

Circa 1956

ORIGINAL IN
WATERHOUSE COLL.

07-135-51



Acted Out Songs . . .

Pamala Marston watches as Dennis Whitten, as Tommy Stout, takes kitty from the well. Both are second grade pupils at the Dunstan School. The four-day program ends Friday. About 750 youngsters will have participated.



And Beat Out The Rhythm

The Rhythm Band of Dunstan School's second grade concentrate on a number. It has more than 20 members. Rural pupils gave their program of songs and dances yesterday. Tor row

will be the day for third and fourth graders, with the fifth and sixth grades performing Friday. (By Staff Photographer Morrison)



Spring came early

West Scarborough Couple Built Their Own Greenhouse To Get Head Start On Spring

WEST SCARBOROUGH—If you want to speed spring along, you can either go South, or build yourself a greenhouse. The Wendell R. Whittens, of Dunstan Landing Rd., did the latter.

This past winter was the fourth that the Whittens trapped sunlight under glass to usher in an early growing season. Spring came for them last Feb. 19. That was the day they started up the little oil burner in their home-made greenhouse.

A couple of green-thumbers, who wanted to grow their own garden seedlings, they built it themselves even to setting the glass. She did the puttying. He set the glass.

Whitten, 37, is manager of a Portland photographic plant. His wife, Harriet, is a year younger.

"The gardening season just

isn't long enough for us," she said. "Our greenhouse extends it. We like to watch things grow."

Their greenhouse also is a welcome tonic at a time of year when plant life still is sleeping outdoors, or just beginning to yawn from the long winter's rest.

To Mrs. Whitten, the greenhouse also offers a sense of accomplishment she doesn't always find in housework.

"I dust the house every day, but it still never looks like it's done," she laughed.

Their's is a lean-to type greenhouse built onto the side of their garage. It's about 10 by 24 feet. To begin with, it was two-thirds that size. They enlarged it two years ago.

If you ever build a greenhouse, their advice is to build it large enough.

Ageratum, alyssum, impatiens, phlox, petunias, schizanthus and coleus are

problem. The spring sun pierces the glass. Mrs. Whitten beats a path from the kitchen to keep an eye on ventilators and thermometer. There's a small oil heater to provide night warmth when the temperature drops.

It's a family project with sons, John, 14, and Dennis, 10, helping with the planting and mixing of potting soil.

The Whittens had so much fun building the greenhouse that they're going to try some more carpentry this summer. They're going to build their own camp at Colcord Pond near Kezar Falls.

After that they're going to build a second greenhouse.

Chaperons Named For Caper Corner

SOUTH PORTLAND—Caper Corner will be closed Friday because of Good Friday. The Corner will open Thursday from 7:30 to 10 p.m. and from 7:30 to 11 p.m. Saturday. Chaperons will be Mrs.

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Thogerson speaking on the re-lenting centurion, "Truly this was the Son of God." The choir will rehearse at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Holy Week services will be held tomorrow and Wednesday at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin with Holy Eucharist at 7 a.m., morning prayer at 9:15, Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m. and a service with hymns and address by the Rev. Wilbur E. Hogg Jr. at 7:30 p.m. The girls choir will meet at 4 p.m. Tuesday.

At the Church of Holy Martyrs, confessions will be from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday.

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Ageratum, alyssum, impatiens, phlox, petunias, schizanthus and coleus are some of the annuals they've started under glass for the spring floral parade. There are also potted mums. Peppers, tomatoes, cabbage and lettuce are the vegetables.

From the beginning, the Whittens grew more than they needed. But they've found a ready market for their surplus. Much of it helps others speed the season in the Pine Point-Dunstan areas. Folks have dropped by from as far as Westbrook and Sanford.

THESE DAYS, heat isn't a

problem. The spring sun pierces the glass. Mrs. Whitten beats a path from the kitchen to keep an eye on ventilators and thermometer. There's a small oil heater to provide night warmth when the temperature drops.

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Chaperons will be Mrs. Harry B. Lowell and Mr. and Mrs. Donald G. Wheeler.

The chess tournament will be concluded this week.

BELLEFONTAINE, Ohio (AP)—Sign in a restaurant here: "We Seat 3,100 People—31 at a Time."

**More Suburban News
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The shipbuilder: Letter cut short 'borrowed time'

Wendell Whitten and Harriet Norton knew it was a matter of time before Wendell would answer the call to serve his country.

"I was 20 and he was 21," she says, recalling Pearl Harbor Day. "We knew he was working on borrowed time. You lived day to day until you got your letter that said 'Greetings from the president of the United States ...'"

The Scarborough couple became engaged four months before the attack.

"He came from the farm next door. We dated from the time I was 12. I picked him out many years ago." Three months after the bombing, they were married.

"There was a big rush of marriages then. That way she could get her \$80 of rations and my \$20 as well," Wendell Whitten says.

Whitten was hired as a welder at the South Portland shipyards as the nation's industrial capacity shifted into overdrive.

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"He got his letter in August 1943," Harriet Whitten says. "We had been taking a lot of pictures of the baby (1-month-old son John). When we went to check the mail it was there.

"We knew it was coming. I hated to have him go."

Wendell Whitten recalls that he was excited by the chance.

Because of his shipbuilding job, he was allowed a deferment. But after his first deferment, he decided to send up his name.

"I don't think at that age you worried about anything. I was anxious to go. I went in as an air cadet, but then they changed back the eye requirement and I ended up fixing planes."

Whitten prepared to go overseas three times, but each time the orders changed.

"He was just one of the lucky ones that didn't have to go over. But some of our friends weren't so lucky and they went over and got hurt and some didn't come back," Harriet Whitten says.

She says the Depression 10 years earlier prepared people for the hardships that followed the Pearl Harbor bombing. She smiles as some wartime traditions are resurrected 50 years later.

"The thing that stands out right now is we used to save all our tin cans, all our glass and our newspapers. We're doing exactly the same thing now."

— David Hench



Staff photo by David MacDon

Wendell and Harriet Whitten of Scarborough, holding ration coupon books from World War II, were married three months after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

2/18/87

Rodney -

Thist. M. George's cousin Sidney
Parker came over

He identified Whitten's Tea Room
as being in front of the
Old Fellows Park Building on Rt 1.
(Across from Humpty Dumpty now
and a fork-lift Company in there)
It was built by a Mr. Whitten from
Massachusetts. His waiters
lived in the Old Fellows Building
in back of it.

Sidney worked for Eldred Harmon
and helped him build the
parking lot. 1936-37

Can't find the newspaper clipping
I had for you. It will either
show up again or it won't!!

Got to tell you this or I will
forget this too -

Janette.

was Martha's later.

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Rodney,

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Sidney worked for Eldred Harmon and helped him build the parking lot. 1936-37

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Got to tell you this or I will forget this too -

Jeanette [Milliken]
[Wife of George H. Milliken]