

**PLAY IT SAFE!**  
**A Basement Need Not Be A Firetrap**

The "nerve center" of every home is the basement. It is also the spot where one-third of all home fires originate.

Such fires are often very difficult for firemen to control, especially when there are stacks of combustible rubbish for flames to feed on. For this reason it pays to inspect your basement periodically. Do you know what to look for? Let us help you with the following suggestions:

1. Look to see whether there are piles of waste papers, oily rags or discarded furniture around. If so, they should be removed from the basement. Firewood should be neatly piled or placed in a bin away from waste papers and rags which may cause spontaneous heating.
2. CHECK your sink containers. They should be metal. Putting hot ashes against wood has caused many fires.
3. Turn your attention to the furnace and smoke pipe. Are there any wood partitions, ceiling or other combustible materials too close to either of these (charring of wood, blistering of paint or wood that is not where you hold your hand against it are signs that

the temperature is dangerously high.

Poorly supported and corroded smoke pipes also present a fire hazard and a serious threat to your life.

4. If there is a workroom in the basement be sure there are no shavings on the work bench and that paints, varnishes, oils and turpentine are correctly stored.

5. ELECTRICAL distribution channels are usually installed and fused in the basement. They should be examined for proper fusing. In most cases only 15 ampere fuses should be used for standard house wiring circuits.

"PLAY IT SAFE!" Look for and correct any of these hazards in your basement. Protect your home and loved ones against fire. Birmingham Fire Dept.

**NATURE NOW**  
**Soil Forms the Basis Of Life's Continuity**

By LYDIA KING FREHSE  
 Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Soil is the basis of our life. By its culture, civilizations have grown mighty; by its neglect they have been buried in the sands of time.

To many of us soil is nothing more or less than the flat or hilly surface over which we walk to store or office. But it is in truth the very source of our life. It was long in the making and upon its wise usage rests all our future.

present contours. This huge mass of ice left in its wake countless tons of glacial debris. Bed rock was reforged bare to form plains, moraines, and dunes. Our five great lakes and our present river systems were established.

Each by inch as a sand south-plains that had been pushed southward by the ice returned to its ancient communities were re-established, animals followed to populate them and soils were slowly buried as calcium, potassium, magnesium, iron, phosphorus and sulphur.

Our land was greatly in content and productivity even within a limited range! The soils of our day are the result of their composition. Locked within these soils are the mineral essential for plant growth—nitrogen, calcium, potassium, magnesium, iron, phosphorus and sulphur.

THEN DURING the last million years a series of glacial ages began. Five times great masses of ice—as much as two miles thick—slowly crept down from the arctic region.

When the last of these retreated about 25,000 years ago, what is now Michigan was subjected to its



**Mrs. Wm. Merrill To Address 13th Planning Institute**

Birmingham's club leaders and program chairmen are invited to attend the 13th Annual Program Planning Institute Tuesday, April 21, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m., in the Eckham Memorial, 50 Farmersworth, Detroit.

An adult education project sponsored jointly by 56 community groups under the general chairmanship of Mrs. Gow A. BeBel, the Institute aims to help leaders plan vital life-enriching programs and secure maximum membership participation in these programs.

Mrs. William G. Merrill, West Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, president of the Michigan Federation of Women's Clubs, will give the keynote speech at the first general session: "The Lifeblood of an Organization—Its Program."

CONCURRENT discussion groups will consider: conducting successful meetings; strengthening your organization; planning social programs, and methods and techniques of preseting programs.

Ray R. Eppert, vice-chairman, Michigan Society for Mental Health, will address the luncheon session on the topic: "What Price Mental Health?"

Dr. Dorothy M. Perry, 703 Colonial Ct., Birmingham, instructor in its College of Education at Wayne University, will serve as a resource person in sectional discussion on "Conducting Successful Meetings."

The small registration fee includes a copy of the new 1953 Manual, "Profitable Program Planning," a 20-page idea book of program suggestions in 11 major fields of interest.

be received not later than April 16 by Chairman of Reservations, Mrs. Lloyd Patterson, Room 306, 51 W. Warren, Detroit (1).

Further information and copies of the Institute announcement may be secured from the Detroit Federation of Women's Clubs.

General news deadline is 4:30 p.m. each Tuesday.

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Our last year was greatly in content and productivity even within a limited range! The soils of our day are the result of their composition. Locked within these soils are the mineral essential for plant growth—nitrogen, calcium, potassium, magnesium, iron, phosphorus and sulphur.

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**Admiralty Lawyer Joins NY Firm**

ALLAN LUTZ

Alhan B. Lutz, 694 Half Moon, Bloomfield Village, admiralty lawyer, who has been one of Detroit's strongest backers for the St. Lawrence Seaway, left recently for New York City where he is accepting a partnership in Hill, Epkins, Middleton, Louis & Warburton.

During his twelve years away from New York Mr. Lutz has been active both in the courts and out protecting and developing American shipping and marine facilities. As Special Assistant to the Attorney General during the war he worked for protection and operation of American and British ships all over the globe.

In Detroit he had a large part in obtaining for the Great Lakes the converted C-4s, five of which ships are now operating as one carriers of self-loaders on the Great Lakes. He is presently assisting in the formation of a Company in evolving an all water freight line from the Great Lakes to Europe.

LAST YEAR in Washington Mr. Lutz prepared the case for the Seaway at the Senate Hearings. He was secretary and counsel on the Waterfront Property Owners Committee which worked with the Detroit Plan Commission in development of the Riverfront Park. More recently he represented the operators in arranging dock facilities for the Bob-Lo boats in the new Civic Center.

In addition to the various offices held by Lutz in the Propeller Club, he was also active in the Etominia Club as Program Chairman of their Foreign Affairs Section. He is a past president of the Men's Club, Christ Church, Cranbrook, and chairman of the Community House Institute for the past two years.

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