

Develop New Park On Lake Huron

LANSING—With survey work completed at the new state park site on Lake Huron, 10 miles north of Port Huron, engineers of the conservation department parks division will devote coming weeks to the blueprinting of planned developments.

The state already has acquired nearly 2,000 feet of frontage, and 142 acres, for the Port Huron site, the state legislature and St. Clair county each having appropriated half of the purchase price. The land was acquired in 1938. An additional funds become available, acquisition of a total of 181 acres, with nearly a mile of lake frontage, is planned.

Heavy Snow on Ice May Suffocate Fish

LANSING—White snow, when it is deep enough, can make things

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"Tea for Two"

By NELLIE HURLEY MINIFIE

VAUDEVILLE may be dead today but for a brief hour this week Mrs. Louis LaBelle brought back to life those glorious, not-too-long-past days when nearly every city, town, village and hamlet was visited by some sort of vaudeville players.

A quiet, dark haired, soft spoken woman, Mrs. LaBelle talked haltingly at first of her dancing experience in the theatre and in the Orpheum and Pantages vaudeville circuits in this country and in Canada.

It was at Mrs. Neil Reike's on Vinewood avenue that we talked on a slushy, rainy afternoon this week and it was only with a considerable amount of prompting that Mrs. LaBelle's reminiscences came to light.

For all the inconveniences, the bad luck and the hardships that were a part of those years in the theatre and vaudeville her memories are only happy ones. She remembers traveling by automobile all day, tearing into the theatre just before curtain time, dressing hastily and applying her make-up hurriedly, running a quick comb through her hair, and dashing for the stage.

Always the entrance was the same, she smiled shyly and recollected. She danced leisurely on the stage looking for all the world as if she had only just come from a long and refreshing beauty nap.

All Part of Theatre

It was all a part of the theatre this barely making connections and yet always seemed to be fresh and vibrant even though the day's journey had consisted of engine trouble, flat tires and running out of gasoline.

Things were always happening then—things that came close to being tragedies but have since taken on a humorous light. For instance, she recalled, the evening that a number of fellow dancers gathered in her dressing room before the performance. It was a gay crowd, everyone was talking at once, enthusiasm and excitement was running high.

Suddenly a shrill voice just outside the dressing room door called, "Curtain Time." It was Mrs. LaBelle's entrance and there she sat, no make-up on, her costume hanging in the corner. After fully a second when everyone within that room sat in still, horrified amazement, every girl flew into frenzied action. Two pulled the flimsy ballet frock over her head, another faced Mrs. LaBelle into her dancing slippers while still another wielded a comb and brush and dabbed a spot of grease paint here and there.

Mrs. LaBelle made her cue that night but she still can't tell you how it was done.

And then there was that horrible night in Chicago when she was dancing in the ballet with the Metropolitan Opera company's "Aida." Along in the middle of the ballet there was a step in the routine that was similar to the one which we saw. Without thinking Mrs.

From the Women's Angle

By NELLIE HURLEY MINIFIE

Mrs. Earl G. Potter had an idea a short time ago and around it she wove a Christmas fantasy. Neither lengthy nor very elaborate, but, however, was arresting in the basic idea upon which it revolved.

With bombs in Europe and fear in the hearts of everyone, the spirit of Christmas is likely to be forgotten this year. That was the theme of Mrs. Potter's little play and for several days now I haven't been able to dismiss this thought from my mind.

Smug, complacent, self satisfied as we Americans are about our traditions, our background, our very lives, it is easy for us to overlook the fate of refugees and the civilian and military in the lands across the sea. It's easy to forget for we, with all our life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness have not in many years known the deprivation, the sufferings that come from a war on our own soil.

There are many things about war of which we know nothing. We've never lived in the ground to escape the enemy. We've little idea of what totalitarian war is like. We occupied many of the major horrors in the last war and we're likely to underestimate the utter despair and suffering of a modern blitz.

Only in this hemisphere will there be any vestige of an old-fashioned Christmas this year. Here we have peace, we have security, employment and food. How long we will retain all of this you or I can't know, but while we still have them let us not forget that in just a short while they may vanish. This year more than any other let us bring "Peace on earth, good will toward men."

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Visits with Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills Women ...

er occasion and musical background. She was 14 years old, however and living in Detroit at the time, when she began to study the dance in earnest.

Theodore Smith was her first teacher and a number of years later this instruction was augmented in New York City by study with Theodore Kosloff. It was while studying in New York that a shy, dark haired little girl in her teens appeared in one of Mrs. LaBelle's classes. A skinny little creature, mostly all legs, this girl danced like a house afire. Today her name is an everyone's lips. This same girl, Eleanor Powell, has since made a fortune out of a pair of tap slippers.

Specialized tap dancing is highly specialized, the technique is basically simple when compared to the ballet technique Mrs. LaBelle tells me. Every muscle must be highly developed in order to execute the various poses that are the fundamentals of ballet dancing, she explained to me. Although all ballet dancing revolves about only five basic steps the technique to master this particular form of dancing is unusually difficult.

She Saw Pavlova

And, of course, we talked for a short time of the Russian Ballet, that famous aggregation that came out of St. Petersburg in the early 1900's to revolutionize all ideas of ballet dancing. Probably the greatest thrill of all her life, Mrs. LaBelle will tell you, was seeing the great Pavlova dance.

When Mrs. LaBelle saw this tiny, dynamic little Russian ballerina, Pavlova was nearly 60 years old. But for all the world she danced and looked like a school girl, so light she was on her toes, her elevations near perfection, her points so dainty, nearly flawless.

Pavlova surpassed, in Mrs. LaBelle's estimation, the renowned and nearly mythical Nijinsky, whom she saw dance in New York City during the World War. When she saw the famous dancer, Mrs. LaBelle was probably past his prime although in actual years he was only 32. But for all the world he was harassed by petty jealousies that in his clouding mind assumed giant proportions. All of this, she thinks, he had a profound effect on his dancing, although his technique was still close to perfection, his footwork never failed, his elevations still greater than anyone before him—or since.

Happenings of Long Ago

Fifty Years Ago
Dec. 18, 1890

For sale cheap, a good swell box cutter, a pair of boots and a light double harness. Any of them can be had at a bargain by calling on Cal Ellenwood in Troy.

Linus D. Finn, undertaker and embalmer, Royal Oak, Mich., has a complete stock of caskets, coffins, robes, Italian velvet and hardware always kept in stock. No ice used, but the latest, best, cheapest and most natural way of taking care of bodies used. Will furnish a white hearse to all who so desire at no extra cost.

Married Monday evening at Troy, Conn., Mr. George White and Mrs. Edy. Everybody wishes Uncle George and his good wife all the happiness that can be enjoyed. Mr. and Mrs. Lenton stood up with the happy couple. It was kept very quiet, still we heard a whisper of it before hand.

Twenty-five Years Ago
Dec. 17, 1915

Baldwin Public Library will have a tree sometime during the holiday season. All gifts will go to the Birmingham Exchange Club. He will succeed David Levinson.

The Birmingham Inn has really more business than it can handle at times. It has been said a hotel in Birmingham could not run without a bar. Mr. Walter Allen approves this statement and has all he can attend.

Regular winter now. Old thermometer hangs around 10 degrees and it makes the coal fly. Good skating on the pond makes the boys and girls happy and gives them all the exercise necessary.

Get one of our Steel Feed Cookers and Steel Hog Troughs for hog comfort at Green and Hancock's.

Five Years Ago
Dec. 19, 1935

Fred J. Douglass, local plumbing contractor, was elected president of the Birmingham Exchange Club. He will succeed David Levinson.

William M. Wilson, son of A. M. Wilson, of Oakland drive, who is a cadet at Culver Military Academy, has been elected to membership in the Academy's famous Black Horse Troop.

At a meeting of the M. C. A. board Monday night in the Community House, it was reported that \$1,000 had been raised in the recent drive for funds with which to carry on a recreational program for the coming year.

Mrs. M. L. Dickinson, 464 Townsend street, lifelong resident of Royal Oak and Birmingham, died Friday afternoon at Joseph Merry Hospital where she had been confined for three months. Her funeral service will be held on Thursday.

LaVerne Bassett, former president and chairman of the board of the United Savings Bank of Detroit, and a resident of Birmingham for the past five years, died at the Seward Hotel in Detroit Saturday afternoon.

once she has been persuaded to talk, tells an interesting story, a story that, it occurred to me, Birmingham would like to hear. On the basis of that story to be the title of The Week's Interesting Woman.

Engineering Students Sought by Army

SELFIDGE FIELD—Physically fit young men between the ages of 20 and 26 with engineering college training and eligible former flying cadets may now qualify as Army Air Corps ground duty officers in the engineering field, according to War Department directions received here.

This course, which does not include pilot training, is designed to qualify students as squadron engineering officers. Their status, as well as pay and allowances, is the same as that of flying cadets receiving pilot instruction. They are designated as flying cadets and will be awarded commissions as second lieutenants, air reserve, with the successful completion of the course.

A Definition

Fig. 1. A line that has not cut its teeth. An habitual liar's nearest approach to truth.

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