

Can you explain why flowers usually smell sweet, wear many colors, reveal countless lovely patterns? Or should one not try to explain, and just enjoy them anyhow?

# The Birmingham Post-Herald

PART TWO

SIXTY-SECOND YEAR—NO. 8

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, MAY 25, 1939

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## Author Defends Hessian Soldiers Of the Revolution

By Lindo Moore

Back in the sixth grade learning about the American Revolution, we read of the Hessian soldiers, those hated mercenaries sent over by George III to make life miserable for the colonists. The foreign soldiers, we gathered, was stupid and cruel, and if they didn't eat, colonists' babies for breakfast, it was only because the Americans were too clever for them. From that point on we heard little about them; they were ignored by historian and novelist alike. Now, however, Bruce Lancaster presents the German mercenaries in his book, *Guns of Burgoyne* as active participants in the Lake Champlain campaign, who played an important part in the fighting and have received but little credit. The central figure of this absorbing novel is Kurt Ahrens, young Hessian in command of some of Burgoyne's gunners.

His experiences and those of his men in the American wilderness, the hardships and privations of the British in a totally strange and unfamiliar country are brilliantly described. vividly portrayed also is the America of the time—the mosquitoes, the swamp fever, the hot sun and torrid nights, the Indian who gathered scalps after battles regardless of uniform, and the Americans who looked like a peasant rabble but which was so discourteously successful in the wilderness. The Indians, the Hessian mercenaries, the British and the Americans gathered in a strange land. Yet some of them came to love it, and like Kurt Ahrens, settled on the land and became founders of good American families.

**My Days of Strength**, by Ann Walsby Fearn, is the life story of a woman doctor in China. For forty years, Dr. Fearn and her husband fought every conceivable kind of human ill that can grow out of poverty, ignorance and superstition. The doctor lived through turbulent times, often in danger of their lives and have seen many changes. Today, they are responsible for a most complete and modern hospital, far different from the dark primitive little hospital-office in which they began. From the Chinese they command trust and love; to the foreign settlement they represent hospitality and good will.

**The Grapes of Wrath**, by John Steinbeck. This is a novel of our time; the story of the Dust Bowl. Poverty and despair stalk its pages for it tells of human beings who have almost beyond endurance by conditions beyond their control. Briefly it is the story of the Joads who are self-respecting farmers until the drought. Losing their land, they piled their belongings into a decrepit old car and started the long journey to California, the land of golden opportunity where they thought jobs were to be had for the asking. It is an earthly story, of the realist school but it depicts a situation that is so inevitable concern everyone in the country—that of the conditions of the people of the stricken areas.

**With Malice Toward All**, by Irving Tressler. The well deserved reply to "With Malice Toward Some." The gist of this one seems to be that the English are funny alright, but goodness, look at the Americans!

**Cover by Proxy**, by Faith Baldwin. A light romance concerning the affairs—romantic and business—of a wealthy young woman who substituted herself for a bonafide secretary.

**The Problem of the Green Capsule**, by John Dickson Carr. Marcus Chesney was convinced that most people are incapable of describing accurately what they see. To prove it he staged a murder with three friends as witnesses, each of whom was sure that he could give an accurate account of the events. But when it was all over, Chesney lay really dead on the floor and not one of the witnesses could say what had happened.

**HAZEL PARK, Mich.**—Hollis C. Martin, a Republican, has been appointed Royal Oak Township attorney by the Democrat-controlled township board.

He succeeds Sherman McDonald, a Democrat, who resigned, effective June 1.

Martin, a former Oakland County Republican chairman and former assistant prosecuting attorney, was appointed on a 4 to 3 vote, with the only Republican member of the board, Roy F. Koltz, voting against him.

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## Michigan Mirror

NON-PARTISAN STATE NEWS LETTER

LANSING, May 25.—The Michigan state legislature is now entering into the closing days of the session—five months of activity.

The past few weeks have been in the opinion of Representative Elmer R. Eaton of Wayne county, editor and publisher of the *Plymouth Mail*, a "gala season for the selfish, grasping interests and special pressure groups."

Serving his second term in the legislature and experienced in state affairs as secretary to Governor Groesbeck, Representative Eaton is convinced that legislation in Michigan is largely the result of "pressure groups" who go out selfishly to make sure their own interests are cared for, usually at the expense of the public.

While all bills sponsored by these well-organized blocs are not passed, "unfortunately they have a large per cent of them are," comments Mr. Eaton, who adds, "and that's why the poor overburdened farmer and working man complain so much about taxes and the cost of things they have to buy and the services they have to have." In an illuminating analysis of legislation by pressure groups, the *Plymouth Mirror* gives the following picture of how and why many bills are passed at Lansing. We quote leading excerpts:

**Candidates Interviewed**  
How are special pressure groups jammed through the legislature?

That's an easy question to answer. The "plotting" takes place months and months before the legislature meets. In fact, it is started before members of the legislature are even nominated or elected.

The "special groups" which hawk the local newspapers like hawks. Most of them maintain a newspaper clipping man, an "expert" who maintains a service of this kind, they generally subscribe for the local papers. What for? To find out who the candidates are for the state legislature.

**"Executive Secretary"**  
Always these groups maintain a highly specialized "legislative agent," in other terms an "executive secretary" or some other sort of misleading title.

The girls hired to read these newspapers, discover that John Hirman Promiser of Hickory Corners, has announced that he is going to be a candidate for the state legislature in the forthcoming primary.

Immediately John Hirman Promiser will get a letter from Lansing, Detroit or some other city in Michigan in which he is told that the announcement of his candidacy for the state legislature has been read with interest.

"We are greatly interested in your campaign. We plan to have before the coming session of the state legislature a bill which will be of wonderful benefit to the voters of your district and the people of Michigan. We would like to know how you stand on it, and if you can give us your support, we will be glad to see to it that all of our members in your district will vote for you," most of these letters read.

**"Voters Await Answer"**  
During the last primary campaign...

paign, the writer received twelve letters of this type from various pressure groups sponsoring, in nearly every case, the self-interest legislation. Of the twelve letters received there were possibly two or three that were relative to proposed measures worthy of real consideration.

If the candidate does not reply to the first letter, he generally receives another one in a few days, telling him that no reply has been received and "the voters of your district are anxious to know how you stand on these questions."

Some candidates, especially those who are new to the legislative field, "fall" for these letters and become pledged to a legislative bill before they are even nominated or elected to the legislature.

These "executive secretaries" keep a careful index on each candidate and what he says as to how he will vote on some certain bill that measure gets before the legislature.

**Count Votes in Advance**  
As a result of this system when the legislature convenes, these pressure groups generally know just exactly how many votes they have in the legislature for the bills they are interested in. Members of the legislature, who have the courage to do as they should and refuse to promise this or that before they know what it is all about, are immediately subjected to pressure from the so-called "executive secretary."

The "executive secretary" is a polite title for most of these slick smooth-working lobbyists who are out to get the thing for which they are paid, irrespective of what benefits might be gained for the people of the state. In all justice, however, it should be said that there are some so-called lobbyists who provide valuable information to members of the legislature and who do not resort to questionable practices in having passed any bill they might be interested in.

Every opportunity is made to contact the members of the house and senate by these fellows, and always the first thing they attempt to do is to see to it that the "right" man is appointed chairman of the committee to which will be referred the bill they specially desire passed.

**Chairman Wined, Dined**  
If not successful in having their selection made, then the "executive secretary" begins an immediate cultivation of the good will of the chairman who has been appointed. They know that the chairman of a committee has a whole lot to do with getting their bill under motion, as well as getting it passed through the legislature.

That's why the chairman of a committee, if he is willing to stuff himself, is wined and dined at the City Club in Lansing or in the best hotel dining rooms in the city at the expense of the legislative body.

That's why the eyes of the lobbyists "lovingly" swing an arm around the shoulders of a committee chairman and smilingly whisper in his ear so those who happen to be near might not hear what is said.

**How Laws are Made**  
There is a legislative rule that...

## Picnic Tables Set For Roadside Feasts

Lansing, May 24.—The welcome sign to Michigan's summer tourists was up this week along the roadside of the state's highway system.

Approximately 3,000 picnic tables, an increase of 500 over last year, have been set out along the trunkline highways. Maintenance workers also have checked over the 161 roadside parks to place them in condition for tourist use.

Based upon their use in the past, these facilities might well give the appearance of a dining room table some 9,000 miles long most any noon during the summer season.

The expense of developing and operating this unique roadside service is relatively inexpensive, says Highway Commissioner Murray D. Van Wagener. Roadside parks are generally developed on donated land or on excess property not used for construction. Picnic tables are made by maintenance workers with a material costing about \$12 per table.

Lobbyists cannot be on the floor of the house during the session. They are compelled to remain in the gallery or loaf in the cloak rooms during the sessions.

A while back there was a bill pending in the house of representatives. The chairman of the committee that had reported out the bill just previous to a discussion of the measure looked to the gallery to get the eye of the lobbyist-friend. For a minute he couldn't locate him. But it was only for a moment, as the "executive secretary" soon showed up, and following an exchange of smiles, the "chairman" did his stuff.

That's the way many new laws get on the statute books. That, too, is why there is so much complaint about legislatures and the laws they enact.

**Government by Pressure**  
Representative Eaton's portrait, as given above, presents a vivid mirroring of the Lansing scene that is all too familiar to members of the legislature.

The system being as it is and legislators being only human after all, many bills receive official sanction much in proportion to the "build up" that can be effected by the sponsoring group always in the name of the public whose welfare is so zealously espoused.

It has become government by pressure, not only at Lansing, but at Washington.

**Dr. A. Kenneth Stolpman**  
Winner of Coveted Honor

Dr. A. Kenneth Stolpman, 304 Waabek Building, has just been notified of his election to the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, one of the highest honors in the medical profession. Only seven other doctors in Michigan, outside of Detroit, are members of the board.

Dr. Stolpman won the election following two examinations, oral and written, which candidates must take. He completed the written examination on May 12 and word that he had won the honor was released this week.

## Fire Loss High In April, Chief's Report Discloses

Fire loss in Birmingham during the month of April is estimated to be \$4,687, according to the report submitted by V. W. Griffith, chief of the department, to City Manager Donald C. Egbert.

Of this amount, \$1,490 is the estimated damage done to buildings, and \$3,237, to the contents. Although the losses for April appear to run higher than the usual amount of loss by fire each month, Chief Griffith points out, it was not due to the spreading of flames, as each blaze was confined to the area in which it started through the work of the department and apparatus. There were no fires of unusual origin, Chief Griffith reports, all were attributed to the usual causes, and none spread beyond the source of origin. The total amount of property endangered by fire in April is given as \$112,000.

The department responded to 24 alarms during the month, according to the report. Of these, 21 were alarm calls, two general, and one was an inhalator run.

Members of the department spent 14 hours and 44 minutes in the actual business of fire fighting, according to the report. Thirty-five hours and 54 minutes were allotted to Fire Prevention Work, and other activities of the department included 13 hours and three minutes on well-inspected, 14 hours and 19 minutes on the inspection of business property, 35 minutes on the inspection of residential property, and one hour and 15 minutes on hydrant inspection, the report discloses.

In addition to the hours spent on inspection outside the department, Chief Griffith states, considerable time was spent upon the construction on the new truck, in the fire department.

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