

# The Birmingham Eccentric

Thursday, October 2, 1952

PART 4



## Suburban Seen

By KAY REED

SINCE THE WRITER of this column is a frustrated world traveler, "Suburban Seen" is going European again. We have had several reports from John A. Hanslow, local telephone executive who is currently visiting the continent. The epistles come written on such interesting parchment as the British European Airways profile and bear the Pickwickian sounding postmark of Twickenham.

MRS. HANSLOW made the journey from Detroit to London in fifteen hours. He found Birmingham, England, bigger and busier than our suburb, but not nearly so pleasant. However, he was particularly impressed by the "astounding hospitality and kindness of the people". He was an eyewitness to the RAF jet crash at the Farmborough air show, a "tragic price to pay for this co-called phase of progress."

OUR CORRESPONDENT found Britain gearing for war with the scars of the last conflict still studding the green English countryside. However, he added that "many thinking people do not accept it as inevitable as yet". He recalls that he found the same attitude on his 1938 visit.

INTO GERMANY—Dusseldorf, Cologne, Coblenz, down the Rhine to Heidelberg, Baden Baden and the Black Forest: Mr. Hanslow found Germany a paradox. Bombed-out areas feature overflowing shops where visitors may buy almost any luxury—at a high price.

"Just about the time one gets a twinge of conscience one sees the trappings of the American Administration, cars, buildings and bureaus ad infinitum. The taxpayer complex asserts itself and one feels normal again."

The writer ended by saying that Paris is fabulous, with the black market "the most popular outdoor sport". Traffic is "unplanned homicide" with every man for himself.

WELL, WE ENJOYED hearing from Mr. Hanslow. The farthest we've been recently is Ann Arbor where the drivers are also a rather sporty set on a football afternoon. However, if we were going to be run down we would rather it be in Paris.

Another summer has gone its eternal way, and each of us is a year older. Did you enjoy the blessings of spring, summer, and now, autumn? Are you not thrilled to live on an earth whose beauty can best be seen in so many forms, proof of the existence of Divine Providence?



POSING BESIDE a statue of President Abraham Lincoln are (left to right) Mrs. Arthur M. Smith, Mrs. Louis C. Crampton, Mrs. Frank B. Howard, Mrs. William Springer and Mrs. M. Edmonson. The group was pictured recently when a Civil War round-table was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Springer.

## Soloists to Open Musicales Season

Three soloists will be featured when the Birmingham Musicales opens its 1952-53 program. The Oct. 9 program will be held in the Community House at 2 p.m., and will be open to the public. Arrangements have been in charge of Mrs. John H. Abbott.

Featured on the program will be Dorothea Torbjorn Hawkins, soprano; Marjorie Von Staden Bernat, cellist and Thyra Rothland Matus, pianist.

Mrs. Hawkins is a Birmingham resident who is a graduate of the University of Michigan music school, sang leading roles in the operettas given by the school while studying with Theodore Harrison and James Hamilton.

She went from Ann Arbor to the Juilliard graduate school where she studied under Marcella Sembrich and Florentia Price Kimball. Besides singing leading roles in school operas, she also sang with a small opera company. She has appeared on numerous radio programs and at one time was a regular member of the Paul Whiteman hour. Since leaving New York she has sung Gilbert and Sullivan roles, made a few concert appearances and done additional radio work.

SHE WILL BE accompanied by Mrs. Erik Bergshagen, also of Birmingham. Under Prof. Andre Rachlew, Mrs. Bergshagen studied piano in Copenhagen and later at the conservatory of Leipzig with Prof. Robert Tetzchner.

In addition to extensive concert work, she was the accompanist for Lisia Muller, "Singer of the Court" in Denmark, and considered one of the greatest singers of her time. Mrs. Bernat, another Birmingham resident, was a pupil of Karl Kirksmith while at the Cincinnati conservatory and in her second year there was named as his assistant. She was solo cellist for the Cincinnati symphony. Upon her graduation she received the only collocate diploma ever awarded in cello.

IN LEIPZIG, Germany, she studied under Julius Klengel at the Konservatorium of Leipzig. Returning to this country, she toured every state and made several Canadian stage appearances. For five years she was a member of the Indianapolis symphony and of many chamber music groups.

Mrs. Bernat has recently returned from Minneapolis where she played before the national

first as a musician in some time. Her presentations will include three Chopin numbers, Prelude in C Minor, Prelude in B-flat and Ballade in F Minor and The Lark, by Glinski-Balaskiewicz.

Mrs. Bernat will play Allegro Appassionato by Saint-Saens; Nocturne by Borodin; Piece en forme de Habanera by Ravel and Serenade Espagnole by Glazounov.

VOCAL NUMBERS by Mrs. Hawkins will be Stille Sicherheit by Franz Volksliedchen by Schumann; Nocturne by Marx; Und Gestern Hat Er Mir Rosen Gebracht by Marx and Rigacca; Nel Silenzio, from Lucia di Lammermoor, by Donizetti.

Mrs. George Scuter will be assisted by Mrs. William L. Mitchell and Mrs. R. C. Stolte in stage arrangements.

The hospitality chairman, Mrs. Lett Eis, is assisted by Mrs. William P. Dowd, Mrs. Paul Stoeber, Mrs. Robert J. Oldham, Mrs. Arthur Rabeck, Mrs. Walter Anderson and Mrs. William Bradley.

Mrs. Royal Mack heads the committee in charge of the tea which will follow the program. Her assistants will be Mrs. John Maynard, Mrs. Alwata Anderson, Mrs. Charles Lawson, Mrs. Owen S. Hendren and Mrs. Robert Gray. Mrs. I. W. Robertson, Mrs. James Gilen, Mrs. William Bohmeyer and Mrs. Elmer F. Wolinger.

Those former Detroiters who are now living at 1828 Melton? Mrs. I. W. Robertson, Mrs. James Gilen, Mrs. William Bohmeyer and Mrs. Elmer F. Wolinger.

## Delta Gamma Tea Opens Fall Season

The opening tea of Delta Gamma will be held at the home of Mrs. Arthur P. Brookman, 2429 Broadway boulevard, on Tuesday, Oct. 7, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Mrs. William W. Todd is general chairman of the affair. Mrs. Victor Brink and Mrs. Fred J. Finckelauer will greet the guests as they arrive. Mrs. William Schultz is in charge of the tea table and she will be assisted by Mrs. Dexter Norton and Mrs. Nell Dillon.

The tea table will be presided over by Mrs. W. W. Todd, Mrs. E. J. Conway, Mrs. John Mann, Mrs. H. C. Patterson, Mrs. David A. Taylor, Mrs. F. F. Dunning, Mrs. S. K. Thingstad and Mrs. Robert Watt, Jr.

Others working on the arrangements for the event are Miss Hugh E. Higgenbottom, Mrs. Quirk was president of the Michigan Women's League during her senior year. She is a member of the AAWU, and one of its most outstanding affiliates, the group feels the naming of the grant in her honor is most fitting.

Since her graduation she has been with the Red Cross at Fitzsimons Army Hospital, Camp Carson, Denver, Colo.

While in the community will serve with the 20th Station hospital, Bad Kreuznach.

Have You Met . . . Mrs. and Mrs. Robert E. Van Deven who recently moved into their new home at 1576 Melton, from Detroit?

Van Deven is an architectural draftsman with Albert Kahn associates, architectural and engineering firm in Detroit. The couple, like fishing, golf, bowling and model building as their hobbies.

Society deadline is 3 p.m. each Tuesday.

ADDITIONAL SOCIETY NEWS MAY BE FOUND ON Page 2 Part 2

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ALICE H. THURBER

## Education Grant Honors Memory Of City Artist

The Birmingham branch of the AAWU has announced its intention to name this year's international study grant the Alice Hagerman Thurber grant, honoring one of the city's outstanding artists.

Mrs. Thurber, widow of Thomas L. Thurber, died last July at the age of 81.

One of the earliest members of the AAWU, and one of its most outstanding affiliates, the group feels the naming of the grant in her honor is most fitting.

Mrs. Thurber became widely known through her work in water colors and oils. Three of her paintings, "The Red Tree," "Grand Canyon" and "Library in Winter," hang in the Community House. Another, a painting of the

Community House, was given to Mrs. Ruth Shain, by the artist. Mrs. Shain, a personal friend, gave a brief memorial talk on Mrs. Thurber when the AAWU fall meeting was held at the Bloomfield Hills country club.

"SHE WAS KNOWN as a friendly, optimistic and modest person," Mrs. Shain said. "She gave of her time and talents on several occasions, donating pictures which were sold to help raise funds for several organizations."

Mrs. Thurber sold more than 300 paintings. She exhibited in Ann Arbor and New York City, and after the latter showing was acclaimed in the Paris Review.

Born in Birmingham on Woodward avenue, she was a life member of the Detroit Society of Women Painters and has been listed in Who's Who in Art. She attended Oberlin college and the University of Michigan and studied art under Sarkis Sarkisian and Francis D'Erley.

IN ADDITION to the memorial grant, the AAWU is planning to place an art reference book in Baldwin public library, dedicated to the memory of Alice Hagerman Thurber.

Two of Mrs. Thurber's five children are living. Rosemary Thurber is a commercial artist in Detroit and John L. Thurber, a resident of Birmingham.

This grant of \$400 is the fourth such annual award made to a foreign student and is a part of the AAWU's educational program. Funds for the grant come from the book sales which the group sponsors each year. Open to the public, this year's sale is scheduled for Oct. 20-25.

Have You Met . . . Mrs. and Mrs. Roy C. Troutaud of 31200 Inkster? They, and their four children, came here from Cleveland, Ohio. Troutaud is an accountant with the Packard Motor Car company.

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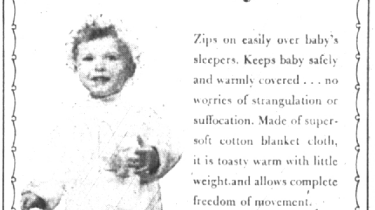
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