THE PRAIRIE SUNDAY SCHOOL EMPHASIZES NATURE AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

According to Hermine Davidson, one of the coordinators of the Prairie Society's Sunday School activities this spring for all age groups focus on the outdoors and nature.

"With the talent we have at Prairie, we want to run the best church school we can. It is not always easy to put this kind of program down on paper," she said.

Hermine, Orie Loucks, Marvin Miracle and Pat Meyer are working with the 3rd through 6th graders on a series of field trips, crafts, and discussions entitled "The Natural World Changes." Teachers hope to show that the natural world is not the same entity in one person's lifetime, and certainly after. It is affected by population patterns, established for the most part by man, and by such things as weather cycles over which man has little control. "We're trying to emphasize that we must make reasonable rational decisions as to how to adjust," says Hermine.

Mary Miracle has talked about the influence of man on the overpopulation of some animals, and the extinction of others.

Orie has taken the group to the arboretum to see traces of human presence and other animals in the snow, to discover the Indian Mounds, and later to discuss animal totems in Indian culture. They will also see "The Lost City" in the Arboretum, and investigate Teal Pond.

A segment of most Sunday sessions is devoted to the discussion of one idea, notion, concept, or lyricism that is somewhat different from the class subject. If appropriate, they invite other age groups to participate in this part of the session.

The kindergarten through 2nd graders are led by Pat Cautley, Norma Magnuson and Marilyn Hempstead, and their emphasis is on "Things that Grow." Teachers are integrating stories, crafts and other activities into each session. This Sunday the children will have a story about bird families, and then will make pictures of birds in nests, made from straw & twigs

Bill Caldwell is leading the junior highs in some outdoor activity that has included hiking. They have painted one of the rooms at Portal Foster, and are planning outdoor painting.

The recently-organized senior high group, led by Dave and Pat Meyer, is studying "How did we get where we are as Unitarians?" Dave has talked about the historical people who have influenced Unitarianism.

These Sunday School activities will continue through May.

Save Saturday evening May 6 for a special May Dissipation at 8 p.m. at the Clarks', 1134-Waban Hill. (A fun(d)-raising party of the Social Action committee, but not involving social conscience.)
Sunday meetings at 10 a.m., Portal Foster Center, 1806 West Lawn Ave.

David Meyer, minister ........................................... 221-1065

CALENDAR FOR APRIL

15th - Circle dinner at the Lesteeles 7 P.M.

16th - Transcendental Meditation -- a genuine introductory session -- coordinated by Theron Caldwell; 10 a.m. at the Portal Foster Centre.

19th - Sauna, swim and lunch at the Karakhal Inn in Mt. Horeb.
10 a.m. For more details contact Lilo Koehl, 233-7383.

20th - Prairie Executive Board Meeting, Portal Foster Centre, 8 p.m.

22nd - Playreading group meets at the Koehls, 3907 Fern Court.
They will read "Awake and Sing" by Clifford Odets; 8 p.m.

23rd - "Our Value System - Personal Priorities". The last and most introspective program in a series examining our middle class values, as a group and as individuals. Coordinated by Boris Frank. 10 a.m. Portal Foster Centre.

30th - May Day Program - to include the Sunday School groups, coordinated by Pat and Dave Meyer. 10 a.m. Portal Foster Centre.

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UPHAM WOODS CHAIRMAN NEEDED FOR FALL! CALL LILIO KOEHL.

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The application deadline for Unitarian Universalist sponsored programs in Mexico this summer has been extended to May 15. A service project in Mexico City in which youth will live with families they help in constructing homes and an adult seminar in San Miguel de Allende on "A Study of the Mexican Mind" have been added to the residency programs in weaving, pottery, fishing and farming villages and Spanish language courses that form the core of "La Vida Mexicana." Also programs in arts and crafts, filmmaking for social change, travel seminars. For details, write Rev. Dick Weston, 709 Ridge Avenue, State College, Pennsylvania, 16801.