

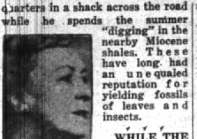
**NATURE NOW**

**Ancient Plant Forms Revealed in Fossils**

By LYDIA KING FREHSE  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

It is morning and we are en route from Colorado Springs to Florissant, by way of the famous Ute Pass. If you turn off Highway 24 at Florissant and take the road to Cripple Creek you will have circled Pike's Peak and come to the famous district where, 60 years ago, the richest gold mine the world has ever seen was located.

But today we stop at Florissant. Friends have introduced us to the postmistress, who is ironing a shirt in one corner of the livingroom. Another corner is relegated to the post office. We send the usual postcards, and the postmistress introduces us to a learned paleontologist from the East. He makes his head-



Mrs. Frehse  
Cripple Creek road 2 1/2 miles to the small museum that marks the site of an ancient petrified forest on the shores of what was once Lake Florissant.

Here stands the stump of the world's largest petrified tree, a giant redwood which lived 5,000 years before petrification. Its height at that time is estimated to have been 350 feet and its circumference 75 feet. Scattered over the nearby area are

stumps of some of its companions. These include poplar, cottonwood, ash, walnut and sycamore. Buried in the underlying shales are many others, some varieties of which are now growing only in faraway China, Mexico and the West Indies.

NOW, BEFORE the professor arrives, let us turn back the pages of time some 25 million years. The morning is warm, and we stand on a sloping hill overlooking a small valley covered with a forest of giant redwoods and broad-leaved trees. It is bordered by low hills of ash, burying many of the tree trunks and building up a dam across the stream, forming a lake about nine miles long. On its shores some of the plant and animal life of the area continue to live.

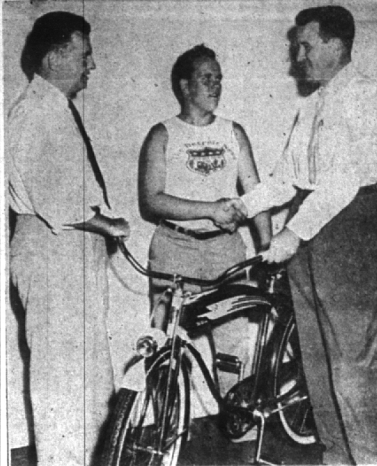
The volcanoes erupted periodically for many years, sending out clouds of hot dust, ash and cinders. Many of the trees burned. The wind broke the branches and scattered the leaves of others. The smoke and gas killed insects which, together with all kinds of plant life, became imbedded in the clouds of ash which fell on the water. Year after year the stream carried tons of sediment into the quiet lake depositing it in layers, covering leaves, branches, flowers and insects.

GRADUALLY these layers turned to shale, while the life imprisoned there decayed and left a great variety of fossil imprints. Many years passed. Finally a huge mud flow filled the entire area and the lake drained off. When this protective cover hardened, it preserved from erosion the lower shales, which held for all time a record of the life of this little valley.

During the last 75 years collectors from museums and universities have come here to uncover and name thousands of varieties of plants and insects. Since the period is a recent one in geologic time, many of the species closely resemble those of today. Others are long since extinct, and some grow only in faraway places.

HOWEVER, WHAT has been uncovered represents only a small percentage of the teeming life which once flourished in this little valley.

With the arrival of the professor, we repaired to his own private "diggings". The shale is deposited in thin layers which are so soft and brittle that they can be separated with a kitchen knife. When a lucky piece is found it can be re-split with a razor blade, revealing the thrilling imprint of a leaf, seed or insect. In a short half day we found two varieties of redwood, leaves of magnolia, myrtle, sweetgale, willow and oak. Our choice specimens included several seeds, the wide leaf of a

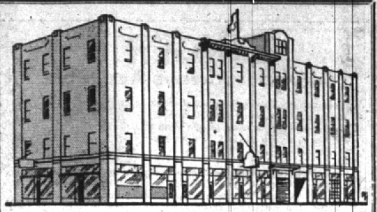


IT'S A GREAT DAY FOR George Close, 376 Southfield, 13-year-old Holy Name school student, as he accepts his bicycle from Soap Box Derby officials at North Chevrolet company. George registered the fastest time among eight Birmingham entrants at the July 25 running of the Derby at River Rouge. North held a dinner at Kingsley Inn for the boys Wednesday night, Aug. 12. Making the presentation are George McCann, left, district manager of the Soap Box Derby, and Ed Peters, his assistant. (Eccentric Staff Photo)

cat tail and two insects, one a small fat bee and another resembling our crane fly, its long legs doubled under its body. The shale is light in color, thus making an excellent background for the imprints which darters as time destroys the original material. Every detail of the tissue is preserved so that the scientist can study its structure. By adding his knowledge of the age and kind of rock in which the fossils are found, he has been able to reconstruct the story of much of the life that has gone before.

NO SMALL part of the success of the morning was the professor's authoritative placement of what we were uncovering, plus his friendly and well disposed remarks about a subject which, for him, includes not only the fossils but all of life.

Before leaving this spot we stand a moment on the rolling plain which was once Lake Florissant. Now low hills mark the old valley walls and the earth is warm and fragrant under the big ponderosa pines. In our hands are two boxes filled with carefully wrapped layers of shale, whereon in delicate pattern of leaf and vein. Time is imprinted and will forever stand still.



You Are Cordially Invited to Inspect  
**OUR MODERN STORAGE**  
Built Especially to Store Household Goods  
LOCAL AND LONG DISTANCE MOVING  
**Gaulker Storage Co.**  
9 Orchard Lake Ave., Pontiac, Mich.  
Dial "O" ask for Enterprise 6305

**ALL DRYCLEANING**  
Given The Original  
**VIVIPRESS PROCESS**  
Garments are resized to restore original lustre and feel.

**DRYCLEANING**

IN BY 10 OUT BY 5

**Douglas Cleaning Co.**  
PICK-UP and DELIVERY  
David J. Underdown, Owner  
534 S. Woodward MI 4-1507

Never before such elegance in a rugged all around jacket of supple, soft resistant, water repellent suede leather

**the MORTIMER Holiday Suede Jacket \$47.50**

Tailored of fine imported leathers... split for extra softness, extra comfort. Treated to a special finish to keep it from spotting, to shed the rain. Fully lined... deep, pleated pockets.

**Mortimer's**  
MEN'S STYLE CENTER  
123 West Maple



Put more Spring in your Step...  
by putting more Cash in the Bank!

Enjoy the confident feeling that comes with knowing you have a dependable cash backlog. Start a bank account here—and deposit regularly.

**THE BIRMINGHAM NATIONAL BANK**  
BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN  
Member Federal Reserve System  
Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

**LEGAL NOTICES**

**SYNOPSIS**  
SYNOPSIS OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE SOUTHFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD HELD ON AUGUST 11, 1953.  
Present: Rosser, Campbell, Chapman, Wm. Brodhead, Lane, Adams.  
Approved minutes of previous meeting. Tabled request for Class "C" license until all previous applications are re-considered.  
Requested new petition for Berg Road.  
Accepted Treasurer's Report on Special Assessment District.  
Approved petition for Water Main extension Logansport and 2nd Ave. hearing August 18th to hear objections to Special.  
Adopted amendments to Zoning Ordinance No. 14, establishing a "C-1" zone and to re-zone from R-2 to T-2 property described as the high school of the M.E.A. on the northern 400 feet, Section 22.  
Authorized Township Commission to cut weeds in Township.  
Accepted petition for purchase of Police Car from Herkell Motor Sales.  
Adopted amendments to Zoning Ordinance to re-zone properties in Sections 22 and 27 from R-1 to R-2 and from R-2 to R-1.  
Approved restaurant, subject which, for Ester Bank Golf and Mabel Hall, 21970 Eight Mile Road.  
Extended permit for completion of Sportsman's Club.  
Authorized top soil removal permit on Lot 184, Washington Village subdivision.

**WM. ROESER**  
Wm. Rosser, Supervisor  
**FANNIE ADAMS**  
Fannie Adams, Clerk

Clarence W. Blenman, Atty. 207 Wabash Bldg., Birmingham, Mich.

**STATE OF MICHIGAN**—In the Probate Court for the County of Oakland.  
In the Matter of the Estate of ALICE MAY BOLLMAN, Deceased.  
At a session of said Court, held at the Court House in the City of Pontiac, in said County, on the 18th day of July, A. D. 1953.  
Present, Honorable Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.  
Bertrand E. Bollman, administrator of said estate having filed in said Court his final account and petition praying for the examination and allowance thereof, determination of the debts and unpaid claims, assignment of the residue of said estate, and the discharge of said administrator.  
It is Ordered, that the 18th day of August, A. D. 1953, at nine o'clock in the forenoon of the said day, in the Court House in the City of Pontiac, Michigan, be and is hereby appointed as the time and place for hearing said petition.  
It is Further Ordered, that public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy of this order, once each week, for three successive weeks previous to said day of hearing, in the Birmingham Eccentric, a newspaper printed and circulated in said County, and that notice be given to the heirs-at-law named in this cause, and to creditors whose claims have been allowed but not fully paid, by personal service of a copy of this order, or by serving the same by registered mail with return receipts demanded, addressed to their respective last known addresses as shown by the files and records in this case.  
**ARTHUR E. MOORE,**  
Judge of Probate  
31, 22, 23

**STERNAL'S**  
for  
**RCA Television Radios and Record Players**  
FREE CUSTOMER PARKING  
In Rear of Store  
Open Friday evening to 9:00

Call Midwest 4-1100 to place an Eccentric Classified Ad.

**TYPEWRITERS' ADDING MACHINES REPAIRED**  
New and Rebuilt Typewriters For Sale—Rentals  
**Birmingham Printing**  
369 EAST MAPLE • MI 4-4740

**Harold B. Brown BROADLOOM CLEARANCE**

Exceptional Savings on fine All Wool  
• WILTONS • TWISTS • LOOP-PILE

**Textured Wool Broadloom**  
In high and low ripple pile. \$7.50 sq. yd.  
• Cinnamon • Gray

**4 Ply Wool Twist**  
Thick, heavy, rich pile — long wearing and durable, slightly irregular. \$8.50 sq. yd.  
• Beige

**Sculptured Wool Wilton**  
Sculptured effect in high and low pile... a fine thick broadloom, made to suit \$11.95. \$8.95 sq. yd.  
• Sandalwood • Grey • Green • Cinnamon

**Heavy Wool Ripple**  
Loop pile texture, looks like Persian Lamb—an outstanding buy at this price. \$10.95 sq. yd.  
• Green • Beige • Gray • Cinnamon • Lime Green

**TWIST CANDY STRIPE** \$4.75 sq. yd.  
Heavy Quality Clear Colors And What A Price!

**Harold B. Brown CARPETS and RUGS**  
2863 Woodward Between 11 and 12 Mile Roads  
Open Mon., Thurs., Friday 9 P.M., We Give J.N. Green Stamps Budget Terms Available LI 2-9595 JO 4-6373

**PECK'S Cash and Carry**  
Plain Dresses, \$1.50  
Suits, Topsuits  
CLEANED and PRESSED  
Free Delivery PHONE MI 4-7724  
SEVEN  
WOODWARD—NEAR MAPLE