NEW MASTER AT AGASSIZ SCHOOL

When the doors to the Agassiz School open the morning of September 10, the new Master to greet parents and children will be Miss Katherine C. Barron, a Cambridge resident from Reservoir Ave. She succeeds Miss Margaret L. Doolin, who has served as Master since April 1, 1965. Miss Doolin has been named Master at the Longfellow School in Cambridge.

Miss Barron, former Primary Unit Team Leader in the Lexington, Mass. school system, holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Regis College in Weston, Mass., and a Master's degree in Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She has also taught in New Bedford and Wayland, Mass., and Arlington, Va.

Miss Barron has been a master teacher in the Harvard-Newton Summer Program and for two years worked with the Harvard-Boston Summer Program. She was co-supervisor of the latter program one summer and an instructor in the afternoon creative arts program another summer. She has also been involved in an "Innovation in Learning" program based in Brookline, which encompassed Brookline, Newton, and Lexington.

Agassiz School masters have included such well-known and well-remembered educators as Miss Maria Baldwin, who came to the school as a teacher in 1882 and became Master in 1916, and Mr. Ed-

"THE WHISTLER"

This free issue of our new community newspaper has been delivered to you in the hope that you and your family or friends will find it both interesting and informative. It is published by the Agassiz Community Schools program with the purpose of disseminating news and information as well as stories about people, historical features, and points of view of interest or concern to our neighbors. It will appear twice a month, or twenty-four times a year, and is to cost 10¢ a copy. When the next issue is published in the middle of September, one of our newsboys will stop by to ask you if you would like to receive it regularly.

SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE AGASSIZ AREA TEN YEARS AGO

In 1960 there were 1,748 housing units of which 1,712 were occupied. There were 514 structures, so the average number of units per structure was 3.4. Tenants occupied 80.3% of the units and 19.7% were owner occupied. However, because of the many two and three family houses, 65.6% of the structures were owner occupied.

The population, exclusive of college students, was 4,512 - spread out over 78.3 acres (the average density was 57.6 persons per acre). The age distribution was broken down as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-6 years</td>
<td>498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-16</td>
<td>360</td>
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</tbody>
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Continued on Page 5
EARLY CAMBRIDGE LAND USE

(For our first historical article, we are reprinting with permission from the Cambridge Historical Commission a section from their book Report Two: Mid-Cambridge, a survey of architectural history in Cambridge, published by the Commission in 1967. The selection appears on pages 11-13.)

Like other towns in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, the original settlement of New Towne, as Cambridge was first called, resembled a medieval English village, similar to those the colonists had left behind. The village itself lay in the region southeast of the present Harvard Square; outside it were the fields that the colonists cultivated and the pastures for their animals. Following English precedent, the first settlers lived in the village and went out from it to work their farm land. They began using the nearby Mid Cambridge area for agriculture soon after the settlement of the town in 1630. To assure the safety of fields and flocks from wild animals and from possible Indian attacks, two fences were built: the palisade and the common pales. The first, erected by 1632, consisted of a line of willows, trenches, and stakes that curved along the north side of the Common and through a thicket just south of the modern Harvard Graduate Center. The construction of the pales, a communally owned line of stakes extending from the present site of Sever Hall in Harvard Yard roughly along the line of Cambridge Street to Miller's Creek at the Somerville line, was ordered by the General Court in March of the same year.

Land outside the village, including all the property in Mid Cambridge, was assigned to individuals in the years following New Towne's establishment. In this area, as in the village itself, the pattern of land division recalled English precedent. Two types of lots were divided by a path (along the line of the present Dana Street) leading from Massachusetts Avenue to the common pales. West of the path, near the village, lay the "planting fields," which ranged in size from one acre to four. After 1640 planting fields were also established through the Oxford Street area north of the palisade. East of the Dana Street line stretched nineteen small lots that gave Dana Hill its early name, "Small Lot Hill." These lots of two or three acres each were drawn in narrow parallel strips across the brow of the hill.

As the economic stringencies of the early settlement eased and as capital began to accumulate, large-scale land holdings superseded the pattern of small individually owned lots. In Cambridge, as throughout the Massachusetts Bay Colony, the men who acquired large parcels of land later transformed them into elegant country seats. Although the area continued to be agricultural, the construction of mansion houses surrounded by landscape gardens marked the firm establishment of civilization in what had been a wilderness.

The consolidation of estates began as early as the middle of the seventeenth century; in many cases the properties remained intact, although with different owners, until after the Revolution. Not until the 1830's, when the population of Cambridge was increasing rapidly, did pressure for new residential areas near the centers bring about the breakup of the estates.

*The term Mid-Cambridge, according to the book, refers to "the area north and east of Massachusetts Avenue west of Prospect Street, except for Harvard's main academic areas" of which the Agassiz Community Schools area is a part.
SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Agassiz School (kindergarten through 8th grade) begins its fall session on September 10 at 8:30 AM; the first day is a full day. Children older than kindergarteners are to bring lunches. Classes will be dismissed at 2:30.

Your child is ready for kindergarten in September if he or she is at least four and one-half years old by October 1 and has been vaccinated and immunized against diphtheria, whooping-cough, tetanus, polio, and measles. Be sure to bring vaccination, immunization, and birth certificates if these have not been presented at registration day last spring.

Children new to Agassiz School may be registered on the first day of school or on the day before, September 9, from 9 to 12 noon. Bring transfer cards or report cards for older children.

Cambridge High and Latin and Rindge Tech schools also open on September 10 for a full day of school. Students new to the community should check with the Superintendent's office before starting school. The office is located at 1700 Cambridge Street; the hours are 9 to 4 or 5 PM, and the phone number to call is 876-4500.

TOT LOT SUPERVISOR

Since the close of Agassiz School in June, Kathleen McCarthy, a resident of Woodbridge Street, North Cambridge, has been supervisor of the Alden Tot Lot. Kathy has worked summers with the city Recreation Department for three years, supervising the Peabody School playground for the previous two years. She is a graduate of Cambridge High and Latin School. An elementary education major, she enters her senior year at Framingham State College this fall.

MORE ABOUT ... "THE WHISTLER"

The Agassiz community or neighborhood has as its boundaries Massachusetts Avenue (from Cambridge St. to Somerville Ave.), the Cambridge-Somerville border (just west of Beacon Street), Kirkland Street (to Irving St.), Irving Street (south), and Cambridge Street (from Irving St. to Massachusetts Ave.). This small area is as diverse in terms of its population, activity, and history as many another New England neighborhood. We hope we can bring some of this diversity to you in your paper. But we need your ideas... Please call the Community Schools office at 876-9268 or visit us there at 28 Sacramento Street in the basement of the Agassiz School if you have news, an ad you would like to run, or comments about your newspaper.

NOTICE

Due to a school department request, all schools will be closed for cleaning from August 21 - September 9. This means that all Community Schools Programs except for trips and softball will be discontinued until Thursday, September 10. If you want more information concerning Community Schools call 876-9268.
TUESDAY EVENINGS AT 8:15

Special events at the Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 42 Brattle St. Admission $1.00. Limited seating. Purchase tickets in advance.

October 6 - Hunting Wild Mushrooms
A slide illustrated talk by Margaret Lewis, Mycologist. An introduction to those edible wild mushrooms which may grow near you throughout the year.

October 13 - Story of a New Dig
Galilee, Summer 1970 - Field archaeologist Dean Moe will present an illustrated account of the excavations at Khirbet Shema in Israel, the plans and problems faced, showing the actual architecture and artifacts from a Roman-Byzantine village and synagogue.

October 20 - Noh Masks and the Noh
The ancient yet timeless Classical Theatre of Japan visited through a lecture-demonstration on Noh masks by Monica Bethe.

October 27 - Sikkim - Country Struggling for Identity
The experiences of Leslie Solbert's three month stay spent teaching in Gangtok and impressions of the coronation of the Chogyal and the Gyalo in 1965.

"AT NORTON'S WOODS"
(Fond Reminiscences of a six-year-old)

I climbed in the little tree house near the Tarzan rope. I swung on the two-tire swing alot. I went to all the cookouts. They had fun things there. There were flowers and apples. I liked the treasure hunt. I liked exploring around. I wish they had lunch there. I wished I lived forever so I could go to Norton's woods forever.

COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWS

During the months of July and August, the Agassiz Community School Program had 15 functioning weekly programs. In an average week approximately 450 people took part in these activities. These participants were guided by 80 volunteers who gave a total of 200 volunteer hours a week.

These programs ranged from an educational experience for kids on the Sachs Estate, to morning playgroups, to political discussions, to bread making classes, to ecology workshops, to high scoring softball games, to English classes.

To sum up each of these programs is difficult. Each was so different in its aims and its accomplishments. Yet a common thread did exist: community people, for perhaps the first time, saw their desires guide a city program. They saw programs built specifically for the Agassiz area.

In this issue of "The Whistler", we are reprinting an article run in the Cambridge Chronicle this summer for those who may have missed it. It discusses the Sachs Estate program, a particularly successful one.

NOTICE

The next Community Schools Council meeting will be held Thursday, September 10, at 8 PM in the Agassiz School. Everyone is invited to attend and share in the decisions concerning fall and winter programs.
UNIQUE EDUCATIONAL PROJECT

Have you ever mapped unknown lands, made your own tools, built vine-covered huts, woven grass mats and ropes, developed your own pictures outdoors, or drunk fresh apple juice that you made yourself? Over one hundred children from Cambridge and Somerville have this summer.

These children roamed and explored the Harvard-owned Sachs Estate (known as Norton’s Woods to many long-time residents) as participants in an atypical, outdoor, educational experience sponsored by the Agassiz Community Schools Program. With the permission of the Harvard Corporation, sessions were held for three two-week periods during the summer, from July 6 through August 14, mornings and afternoons. Each of the six groups consisted of about twenty people, from kindergarteners to the adults from the near-by neighborhoods who joined the program to help with the children.

Run with the volunteer assistance of twenty-two Peace Corps trainees based at the Educational Development Corporation in Newton, Mass., the program touched its projects in a non-competitive atmosphere. The individual’s inner resources were focused upon by emphasizing creation rather than destruction, perception rather than consumption, and process rather than results. The "whys" and "hows" of success or failure in many of the projects undertaken provided numerous learning experiences, such as in the making of charcoal from wood and paints from plants. Many tired, dirty, and very happy children chattering at the end of each day about things they had made themselves attested to the value of the program.

This unique summer experience was planned by the Agassiz Community Schools Council. It could not have succeeded without the help of a number of interested people who gave hours of their time to it. Many thanks go to Bill Warren at EDC; Edward Gruson and the Harvard Corporation; co-directors of the program, Kate Mattes and Norman Stone; and the neighborhood volunteers.

NEW MASTER AT AGASSIZ SCHOOL

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ward A. Conley, who retires September 1 as Superintendent of Schools in Cambridge. Mr. Conley was appointed Master at Agassiz in the fall of 1950 and served in that capacity for ten years.

SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE AGASSIZ AREA TEN YEARS AGO

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<table>
<thead>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>17-24</td>
<td>603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-64</td>
<td>2,526</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>over 65</td>
<td>525</td>
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</tbody>
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In 1960, the average rent was $91 per month and the median family income was $6,049.

(Based on information on Census tract 16 in the pamphlet, "Social Characteristics of Cambridge," Cambridge Planning Board, 1962.)
CITY NEWSPAPER

New to Cambridge? You should know about the Cambridge Chronicle, a weekly newspaper "founded 124 years ago" which covers the news of the entire city. Meetings of the city council and school committee are reported in a lively, detailed style which makes for especially interesting reading as does the editorial page. The classified ads section is extensive. The Chronicle is published every Thursday and costs 15¢. The number to call for home delivery is 625-6300.

CAMBRIDGE INFORMATION

An excellent reference book called the New Citizens Guide to Cambridge is published as a service to the community by the Harvard-Epworth Methodist Church, located at 1555 Massachusetts Avenue (next to the Harvard Law School). A new edition is ready now, full of information about auto registration, voter registration, education, housing, shopping, churches, and special services offered in our city. The book sells for $1.25 a copy; for orders over 25 copies the price is $1.00 a copy. It is available at newsstands or at the church office which is open from 9 to 1 now, and from 9 to 5 after the middle of the month. With the kind permission of the editor, Kathryn Bertelli, we plan to include information from the book in our newspaper from time to time.

NURSERY SCHOOL

With a little bit of luck there will be a nursery school for 3 and 4 year olds at 41 Kirkland Street the first week in October of this year. We hope to be able to offer high-quality, low-cost nursery schooling for the neighborhood. At the moment we contemplate a tuition of $250 per year for a five-morning session, correspondingly less for fewer-day sessions. If we can raise some money we will be offering scholarship aid to any children who might otherwise be turned away for lack of funds. If you are interested in enrolling your child or wish to volunteer money or equipment or any other help, please call Mrs. Mauney before September 6 at 876-9681 or Mrs. Payson after September 10 at 646-8130.

ADULT EDUCATION

The new booklet outlining fall and winter courses offered by the Cambridge Center for Adult Education is now available at the Center at 42 Brattle Street in Harvard Square. A wide variety of courses is offered. Art, music, literature, foreign languages, crafts, and dance will again be included in the schedule as well as new seminar classes in sociology, archaeology, urban studies, world affairs, architecture, and psychology. Most course fees are between $20-$30 not including art and reading materials. Registration is open now and may be made at the center. The phone number is 547-6789. Register soon as enrollment is limited.