)

Last year Mary Joe Dewitt won the Brown Mantle trophy for the third time and so got to keep it permanently. It has taken eight years for someone to win it three times. This year Mr. Mantle will buy another trophy.

--by Betty Reynolds
 and Mary Curtis Ratcliff

SNAKE PIT

On Tuesday, August 25, Mr. Carr caught a hog-nose snake. These snakes are not poisonous and don't have teeth. They can only eat toads because toads have bumps; frogs are too slippery for the hog-nose. After play class is over, Mrs. Noble is going to take care of the snake pit animals.

--by Phil Sweeterman
 and Anne Robertson

KITTENS WANTING HOMES

If you are looking for a mouse destroyer or a play mate for your child, locate Mr. and Mrs. Charles McLean, phone No. 5559, or see Laurie McLean at play class. The McLeans have five kittens to give away. The kittens are two months old. There are two black ones, two buff ones, and one gray one.

--by Anne Robertson

BALLADS

The following song is a supplement to those given as a part of tonight's ballad sing on pages 5 and 6.

Po' Boy

As I went down to the river--po' boy,
 To see the ships go by,
 My sweetheart stood on the deck of one
 and she waved to me toodbye.

Bow down your head and cry, po' boy,
 Bow down your head ad cry,
 Stop thinkin' that woman you love,
 Bow down your head and cry.

I followd her for months
 She offered me her hand
 We were just about to get married when
 She ran off with a gamblin' man.
 He come at me with a big jack knife
 I went t him with lead,
 And when the fight was over, po' boy,
 He laid down beside me dead.

Bow down -- etc.

They took me to the big jail house
 The months and months rolled by
 The jury found me guilty, po' boy,
 And the judge said, "You must die."

Bow down -- etc.

And yet they called this jestic, po' boy,
 Then jestic let it be
 I only killed a man that was
 Jest a-fixin' to kill me.

Bow down -- etc.

SUMMER MUSINGS

As your old muser (official Banner muser) sits here and looks over the summer past, he realizes that there has been a lot done. It has been another great summer at Castle Park! It has been a glorious fantasy of plays, music, sports, and countless hours of fun.

From back files of the Banner we note that July started with a bang with the first edition of the Banner put out by "Our Gang" July 2, 1953. The month followed with a procession of the scintillating play, "Present Laughter," July Varieties, horse show, tennis matches, hay ride, ball games, and countless activities in play class.

August opened with a bright new comedy, "The Wild Westcotts," followed by the summer art festival, "Harvey," and closing appropriately with a ballad sing and folk opera, "Down in the Valley."

Running through this whole picture is the bright thread of folk dancing, dune sings, grand marches, vesper services, and classical concerts--all of which when viewed from the muser's prospective presents a gay picture.

But always behind the picture is the work of the devoted few who make things go. To "our crew" of Cynthia Laing, Mary Margaret McClintock, Bill Butler, and their tireless director, Gene Patton, we are indebted for the finest play settings in the Amphitheatre scenes.

The Banner owes much of its real drive and spirit to Edith North, Mary Patton, Mrs. Brown Mantle, and Mrs. Marian Ratcliff for their ceaseless efforts in the more practical aspects of the Banner. Mr. William Butler may be the publisher of the Holland Sentinel, but we like to think of him as the honorary publisher of the Banner.

Then there is the combined effort of waiters and pixies who gave afternoons in the sun to "The Westcotts" and July Varieties. We are proud of our young Castle Parkers who cleaned the Amphitheatre, worked backstage, and did the menial jobs. There is always that group of Castle Parkers who lent to "Present Laughter," the "Varieties," "Harvey," and the art festival their enthusiastic support. And please let us never forget the sort of Castle Park spirit that brings an audience at the clang of a bell on a rainy night in full force.

This old muser likes to think that all this sort of thing can only be found in such a family as we have here in Castle Park. Papa Brown, you've got something here, and I think you know how to keep it that way, too.

(NOTE: The "old muser," being the modest, "bemused" person that he is, is eager to be kind to all the rest of us, but has neglected to mention his own wonderful force and drive that has been behind practically every Castle Park project this summer. All of us want to say thanks so very much to you, Mr. Ambrose Holford!)