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GOOD AFTERNOON

Section B



Parent and child

Lawrence Kutner

Parents may feel rivalry with teacher

There is a natural rivalry between parents and the people who look after their children during the day.

Parents want their children to feel close, but not too close, to day care workers and preschool teachers. They see the attachments the children form to these people and wonder if, in the children's eyes, they are being replaced.

"It's normal for parents to feel competitive with child-care providers and teachers," said Ellen Galinsky, a president of the Families and Work Institute, a Manhattan research group that advises companies on child care. "It's also normal for child-care providers to feel competitive with parents. For the relationship to work, both people have to step beyond those feelings."

Parents sometimes wonder whether their children will develop stronger emotional attachments to their teachers than to members of their family.

"The answer to that, according to the research, is an unqualified no," Galinsky said. "Children can tell who the adults are who are crazy about them: their parents."

Still, there is often an unspoken and unacknowledged tension between the two groups of adults. This is especially true when parents feel angry or guilty about leaving their children. Unable to vent those feelings toward their employers, they deflect them toward others.

"Some parents develop a marvelous emotional bond with the day-care workers," she says.

Haymarket High School graduates reunite

Classmates gather after 50 years

By EDDIE DEAN
 of the Potomac News

The man behind the meat counter at Haymarket Grocery wiped his hands on his shirt and scratched his head.

"Haymarket High School?" he said. "I've lived here since I was 7 years old and I never seen no high school in Haymarket. Everybody around here goes to high school in Manassas."

He was only half right. There hasn't been a high school in this tiny town on the western edge of Prince William County for 50 years.

After a group of 16 seniors graduated in 1941, the school hosted elementary grades through World War II until it was sold in 1947.

Built for \$2,000 in 1909, the old woodframe school no longer exists. It burned to the ground after a short spell as an apartment building.

On Saturday 10 members of the Class of 1941 (four died, two couldn't attend) joined almost 200 other alumni of the school for a reunion at the Manassas Holiday Inn.

Most of the alumni are scattered around Northern Virginia, where they went for jobs in the fast-growing Washington metropolitan area during and after the war.

Some served in the military overseas and returned to settle near Haymarket. A few never made it back.

But Palmer Smith Jr., Class of '41, and his reunion committee did their best to contact everyone who had ever attended the eight-room schoolhouse that sat in a field just off Haymarket's main street.

"All the damned records were burned up when the courthouse caught fire a few years back, so there was nothing about Haymarket High School that we could find," said master of ceremonies Rolfe Robertson, a member of the Class of '40.

So they dug deep in their memories, and through old photo albums and newspaper clippings. They turned to the telephone company, where many of the

Gossom Hardware store that has become a local landmark, said he and his classmates used to ride bicycles or horses to school.

"It was eight miles to the school from our farm," he said. "Depending on the conditions of the road ... I'd take the bike or my horse. Of course when it was muddy I took the horse."

He had a horse named Billy, bred for jumping, that he used to race against his father, who would drive a car into Haymarket where he was working on some buildings.

"Billy was a fast horse — he was out of this world," said Gossom. "In the morning Daddy would get in his new Model T and take the roads into town. I'd ride Billy the back way, a straight shot through the fields and beat Daddy into town every time. I don't care how high the fence was, if I said 'Take it Billy' he'd take the fence every time."

Name tags written in large letters helped the alumni remember each other's faces. Many hadn't seen classmates since their school days.

Katherine Sprigg Foster, who taught at the school for eight years, made the trip up from Kimarnock down in the Northern Neck for the reunion.

"I think everyone had a wonderful time," said Jamison, who served as historian on the reunion committee. "Maybe we'll do it again in five years. I think if we wait 10 [years] many of us won't be around."

Jamison's aunt, Lillian Lightner Norman, 97, is believed to be the oldest living person connected with the old Haymarket High School. Although she attended school in what later became the Town Hall, she taught at the high school for several years.

Norman, who lives in Warrenton, wasn't able to attend the reunion, said Jamison.

In a hall outside the dining room at the reunion, on a table filled with yellowed photos and old newspaper

clippings, lay some sort of "memory notebook."

On the top of the first page, someone had written "Do You Remember?" above the following list: "Bell rang-lines formed according to grades. Big recess and little recess. Those good old lunch boxes. Folded drinking cups kept in your desk. Pumping our drinking water. Two

Johnny houses — boys and girls. No electricity."

The author left space for alumni to jot down their own memories about the details of going to the school during and after the Great Depression.

Nobody added anything to the list. They were too busy catching up with people they hadn't seen for 50 years.



Courtesy of Helen Lightner/Roy

Students Lester Pullen, John Norman and Mason Picket play a game of ball on the grounds of the Haymarket High School in 1942.

giver," said Dr. Alice Sterling Honig, a professor of child development at Syracuse University. "Others project their own feelings of guilt, resentment or incompetence onto the care giver."

Studies have shown that some of the behavior that concern parents the most, like a child's clinging to a teacher or day-care worker, are actually good signs.

Behavior that might alert parents to a problem are quite subtle and easily overlooked. While some children respond to overwhelming stress at school by clinging to their parents when they get home, others become listless and withdrawn, two behaviors that parents, recovering from their own stress-filled days, may pay less attention to.

"The better the relationship between the child and the child-care worker, the better and less jealous the parents ought to feel," said Dr. Byron Egeland, a professor of child psychology at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. "Very, very few non-family care givers end up as the primary attachment of the child."

Almost all children occasionally appear to reject their parents in favor of the people who take care of them during the day, Egeland said. But it is the pattern that is important, rather than the number of times the child clings to the other adult.

"If the child seems to show a consistent preference over time for the child-care worker over the parent, there's probably a problem in the parent-child relationship," he said.

But young children's displays of their feelings for both their teachers and their parents may be difficult to interpret.

It is clear that a strong relationship is forming when a preschooler hugs a teacher soon after walking into the classroom.

"It's also a good sign if the child comes to the child-care provider for help solving a problem," said Dr. Mark Cummings, a professor of psychology at West Virginia University in Morgantown. Such actions show that the child's independence is developing appropriately.

While many young children show their emotional attachment to their parents by greeting them enthusiastically at the end of the day, others sometimes demonstrate the same feelings by behaving the opposite way.

"Children may appear to be upset when their parents pick them up from child care," Honig said. These children may ignore their parents and continue to play, despite their parents' demands that they come home.

"But that's not a rejection of the parents," she said. "It's actually a sign of how emotionally important those parents are to the children. They can be naughty and show all their feelings without risking rejection."

alumni found lifelong employment in nearby Gainesville.

"After 500 or so phone calls, Palmer found most of them," said Robertson.

Some never left the area and became local legends. Before retiring last year, Jack Alvey, Class of '38, ran the post office in Catharpin near Bull Run Mountain for 35 years, following in the footsteps of his mother, grandfather and great-grandfather.

Louise Lightner Jamison, Class of '41, lives on a road named after her father's family just a few miles from where the school stood.

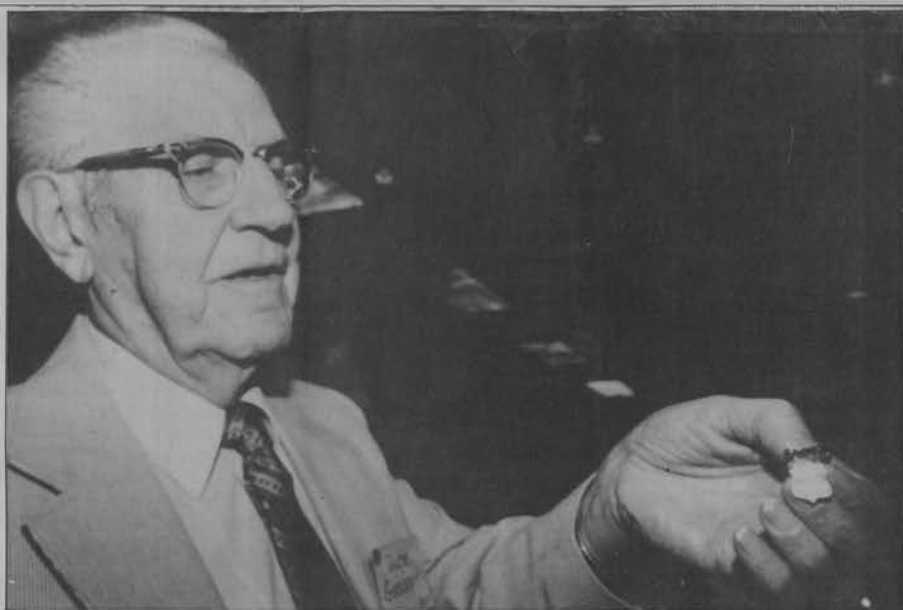
"I'm one of the few who stayed around here," said Jamison, who taught elementary school in Manassas and Haymarket and now runs a preschool near her home.

Classmates Dick Gossom and Alice Herrell, Class of '25, both left Haymarket after graduation for college and employment in the North. She attended Strayer College in Washington, D.C., and he went to the University of Maryland. But, like many of the alumni, they didn't keep in touch.

In 1931, they were both taking a train back to see their families when they met again at Union Station in Washington, D.C. Gossom said she called him on the phone a week after their reunion and asked him out on a date.

"We've been going out ever since," said Gossom, 85. The couple, who recently celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary, now lives in Fairfax County.

Gossom, whose cousin started the



By Andrew Farewell-Potomac News

Dick Gossom, Class of '25, displays his wife's scholarship pin from the Haymarket High School.

Experts: fathers suffer same woes as working mothers

By BOB DART
Cox News Service

WASHINGTON — Preoccupied with the problems spawned by millions of mothers entering the workplace, America has overlooked the needs of working fathers, witnesses told a congressional committee on Tuesday.

One result has been emotional turmoil for moms, dads and, most of all, their kids, experts warned at a hearing on "Babies and Briefcases: Creating a Family-Friendly Workplace for Fathers."

"As Father's Day approaches, we thought it would be appropriate to examine the role fathers play in parenting their children and how to create a work environment that encourages them in their roles as fathers," said Rep. Patricia Schroeder, chair of the House Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families.

"We still have a cultural climate that says men don't take paternity leave and fathers don't leave work for trips to the pediatrician or car pools," Schroeder said. "We want to know why that hasn't changed and what we can do to change that corporate culture."

Citing 1990 Bureau of Labor statistics, the committee found that 24.4 mil-

lion working fathers — 36 percent of all males in the work force — had children under the age of 18. Two-thirds of these working fathers had wives in the labor force. Just over a million families were maintained by single fathers.

Working fathers are an "invisible dilemma" for corporate America, testified James Levine, director of The Fatherhood Project at the Families and Work Institute, a research organization in New York.

"We do not even have a category in our language yet to think about 'working fathers' as a group with distinct needs. 'Working mother' means conflict: if a mother is working outside the home, who is caring for the children?" said Levine. "But 'working father' is a redundancy: men work, simple as that."

Increasingly though, men are also caught between their commitments to family and employer, Levine said. "And it is not just middle-class or managerial men. Even if they don't boast about it, there are blue-collar workers laying cable and pipe all over America who need to dash home to feed and bathe the kids because their wives are going off to evening jobs."

Social scientists told the committee

that a father's commitment to his children has an enormous impact on how they grow up.

"The research evidence strongly leads to the conclusion that greater involvement by fathers in childrearing in intact families fosters the development of their children and increases the likelihood that they will be better adapted to life circumstances in the coming decades," said Norma Radin, a University of Michigan professor who has researched the topic of fatherhood for the past 20 years.

Conversely, an absent father increases the likelihood of anti-social behavior in his sons, said Myriam Miedzian, author of "Boys Will Be Boys: Breaking the Link Between Masculinity and Violence."

"Boys raised with nurturant, caring, highly involved fathers in the home develop a primary male identity — they can model themselves on their fathers from the youngest age," testified Miedzian. "They do not need to prove they are real men by being tough, violent, obsessed with dominance."

However, many corporations — even those with "family-friendly" policies — still view commitment to fatherhood as a

lack of commitment to the job, said Levine. "Policy is one thing. Having a corporate culture that enables men to take advantage of those policies — or to even feel comfortable about their responsibilities as employees and as parents — is another."

Until fatherhood is valued more by bosses, "we will perpetuate the current pattern in which men are handicapped by feeling they can't risk more involvement in family life and women are doubly handicapped — feeling they have to 'do it all' and being taken less seriously because of their family responsibilities," he warned.

If a company's culture is truly family-friendly, the "workplace flexibility" that has helped many working mothers can be extended to help working fathers, said Lynn O'Rourke Hayes, co-author of "The Best Jobs of America for Parents."

Options that have proven popular with fathers include compressed work weeks.

A survey by executive recruiters Robert Half International showed that 75 percent of the men interviewed would opt for a slower career path if they could set their own hours and spend more time with their families, said Hayes.