

**:- Gateway to Nature :-**

by Eugene Binder

There may be some understandable confusion concerning our programs at the Nature Center this month and maybe we can clarify a few points here. Actually, with 1967 drawing to an end, we just have a few more programs to close out our year and then begin planning many more informative programs for 1968. We think you will find these closing programs to be most interesting.

This Saturday, we are getting a Christmas tree in our meeting room and the children in the Nature Club will be decorating the tree and the rest of the room with seasonal decorations they will make themselves. Some of the handiwork which they have done in past weeks is on display there now.

Next Thursday, we will have our final pre-school story hour this year. Weather permitting, we will have a nice Christmas story told in the middle of the woods.

This Sunday at 2 p.m. we are showing one of the most impressive films ever made. Its about that spectacular gorge of the Colorado River, the Grand Canyon, believed by all who have seen it to be one of the world's greatest wonders. The film was produced by the Sierra Club, one of our strongest conservation organizations which promotes its quest for conservation through the use of propaganda books and films. Some of you may have seen some of the books published by this organization and noted the excellent quality of their photographs. The photography in this movie is of highest quality. The Sierra Club is one of the strongest opponents of the proposed dams which would inundate parts of the Grand Canyon and this film explains the tragedy which would result if the Bureau of Reclamation were to proceed with this plan.

No matter what you knew or thought of the Grand Canyon before, after the 26 minutes of exquisite color, text and music are over, your understanding of the canyon is bound to be increased. If you have already seen the canyon, this film will stir your memories of it; if you have not, it will spur your desires to see it for yourself. The message in this film is of vital importance to all of us. With the following Sundays this

month falling on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve respectively, after this Sunday, there will be no more movies here till January.

The rains earlier this week have brought the level of our ponds up to capacity. You would hardly recognize them from what they looked like the last time you saw them. Placid Blind Brook is up quite high and in spots in the Nature Center is even over its banks. The quiet stream which rambles through Rye and usually adds beauty to our city has become an angry torrent. Flooding has become a by-product of civilization. The great majority of floods are caused by poor watershed management. I think you should all stand on the bridge near the entrance to the Nature Center after a rain and just look at the stream. I guarantee that it will leave you with something to think about.

**Marine Recruit Graduates**

Marine Private **George H. Haley III**, son of Mr. and Mrs. **George H. Haley** of 44 Dogwood Lane, Rye, was graduated from eight weeks of recruit training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S. C. He will now undergo from two to four weeks of individual combat training and then, after leave at home, will report to his first Marine Corps assignment.

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**Rye "Y" Swimmers Win Close Meet**

The defending county champions, Rye YMCA, just managed to defeat a surprisingly strong White Plains squad at the winner's pool this past week-end. The final score was 112 to 90, but was not indicative of the see-saw battle.

Rye jumped to an early lead by capturing two of the three medley relays and their strong free stylers gave them a lead of 40-17 at the end of the free style events. White Plains staged a comeback in the butterfly events and their outstanding divers all but swept the three diving events, limiting Rye to one second place, to garner a 56-55 lead.

Rye then staged their own comeback in the breast stroke to take a

slim lead and increased it through the back stroke events to take a 91-83 advantage into the free style relays. Rye swept 3 of the 4 relays to clinch the meet and keep alive their hopes of the league dual meet title this year. Rye previously had defeated Port Chester and White Plains had beaten Tarrytown.

Rye Coach Jack Geoghegan saw Bob Christensen's upset victory over Jim Skaaland and Dan Geiger in the 14-and-under breast stroke as the turning point of the meet, providing Rye with the impetus to victory. He also had high praise for double winner Peter Ray and Donn Harnick, Chuck Felice, and Bob Bridges, all of whom turned in outstanding swims.

Coach Ron Feldman of White Plains was particularly pleased with Craig Barre who won the 12-and-under 100 free in 57.7 and 50 back in 31.8, 10 and under double

winner Dave Baulieu and his fine corp of divers.

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