

# Read It Or Not

E. M. Hastings

Where to begin? The personality of my present subject presents so many points of approach that the choice is difficult. I might start by claiming a common heritage with this interesting friend in our early memories of Oneida Lake and its northern shore. For his home town of Constantia and my native North Bay were only a few miles apart; and though his arrival followed mine by a considerable interval, the character of the country during that period had not greatly changed.



Elmo Oole's work as an educator will endure in the lives of the countless pupils and teachers who through the years came under the spell of his influence. He was fortunate in his educational background. His mother had proved her ability as a wise teacher in the country schools of her neighborhood, and it is comforting to know that the family tradition is being carried on by his sister, Aura Cole, now and for many years the capable Superintendent of Schools in Oswego County's third district.

Elmo began teaching in a one-room school in District 3, Constantia. Then, after four years in charge of the Pennellville grade school he was principal at Meridian before coming to Sandy Creek for a quarter-century of constructive supervision during which the Academy became the center of a school system taking in the most of northeastern Oswego County. Parallel with these ever-increasing school activities was his growing interest in Royal Arch Masonry, culminating in his elevation to the office of Grand High Priest, at the head of the state organization.

William Prescott and I were accompanied by Elmo as we were returning one evening in the Prescott car from attending a dinner given by a northern New York chapter in honor of our distinguished companion. In the after-dinner program the toastmaster, contrary to accepted standards of the craft, had engaged in storytelling of a sort not at all suitable for narration in a company of men. Now, an innocent allusion to the tale of a stovepipe as being "too smutty to tell" might be permissible but we three agreed in our condemnation of the reciting of off-color stories in any group. Then Elmo touched on an established custom that on some occasions might well be omitted. It was in the lobby of Hotel Syracuse preceding the dinner in his honor arranged by the R.A.M. chapters of his home county that Elmo was accosted by a high Masonic dignitary from the metropolitan area. "Tell me, Elmo, where is your cocktail party?" Elmo's answer, "We're not having one," brought the aggrieved response, "What's the idea of a reception for the Grand High Priest and no liquid refreshment?" "Well," said Elmo, "the idea is that I'm a school man. The younger generation is my main responsibility. Furthermore, our toastmaster is a clergyman. Does it seem appropriate to you that we should be in the position of publicly approving a drinking party?"

Can a parent or an educator do better than instill in the child the heart of the youngsters in his care a sense of responsibility for others? Fortunately the boy or girl whose training leads to early discovery of a worth-while mission. When Elmo lost his wife, Catherine, in 1945, the care of their two foster children, Catherine and Albert, became his special concern. Whatever he undertook to do he did well, and his devotion to the rearing of these two was in line with this principle. The three breakfasted at home and often had luncheon in the school cafeteria. Dinner at home sometimes admitted of convenient arrangement, with time-clock, electric stove operation. Thus did a busy father combine the duties of parent and home-maker in addition to running a vastly expanding school system and often making all-night trips for official visits to Chapter meetings in every corner of the state. The little family had good times together, vacationing at the shore, father and son boating and fishing in growing companionship, with due attention to advancement in Scouting. For all three this was a well-rounded life. Neighbors were kind and sister Aura was helpful, and there was no question of Elmo's success in this all-important project of bringing up the son and daughter.

Then came a day when father and son on a trip to Watertown were discussing their plans for the immediate future and Elmo announced his engagement to the estimable lady that was soon to become the new Mrs. Cole. "Dad, I'm awfully glad to hear it," Albert responded with unexpected enthusiasm. "Now, just why do you say that?" inquired Elmo. "Well," the boy answered, "you know, I'm expecting to go into the army and I've been worried, wondering who could take care of you after I leave home."

Janet Leary Club Supervisor Okinawa, Reports

Janet Leary, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George H. Leary, who is the supervisor of service clubs maintained by the government on Okinawa sent a report of the Ryukyus Command which she gave at the AFPE Training Conference. She was assisted by Miss Emily Mae Harper, who plans to leave soon. The last conference was in 1949 and there were 10 clubs, inadequate in size, supplies and furnishings. At present they have six clubs and two clubmobiles. Some of the clubs are still inadequate but supplies are much improved and the professional staff has

increased. New members of this staff are high in caliber, but so few in number that it is almost impossible to give the training needed for a well rounded service club director.

After dividing the island into two parts, North and South and each new person is rotated through one of the two major clubs before being transferred to one where she may be called upon to work alone.

There is no percentage in having a lovely building to offer the service men if we do not have the personnel to staff it. When the so called Peace Phase begins there will be a reduction in military personnel and funds.

Recreational assistants who have two years of college in any field are paid \$1.25 up to \$2.50 per hour according to nationality and qualifications.

Staff houses are needed for the field personnel and is regarded favorably.

Mr. Miyagi, a native, has been with us 7 1/2 years. Monthly club budgets total \$1800.00 which seems to be an adequate amount.

ing staff, one must be professionally sure of his job. Meeting the "No Women" angle of all programs, especially dances, is our greatest problem. After much effort and time spent by staff in establishing good relationships with the Ryukan people and the International Womens Club from which we can draw local girls for dancing partners, all had to be tabled due to the lack of transportation. Taxis and local bus service is one answer to this, but it eats terribly into available funds and over a period of time we could pay for our own vehicle to be utilized for the purpose of transporting indigenous personnel who are more than willing to volunteer their services to the Service Club Program.

Janet hopes to have home leave by Christmas time or early in 1955.

## Annual Oswego County W.C.T.U. Rally at Dempster

The Hon. Senator Dulton Peterson of Odessa, N. Y. from the 46th District will be the guest speaker at the annual Oswego County Rally of the WCTU to be held at Camp Dempster on Thursday, August 12. The theme of the WCTU is "Never Before As In '54." Lunch will be served at 12:30 o'clock with the program to follow.

## Your Neighbor -- and mine

Mexico people have a new neighbor, who though she doesn't make her home here is becoming well known to many. She is of English descent one of a family of ten children, born in Solway the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Whorrall. Her father who was originally from North Dakota is a jeweler by trade and now lives in South Otsele.

## District Boy Scouts

Be it known that the Arrowhead District of the Oswego County Council will meet for the purpose of Training and Fellowship for the Advancement of scouting for boys in said district. Be it known also that the said meeting will have four parts:

1. Will be for Cub Leaders, Den Mothers and Pack Committees.
2. Scout Leaders and Scout Committeemen.
3. Explorer Advisors, Skippers, Senior Crew Leaders and Explorer Committeemen.
4. Institutional Representatives, members at Large of both the aforesaid District and Council.

## Dean Lavender Guest Speaker

Mr. Dean Lavender, pre-ministerial student at Syracuse University was guest speaker in the Parish Presbyterian church, on Sunday, June 13 at the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Mr. Lavender will be guest each Sunday during the month of June in the Parish Presbyterian church.

## Parish-Aitmar Alumni Banquet June 26th

Invitations have been mailed out to all graduates inviting them to all the 67th annual banquet of the Parish High School. The banquet will be at the Parish school auditorium, Saturday, June 26th at 7 p.m. Members of the Parish Wenonah Robekah lodge 405 will serve a baked ham dinner. Judge Eugene Sullivan of Fulton will be guest speaker. Reservations and coin cards are to be filled out and mailed to Mrs. Joan Lewis Stoddard on or before Wednesday, June 23.

## A-P Junior Class Has Dancing Party

The Junior Class of the Aitmar-Parish Central school sponsored a dancing party Friday, June 11 at the Parish school auditorium. Music for dancing was furnished by Mildred Ruth's orchestra from Mexico from 8:30 to 12:30.

## PARISH LOCALS

A special meeting of the County Fire Advisory Board was held Thursday evening at 8 p.m. in the Parish fire barn. Mrs. M. M. Richards and Miss Louise Richards entertained at bridge at their home, Friday evening.

## Legion Auxillary Meets June 10th

Regular meeting of the Ladies Auxillary unit of the Russell Horning Post 601 was held Thursday evening, June 10 at 8 p.m. Mrs. Owen LaForce, president, presided at the meeting. Reports on the Memorial Day dinner were given and regular business carried out.

## Susanna Wesley Unit To Sell Food At 10:30-June 19

The Susanna Wesley Unit of the Methodist WOSU will hold a bake sale at the Thrift Shop on Main St. Saturday, June 19th at 10:30 o'clock.

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