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Music captures Youth's Talents

Following in the steps of Van Cliburn, Putnam City's own child prodigy takes a step into the world.

Young Mike Snelling, fifth grader at Coronado Heights Elementary, will appear as guest soloist with the Amarillo Symphony, in Amarillo, Texas in a special concert April 12. Mike is the 10-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. S. D. Snelling of 3800 Northwest 52 in Oklahoma City.

Out of 60 contestants who took part in the competition, Mike was the winner in the "under 11" class. This is not only a great honor to an accomplished pianist, but is an amazing feat since Mike had studied piano for only two years when he won.

This is not the only honor Mike has received in his short but very fruitful career as a pianist. He was an Oklahoma Music Teachers' Association winner in a recital conducted by that group at Oklahoma City University. In this recital, which is their "convention recital," Mike played the classical piece, "Kabelevsky."

He will play an original composition at Amarillo that was written especially for the Amarillo contest. The piece, "Concerto for a Young Pianist," was composed by Evan Tonsing, artist-in-residence at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater.

Mike won in the finals of the contest at Amarillo for his age group over seven other contestants. He will be one of six soloists in the Amarillo concert. All the winners will also receive a $25 Blackburn award.

"I'm really excited about going," Mike said "and I just hope that I can do well there." This means many hours of practice to this talented youngster while others his age may be out of doors playing games, but to Mike, the sacrifice is well worth it.

When asked his favorite kind of music, Mike answered that he preferred classical music above all. Does Mike like pop or rock music? "Yes," he replied, "but my preference is classical." Why does he prefer the classical? Mike says that he loves the artistry and the moods of classical music. "Especially those high notes," he added.

"I think I can express myself in classical music," Mike continued, "but that doesn't mean I don't appreciate and listen to other kinds of music."

When asked by an Amarillo reporter how much time he spent practicing, Mike replied, "Not half enough." But, as one listens to the delicate touch and hears the expressive notes come from the piano and watches his young and dexterous fingers dance over the keyboard, it is not difficult to see that here is a budding star for the future and one who already at a very early age has become an accomplished musician.

"I have to give a lot of credit to my teacher, Mrs. Ernestine Scott," Mike added. Mrs. Snelling, Mike's mother, agreed. "She is just great," she added. Mrs. Scott is an instructor in piano at OCU and has taught Mike for two years.

Mike's other accomplishments in the musical field extend into strings. He plays the violin in Coronado Heights string orchestra under the supervision of Mrs. Hellen Burnett. He is in the advanced class of violin.

Music Education Program Expands To Include Strings

You've heard of circuit riders and are no doubt familiar with the verse, "she shall have music wherever she goes," but did you know there is a combination of both in our school district?

Mrs. Hellen Burnett is employed to implement a new and vigorous music education program for strings. This takes her to every elementary school in Putnam City school district. But this is just the beginning of what is planned to be a full string orchestral program for all grades.

Mrs. Burnett has 209 students participating in this program this year, learning violin, cello, viola and bass violin. These students are divided into two groups. The advanced group consists of students that have progressed sufficiently so as to play more difficult pieces. They meet Monday afternoon for additional instruction and practice. There are 42 in this group.

The other group is a beginning class and has regular classes in the individual schools. Mrs. Burnett divides her time between all the elementary schools equally. Her largest class is made up of fifth graders.

There is more than instruction and practice in this program. Interest is provided by performance in ten concerts held this year. These concerts are held in the various elementary schools. The Christmas concert was a full evening program that included students from all ten elementary schools. Billie Nash, Putnam City High junior, sang as guest vocalist and Adeline Estep, PC senior, played the bass violin.

Such musical arrangements as "Eidleweiss," "My Favorite Things" and Christmas carols are in the orchestra's repertoire. In the concert held in April at Windsor Hills there was a combination of the string orchestra and the Windsor Hills Choir. The music consisted of such pieces as Bob Dylan's

Performances provide incentive for volunteers

"Blowing In the Wind," "All Through the Night," and the currently popular, "Born Free."

Mrs. Burnett writes out the music for the accompaniment the string orchestra plays for the choir. She takes the melody and adds the parts for individual instruments. A number of her students have soloed at concerts held this year. They played such pieces as "First Fiddler's March," "Ambition Waltz," and Bach's "March in G."

Mrs. Burnett, active in music from her childhood, is putting together a performance book that will carry students through three years of instruction. This is the way students are prepared for junior high work. Her plans call for the introduction of string orchestras in each junior and senior high in the district eventually.

Some people might have a mental reservation as to the value of classroom instruction, but this is the way Mrs. Burnett got started. "I came home from school one day and announced to my parents that I was going to join a string class," she said. Had it not been for the opportunity provided in the classroom study, she may never have gone on in music. She is a strong believer in the value of classroom instruction.

Music goes with the Burnett family. Her husband, James, a graduate of Putnam City High School, teaches music at Hoover Junior High and plays trombone in the Oklahoma City Symphony. Mrs. Burnett conducted the orchestra at old Harding High School and before that played in the Oklahoma City Symphony. This musical career began for her when she began playing the violin in the third grade in Fort Worth, Texas.

Looking back over the past few years, Mrs. Burnett says that "interest in strings is dwindling and needs reviving." In her own personal campaign to revive interest in strings she travels around 70 miles a week and has numerous individual sessions with her students. Tuesday afternoon, when school

is over and other teachers are already home, she conducts what she calls "helping day." This is the time when she counsels with her students about their problems and tries to give them some remedy to follow. She believes that this is necessary in order to keep students interested who are having difficulty mastering their instruments.

Another part of her campaign involves posters she has put up in strategic places, talks she has with groups and individuals and "a lot of hope." She envisions other orchestras being started. Already she has a "volunteer group" consisting of students that have no regular class instruction. She has 18 in this group so far and hopes that others will be formed in other schools. Next year she looks forward to a doubling of the enrollment in strings as well as a string orchestra in each junior high.

One of the reasons for the success of this work lies in the interest and cooperation afforded by parents. "We have a simply wonderful group of parents," she says. This year the parents plan a dinner to be held April 13 for all string students and their parents. Dr. Guy Fraser Harrison will be a guest. He is conductor of the Oklahoma City Symphony.

Lawrence Foster, 14-year-old cellist and winner of the 1968 Leonard Bernstein scholarship award with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, will be a guest. Foster is playing with the Oklahoma City Symphony Sunday, April 12, and Tuesday, April 14.

One of the brightest prospects she has is young Mike Snelling. Mike is scheduled to play piano with the Amarillo Symphony. Mike has taken lessons for only two years and has been invited to participate in this honoring event. He is in the string orchestra from Coronado Heights Elementary and is in the fifth grade.

Another concert, in May, concludes the year's work. This will be a presentation of the entire group under Mrs. Burnett's instruction. This concert represents the summary of a year of intense and interesting work to one of Putnam City's finest teachers. To add to this program there will be a faculty quartet of strings, Mrs. Leo C. Mayfield, violin, Mrs. Dorothy Hyatt, viola, Mrs. Laura Vance, cello and Mrs. Burnett, violin.

A lot of progress has been made this year due largely to the enthusiasm and dedication of Mrs. Burnett. A great contribution is also possible from this type of program in our school system. William Congreve wrote, "music has charms to sooth a savage beast." It is quite possible that programs such as this, so capably operated, may become a balm to much of the strife and contention in school life today. Mrs. Burnett hopes so.

KINDERGARTEN:

The Step Between

In the years before children reach school age, it becomes more and more difficult to confine them at home and keep them happily occupied. They are able to run, to climb well out of reach and to pedal a tricycle a considerable distance. They are tremendously curious not only about electrical and mechanical appliances in the home, but the power shovel three blocks down the street. They want to learn about the man who brings the mail, the bus driver, the old lady who walks with a cane and about other children—the little girl with the doll carriage and the twins next door.

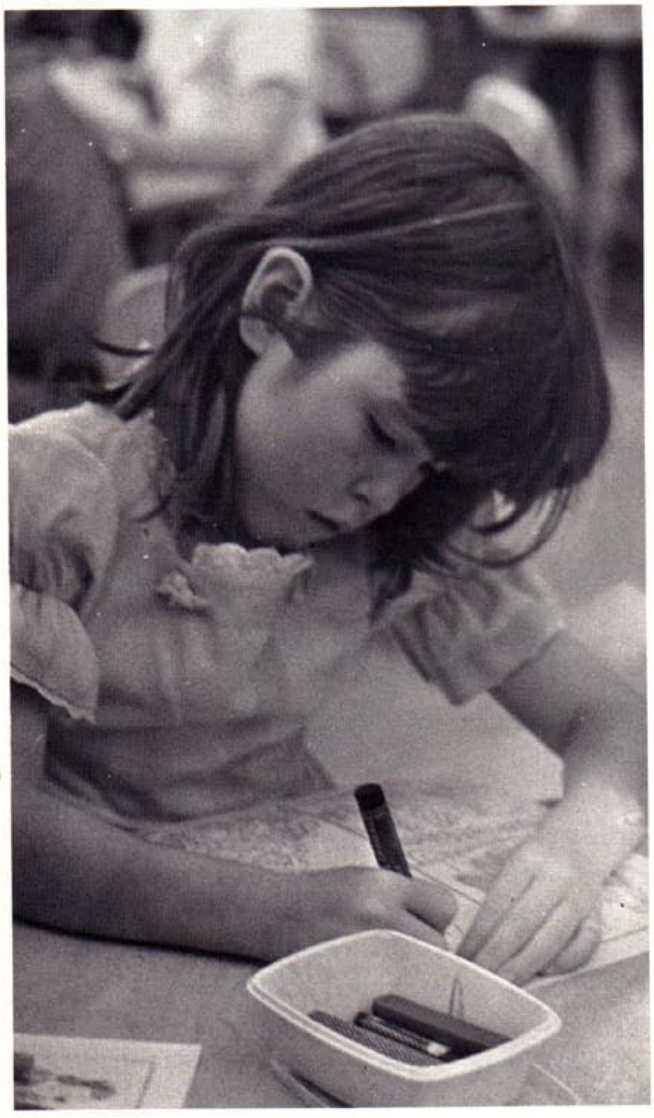
They begin to ask questions which are enough to "stump the experts." But they are satisfied with simple answers. When they ask what a book says and begin to notice words and letters, they are not demanding to be taught the alphabet. They often attempt more than they can finish. They lay out an airplane hangar on the living room floor, but fatigue overtakes them and they leave it for grown-ups to trip over. Sometimes they surprise themselves and their parents. They may carry a list to the grocery store and bring home every item. They may dry the dishes and pick up their toys. But these efforts are spurts. Parents cannot expect such mature behavior consistently.

In many homes today, parents do not have the time to supervise the full day of play the child's nature demands. Wise mothers and fathers recognize that trained teachers are better qualified than

parents to develop a child's abilities to the utmost. Finally, young children need the experience of playing with other children as training for social life in later years. All these needs can be met by the kindergarten.

This year, the Putnam City school system introduced the idea of tuition-free kindergarten to the public. The schools shall receive state funds based upon the average daily attendance in kindergarten.

What kind of living goes on in a good kindergarten? First of all a child can be himself. His ideas are respected, while he learns gradually to respect the ideas of others. His teacher knows that no two children start with the same abilities, or grow in quite the same way. Kids who have played together for several years will carry on with some of the play ideas they have been using in their own back-



yards. Some will follow their brothers or sisters. Still others will seize new experiences. Helping the children to gain these new experiences is the aim of the Putnam City kindergartens.

A child learns by doing. That is precisely what kindergarten gives the chance to do. The kindergarten at D. D. Kirkland allows children to paint, sing, dance and play as they will.

An example, a child stands with brush in hand, chooses his favorite color and sweeps it over a big piece of white paper. Then he dots it with blobs of black. He may comment to his teacher, "That's the way the sun is. All red. And the buildings black." The teacher does not check his accuracy. She knows that as he paints what he sees and feels, he develops his ability to observe.

Music is always associated with the kindergarten and seems to permeate the program. Children have both listening and creating experiences. An alert teacher picks up the music the children make as they play. She notes the rat-tat-tat of Jerry's hammer as he fastens a railing of nails to his boat, and the chant which Mary sings as she sets the table for lunch. Sometimes the whole group joins in making up a song. This is in addition to all the

The saying "many hands make light work" certainly applies to these kindergarteners as they happily absorb themselves in favorite pastimes.

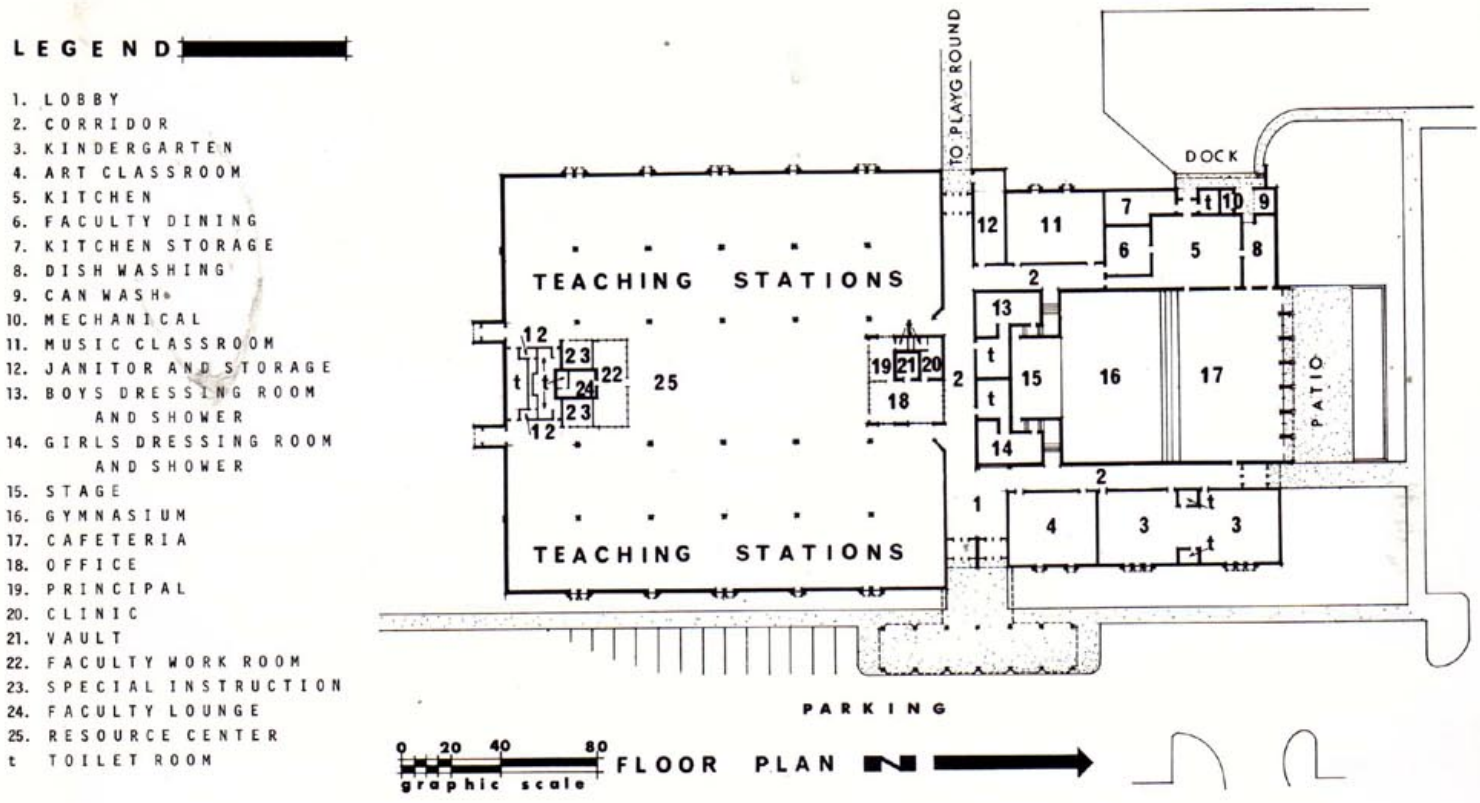
favorites they have learned together.

Music is not just to be sung. It is something they have in their muscles, too. They love to run, skip, roll and do cart wheels and somersaults. The teacher's drum is accompaniment enough but it is fun to have a piano sometimes. Recorded music brings added richness. Occasionally guest performers come to the kindergarten. The children especially enjoy an opportunity to examine instruments and to ask questions about them.

Books play an important role in kindergarten, too. Putnam City has an abundance of books that serve to enrich the minds and actions of the children lucky enough to be a part of this new and wonderful experience. To put it in simple words, Putnam City has a wealth of books. Some of these have pictures which in themselves tell a story. Others are designed to be read to the children. Some get to be such favorites that the children memorize them and will pretend to read them from cover to cover.

In many ways children in kindergarten learn to appreciate what it means to be able to read. They learn to identify their own names and sometimes those of their friends on their various belongings. They know that a sign saying "Do not disturb" left on a half-finished block building is something to be respected. Sometimes they ask questions which can only be answered by consulting books. They watch their teacher and listen carefully to what she reads. They observe that she frequently writes notes so that important items will not be forgotten. Some children like to make up stories and poems. The teacher writes these down and reads them back.

The history of the Putnam City kindergarten is brief, but much has been accomplished. Kindergarten has become a very important institution during this century. Children go through this year thinking of the fun and experience they have had, little realizing they have passed a very vital point in growing up. Putnam City is proud of its kindergarten system. The educators of Putnam know the importance this year will make on a child. They know that each child is exceptional and realize that free kindergarten is essential in helping a child develop plus allowing a mother more time to herself.



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"ONE ROOM SCHOOLS ARE BACK AGAIN"

Does progress take us in circles? Surely not. Education is so much more advanced than it used to be.

But one-room schools? Back again?

YES—but with a decided difference! Putnam City's newest elementary school now under construction at 19th & Peniel challenges the idea that one-room schools are out of date. The plans prepared by Hudgins, Thompson, Ball and Associates, Inc. basically call for only one room for the 800-plus children who'll study there. No interior walls in the academic area—just a 180' x 180' area with 24 teaching stations.

But even without interior partitions, there'll be no noise problem because of the building's unique acoustical design.

The open type teaching areas are clustered around a media center in the middle of the academic area. This media center contains a library and audio-visual facilities and will be staffed by professional media personnel.

Consequently, students can simply move to the library where they will have complete freedom and professional assistance.

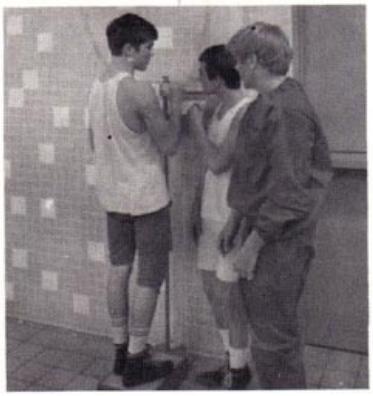
The open plan academic building will be joined by a corridor to a building containing the music room, gymnasium, auditorium and cafeteria.

Advantages to the one-room academic area are numerous. Without partitions, children are free to progress at their own learning rate with no problems. For instance: If a second grader is reading on the third grade level, he can just step over to the third grade and join its reading group.

The new school will serve about 840 kindergarten through sixth grade students. There will be one teacher to every 25 or 30 students. One teacher in each grade will serve as team leader to correlate and supervise operations.

Superintendent Leo Mayfield has said that the modular system was chosen because: "Of all the new ideas in education, this is one that is going to stay."

Human Emotions Part of The Many Faces of Pirate Stadium



By Nicole Garst

Into a single building
of structured steel
of molded concrete
of well-laid brick
is poured all the sunlight
and the darkness of human emotions
Into a single building
is poured the pride
of victory, the humbleness
of defeat

Into a single building—
The Pride of Putnam
a stadium of Friday night
football games with cries
of "getthatball" "holdthatline"
to the jubilant hoarse shouts
of "WE WON," while black and
orange flows onto the field in a
frenzied flurry of victory.

The Pride of Putnam
a stadium with coaches' voices
shouting, "hustle-you-dogs"
"forget to tie your shoes?"
"lay tracks, HUSTLEHUSTLE
H!U!S!T!L!E! NOW!!!

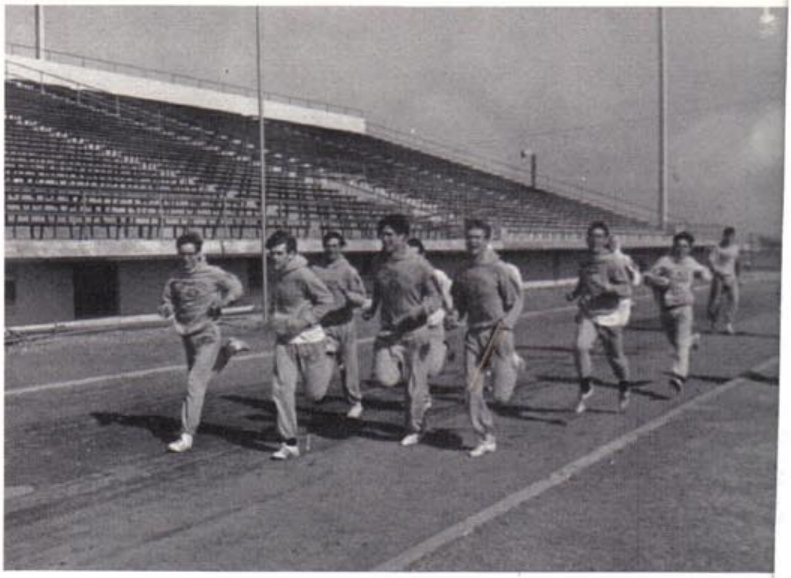
The Pride of Putnam
a stadium of silent halls
a room of black and orange
cushioned wonder—wrestling
mats which soften falls,
pillow victories and make
the contest between fellow
Pirates and fellow foes a
little easier to handle

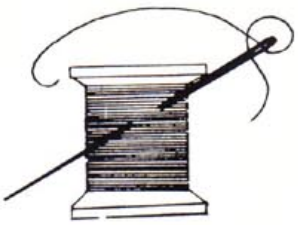
The Pride of Putnam
a building of distinction
each to his own—wrestling,
basketball, football, baseball
the separate but equal policy
the heat and smell of the
locker rooms

The Pride of Putnam
a stadium built with cooperation—
the Coaches Conference Room
where tactics and plans are laid
out or redesigned while cups
of coffee grow cold with the
waiting

The Pride of Putnam
a building of beauty
of cherished pride
the pride of an entire
community backing an
entire institution—sports and the
Putnam City Stadium
rise out of the old to
promote more than victory
for the black and orange.

They rise from the old to promote
good will and cooperation, a
symbol of the knowledge gained
from conflict, team work,
extra motivation.





Boys Reverse Roles; Become Homemakers

A stalwart young man sits before the Singer sewing machine delicately threading the needle with clumsy fingers. "Hey, you missed the last thread guide," says another masculine voice. "You coming along okey with your swim suit, Bill?" asks another boy.

"Who's the wise guy that took my apron?" "Hey you slob!" "Get your elbows off the table!" "Don't you have any manners?"

This and other dialogue similar to it can be heard throughout the Home Economics room. Boys enrolled in the Home Management course learn the more "homey" side to life by accomplishing the techniques of cooking and sewing.

Mrs. Betty Gregory who instructs the boys in cooking at PCHS has found them willing to cooperate and eager to learn the many skills in the preparation and serving of food.

"They seem to work together better than girls do. Boys tend to be less sensitive about the mistakes they make than most girls are," Mrs. Gregory said with a smile.

Some of the mistakes, however, are "pretty funny" according to Mrs. Gregory. "One of my students used baking soda whereas the recipe called for baking powder." The result of that error was never disclosed.

Mrs. Gregory also finds that boys tend to enjoy cooking "gourmet" foods more than the usual menus prescribed for them. Such dishes as "beef stroganoff a la Putnam City," and shrimp cocktail have been successfully attempted.

The home ec teachers feel a course such as this one may help produce better husbands by making them more sympathetic to a woman's problems in the home.

"Men nowadays help women more when both are working or going to school. They also want to be able to take care of themselves when they are out on their own," Mrs. Gregory added.

This is the first year the course has been offered at Putnam City and Putnam West. Only cooking is taught at West by Mrs. Judy Shatz. The original fifty-six boys that enrolled in the course at PCHS had to be cut to twenty-six in order to accommodate the small rooms. Plans to extend the course throughout the day instead of just one hour are being considered. There has even been thought given to the idea of a "family relations" course with boys and girls learning more about home life as well as management. The boys seemed very enthusiastic to this idea.

"It gets kinda dull with no females around," exclaimed one boy hearing about it.

How do the boys themselves feel about their present course? One senior boy replied, "It's hard work but you really learn." As to why they took it the comments ranged from, "You need to know how to cook or you starve to death!" to one student's "I figured it would be an easy grade."

But nearly all the boys agreed that it really is not an easy grade. "Betty Crocker would even have trouble passing some of the tests Mrs. Gregory gives!" stated one boy emphatically.

Besides cooking, the art of different table settings is taught as well. Their moment of truth came when the boys prepared and served a tea for the faculty. School Superintendent, Leo C. Mayfield, joined with the faculty in praising the boys for their endeavors.

Sewing is another feature in the course headed by Mrs. Dorothy Mann. "Boys are more interested than they seem," Mrs. Mann states. "Generally speaking I think they enjoy sewing but it's a new thing and a few have some sort of "hang up" about having to sew."

With the changing men's fashions of today, knowledge in the choosing of colors is imperative

"Too many cooks spoil the broth" may be true in some cases, but these boys seem to appreciate the help, particularly when dishwashing time rolls around.

Boys Enrolled in Home Management learn the "homey" side to life

along with knowing the importance of the manufacturer's label in the identification of fabrics.

Mrs. Mann is overall very pleased with the boys. "Many of them are doing quite well on the machines. It's amazing how those big hands can maneuver fabric." "Boys are no more of a problem than girls are," she continued, "They are just as particular! Boys are practical and concern themselves more with the durability and quality of the fabric they choose."

The boys make what they want and a variety of clothing such as swim bermudas, shorts, ponchos, vests, shirts and even curtains have been attempted. Most of the garments are basically of cotton. However, not every boy is that practical as one is making a yellow satin shirt and another a pair of leopard swim trunks.

"Some of the things these boys turn up with are really something to see!" stated Mrs. Mann. "I'm very pleased with them."

Whether it's cooking dinner for two, doing the laundry or just simply sewing on a button, boys have proven that the American male can be the provider in more ways than one.

Maybe the man of the family will never completely take charge of the home, but with the way things are going at Putnam—who knows?

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HIGH HOPES FOR

by Mike Anderson

To most people high school athletics is just a passing fancy. They play football or baseball for a few years and then they are never heard again. But there are some people to whom a particular sport is a way of life. They live, eat and sleep in preparation for it and they hope to be rewarded in a greater fashion than those who consider the sport a passing fancy. They have high hopes and great expectations. The Putnam City School System has in its student body three such people: High School All-American swimmer Mark Anderson, and junior high school Olympic hopefuls Donna Foutz and Margo Miller.

MARK ANDERSON

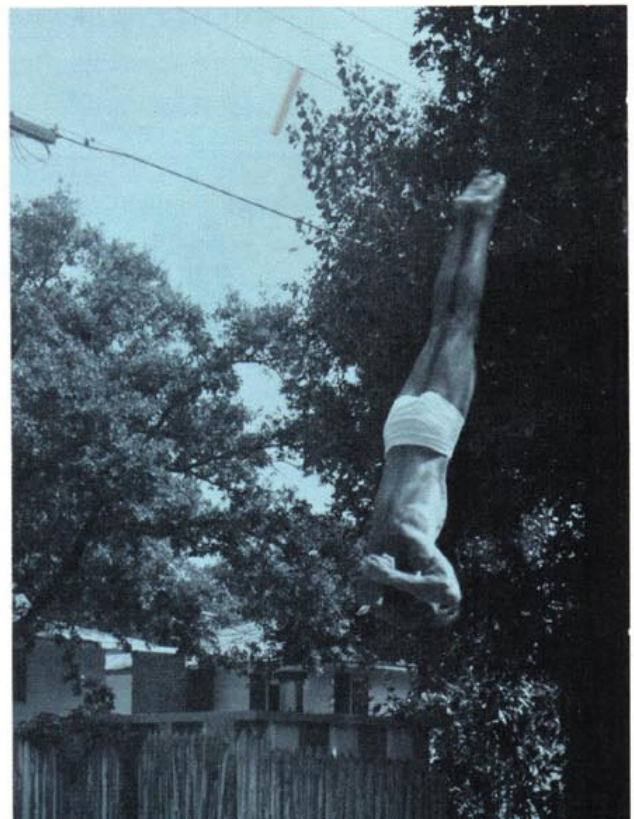
Mark has pursued his sport, diving, since he was ten years old. He started in his backyard swimming pool and has progressed ever since.

First, it was the Kerr-McGee swim team and three straight state AAU Championships, then it was junior high school diving. Finally, as a freshman he was given a starting position on the Putnam City line-up. Since then Mark has led the Pirates to two Mid-State Championships and two second place finishes. He has been the State diving champion for four consecutive years, he has set four straight scoring records in State meets, and he has led PC to 36 consecutive dual meet victories. In fact, he has been defeated only one time—a second place finish in the 1967 Mid-State Meet.

"I felt I let the team down that year since we finished second" Mark reflected, "then and there I promised myself I wouldn't lose again."

Although he has not decided which college to attend yet, Mark's record has drawn him considerable attention from colleges all over the nation. Tradition-heavy Yale as well as Cornell, Vandervilt, Michigan, Indiana, Air Force, Arizona, and of course OU and OSU have all expressed an interest in him. Each realizes Mark has Olympic potential and have agreed to let him go in '72 if he makes the team.

Asked why he didn't try out for the youth-oriented 1968 Olympic squad, Mark replied, "I didn't think I was ready. A swimmer reaches his peak around 16 or so but a diver usually doesn't



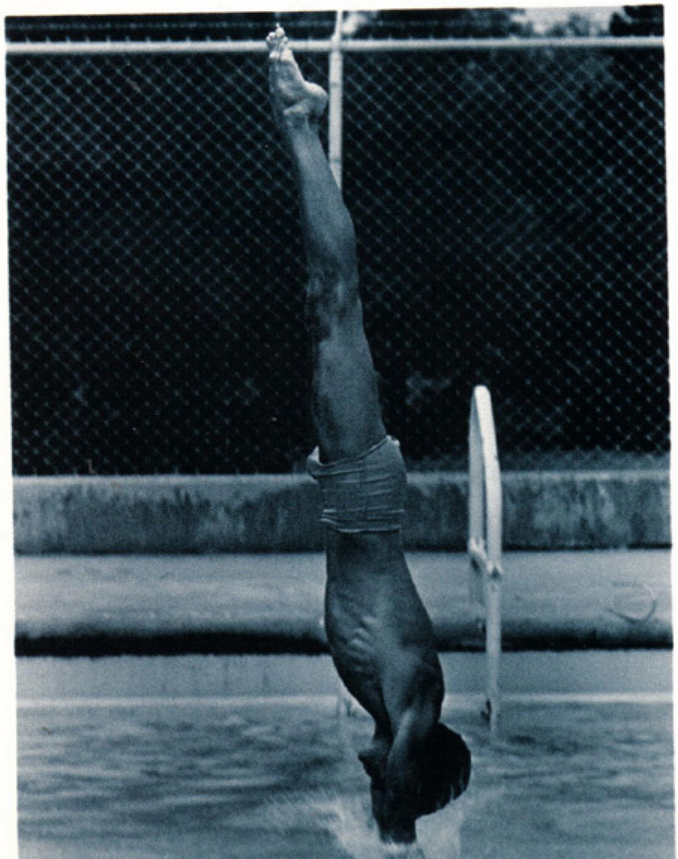
OLYMPICS REVEALED

until he is around 25. You learn more every time you dive and the experience makes up for a little loss of strength."

"My ambition in life is to go to the '72 Olympics in Munich (Mark was born there) and win for my country," Mark stated, "but that is a long time away." He went to the '68 Olympics in Mexico as a spectator to see what it was like. "I really found out what the Olympics were all about when Mexico won its first and only gold medal. It was in swimming, and all I could hear was 'Viva Mexico' for thirty minutes. It was the greatest display I have ever heard or seen and I will always remember it."

To prepare himself for the '72 Olympics Mark spent this summer in Tampa, Florida, attending a diving clinic held by Olympic Coach Dick Kimball. While there he placed second in the AAU college Nationals and first in the AAU junior Nationals.

Perhaps his biggest accomplishment while there was a single dive, a history making event that rewrote the record books. He was the first high school student to do the 4½ somersault off the one meter board in the history of diving (he did it twice). Only two other men in the world, including Kimball, have ever done this dive.



Even though Mark makes it look easy, diving is a very time-consuming, exacting sport. He spends every spare moment he has working out on his trampoline at home or doing gymnastics because "they entail many of the same reflexes."

"Keeping motivated is the hardest part. Sometimes you reach a point when you can't do anything right," said Mark although he never seems to reach that point. Mark considers his greatest asset the "strength I get from God."

You can be sure this All-American, All-State, All-Conference diver will make his mark in the sports world, it's not just a passing fancy to him.

Many judges and many spectators who will size up Mark over the next few years will have little trouble remembering this particular Okie; he will probably be the first place finisher.

DONNA FOUTZ

Another aspiring Putnamite, a 1976 Olympic hopeful, is young Donna Foutz of Central Junior High School. Like Mark Anderson, Donna is a championship diver, although she hasn't attained as much publicity.

She began swimming when she was six, but by the time she was nine she decided to take up diving. After two years of practice, she joined the Kerr-McGee Swim Club. Here she met Mark and diving coach John Quma, and together they perfected her diving style and encouraged her to make the sport a worthwhile hobby.

What started out as a hobby turned into an obsession and Donna could be seen each day practicing at the local pool. She traveled all over the Southwest with Kerr-McGee to participate in their meets. She ran up the second best record on the team, behind Mark, of seven wins, one second and two third.

Last year Donna entered the regionals at Kansas City and took a first place in her age group. This

Skill developed by constant practice

impressive win qualified her for the Junior Olympics in Knoxville, Tennessee. Here Donna took ninth in her age group, falling one point short of qualification for the finals.

This summer she plans to attend Dick Kimball's diving clinic in Tampa, Florida for three weeks before going into competition again and hopefully attaining an "unblemished record."

"My long-range goal is the 1976 Olympics in Denver, Colorado," Donna said. "As for a goal this year, I'm going to the Nationals, hopefully as a competitor; but if not, as a spectator." Judging from the past record, she will be watching, watching from the top of a ten-meter diving board.

MARGO MILLER

Our third Olympic hopeful comes in the form of a small, petite ice skater by the name of Margo Miller, another Central Junior High student. Margo began skating when she was twelve under the instruction of James Browning, skating pro at the Oklahoma City Arena.

Impressed with her poise and mature style, Browning took her under his wing and started her on the road that possibly will lead her to the 1976 Olympics.

As a requirement for Olympic competition, Margo has to undergo a series of nine tests. These nine qualifying tests progress in difficulty from simple circles to intricate designs, such as brackets, and exercise in which the skater must outline patterns by using either the left or right edge of the skate blade. After completion of these tests, she will become a Senior Competitor, an accomplishment she hopes to attain by her senior year in high school.

At present Margo is skating at various times in Wichita, Tulsa, Kansas City and Oklahoma City, trying to gain that all-important experience it takes to be the best in any field.

Only time will tell whether or not each of these aspiring athletes will attain their highest goals. But taking all things into consideration, it appears as if each is on the way to realizing his "Impossible Dream."

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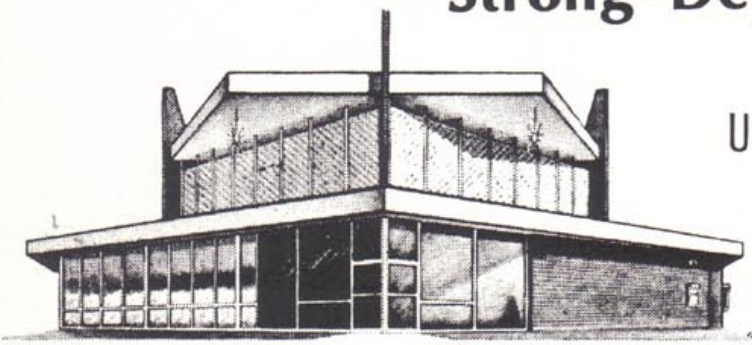

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PC TRAVELER EXPLORES EUROPE

by Katie Black

Study Abroad? It's nothing new! In the days of the Greek and Roman empires, men walked miles to study in Aristotle's Lyceum or Plato's Academy. In the 12th Century, the University of Paris became so crowded with foreign students that separate schools were established for English, French and German students. In the 13th Century, most of the 10,000 students at the University of Bologna, Italy were from overseas or nearby city-states. In the 19th Century, study abroad was for heirs to family fortunes and sons of big business tycoons. But this is the 20th Century, and study abroad is for you. That's what's new!

An Individual's Experience

Big Ben, Picadilly Circus, Notre Dame, the Eiffel Tower, the Alps and Vatican City—these sights filled my summer in Europe full of memories. Yet as I reflect upon this experience, it is not the sights sights, but the people I met, lived with and strove to understand which I remember most.

Traveling through eight countries with the Foreign Study League (FSL), I studied under the Comparative Governments and Cultures program, This program traveled to England by ship and returned to New York City by jet.

After months of preparations (vaccinations, passport, tickets and clothes) my voyage was initiated in true seafaring manner. With three bells at 1200 hours (that's ship jargon for 12 o'clock noon) the S.S. Ryndam, Holland-American Lines, hoisted her anchor and set forth on her initial voyage with the League. For the first three or four hours, 1,000 administrators, teachers, counselors and teenagers scavenged the multi-decked vessel in search of new discoveries. From the 300-seat theatre in her hull to the top sun-deck, every inch was swarmed by kids.

Unlike most of the home-town groups, I enrolled as a separate student and was placed with ten other teens and one counselor from different states. Texas, of course, had the most representatives. I was the lone Okie in our nationwide group. At our first meeting, which was aboard ship, everyone really got to know one another fast. Here we were, hundreds of miles from home, with 12 strangers who were to be our companions for the greatest six weeks of our lives, so we had to get to like each other and get along—FAST!

As I said, for the first three or four hours, the ship was crawling with kids, but then that fatal disease, which we named the 'Ryndam blahs' set in—seasickness. The decks were abandoned by all but a few venturesome ones who had found their sea legs, while we less fortunate ones remained below. The second day out, the chief-steward's

Stonehenge—England