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## People's Column

The Eccentric welcomes letters for this column. All letters must be signed, but signatures will be kept confidential upon request. Letters must be limited to 500 words.

To the Editor:

Like ninety per cent of the adult male residents of Birmingham, I spend the customary five working days of the week in the Detroit vicinity. When Saturday and Sunday roll around, I have always enjoyed the privileges of, at least up until some few years ago.

About three years ago, all functions at the City Hall, with the exception of the Fire Department and the Police Department, ceased their Saturday morning activities. This proved quite an inconvenience to a lot of us weekend Birminghamers who really had things to look after at the City Hall other than with the Fire or Police Departments.

A YEAR AGO or more, the Telephone Company decided that Saturday business was not worth while, so they also decided on Saturday closing.

Last Saturday morning I toted a bag-full of burned-out light bulbs down to the Edison Company only to find out that the contagion was spreading; they also had me locked out.

Maybe I should be very happy that the banks, the post office and the Consumer's Power Company are still remaining open on Saturday mornings. Of course, I could get some Saturday action out of the City Hall by setting my house afire and then getting myself arrested for arson.

I APPRECIATE that the employees of these several utilities are entitled to a five-day work week, but inasmuch as we men are all back on the job on Monday morning and our wives are busy cleaning up the accrued wreckage of the week-end around house, why not have these utilities close on Monday rather than Saturday?

Seriously, I feel as though I were speaking for several thousand men of Birmingham, and I would like very much to have you publish this letter in your paper.

R. C. STOLTE  
380 Hawthorne

## People's Column

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## ATURE NOW

By LYDIA KING FRESHE

### The Bat

Last night as I sat alone at my desk a bat suddenly began circling the room, entering from I know not where, flying wildly but only a bat can fly. For that instant until reason came to the rescue of emotion I was startled, even though I have long since overcome my childish fear of bats and have accepted them for what they are—intriguing creatures of the night world.

Because a bat is a nocturnal animal many people have vague and erroneous ideas of his appearance and habits. On any day he rests, head downward, inside some cave, under the eaves or clinging to a raft or sheltered limb. Twilight is his alarm clock and he comes forth in search of food which he captures on the wing. He makes his zig-zag flight, large mouth wide open, searching and sifting the air for the flies, moths, mosquitoes and beetles which he relishes.

A bat is not a bird as many people believe, but a flying mammal—the only mammal capable of real flight. Other animals like the flying squirrel only glide through the air for short distances. But a bat is a true mammal; its body is covered with fur, its front teeth, brings forth its young alive, and suckles them and cares for them through infancy.

A BAT HAS a head like a mouse, with long sharp ears and small head-like eyes. Its fur is very soft and thick and varies in color with the species. All day bats are grey, brown or black; but some tropical varieties are orange white. Tropical varieties have bristles stretched between the four very long "fingers," connects with the body between the front and hind limbs and between the hind limbs and tail. It uses its first finger as an instrument for flying, assisted by the strong sharp claws of its hind feet.

The voice of the bat is squeaky and so high pitched that it is often beyond the range of the human ear. Bats are swift in flight and have been known to travel 30 miles in 50 minutes. They avoid flying into objects at night by sending out wipersonic waves which recently discovered and employed by man in radar.

Bats vary greatly in size. The vampire and the little brown bat are only two and a half or three inches long—while some tropical varieties called "flying foxes" have a wing spread of five feet.

## ATURE NOW

blooming tropical flower which it visits.

The young of the bat are born in June or July. The little brown bat has three babies, but most varieties have only one or two. For once the mother hangs right side up, making a little trade by an upward turn of her winged tail. Into this little one are born the birch bag and severs the cord with her tiny sharp teeth. Soon she makes of her wings a folded coverlet under which they nurse blindly, until at the end of nine days they open their eyes. During this time they travel with their mother on her food-foraging flights, clinging tenaciously to her fur as she circles and sifts in the night air. In a month's time they are weaned and she then "hangs them up" in some safe place while she goes to market.

WHEN AUTUMN comes, bats either hibernate or go south where they spend the winter in caves. At Catalabed Canyon tourists go to twilight to see them emerge like smoke, in a cylinder 20 feet in diameter for periods which may last 20 minutes and is estimated to contain some nine million bats. Many superstitions cling to this little mammal. Well do I remember my grandmother standing guard at her summer-kitchen door, fanning away with her voluminous apron, a circling bat, for a bat in the house was a sure sign of a death in the family. Bats do not make for a ladies hair, these do entangle themselves, neither do they harbor bed bugs.

"Blind as a bat" is an equally false statement since they can see by day or by night. Dragons, devils and witches are often clothed in bat's wings, all these are remnants of our superstitious past.

My little visitor, trapped in the room, searched methodically for some exit and finally came to rest, head downward, in a corner which I left him. Sometime during the night he escaped, and my guess is he was swallowed up by the twilight which he knows and trusts, to become an innocent and honest citizen of yet another twilight.

## Cranbrook Honors Students at Award Night Ceremonies

Scholarship honors were presented to Cranbrook students at the annual awards night ceremonies Saturday, bringing the school year to a close.

John Hatch, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Hatch, Jr., 584 Tooting lane, received the school's highest honors, the citizenship award from Headmaster Harry D. Hoey. The award is based on excellence in athletic ability, extracurricular activities and outstanding character development.

In addition to winning letters in basketball, soccer and baseball, Hatch was head of the student government, sang in the glee club and was a member of the student church cabinet.

BOB NEWNEY and George Bihler shared junior class honors when they were named Senior Prefects for the coming year. The boys are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel H. Newney, 1085 Wadlington, and Mr. and Mrs. Walter G. Bihler of Franklin.

Both have been active in school affairs, including writing for school publications.

Other students honored were Dave Mearns, arts and crafts award; Carl Luckenbach, cum laude honors; Phil LeMessurier, named editor of The Brook; Bob Whitlatch, Elliott Trumbull, Duncan Patton, Peter Berge, Dan Bersford.

Dave Higbie, Jim Corrie, John Hangan, John New Laird Sobert, Mike Shalross and Donald Young.

## Three Winners Of Cranbrook Awards Are Named

Three artists of exceptional merit will be enrolled at Cranbrook Academy of Art next fall, winners of three major scholarships established last year in memory of Eliel Saarinen, first president of the Academy and Mr. and Mrs. George G. Booth, founders of the six Cranbrook institutions.

More than 200 applicants were considered for the awards, which amount to \$1,500 each and will cover tuition and maintenance during a year of advanced study.

The Saarinen scholarship will be held by Are Vestorid, 21, of Oslo, rated one of the most promising of Norway's young architects. He is the son of Arne Vestorid, architect and head teacher of the State School of Arts and Crafts. Vestorid earned his diploma in the architect's course of 1945 and has won numerous prizes as a student and practitioner of his profession.

He will be a candidate for a master's degree in architectural design and return to Norway where his sponsors count on him "as an effective help in research and housing problems."

GABRIEL KOHN, 42, for the past six years engaged in the practice and teaching of sculpture in France and Italy, was awarded the George G. Booth scholarship and will come to Cranbrook to continue his extensive experience in stone and other materials, especially terra cotta.

Born in Philadelphia in 1910, he received his art training in New York and in Paris under Ossip Zadkine. For six years he was assistant sculptor to famous artists Gualtano Cecere, Hermon MacNail, Albert Stewart and Paul Jenett Wein; then practiced and taught for seven years in Los Angeles until World War II, in which he served in the Engineers' Corps, developing camouflage installations for the British and American air forces overseas.

He has been represented in 16 exhibitions in France, Italy, Germany and the United States and won 17 prizes.

The Ellen S. Booth scholarship will go to Paul R. Evans, Jr., 21, of Philadelphia, who is graduating from the School for American Craftsmen, Rochester Institute of Technology. He began his art studies under his mother, a painter, and served an apprenticeship with an uncle, New Jersey silversmith.

THE AWARDS in recognition of his special achievements in jewelry and metalwork, which he will continue at Cranbrook, experimenting with some of the "forgotten" methods such as niello and the casting of metal with black alloy and inlays. He hopes, as a handwrought silver to every-day homes.

First holders of the scholarships, who finished their work in May, were David Jacobs, architect, of Detroit; Norman Laliberte, painter, Montreal and Catherine Choy, Ceramist, of Hongkong.

Miss Choy will remain in this country to teach pottery and other art in Newcomb College for Women, Tulane University, New Orleans.

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