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The garden of this attractive home is so arranged, with perennials, specimen trees and shrubs, rock and alpine plants, that few extras are needed to enhance its riot of natural color.

No extras are needed in the house to make it a completely livable home. Here, just outside of Birmingham, is a completely insulated 10-room home complete with storm sash, screens, carpets, drapes, Venetian blinds and kitchen range. The oil burner and softener are new—it's mechanically perfect.

There are four bedrooms and two baths, a large playroom on the third floor and a pleasant rumpus room with bar in the basement.

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## "Sea for Two"

By NELLIE HURLEY MINIFIE

"ANYONE can learn to write. It's a lot like playing the piano and just about as boring," It was Mrs. Arthur L. Genung talking. "Anyone who is willing to put forth the same amount of concentrated effort that goes into learning to play the piano can learn to write fiction and short stories that will sell. Anyone who is willing to write, throw it away, rewrite, throw that away too, write a story again and again and again will eventually hit upon the secret—if there is any—and find a market for his material."

"That really is all there is to it and doesn't it seem like a silly way for a grown woman to spend her time?" she laughed.

"That, in a brief paragraph, is the gist of the conversation I had this week with Mrs. Genung who is the subject of this week's interesting Woman interview. Although she doesn't think she is very good 'copy,' Mrs. Genung was nominated as an interesting woman because of the creative writing she has done within the last few years.

Really an Ex-Author  
"But you are really talking to an ex-author," she hurriedly explained before the conversational ice had hardly been broken. "I haven't written a thing lately and really won't either."

"Home isn't the place in which to write," she continued. "The bulk of my writing was done during that time that I rented desk space in an architect's office on Grand River avenue in Detroit. It was at that office every day from 9 in the morning until 4 o'clock in the afternoon. Six hours each day I laid away at a great clip on my typewriter. I wrote, rewrote, wrote some more and then did it over again. That really is the only way to write."

It was during that time she co-authored with Carl May Hayes a novel with a Detroit setting, "Valiant Dust," she told me as I rambled through the copy which she had in the built-in book shelf in her paneled sitting room, covers a 15 year period from 1895 to 1910 and deals with an Irish mariner at Pine Lake.

This book, is on the reading list at Baldwin High School and she thinks that nearly every child has read it but her daughter, Sally. Her writing, Mrs. Genung said, began in Chicago when she worked on general assignments for the United States. At that time she covered everything but a long story. Although writing has been both her vocation and her avocation she has a University of Illinois library work. Her home was in Highland Park and Waukegan. She lived in Chicago and eventually gravitated down town toward the Daily News Building where she worked many years.

Here for Five Years  
For five years now she has married.

has been living in Birmingham. In that time she has done considerable writing, has developed a passion for baseball, is active in the Village Players and the Parent-Teacher association.

A playwriting class last year at the University of Michigan brought from her typewriter a one-act play, "Escape" which was given last March by the Players. This was written, she told me, before Ethel Vance's best-selling novel came off the presses and although it is in no way similar to the book and movie, it does bear the same title.

One day a week last year Mrs. Genung drove out to Ann Arbor for this playwriting class. She read very little when compared with her parents, she says. They have a tendency not to put the effort into reading when they know that eventually they will see the book in the movies.

The best writing field today, Mrs. Genung says, is in short story work. It is fast, easy once you catch on to it, and fairly well paid. The great catch, she continued, is in the pulp magazine class, those magazines printed on rough stock and sold in droves at the corner drug store.

"The stories are written and the magazines published for girls of the same common over 60," she explained.

Technically Near Perfect  
Roughly they fall into these general classifications: Love stories, confessions, snappy stories and adventure tales. "The adventure pulp stories, she said, are nearly perfect from a technical standpoint. For one wanting experience in plot construction there is, she insisted, no better way of learning than by writing for the pulp magazine. The writing in them often is not too good but the story development and the plot construction approaches perfection."

These magazines carry very little advertising for the simple reason that high school children reading them are not potential buyers. Because of the low percentage of advertising, the magazines sell for 25 or 35 cents where the slick paper magazines, depending on their advertising and the new-stard revenue, sell for 10 or 15 cents.

"Oh, yes, it's all very logical," Mrs. Genung continued. "Because of the large demand for these pulp magazines there are at least 25 of these magazines for every slick paper magazine. It is becoming increasingly difficult for a writer to break into the slick paper magazines, she said, because there are so few of them because they use relatively few short stories in each issue. Three or possibly four is a good average in this type of magazine, she pointed out.

To Mrs. Genung a wonderful and exciting new field is opening up in what she laughingly called "soap opera." Although a large per cent of these radio dramas are close to imbecility there are a few, Mrs. Genung says, that are beautifully written. She spoke particularly of two written by a Sandra Michael whom she feels

### Visits with Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills Women ...



Mrs. Genung

themselves without mechanical means. Without lights and without electricity for their radios they would be lost whereas I could always sit down with a book and entertain myself indefinitely."

"That is why she thinks that her Sally's children or possibly grandchildren will never read a book. The sale of successful novels has decreased sharply within the last 25 years, she says. A decade ago a book that didn't sell 50,000 copies was considered by its publishers as a financial loss. Today a book that reaches the 10,000 mark is a success, Mrs. Genung said.

"No," she insisted, "there is absolutely nothing glamorous about writing. It's just as hard work as anything else. And yet I am sure that anyone who wanted to could become a writer. If he is willing to sacrifice everything else for that end, it can be done.

"However, I'm not saying that he can be another Shakespeare or a Scott or a Dickens or a Hemingway. He can learn to write for a market, though, and after all that is really all that any of them do."

### Mrs. Vernon Kellett Bruised in Crash

Three cars were involved in a crash the evening of Thanksgiving Day, at Woodward avenue and Long Lake road. According to the statements made to Bloomfield Hills police, Vernon B. Kellett, Cranbrook instructor, had slowed at the corner to make a right turn onto West Long Lake road. He was in a truck and trailer coming from behind rammed the Kellett car from the rear, and threw it into a third car driven by Walter E. Mills, 518 Oakridge, Ferndale. It was on West Long Lake, waiting for the light to change.

Mrs. Kellett received bruises. The truck was driven by Laund S. Chanderler, 125 Tudor, Pontiac.

Children Read Little  
The movies and radio, Mrs. Genung thinks, will some day supplant reading. Children today read very little when compared with their parents, she says. They have a tendency not to put the effort into reading when they know that eventually they will see the book in the movies.

"From my point of view," she went on, "they are missing a lot. On the other hand they can do many things that I never learned. They ice skate, they dance, they have social consciousness. They have much better health and just as good brains."

"And yet," she continued, "they haven't the ability to entertain."

### "Margin for Error" Now at Lafayette

"Margin For Error," Clara Booth's hilarious expose of Nazi propaganda in America which was acclaimed as one of the outstanding successes on Broadway last season, will provide the third production of the season at the Lafayette Theatre. The work's engagement opened on Saturday evening, Nov. 24, with matinee Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday.

With a record of 264 performances on Broadway, "Margin For Error" is Clara Booth's third hit in a row, her previous ones being "The Women" and "Kiss the Boys Goodbye." In her latest play she turns her keen mind and keenest scalpel to the Nazis and Hitler's stooges in the U. S.

Kurtz Katch, who played the part of the German emissary on tour last season, again will be seen in the central character, Henry North. He will portray the Jewish officer with the surrounding cast including Josephine Dunn, Everett Ripley, Franklin George, William Rice and others.

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