

The following is from the dedication speech by Mrs. June Steahlin, CSCNC Board of Directors, for the Gregg Bemis Child Care Center in 1984:

"In closing, I would like to point out one inherent danger agencies face, almost without knowing it. In explaining program and results, we tend to speak in statistical terms, of bunches and numbers; we tend to forget that statistics are made up of individuals, large and small. So I'm going to tell you a story which I hope you'll take away with you today. It concerns an incident that took place at the Day Nursery several years ago involving a father and his two young sons, the mother had deserted them. The father worked as an unskilled laborer; his home and his place of employment were located near the old Alexander Film Company. He wanted desperately to keep his family together and support them entirely on his own. He knew he couldn't - and wouldn't - leave the boys home alone all day so he started looking into day care. Someone referred him to the Day Nursery and he enrolled the youngsters there shortly after. This father didn't have a car and he couldn't afford bus fare, but he knew what he wanted for his children. So every day, five days a week, he walked his sons to the Day Nursery, walked back to his job in the north end of town, worked all day, walked back to the Nursery to get the boys, and then walked them home. Never once did we hear him complain or ask for help. He just knew that his sons were well cared for, were being fed, and were receiving warmth and affection.

In response to this father's faith - and that of all parents - I'd like to broadly paraphrase my favorite proverb. If a man surrenders his beloved child to us each day, we had better first make certain that what we are giving this young life is something of value. We think we are..."

BEMIS NEWS

AUGUST 1984

Parents:

We have been open for two months now and everything is going quite well. The children and staff alike are enjoying their summer and we are all looking forward to starting back to school on August 27.

Field trips have gone extremely well this summer. The children learned how bread is made at The Harvest Bakery on July 18. Their experience was broadened when they all made burger bun pizzas for their lunch the next day. Miss Mary worked with them all baking their own bread which we all had as an afternoon snack.

We all saw how food is stored and prepared at Long John Silvers on July 25. The children took a tour of the kitchen and received a free lunch which they enjoyed. On August 1 the men at Peterson Field Fire Department gave us a tour of their station. The children wore the firemen's boots, hat, and slickers and had lots of fun.

We are planning on being downtown on August 8 for the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo Parade. This has always been an exciting event for the children to see and we will have a picnic lunch in the park afterward.

August 15 will be the last day we have the bus for the summer so Showbiz Pizza Place is our destination for that day. I'm sure we'll all have fun that day.

Several of the boys from the Boys Club next door have given us break dancing exhibitions. They are fun to watch and the young children here enjoy the show.

Hats off to Jama and Jenice Seaberry who lead the pack with aluminum cans and beverage bottle donations. They have 31 cans and 6 bottles to their credit already. Keep up the good work girls!

A hearty thanks must also go out to the Digital Corporation for their generous donation of a deep-chest freezer. It will surely come in handy this winter.

The staff at the Bemis center will be participating in CPR training on August 20, 22, 27, & 29. Any parent who wishes to join us may do so. Please see Joe for information.

Enrollment is picking up now at the center but we still have plenty of room. Joe is offering a free two liter bottle of Pepsi to families for getting referrals to enroll at the Bemis Center. This offer is good through the end of August.

A reminder: Please supply a comb and/or brush for after swimming and naps. They are sanitized periodically and they are needed.  
Please don't send your child to school in sandals without socks.

Thank you,  
Joe Meiris  
Director