

# The Birmingham Eclectic

PART TWO

SEVENTY-FIRST YEAR—NO. 4

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 1948

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## Enrollments Open to Junior Naturalists

The Cranbrook Institute of Science is accepting enrollments for a Saturday morning class for junior members combining natural history and photographic techniques.

Boys and girls from 11 to 16 years are eligible. Class periods are from 9 a. m. to 11:30 a. m., starting Saturday, April 17 and continuing through May 22. Studies will be made of reptiles, amphibians, birds, insects, trees and flowers, with special attention to identification.

Lucia C. Schroeder and Walter P. Nicoll of the Cranbrook Institute of Science staff will be leaders. There is no fee, but regular attendance is required. Additional information may be obtained from the Cranbrook Institute of Science.



## Bits of Birmingham

Contributions are still dribbling in to the 1948 Red Cross fund drive. Latest tabulations place Birmingham at \$14,223.51 (quota was \$7,600), Bloomfield Hills at \$7,838.81 (quota \$6,000), and Southfield Township tags along with \$416 of its \$3,745 quota.

Press representatives who cover Birmingham city commission meetings have been plagued by a number of "disappearing" items recently. First it was the city table map, used in following commission Monday evening discussions. Then it was the press table itself which was moved out of the room (and City Attorney Forbes S. Hascall's was substituted). Ash trays, chairs have disappeared, too. It has resulted in a pre-8 o'clock equipment inventory and replacement of missing articles.

Does anyone happen to have a spare crocodile murtle lying around the house? Birmingham's distinguished sculptor, Marshall Fredericks, is looking for one. He wants to put it on "Cuddles", his four-year-old pet Mexican crocodile. "This summer I'd like to take her on a few walks around the neighborhood, but am concerned over the fact that if she snapped at a few pesky flies or insects, she might get someone's arm or leg between her jaws by accident," Fredericks explains. If no local resident has such a murtle, Fredericks would like to know just where he can get one. Anybody know?

Life Insurance Counselor Harry O. Smart, 217 Pierce Street, PHONE 484

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Additional honors have been conferred this week on Albert E. Hirsch, 26 Valley Drive, Manassas, O., senior in chemical engineering at the University of Michigan and a former Birmingham resident and graduate of Baldwin High School. He has been elected to Sigma Xi, national scientific honor society; and to Phi Lambda Upsilon, national chemical honorary fraternity. In addition to these societies Hirsch was previously elected to Phi Eta Sigma, national freshman honor society and Tau Beta Pi, national engineering honor society and received the scholarship award of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. He is a member of Theta Xi, national social fraternity, and upon graduation from Michigan in June will join E. I. DuPont Nemours & Co., Inc. as a chemical engineer at their Belle Works, Charleston, W. Va.

"Excuse our windows... the decorators are here again!" Smiles and knowing looks greet the signs in the window of a South Woodward avenue store which has been carrying them in lieu of their regular window display for the past few weeks. Foo had the housewife can't get around spring difficulties with the same ease. She has to wade through the clutter, and more or less ignore her friends for days at a time while ladders, paint buckets, brush and rollers, straight-edges, rolls of wall paper and men seem to occupy every available inch of floor space in her home.

As they walked west on Maple road many persons paused to admire the beautiful white plaque which is displayed in the window of the Little Folks Shop. The plaque was designed and made by Marshall Fredericks, noted local sculptor, and given to the local Save the Children Federation. Picturing a mother and child, the simple, powerful design of it emphasizes strongly the work which the Federation is doing among underprivileged children in our own country and in other nations throughout the world.

With less than three weeks of competition remaining in the Metropolitan Miami \$15,000 fishing tournament, Bud Carrick, 1001 Fairfax, Birmingham has moved among the leaders in the tournament division, posting a catch of 21 1/2 pounds. Tournament officials report that this year's number of entries is running over 20% greater in number than in any previous year with ten

tournament records shattered, one fish already accepted as a new world's record and three others entered with the International Gamefish Association for possible world's record recognition. When the tournament closes at midnight April 18, over 250,000 men, women and children will have competed for the prizes, citations and awards.

Fast work by six carloads of men and boys from Log Cabin subdivision is credited by Honor Oliver, manager of Proud Lake state recreation area, with saving a plantation of young pine trees under control before the Walter Lake fire department arrived, when just 14 of the pine trees had been burned.

Birmingham area residents who give little heed to soil scientists' annual warnings about the damage spring burning does to soil fertility are asked by conservation department officials to consider two more obvious consequences of setting fire to ground cover at this season. The first is substantial damage to fences. Charged posts and wire from which the galvanizing has been burned become useless long before their normal life expectancy if protected from fire, is reached. The second is the liability of the man who starts the fire if the fire gets out of hand. If it gets into his neighbor's woodlot or out-building the cost may be greater, and less convenient to meet than if it damaged his own property.

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN  
NOTICE TO ADVERSELY AFFECTED PARTIES  
The City of Birmingham, Michigan, will meet Monday, April 13, 1948, at 8:00 P. M. in the Administration Room in the Municipal Building to consider any objections or amendments to the following described property:  
Assessment district shall consist of the following described property:  
Parcel A  
Lots 1 to 13 Inc.  
Parcel B  
Lots 35 to 43 Inc.  
Plans and estimates of cost of this project are filed with the City Clerk of the City of Birmingham for examination by the public.  
IRENE E. HANLEY, City Clerk.  
April 15, 1948.

## Postmaster Warns of Revival of Old 'Prisoner Swindle'

The "Spanish Prisoner Swindle" is on the loose again. This warning came Tuesday from Birmingham Postmaster Joseph A. Byrne.

This old confidence game, in which the unsuspecting participant believes he has a chance at getting \$100,000 for very little of his own money, actually hasn't made its appearance here yet, Byrne stated.

"However, the Detroit postal inspector has warned us to pass the word along," he explained.

The swindle operates on a very definite pattern. The writer is imprisoned in Mexico for debt, and always has a trunk which is a custodian in the United States. He appeals to the recipient both through his sense of fair play and his desire to get something for nothing, which in this case is one-third of the \$375,000 hidden in the trunk.

Because of his position the writer cannot sign his name, but must be contacted through a third party. Answer his letter, and the machine swings into smooth action.

Smooth Sailing  
The appeal has been made, the response has been made, and now the sailing is straight-away for the "grand slam". It costs quite a bit of money to pay the debts for which he is in prison, it costs more to pay the fines levied upon him. Then there is his transportation back to the States so he can claim the trunk, get the money, and divide it.

The latter step is the one which

is never taken. The man or woman who is sympathetic to his plight finds no such person as "Senior X" ever existed, and the trunk he owned is equally as mythical.

Anyone receiving such a "come on" should report it to postal authorities at once in order that they may apprehend the sender. No one knows how much money has been swindled in the past. No one knows how much more may follow it if anyone falls victim to the scheme.

From Scratch  
A new man was brought into the headquarters office by the sergeant-major. "Here's a new man, sir," said the sergeant to the commanding officer.

"Fine," said the commanding officer. "What can he do?"

"Nothing," replied the sergeant. "Good, then we don't have to break him in."

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**IN W. BLOOMFIELD**

Superbly built of masonry, with a Vermont slate roof, this lovely home commands a vista over one of the finest lakes in the Detroit suburban area. The 15 acre site has over 500 feet of high wooded bank sloping to the waters edge, with views each way over a mile of sparkling water.

The residence provides, in addition to the usual rooms, a sun lounge overlooking the gardens, studio ceilinged Library, 4 generous family Bedrooms and 2 beautifully tiled Baths and 2 servants rooms with Bath, a spacious Recreation Room with terrazo floor and all the fine details one expects to find in a home built by an owner for lifetime use.

There is, in addition, a most attractive guest building, pine paneled and recently finished, with completely private accommodations for week-end or semi-permanent guests.

The grounds are magnificently landscaped, the drives are hard-surfaced, ornamental fences surround three sides and one gets a feeling of Northern Michigan atmosphere. All this only 35 minutes from the General Motors Building! You'll want to see it—you'll appreciate its value when you inspect it.

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**IN HARROWGATE**

Perfectly designed for a family with 2 children, this attractive Colonial residence built in the latter thirties has much to offer discriminating purchasers.

Quartern School is 3 blocks away, and the Junior High bus goes right past your door. Environmental aspects of this high-grade district are top! Possession can be June. A white picket fence sets up the nicely landscaped yard.

Floor plan is the usual center hall entrance—Library, right front, with the living, dining room and porch across the rear. Four bedrooms with two baths are upstairs and there's an activities room downstairs.

Very low down payment may be acceptable. Here then is an opportunity.