

The Birmingham Eccentric

The person who, in the army, fails to keep his gun loaded and handy, in just like the citizen who, at election time, has failed to learn the issues on the ballot.

SIXTY-THIRD YEAR—NO. 18 BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 1940

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Will Start Drilling Next Week on New City Water Well

After carrying on tests over a period of more than three months, the City Commission has finally given the "Go" signal for actual drilling of the city's new well at Southfield and 14-Mile roads. That decision was made Monday night when City Manager Donald C. Egbert reported that a final test being drilled 800 feet north of the successful test hole had not yielded water at 320 feet depth, leading to his recommendation that further test wells be abandoned at this time.

Newest Home Owners Ask Poppleton Landscape Plan

A request that the City Administration prepare a landscaping plan for the 15½-acre Poppleton field bought more than a year ago by the City was made to the City Commission Monday night by Carl J. Buck, 485 Rivenack, representing the Northeast Home Owners Association, Inc.

Humor Safeguards Our National Sanity

ANN ARBOR—Humor is probably the most effective safeguard of our national sanity, stated Walter L. Williams, professor of English at the University of Michigan, in a lecture before a group of students and guests of the graduate study program in American culture and institutions.

Barber to Move Into Hupp Building

John A. Frederick, proprietor of the West Maple Barber Shop, will be one of the tenants in the new one-story building now under construction at 243-247 West Maple Avenue, opposite the West Bank Building and west of the Methodist parsonage.

A lady became interested in a gang of workmen making street repairs in front of her house. "Which one is the foreman?" she asked. "I am," stated a broad-shouldered Irishman with a proud smile. "Really, are you?" "Am I?" he asked. "I'll prove it to you in 10 seconds." He glanced about smiling out the nearest workman. "Dugan," he barked, "you're fired!"

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"Tea for Two"

BY NELLIE HURLEY MIFFIE

IT was a blistering afternoon, the temperature was wavering around the 98 mark on the thermometer and the weatherman had predicted "fair and warmer" for the next two days. I was sitting on the edge of a chaise longue in a guest bedroom at Will-O-Way when the only breeze that rippled the window draperies was hotter than the gust from a blast furnace.

Broadcast Scheduled She was on her way to do a broadcast for a Detroit radio station and frankly admitted that she didn't have enough energy to lift her smallest finger. "I can't think," she wailed to me when I hurled a barrage of questions. She had just left a tough rehearsal of "No Time for Comedy" which opens tonight at the Will-O-Way.

Opening of "No Time for Comedy" tonight at the Will-O-Way theatre will see two important actresses rather than one as originally advertised. This morning it became known that Brenda Forbes will remain for the next two weeks to assume the role of "Amanda" in the comedy in which Jessie Royce Landis is the star.



This picture of JESSIE ROYCE LANDIS is that of a painting done of her last winter by Eli Kanarek, Polish artist who was brought to this country to do the murals in the Polish Building at the New York World's Fair.

"I came from a long line of artistic people. There were actresses, musicians and artists in our family from way back there," and she waved a hand in the general direction of the Windy City. "I always knew I would be an actress. This morning it became known that Brenda Forbes will remain for the next two weeks to assume the role of "Amanda" in the comedy in which Jessie Royce Landis is the star.

"Success," she continued in a low voice as if it were a secret between the two of us, "is a composite of so many intangible 'somebodies' that I was never sure that I would reach the goal I had set for myself. I only knew that I could never be happy doing any other thing. I tried and tried and tried and here I am today. And there she was, fresh from a cold shower, wielding a menacing looking tube of lipstick around her mouth.

Her best piece of work? Probably her recently completed role with Walter Huston in Love's Old Sweet Song, which emerged from the Theatre Guild's season with high praise from the caustic tongues of New York's strutting critics.

Her success in the role opposite the estimable Walter Huston came as a complete surprise to her. Miss Landis admitted to me this week she admired the role and felt that there was an excellent opportunity for characterization. But she wasn't impressed with her portrayal of the character and she "only fails" verdict into sentences that read: "Notice Miss Landis' best role but one of the finest characterizations ever seen."

Like Stock Market "But I really shouldn't complain because it's getting now so that very few connected with the theatre have a vacation. Actors use the summer theatres as means of trying out new plays and managers and producers spend the vacation months scouting for new, fresh material.

Summer stock has done much to revive an interest in the theatre, she explained to me. However, there is no reason to believe that the theatre will ever sing its swan song. The stage is worried about the movies and the movies fear the coming of television. But she personally thinks the theatre will continue indefinitely.

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Visits with Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills Women

And while we were discussing the movies, Miss Landis told me the hardest work she had ever done was a movie role one summer with George Bancroft. It was early in the 1930's when sound was still in its infancy and Hollywood movie morals railed the New York stage for actors who were photographed, pictorially and vocally. The work was difficult, she recalled, because for the first time in her life she met with a terrific sustaining problem. Each sequence was done again and again; there was no opportunity to carry a performance for more than a few moments. Apart from the technical difficulties, California was unusually warm that summer and the king lights were warmer after she had worked for an entire summer under those blistering lights for 10 and 12 hours a day she returned to New York where she lived "never, never, never again."

Yes, Miss Landis told me all this on an afternoon when she complimented it was "too hot, too hot" to think "She told me this and more. She told me of her home in New York of her husband, Rex Smith, managing editor of "Newsweek" and she told me how she hated the name Jessie Royce Landis. "Most people in Detroit call me 'Jo' because of my role in 'Little Women.' Lots of people call me Royce, which is a family name. And then, of course, there are people who will call me Jessie."

"Are you making any progress in getting acquainted with our New York neighbors?" she asked. "Oh, yes. It was their cat that invited our cat to that backyard concert last night!"

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