

The Birmingham Eccentric

Most people know what is the right thing to do; which is much different from doing merely what one pleases. Pleasing only oneself automatically eliminates consideration of others; it neglects the Golden Rule.

City Approves Use of Small Park for Temporary Storage

A temporary lease for the storage of liquid petroleum on city property at Worth and Webster has been granted the Harrison Floor Covering Co. Permission was granted by city commissioners after learning that the city property was the only area within reasonable distance from Harrison's new Hunter blvd. store that could be used for storage of fuel tanks.

Store representatives said permanent natural gas heating facilities are expected to be used for next winter's heating. Harrison's has agreed to pay the city \$36 a year under terms of the lease, the amount if city taxes on the property. Each Tuesday at 5 p.m. is the deadline for news, society, classified and display ads.

Local Plans Set for Anniversary of Internat'l Kiwanis

Members of the Kiwanis Club of Birmingham will celebrate the 35th anniversary of Kiwanis International next week. Paul Stocker, president of the club, said today that plans for the anniversary meeting, which will be held Tuesday, Jan. 17, at the Community House, had been virtually completed.

The program, according to Stocker, will be based on the community service organization's 1950 administrative theme, "Aggressive Citizenship—Safeguard of Freedom."

The Birmingham club will join with more than 2,000 others in observing the week throughout the United States. C. A. Alaska, Hawaii and the Yukon Territory. Some 300 clubs in cities having radio stations have arranged special broadcasts, while approximately 25 other clubs will participate in television programs.

A feature of the Birmingham club's observance will be the reading of a message from J. Hugh Jackson, dean of the graduate school of business at Stanford University and president of Kiwanis International.

Plans for the club's meetings are under the direction of the committee on education and fellowship of which Ken Hoover is chairman.

Kiwanis was established in Detroit January 21, 1915. It now embraces more than 200,000 business and professional leaders.

Local Man to Speak on Panel Discussion Over WWJ Saturday

Eugene Hess, 812 Ridgedale, will be among the four professors from the University of Detroit who will take part in a panel discussion next Saturday evening at 7:30 over station WWJ. Their topic will be "France looks at Germany," with the Rev. Knieck, dean of the university, as moderator.

The program is one of a weekly series sponsored jointly by the Foreign Policy association, of which Mrs. Charles J. Shain is one of the founders, the Detroit News, WWJ, the University of Michigan, Michigan State college, Wayne University and the University of Detroit.

Russell Barnes, of Birmingham, noted news commentator and president of the Foreign Policy association, will introduce the speakers and give a brief commentary on their discussion.

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LEND AN EAR

By MADELINE BRODIE

MENDELSSOHN—THE MAN OF DISTINCTION

Felix Mendelssohn was not an artist who had to be poor in order to be great. Indeed, he was born, in 1809, to very fortunate circumstances, the son of a very prosperous banker.

But true to good old musical tradition, he was child prodigy; for he began to compose at ten; could play a trio for piano and strings, several pieces for organ, a cantata and an opera at eleven; played his own concerto at thirteen; and conducted his first orchestra at a Midsummer Night's Dream at seventeen.

His talents confined to music alone—thanks to his father's substantial resources, young Felix received a thorough education in languages and the arts, and his literary talent was as precocious as his musical genius.

No Personal Tragedy
He fast grew from the boy prodigy into a musical figure admired and loved by all Europe. There was little personal tragedy in his life—laughter and joy seemed to follow him, and he went, at did one musical triumph after another.

So there was little struggle for recognition in England was the first to fall under his spell in 1829, and from then on until his untimely death in 1847, he took one capital after another by storm.

Mendelssohn was of fine stature and a great favorite with the ladies. "No doing but flirt," he once remarked, and indeed, he was always falling in love. But Felix Mendelssohn could do much more than flirt. Besides becoming the outstanding musical figure of his day, he could paint, write, sketch, swim and conduct—and do all exceedingly well. He was a gourmet and a bon vivant—in every sense of the word.

Influenced His Music
It would seem that the absence of the proverbial garret, poverty, and the intense emotional conflicts, which are considered necessary ingredients of the greatest art, were missing from this picture. And indeed the absence of these, regarded as the chief influences, to a certain degree, the music of Mendelssohn.

Had it like his life, is lacking in conflict and deep feeling. But this does not rob his music of significance and beauty. It is highly Victorian in its restraint and attention to detail, refined and clear-cut, always under perfect control. His music is classic, following in the tradition of Handel and Bach. It is well balanced and formed in careful patterns.

During his studies he devoted himself to the works of Handel and Bach, then hardly known by the general public. It is to Mendelssohn that we owe the rediscovery of these works. It was Mendelssohn who conducted the first performance of Bach's St. Matthew Passion after the death of its composer.

Wrote Several Choral Works So Mendelssohn was a classicist by education, a romanticist through association. He did write several choral works, best of his oratorios, the most famous of which is the Elijah. But he injected into the classic forms handed down by Haydn and Mozart many of the romantic tendencies found in the music of his day.

There is longing in his music and nature is depicted in all its varying aspects. His music is technically magnificent. He was a master craftsman, but no doubt he was as particular about the line of his dinner jacket as he was about a phrase in a symphony. Mendelssohn was a landscape painter in musical tones and he wrote easily. A happy trip to Scotland produced the Scotch Symphony and the Hebrides Overture which reflect "the highland forests and the enchanted caverns" and the Italian Symphony bespeaks all the color and warmth

of the Italian landscape he so loved, so severe a critic as Richard Wagner raised these works, unenthusiastically.

Romantic Imagination

Mendelssohn was a composer possessed of a highly romantic imagination. He excelled in the form of the scherzo (usually the third movement of a sonata, symphony or quartet, written in fast three-quarter time, and of a light and humorous nature).

His scherzos are delicate and suggest a dance of spirits often obscured by pale clouds that encircle them—mystic figures which whirl in pastoral settings to the tune of a piper's horn.

This composer's influence made Leipzig the center of musical life in Germany. His founding of the Leipzig Conservatory of Music in 1843 created an institution which long remained a model of its kind.

Musical Free of Tragedy

Only at the end of his life did Mendelssohn learn to know sorrow and tragedy, but it was too late for him to voice these realizations in his music. His life had been too full of sunshine and happiness and so his music would be free of tragedy and melancholy.

Yet his works are not mere form. He drew fully from the realm of his experiences and in his larger works preserved the real meaning of those experiences, expressed in terms refined and idealized. He did not attempt the grandeur of men like Beethoven or Brahms, his experiences and in his larger works preserved the real meaning of those experiences, expressed in terms refined and idealized.

In all, he wrote 80 songs; four symphonies; a concerto for piano and one for violin; seven string quartets; the overtures to A Midsummer Night's Dream, Ruy Blas, Hebrides and Fingal's Cave; Songs without Words; a cantata; and three oratorios. It was the death of his dearly beloved sister that broke his heart, and soon after he himself died at the age of 39.

If there is to be a moral drawn from this brief sketch of Mendelssohn's life and works let it be that artists in order to be truly great must follow all their life by poverty and self-denial.

It is true that of monumental power there is little in Mendelssohn's work and his highness of preoccupation with the smile rather than the tear may be laid at the feet of his nature and his musical personality rather than at the doorstep of his ample pocketbook.

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Community House Leisure Time Classes to Start

The first of the leisure-time classes for the new term will begin at the Community House next week.

Elbert Matthews will give a series of 10 lessons in bridge, beginning Jan. 16. The classes will be held each Monday evening from 8 to 10 o'clock, through March 20.

The ceramics classes will be in charge of Mrs. John Foster, and will be made up of two classes. An afternoon group will meet from 1:30 to 3:30 each Monday, Jan. 16 through March 20. These same dates will see a group meeting each evening from 8 to 10.

The third ceramics group will meet Tuesday evenings, beginning Jan. 17, continuing for 10 weeks. Hours will be the same.

Clothing Classes
Mrs. Thomas Woodworth will instruct 10 classes on clothing. Beginning classes will meet Thursday afternoons from 1:30 to 3:30, Jan. 19 through March 23. The intermediate classes will be held each Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 17 through March 21, from 1:30 to 3:30.

Ten lessons, beginning Jan. 18, are also scheduled for the making of hooked rugs. Mrs. T. C. Rigdon will be the instructor, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., each Wednesday.

Mrs. Wilber Anderson will supervise the work in jewelry and silver work. Beginning, intermediate and advanced groups will be given instruction on Wednesdays. The advanced class will meet from 9 a.m. to noon; beginners from 1 to 4 o'clock. This will also consist of 10 lessons, scheduled to begin on Jan. 18.

Oil Painting Instruction
Maude Licht will be in charge of the painting class. The instruction in charcoal drawings and pen-and-ink sketching will be given each Wednesday from 8 to 10 p.m., beginning Jan. 18. The classes in oil painting will begin Jan. 19, continuing each Thursday from 8 to 10, for the 10-week period.

Water color techniques will be taught by Mrs. Herbert S. Pimington. Her course will consist of five two-hour lessons. They will be held from 2 to 4 each Monday, beginning Jan. 16.

Frank Long will teach the art of square dancing. Classes will be held Tuesday evenings from 8:30 to 10, starting on Jan. 17.

Further information regarding fees and needed equipment for some of the classes may be obtained by calling the Community House.

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RESOURCES	
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United States Gov't Obligations, Direct and Fully Guaranteed	51,635,500.00
Other Securities	9,183,668.27
Loans and Discounts	12,115,188.25
Real Estate Mortgages	3,344,474.60
F.H.A. Insured Mortgages	2,203,888.96
Banking Houses and Sites	452,383.25
Furniture and Fixtures	237,467.49
Prepaid Expenses	32,214.96
Income Accrued Receivable	209,766.29
TOTAL RESOURCES	\$94,703,889.70

LIABILITIES	
Capital	\$ 1,200,000.00
Surplus	1,250,000.00
Undivided Profits	630,720.07
Interest and Expense Accrued Payable	60,061.49
Other Liabilities	374,609.08
Deposits—Commercial, Bank and Savings	\$81,549,375.34
United States Government Deposits	1,161,153.60
State of Michigan Deposits	494,568.91
Other Public Funds	6,222,152.02
Cashier's Certified and Dividend Checks Outstanding	1,761,049.19
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$94,703,889.70

Securities carried at \$3,450,000.00 in the above statement are pledged to secure Public Funds on deposit and/or other purposes required by law.

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