

**Pierce School Boy Wins Safety Patrol Honors**

Chris Uppliger, 12 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Uppliger of 847 Bates, will be among the 25,000 safety patrol boys honored for outstanding work at school crossings.

Chris, a student at Pierce elementary school, has been invited to attend the 12th A.A.A. National Safety Patrol assembly at a guest of the Auto Club.

He will join 100 other Michigan patrol boys on a train leaving for the nation's capitol on May 7. The boys will meet government officials, be taken on a tour of the city and take part in the annual parade down Constitution avenue. The return home is scheduled for May 10.



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BIRMINGHAM OFFICE: WABEEK BUILDING

**Birds Busy Preparing Homes for Fledglings**

By LYDIA KING FRESHE  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Centric

One of the most arresting aspects of bird behavior is that of nest building with all its feverish activity. Now in early spring most species are in the midst of their first brooding period and many will nest again. The robin and redbird will raise two broods, the mocking bird three and the English sparrow will hatch one brood after another until summer's end.

Using their nesting habits as a criterion birds may be divided into two groups—social and practical.

Those belonging to the first group make their nests above the ground—out of the reach of many of their enemies, their eggs are usually small and brightly colored or spotted to blend with the surrounding shade. The fledglings are born naked and blind and need to be fed and sheltered for several weeks before they are able to fend for themselves.

In contrast to this group, practical birds build a more careless nest on the ground or lay their eggs in bare places. Their eggs are larger and the young are born covered with down. Since they are so unprotected from enemies, many of them are able to swim or walk at once and can fend for themselves as soon as they are dry. Gophers, ducks and snipe are included in this group.

BIRD NESTS present an endless variety in materials and manner of construction.

From our breakfast nook window we have been watching a pair of robins about building their nest. They struggled for four

days to use a narrow strip of cloth about four feet long, only to be disappointed in the length of it so that they had to begin the project all over time and again. Finally they succeeded in cutting about half its length in the heat, while the other half was being torn down like a bell-shaped cone.

WE SAW a yellow warbler making hundreds of trips while lining its nest, returning each time with a tiny load full of tannin from the fruitless front of the cinnamom fern. Bird nests have been found in old hats and shoes, in the pocket of a coat, in the folds of a blanket, on trash heaps or in farm machinery left resting for a day.

Some birds use only one or two of a few specific materials. The gold finch uses the soft down of last year's pine needles. Little blue jays have seen the dipper or water ouzel of the northwest fly through a hole in the roof of a bird's nest, its home of living moss cemented to the rock wall back of a slender cavity.

WHILE OBSERVING birds who frequent the brush forest of the Maine coast, we saw the parula warbler fashioning her nest of grass and twigs. In some isolated northern shrubs the cedar duck picks the softest of down from her own breast. In the case of a shallow depression in the ground in which both eggs and young are raised and protected from enemies.

The hummingbird builds the finest nest of all—a little cup of plant down, lined with fine grass, green lichen, scummed there with the silk of spider's web. In Arizona we found the nest of the tanager wren, hidden in the prickly cholla—safe from the rodent and reptile of the desert.

The crested flycatcher shapes a discarded snake's skin to line her nest while the brush thrasher of Australia incubates her eggs by burying them in great mounds of earth where the heat of the sun's rays does her tedious work for her.

The kingfisher and the bank swallow live in holes in the ground. The puffin and stormy petrel of our North Atlantic coast lay two white eggs in the bottom of a vertical burrow as much as two feet deep. The barn swallow makes her nest and with it the people use this same material to construct their houses to some overhanging roof or to the timbers under a bridge.

THE MOTHER robin makes a lining of soft mud, molding it to the shape of her body by repeated burrows. Woodpeckers excavate holes in trees and lay their round white eggs in these dark recesses, which may be used at another season by owls to lay to make their own nests. The burrowing owl propitiates the hole of a skunk, fox or badger.

Nuthatches, chickadees and bluebirds use natural cavities in tree stumps or fence posts. The sandpiper gathers only a few pieces of driftwood to encase her mottled eggs which are protectively colored to match the surrounding sand and shells. Many island nesting birds like the cormorant, lay their eggs on the bare rock.

Egrets, spoonbills, ducks and herons make careless nests of sticks. The Baltimore Oriole weaves a neat nest of fine grasses, twigs and rootlets and hangs it high on the end of a swinging branch of elm. The oven bird is

**Assigned To Duty In European Area**

Capt. Adolph Bruhl, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sara Bruhl, 302 Park, recently returned home after attending Medical Field Service School, Brooks Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Tex.

The class, made up of officers recently called to duty in the Medical Corps, Dental Corps, Veterinary Corps and Medical Service Corps, comprised a four week orientation in military medical services.

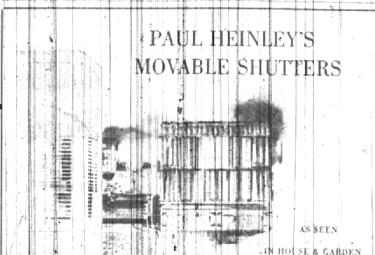
Capt. Bruhl will be sent to Bremerhaven, Germany, where he will be given a further course in orientation before being permanently assigned to a European station.

**Will Discuss Mortgage Market at Realtor Meet**

Robert Penze, president of the Detroit Mortgage and Realty company will speak at the noon meeting of the Birmingham Real Estate board today (April 22). His topic will be "The Mortgage Market—Your Success or Failure in It."

The program will be held at Northwood Inn, Berkley.

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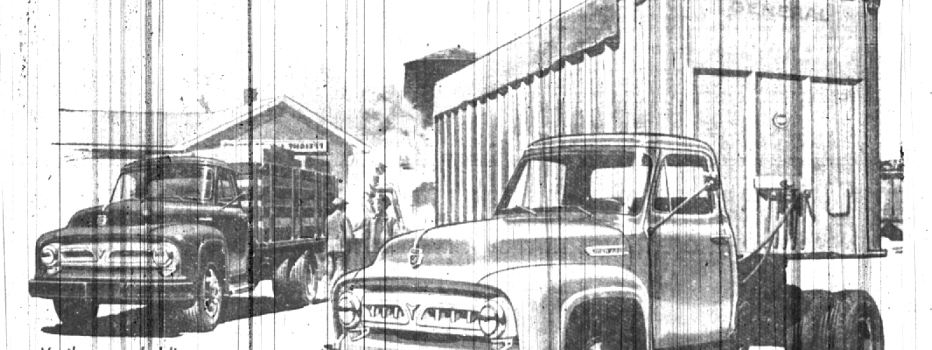
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