

Dear Mr. Lamb,

Jan 17, 1998

The best thing I ever got from China was a two volume set of a grammar-reader authored by Beijing University. Languages have always held a fascination for me. I have had articles published in French, Italian and Spanish periodicals. My bachelor of arts Major was in French, minor in Spanish. My Master of arts in Education and Spanish. Years ago when I was young I began to work for my doctorate in French literature. I have studied at Brown, George Washington and BU Universities.

The first interesting thing I read in the Chinese reader was this brief conversation: [TÓNGZHÌ (comrade) PÉNGYÓU (friend)]

Who is that comrade?

That comrade is my friend. *

Comrade and friend are not synonymous in the language, and obviously not in the thinking of people, something I'm sure we all suspected in the first place because people - ordinary people everywhere are spiritually synonymous.

Fall River, MA 02723-2513

Regards

O. Chena

* page 173 Nèige tóngzhì (comrade) shì shéi? wǒde péngyou (friend)

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FULL RIVER, Nov. 8 School days, the "dear old golden days of reading and writing and 'rithmetic," have undergone dramatic changes at B.M.C. Butler High School. The simple standards of the curriculum but space age students here are likely to be embroiled with geometry, college physics, board and their reading sessions with Bureau text.

Time Flies

Soup courses are out. There aren't any. Want courses with meat on the bones and the school has to stay on its toes to meet the challenge.

Take Russian for instance—as proven students here are. Spätnuk went up into the air and a number of students were ready to follow suit. To keep their feet on the ground, school officials rapidly set up an experimental course in the language. It began this year.

Now, twice each week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, seven Senior students—five tall lanky boys and two diminutive girls—file into a chemistry lab on the third floor of the school.

Dressed in casual clothes, carrying armfuls of books and wearing typical teenage twinkles in their eyes, the seven modern-age scholars settle down for a 50-minute tussle with the Russian language.

A casual visitor to the classroom is lost in the first two minutes of the class.

Instructor [redacted] a lucky man with broad shoulders and a thatch of unmixed black hair edged with gray, greets the newcomers with a friendly "yayay" word, that sounds like "Karevich" (yayay yayay teh' . . .) or maybe it doesn't . . . which translated is supposed to mean "How do you do?"

Then he and the seven obviously interested students gallop away into a never-never land in which they seem to be completely at

prowl around the classroom muttering guttural sounds as he opens and closes windows, opens and closes desks, picks up books and put them down again.

When he stops talking, he points a finger and one student after another takes over the monologue. He asks questions . . . the visitor assumes they're questions because of the inflection of Mr. [redacted] voice . . . and the students answer him.

The conversations, if that is what they are, are completely unintelligible to anyone but Mr. [redacted] and his students. They seem to understand each other perfectly.

It's a strange class in a way. The students, typical teen-agers as far as I know, seem to settle down once

Time flies

The class time appears to fly by and both students and instructor seem startled by the gong of the bell indicating the end of the period.

It's hard to say at this stage how much they'll get out of the course, but one thing is for sure. Whatever it is will put them one up on the majority of adult Americans.

Mary Lyons and Mary Lou Clark have both decided to continue Russian next year in college, according to Darcee Principal Ambrose E. Keeley. The five boys, Richard Levine, Philip Cochio, James Keeley, Daniel McDonald and Gerald Duggan, haven't yet decided.

In any event, Mr. Keeley and Miss Margaret Dailey, head of the language department, are delighted with student acceptance of the course.

"There are still only a handful of high schools throughout the country that offer Russian," Mr. Keeley said this week. "We're very fortunate to have Mr. Sperduti willing to give the course here."

thrilled because so much interest is being shown in the course.

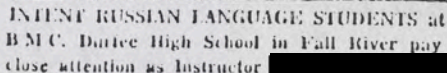
She pointed out that all seven students "have had at least two other languages . . . Latin and French or German or Spanish or Portuguese," all of which are taught at Dupee.

Asked if this wasn't slightly unusual, since many high schools have been severely criticized recently for not offering adequate courses in foreign languages, Mr. Keeley shook his head.

"A majority of our students take at least one foreign language," he said, "a number of them take more than one. As a matter of fact, we have about 600 students, or more than a quarter of the student body, studying Latin. Even more students study the modern languages."

Conducted by Ear [redacted] instructor in Spanish and French at the school, admits that he's conducting this course "by ear."

A graduate of Brown University, the colorful instructor has taken postgraduate work at Brown, Boston University and



explains a technical point. Left to right are Daniel McDonald, Mary Lou Clark, Gerald

STOCKHOLM, Nov. 8 (AP) — The Swedish Lutheran National Church and the Free Churches of Sweden are sponsoring a national newspaper and other advertising in a campaign to increase church attendance.

As part of the campaign, the churches plan newspaper ads each Saturday, including scriptural passages pertinent to the problems of modern man, and an appeal for church attendance.

NIAGARA FALLS, Ont., Nov. 8 (UPI)—Mary Blue, a 12th Grade student at Niagara Falls Collegiate Vocational Institute, is a die-hard sports enthusiast. She has broken her right leg six times in six years while participating in athletic activities.



BOOK REVIEWS

By Owen T. P. McGowan

Everyone But Thee and Me by Ogden Nash (Little, Brown, \$3.95) is a new collection of 88 verses by the inimitable poet. The verses are sure to get a smile and a chuckle from most readers. Mr. Nash covers a wide range of subjects in his poems (from iceberg lettuce to a miraculous count-down) and even gives a mention to Fall River and the Lizzie Borden legend.

Communism

What You Should Know About Communism — and Why by the Editors of Scholastic Magazines (Whittlesey, young adults edition, \$2.95) is a study of the philosophy, history and spread of Communism throughout the world.

Written in consultation with leading experts on Soviet affairs, it traces the history of Communism from Karl Marx to Nikita Khrushchev, discusses the westward movement of Communism, Communism in China and the cold war. A final section of the book treats of Communism in the United States.

This is a well-written, readable account of Communism which will be helpful to social studies teachers at the junior high level. At the end of each chapter there are study aids with test questions and a bibliography.

The Peaceful Atom

The Fabulous Isotopes: What They Are and What They Do by Robin McKown (Holiday, \$1.50) is a study of the class of atoms called isotopes. Emphasis is on peaceful uses of the atom.

The book is divided into three parts: the nature of the isotopes, isotope makers and isotopes in action. Part three is the most interesting, for in it Miss McKown shows how the isotope is working for the benefit of mankind. It works on the farm, in the hospital and in industry for a better world for all.

This is a worthwhile book. It is clearly written and the author takes nothing for granted, even explaining that H₂O is water. The illustrations are well done and supplement the text. Photographs are used liberally. The appendix contains a list of the 92 elements with their symbols and date of discovery, a periodic table of the elements and an excellent glossary of nuclear terms. A well-arranged index rounds out the book's usefulness.

Art for Beginners

Famous Paintings, An Introduction to Art, by A. Elizabeth Chase (Platt & Munk, \$5.95) is an all new, expanded edition of *Famous Paintings*. This is an admirable book — handsomely bound, brilliantly jacketed. For each of the 52 subjects Miss Chase discusses there is one full color reproduction and in many cases there are three and four black and white reproductions as well.

Miss Chase has approached this study of art by the use of subjects rather than the usual method of chronology or nationality. It is a rewarding approach and an excellent introduction to art for not only the old masters such as Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci treated but the works of the 20th century artists such as Klee and Picasso are also shown.

The text in this very fine volume is a delight. In short, this is a book which is sure to please anyone who sees it.

One Man United Nations Teaches Many Languages at Durfee

Is Author, Teacher,

Lover of Literature in Myriad Tongues

If ever you need a quick translation of anything in Russian, French, Spanish, German or Portuguese, then [redacted] of the foreign language department at B. M. C. Durfee High School is the man to see. He speaks and has taught them all.

A native of Fall River, Mr. [redacted] has been a life-long resident of the Maplewood section of the city. He graduated from Henry Lord Junior High in [redacted] and from Durfee in the class of [redacted].

After graduating from high school, Mr. [redacted] began working nights as a blacksmith's helper wielding a heavy sledge hammer and gathering material for his second great love — writing mystery stories. Many of these stories have been published in serial form.

Mr. [redacted] began his college career at Brown University in 1941. Besides carrying a full schedule at the University, he worked 10 hours each night in a Providence factory. It was during this time that he wrote a number of pamphlets which he calls "Night Notes" and a full length murder mystery, "For You I Commit Murder." All of these writings are largely based on facts and the author's observations of Providence night life.

Phi Beta Kappa

He graduated from Brown in [redacted] with honors, among them election to Phi Beta Kappa, and then began working as a substitute in the Fall River public school system. It was not for long, however, for in the same year he went to the Defense Department in Washington, D. C. as a research analyst.

In 1951, Mr. [redacted] returned to Fall River and was appointed a regular teacher in the language department at B. M. C.

Durfee High School. Since that time he has given courses in every language taught at the school and was responsible for the introduction of Russian to the curriculum.

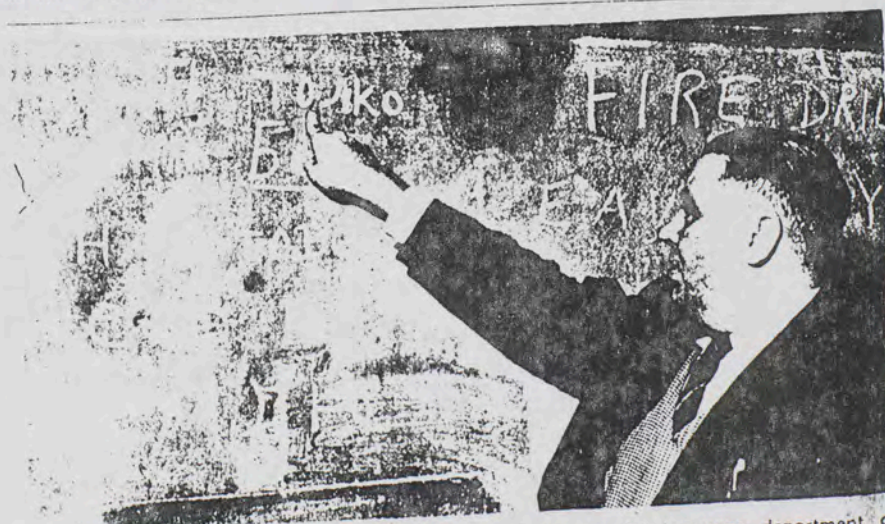
[redacted] has also been associated with the department of Adult Education in the Fall River school system, having taught a class in Russian at the public library. The fact that there was no blackboard in the room assigned to him at the library did not deter him. He wrote a pamphlet to make up for its lack, one which the beginner in Russian finds of immense value.

[redacted] has long been interested in language, particularly in a study of the common roots of all speech. He has studied Oriental tongues in addition to those of which he has speaking knowledge, concentrating especially on the elements of their structure.

He speaks French fluently and has had many articles published in the Fall River French organ "L'Independant." His bachelor's degree was earned in French and his master's in Spanish. His particular favorite among Spanish authors is Miguel de Unamuno, noted philosopher.

Summers of this one man U. N. are reserved for catching up on literature in many languages.

When [redacted] is not reading or teaching, he is writing. Published works include, in addition to Night Notes and For You I Commit Murder, One Terrible Night, The Phantom, The Bridegroom Must Die, Murder of a Braider-Tender, Meucci and Bell, and Nostalgias.



RUSSIAN LESSON: [redacted] instructor in the language department of B. M. C. Durfee High School, conducts Russian lesson. Translation: "There is only one God. He created heaven and earth."

SCHOOL REVIEW

FALL RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS

NOVEMBER

No. 1



RIGHT IN ORBIT are members of the Adult Education Department's class in Introductory Russian. Clockwise around the table, starting with [redacted] instructor, at 12 o'clock position, are Miss Alice Urban, Mrs. Lilyan Joblon, Gilbert R. Mills, Mrs. John Kaleski, Mrs. Thaddeus Tokarz, Mrs. Owen McGowan, Mrs. John J. Sullivan, Miss Mary Castro, Mrs. Frank Kaczynski, Mrs. Barney Phillips.

Liberal Arts Training Program Is Outgrowth of Teacher Shortage

By Mary E. Hart
Elementary School Supervisor

The Liberal Arts Training Program is an outgrowth of the pressing problem of teacher shortage. School officials throughout the nation have adopted various avenues of approach to an adequate solution of the question.

Fall River's plan, as initiated by Dr. William S. Lynch, Superintendent of Public Schools, is an in-service program under which graduates of liberal arts colleges are accepted and provided with teacher training experience.

Candidates for this training must meet certain pre-requisites. They must be graduates of liberal arts colleges, must have passed the National Teacher Examination, and must plan to meet the requirements of the Massachusetts Teacher Certification Law.

This program has resulted in meeting the acute shortage of classroom teachers without lowering the high standard of teacher efficiency. The trainee's college background of subject matter is supplemented by the vital understanding of child development and the most effective techniques of presenting subject matter at the individual grade levels. Thus the Liberal Arts Training Program has come into existence in the public schools of Fall River.

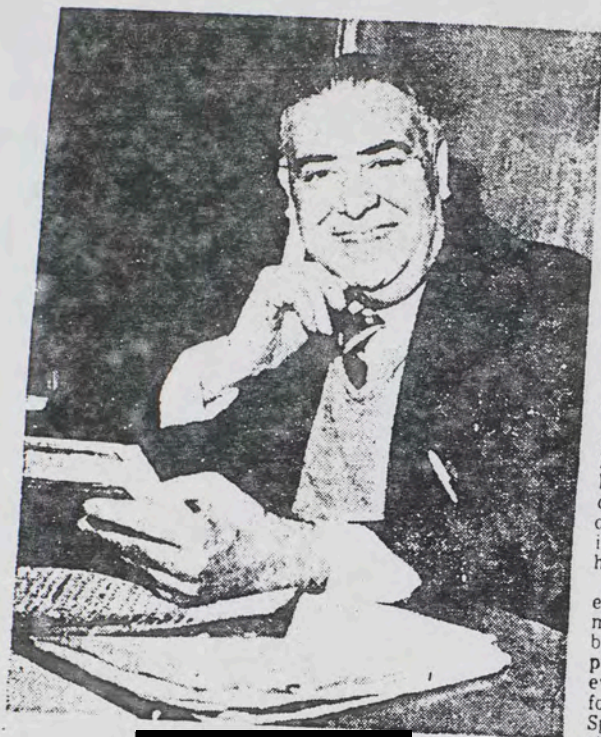
Combines Three Steps

The program as directed by this author and by William F. Kaylor, Director of Curriculum and Teaching Aids, combines observation, conference, and classroom practice teaching. The first step is the assignment of the liberal arts trainee to a regularly appointed teacher. Here the period of observation and conference begins.

In the teacher-conducted lessons he notes the value of preparation, motivation, skillful questioning, guidance, and pupil participation—each adjusted to meet the many levels of understanding in a single class.

The after school conferences with the teacher provide the answer as to why certain techniques are used. It soon becomes apparent to the trainee that subject matter alone is inadequate. The importance of classroom techniques usually comes as a surprise to the prospective teacher. In addition, the trainee

(Continued on page 2)



Fall River Educator Is Author, Philosopher

By PATRICIA MCGOWAN
Standard-Times Special Writer

"I love Fall River. I get metaphysical comfort here." That's a happy man speaking, one who feels no need to put down his native city.

Chairman of the modern languages department at Durfee High School, at home in eight languages, author of about 30 privately printed booklets, language notes, philosophical musings and a discussion on silent movies.

is a private man, and in a world of conformists he goes his own way. Although he has a license, he hates to drive and takes a taxi to school daily. "I got the license to have identification to cash checks," he admits.

During vacations and on free evenings, "after I've corrected my papers," writes, but not to please editors or publishers. He works on whatever strikes his fancy and pays for his pleasure himself. A Spanish booklet is used by his students at Durfee and for Russian classes he formerly conducted he prepared an introduction to that language.

Likes 'Oldies'

He is deeply interested in silent movies, especially the oldtime "cliffhanging" serials, and this is reflected in another booklet. He explains, "This is not just an attempt to recall the old silent serials but a

desire to recapture some of the ancient pleasure friends had in discussing them. People who care nothing about such relics and never enjoy such ancient art forms will have no use for this book."

He adds, "I like the intellectual aspect of the silents. They had respectable suspense. Modern horror movies ne dismisses with the pithy description, 'They're just bang-bang.'"

Interest in the silents led to authorship of several mysteries, for which he received in October the Clifford M. Eddy Memorial Award from the Rhode Island Writers' Guild.

Holder of bachelor's and master's degrees from Brown University, has been on the Durfee faculty since 1951. He enjoys teaching at the high school level. "They seem to do more yelling than studying at colleges nowadays."

Ideas on Youth

He has definite ideas on some of today's youth, although he emphasizes that "working with youngsters who want to learn one of the ineluticable (not to be missed) pleasures of life." He says there are many such students at Durfee.

There are others, though. Of them he writes in his booklet, "Day Notes": "Young people are easily bored and over-eager for excitement. They have little pity for the aged. They abhor sickness and suffering. Euthanasia and birth control appeal to them. The old people are expendable. The sick people are expendable. The suffering are expendable. Young people, specially, when they become convinced that they are ageless and immortal, subscribe quickly to theories that sweep away responsibilities, punishment and victims of extermination caused by new political experiments."

Project Under Way

present writing project is a story based on the moon landing. For background he can draw on his large multilingual library, housed in the cellar of his house at 12 Tenth

avenue. It makes us feel guilty about everything — you see, I should be doing more building a woodpile."

Another pleasure is listening to class music, and Spertuti has a bory that one could teach guage with music. "You ed illustrate syntax with poor songs — students wouldn't get it."

Unmmed, he lives with his parents id brother at the Talbot rect address. And always enjoys Fall River. He takes an occasion when he and his brother were

returning from an out of town trip. "My brother looked at me and said, 'Do you know, you get in better humor the closer we get to Fall River.'"