

# THE AGASSIZ WHISTLER

Volume 2, Number 1

January 11, 1972

## ICE RINK ON SACRAMENTO FIELD

The frame of an ice rink has been set up on the Sacramento Street field. When the weather gets cold enough for the ground to freeze and hold water, the rink will be flooded and the ice will be available. The rink is being built by the City Recreation Department under a temporary agreement between the Department and Harvard University.

The voice and place of the community in the agreement between Harvard and the Recreation Department is spelled out in an article which appeared in the Harvard Gazette and in the formal agreement between the University and the City. Both the article and the agreement are reprinted in this Whistler, with permission from Harvard.

## SKATING SCHEDULES ON THE ICE

On days when the weather is cold and the ice is good, ice times will be worked out so there will be opportunities for different sizes and kinds of people to skate. Learners, parents and little kids, hockey players, and figure skaters we trust will all have their times on the ice.

To help the Community Council in arranging and posting the best possible schedules for the ice, we invite everyone to tell us if they would like to skate, what kind of skating they want to do, and what their best times for personal interest and convenience will be (especially on weekends). Call the Community School (976-9268) or sign up on the board that is on the fence just inside the gate to the field.

## OUR FALL PROGRAM HAS BEEN FULL

Since October the Agassiz program has been a spill-over, full house sort of experience. The spill-over has been with the Play Groups functioning very well at North Avenue Church. The full-house hasn't really meant that every possible time some space could be used in the school was taken up, but we have had all that we or our space could handle. The After School

program has worked regularly four days a week, a teen-boys recreation group has meetings to play pool and horse around four times a week. Three adult exercise classes have been held each week, and there have been five modern dance classes each week. Council, committee, and neighborhood meetings have been held in the school, and a drama class has been working regularly.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
1350 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE  
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138

OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER

HOLYOKE CENTER

December 23, 1971

City of Cambridge Recreation Department  
Attn: Mr. Paul Cowles, Superintendent  
City Hall  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Mr. Cowles:

Thank you for your letter of December 3, 1971 requesting the use of the Sacramento Field. We are happy to allow the City to use the field especially since we know it will be used by the Agassiz community surrounding the field. We hereby allow you to use the field subject to the following conditions:

1. This agreement commences on Thursday December 23, 1971 and terminates on April 1, 1972. Either the City or the University has the right to terminate said usage by thirty days notice. The City shall pay to Harvard University the sum of \$1.00 rental.
2. The field shall be used for ice-skating and other appropriate seasonal activities by the residents of the Agassiz community. The recreation Department shall construct and maintain an ice-skating area on the field and agrees to permit the Agassiz Council to publish and supervise, to the extent it deems appropriate, a schedule of usage. The Agassiz Council and any other community group is permitted to administer programs and activities on the field and skating area.
3. The Recreation Department shall maintain the ice-skating area and the remainder of the field in a state of good repair. On or before April 1, the Recreation Department will remove the ice-skating area and return same to its original condition.
4. Harvard agrees, as soon as possible after the acceptance of this agreement to repair and put in good order the fence and gate surrounding the field and thereafter the Cambridge Recreation and Police Departments shall be responsible for insuring that the field is adequately policed during the term of this agreement.
5. The City of Cambridge agrees to save Harvard University and its Officers harmless from claims of injury or damage to any person while on the premises.

The Agassiz Community Council has expressed an interest in the City and the University being willing to sit down from time to time during the period of this agreement with the Agassiz Community Council to jointly solve any problems that may arise while the City has use of the Sacramento field. We are prepared to do this, and assume by your acceptance of the use of the field that you are willing to do the same.

We have given you use of the field for three months, rather than a year, as you requested, as the community asked us to change this provision and we agreed. Once we have had a successful three months with the City on the field, we look forward to renewing our agreement for an even longer period.

If the terms set forth above are acceptable, would you kindly sign the enclosed duplicate copy of this letter and return it to me.

Sincerely yours,

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Henry H. Cutler  
Real Estate Manager

Accepted:  
CITY OF CAMBRIDGE RECREATION DEPT.

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Superintendent of Recreation

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### NOT EVERY GOOD IDEA WORKS

One good idea set in motion last summer didn't work out too well. The Council used some the 1971 program funds to hire a skilled leader, to buy lumber and hardware, expecting to have a combination design and carpentry class and work project to build things needed. It was intended to make things for classrooms and hallways, for the multiple-purpose Community School Room, and for the Sacramento Field. Tools were ripped off and very little construction was accomplished at a higher than expected cost. The idea was good, but it went astray.

## Harvard Playground Becomes Skating Rink

A seldom-used playground on Sacramento Street that is owned by Harvard has been partially converted into a neighborhood ice skating rink.

Harvard agreed two days before Christmas to let the City of Cambridge make the conversion, in exchange for a rental fee of \$1 for the next three months. The Agassiz Community Council will post ice times and on occasion provide a supervisor for the rink.

The agreement for development of the playground, which contains basketball and shuffleboard courts but no formal equipment, was worked out by the Office of Community Affairs at Harvard, the Agassiz Community Council, and the City's Recreation Department. The agreement extends until April 1, and if it works out satisfactorily it will probably be extended in some form, according to Fulton Eaglin, who works in the Office of Community Affairs.

*December 31, 1971  
The Gazette*

SPACE-SHAPE PROJECT

Things are still needed so we are trying again. The Community Schools Room is in sorry shape. It needs storage areas that are functional and flexible. With a minimum of effort, the space must be adaptable as an after-school resource center, as an office, a teen center, or a place where adults can stop in to leave or get something or just to talk.

We've had some help from John Cataldo of Lesley College in drawing up plans for storage units as a beginning. Now we need materials and labor. We intend not spending a lot of money.

Men, women, and children who would enjoy lifting, sorting, sawing, fastening, and painting are welcome. Are there any volunteers? Are there any who would like to answer the telephone when people call 876-9268 to say they want to be space-shapers?

(Try Hiring A Neighborhood Kid Soon!)

- Snow Shoveling?
- Baby Sitting?
- Cleaning?
- Painting?
- Dog Walking?
- Errands?
- Odd Jobs?

Do you need any of these things done, but don't want to hire expensive professionals? Call Community School (876-9268) any afternoon but Friday, and leave your name, phone number, and the job you want done. Sallie Follansbee, Teen Co-Ordinator, will try to match up your need with a teenager who is anxious to earn some money.

CAMBRIDGE COALITION FOR CHILD CARE

The child care referendum, on the recent Cambridge ballot, was passed in all 11 precincts of the city reflecting a wide interest in this issue. This month, a committee made up of professionals in the area of child care, is setting up neighborhood meetings through community schools, Planning Teams, and other groups. The purpose of the meetings is to 1) bring neighbors together to discuss their child care needs with professional resource people and 2) explain what child care means in the broad spectrum, including funding ideas. A meeting has been scheduled for TUESDAY, JANUARY 25th at 8:00 P.M. in the auditorium of the Agassiz School. For more information please call Jill Herold (864-0872)

AGASSIZ INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Earlier in the Fall, the PTA sponsored Mr. Dancy's Social Studies class to go to an International Fair in Boston. In December, Mr. Dancy inspired the whole school to an International Festival of its own. On Wednesday, December 22, most of the rooms through 5th Grade was turned into an exhibition of one country or another. First-graders rolled dough in a German bakery, 3rd/4th Grade hung stockings, while in Miss Dessilers' normally studious 5th Grade, Ghana and Italy tried to survive while raucous barkers for the Poles and the Irish competed for the crowd's attention. Down in the auditorium, 6th through 8th graders had set up numerous country stalls, and Miss Dunn's 2nd Grade appeared to have hauled in the entire contents of a Mexican gift shop. You could

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(Inter. Affairs, cont.)

light Channukah candles, have messages written in Chinese or do Greek dances. As far as could be seen practically everyone did practically everything. In the evening the auditorium was even more full of people for the International Potluck Supper. From a complete Brazilian feijoada (if you don't know what that is come to the next Potluck Supper) to bagels and lox there was a fantastic array of international dishes. With something like 50 separate items and well over 200 people to demolish them, a very good time was had. Many thanks to the parents who brought the food, Janet Kaplan and the parents who helped set up the International Festival, and Mr. Dancy who started the whole thing!

Looking to the future...the PTA hopes to continue to support and sponsor educationally enriching activities for Agassiz. If there is anyone in the community interested in teaching a short course (once or twice a week for a few weeks) or leading kids in some group activity (photography, macrame, candle-making, computer programming...you name it) do contact Jancis Long (354-5963) after 2:30 PM or Janet Kaplan (876-9268) after 2:30 PM or Miss Barron at the school.

#### COUNCIL WILL VOTE '72 BUDGET

The Cambridge City Council has the determining vote on the Community School budget. Last year the vote was taken at a special meeting held on a Sunday morning in March, and the support of residents who attended the meeting led the Council to increase the program allocations that were recommended by the City Manager. It is not known when the budget meeting will be held

#### 1972 BUDGETS TO BE ACTED ON

The Advisory Committee of Cambridge Community Schools has discussed the 1972 budget for individual schools at its past three monthly meetings. For the first two years of the program, the operating budgets of all fourteen schools have been identical. (Each School received \$3,771 in program allocations for 1971). This year is different. Representatives of the different neighborhoods have pointed up needs and requirements that vary from area to area. It has been felt strongly by most people present at the meetings that some neighborhoods need more money than others to carry out needed programs. Some areas have access to funds beyond what is allocated by the City Council. Some do not. Some schools have or will soon have facilities in buildings that are new but some school buildings have very limited facilities available for community use. Since the makeup of each neighborhood is unique, the requests for programs are somewhat different for each. It is important that the City realize the varied needs of individual communities. It is also important for the strength of the program in general that all local councils in the city seek to understand the problems and aspirations of the other schools. In that way, all work together and help each other.

Advisory Committee and Commission meetings are open to the public. Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend. The next Advisory Committee meeting is at the Morse School, 8 PM, on Jan. 13.

The next Commission meeting will be at the Morse School also, on January 20 at 8 PM.

this year but it is certain that informed citizen support will be important.

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WHEN YOU THINK AGASSIZ  
THINK WHISTLER

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Thinking Agassiz makes us curious about the anonymous others, the strangers, who live in the same neighborhood we do. What are the people of Agassiz like? We can't really know until most of us talk to each other at some length, and that's physically and time-wise pretty difficult.

We do generalize about each other, about external appearances and the things we see and hear happen, and we could say "that's Agassiz". But that's not too good.

To make accurate knowledge of each other easier to achieve, we suggest a more pleasant way. Think "AGASSIZ WHISTLER". This little neighborhood paper has been excellent in the past and it should be revived. If there is a thing you want to know or tell or learn or share, if you would like to change something, swap something, find someone with the same strange hobby, if you want to create something or organize something, if you want to invite people to discuss an issue or a problem or an interest, use the Whistler. The staff of the Agassiz Community School invite you to both use the Whistler and help produce it.

If you are interested in developing community, in communication and consciousness, we invite your response. A lot of ideas and work will be needed: thinking, talking, writing, editing, typing, assembling, and distribution. Contributions for our minimal expenses are needed. If a good number of us contribute two or three dollars each, we could get quite a few good Whistlers out reg-

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AGASSIZ PLAYGROUPS

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Playgroup parents have succeeded in establishing an on-going and appreciated program for young children.

Currently, 38 families participate on a full or part-time basis Tuesday through Thursday, 9:00-12:00. Children 2-4 years of age are eligible. Teacher's salaries are partially subsidized by the Community Schools Program, other costs are covered by a monthly fee and fund-raising projects such as the recent pre-Christmas "penny sale" and bake sale held in the North Avenue church.

Because the program is going so well, the group is tentatively planning to expand the schedule to a broader form of child care which would allow a parent to hold a part-time job.

There are openings for 3 and 4 year olds - anyone interested in joining can visit any morning, Tuesday-Thursday, or call Jill Herold (864-0872)

ulary. Contributions should be made out to "Agassiz Community Council" and marked "Whistler". Send them to the Agassiz Community School, 28 Sacramento Street, Cambridge. They will be acknowledged and used only for the Whistler.

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COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

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The Agassiz Community Council meets regularly on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. It decides policy, space use, and money use for the Agassiz Community School. Meetings are open and you are invited.