

the agassiz WHISTLER

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Ten Cents

EDITOR'S NOTE: SERIES ON DRUGS TO BEGIN SOON

This issue of The Whistler is only four pages long as we have been preparing a brochure for the neighborhood to announce a four-part series on the drug problem. The supplement, to be distributed soon, will provide background material for the series. Tentative dates for the evening sessions are November 24 and 30 and December 8 and 14. Sponsors of the program are the Agassiz Community Schools Program, the PTA, and Agassiz School.

THE PEACE BOMB

by Simon, Meg, Rachel, Adam,
Helen, Richard, and S. Karpel

If your children are interested in peace or you want them to be, The Peace Bomb is just the thing. The Peace Bomb is a book written, printed and published by Miss Karpel's Fourth Grade class in the Agassiz School under the auspices of the MatchBook Press-Children's Museum.

We all thought of ideas for books and then combined them into The Peace Bomb. We wrote manuscripts and then set the type letter by letter. Some of us illustrated The Peace Bomb by making block prints. At the same time, we raised money for the copyright fee (\$6) by painting chairs, selling masks and running a rummage sale. We even took a trip to Harvard Trust Co. to buy a money order.

We put in a lot of effort on The Peace Bomb. (One night the typographers stayed in school until 5:30 PM!) It's a really imaginative book filled with pages of excitement. Read about Zoctopus, the one-eyed eight-armed monster who invades Cambridge. Read about the smog, gunfire and peace birds.!

Watch out for The Peace Bomb. We hope to have it published by a real company soon!

THE MAYOR'S BALL

On Friday, November 13, Mayor Velucci of Cambridge is sponsoring a masquerade ball to which all of the adult citizens of Cambridge are invited. The dance will be held at the DuPont Gym, corner of Vassar and Main Streets at M. I. T. A donation of 50¢ will be collected at the door to cover the expenses of the musicians and the refreshments of cider and snacks. Set-ups will also be available, but for a fee.

The major entertainment of the evening will be dancing to the rhythms from rock to waltz provided by three local bands. Peg Cass, an alumna of Cambridge High and Latin turned TV star, who is currently appearing on To Tell the Truth will also be a featured guest.

The Community Schools Programs are providing hostesses for the dance. If you are interested in helping with the ball, or would just like to have more information, call Holly Cratsley at 864-6117.

THE OXFORD STREET AREA
AND 10 FROST STREET

(Except for the last three paragraphs, this article has been reprinted from Report Two: Mid Cambridge, Cambridge Historical Commission, 1967, page 15.)

By the time of the Revolutionary War the land in the Oxford Street area had been gathered into three large parcels. In 1765 Nathaniel Jarvis began to buy land in the vicinity of the Harvard Graduate Center until he owned fourteen acres. Just north of Jarvis's land, Jonathan Hastings, Sr., had acquired the entire area from Massachusetts Avenue to the Somerville line between Everett and Hammond Streets and a line north of Wendell Street. In 1742 the property passed to his son Samuel, a glazier, who lived there until his death in 1785.

The largest piece of land in the area came to be owned by members of the Frost family, who by the end of the eighteenth century had acquired all property north from the Hastings homestead to Porter Square, as well as property on the west side of Massachusetts Avenue where the Cooper-Frost-Austin house stands.¹ The section between Garfield and Eustis Streets to the south of Sacramento Street had been bought in 1730 by Ebenezer Frost, a currier. Upon the death of his son James in 1770, the title passed to James Frost, Jr. The remaining land north to Porter Square was acquired by Gideon Frost, a cousin to Ebenezer. Gideon began his estate in 1763 with the purchase of the seventeenth century Crackbone House, which stood until the 1830's on the southern corner of Forest Street and Massachusetts Avenue. Owner also of the Frost homestead on Kirkland Street after 1777, Gideon Frost lived in the Crackbone house until his death in 1803.

The heirs of Gideon Frost retained possession of most of their property through the early decades of the nineteenth century. In 1807, four years after Gideon's death, his son Walter built a three-story Federal style house on Massachusetts Avenue, one of the first in the line of mansions along the avenue. In 1866, to make way for the Congregational Church now on the site, the building was moved from its original location to 10 Frost Street, where it stands today. A large three-story structure, it is reputed to be the work of the master builder William Saunders, whose own house at 1 Garden Street, built in 1821 and now serving as the Christ Church Rectory, is similar in style. With the exception of the later one-story Greek revival porch, the house is unaltered, its appearance enhanced by recent repairs and repainting. As a handsome example of an architectural type that has not survived in large numbers in the city, and as the former home of the family that settled the area, the Frost house has great value to the Oxford Street area today.

For more than twenty-five years the house has been owned by Mr. and Mrs. Donald W. Moreland. The previous oc-

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Kate Mattes, Agassiz Community Schools
Co-ordinator

Jay Lord, Assistant Co-ordinator

Jill Norton, Editor for The Whistler

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cupants were the Moore family, who first rented the home from the Frost Estate and later purchased it.

It is understood that Professor Moore was Registrar of Harvard College. One of his daughters, Dr. Frederica Moore, was one of the early women pediatricians. Mary, the other daughter, was a well-known sculptress in her time. When they wished to retire to Hancock, New Hampshire, the daughters sold the house to the Morelands.

One authority on old houses, a former Harvard professor who was related to earlier occupants has claimed that the house was built in 1799.

¹The Cooper-Frost-Austin house, at 21 Linnaean Street, was built in 1657. It is the oldest house in Cambridge.

FORD PLAY REVIEWED

(The following review, which has been condensed for these pages, appeared in the newspaper Boston After Dark, when the play was in "undress rehearsal" according to the reviewer - that phrase referring not to costuming but to the rough state of the production.)

"It is obvious that Watch the Fords Go By, the highly inventive play written and directed by Bob Arnebeck... at Agassiz Elementary School in Cambridge, is a colossal failure, but it's certainly not all that simple. Mr. Arnebeck has attempted to do the impossible, with severely limiting tools. Since success was impossible he has at least come up with a very fascinating failure...

"The show presents the history of the Ford Motor Company from its beginning

to the death of Henry Ford. The mass of material pertaining to this subject is poured at the audience from many scenes all happening simultaneously in all parts of the Agassiz School gymnasium, augmented by slides and tape recordings...

"But it doesn't really work. For one thing, the school gymnasium is an acoustical disaster area, and most of the people in the cast are untrained amateurs whose voices cannot be heard in the resultant chaos...

"Certainly many of the cast turned out interesting performances, and shifted easily from character to character. Ken Rocke gave a fine performance as Ford, growing visibly more crotchety and unpredictable as he became old, and as the sprawl of the company slipped from his total control...

"And yet, for all its rough-hewn inadequacies, Watch the Fords Go By is a healthy attempt at a new form of theatre. Bob Arnebeck deserves congratulations for his try at the impossible, and audiences should become aware that an ambitious failure can often be much more exciting than the complete realization of a familiar cliché."

CORRECTION

Our apologies to our friends from the VFW who held the children's party Halloween night at the Agassiz School. Their post number was incorrectly reported in the last Whistler - they are from VFW Post No. 7353 in North Cambridge. And thanks from the little folks for a grand evening!

November 12 COUNCIL MEETING - 8 PM

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ASSISTANT

The new voice you hear at the other end of the phone when you call the Community Schools office belongs to Madeline Taylor, who recently joined the staff as a part-time assistant. Madeline has charge of all three play groups for pre-schoolers (16 months through 4 years) and takes care of general business at the Community Schools office each morning.

She has worked with children of all ages - with after-school programs, in summer day camps, as a housemother in a temporary home for teen-agers in Los Angeles, and as a playground director for an elementary school in Berkeley, California.

Her large, gentle, canine friend,

should you visit the office, answers to Sagebrush, or "Sage".

COME ONE, COME ALL!

Everyone in the community, whether an Agassiz School parent or not, is invited to a Country Store Sale, to be held at the school on the evening of November 23 (PTP Night). Here's a chance to buy inexpensive gifts for the holiday season as well as useful and fun items for yourself. Proceeds from the sale will go to the Agassiz School PTA and the Community Schools Program.

Contributions for the event - hand-made or purchased items or white elephants - are being collected by Mrs. Elizabeth Basa at 37 Wendell Street (rear door); you can phone her at 868-0133.

ADULT EDUCATION

Beginning November 19, registration for the Winter Term at the Cambridge Center for Adult Education will be accepted. Call 547-6789 or write the Center at 42 Brattle Street in Cambridge for a free booklet describing the day and evening ten-week courses which begin January 4.

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NEW RESTAURANT

Watch for the opening of a new Japanese restaurant, OSAKA, December 1 - at Fresh Pond Parkway and Concord Avenue.

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COME TO THE FLICKS

"Cool Hand Luke," with Paul Newman, comes to Agassiz School on November 20 at 8 PM. Admission is 75¢. Sponsored by the teens to raise money for the Teen Center, watch for announcements of more films - to be shown December 4 and 18, and January 1.

 WHISTLER SUBSCRIPTION APPLICATION

Please mail me The Whistler twice a month for the next six months. I enclose \$1.00. (Check or money order only, please, made out to the Agassiz Community Schools Program. Send to the Agassiz Community Schools Program at 28 Sacramento Street.)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____