

WE HEARD IT SAID BY—  
BROOKS W. H. P. L. E., 1955  
Lincoln court: "There is a fear  
by Birmingham residents that  
constant zoning changes will ruin  
the character of the city. But I'm  
happy to learn that the city com-  
mission has been pretty success-  
ful holding the line against rezoning  
requests."

**NATURE NOW**

**Artist Immortalized  
Lordly Wild Turkey**

By LYDIA KING PREHSE  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

The time is 1823. The place is Edinborough. The characters are John James Audubon, an unknown bird painter from the young American wilderness, and the great Lizards, then judged to be the best engraver in the British Isles.

The frontiersman was dressed in the sturdy clothes of his kind; his long hair was smoothed down with bear's grease. Slowly he took the bulky portfolio from under his arm, gently he placed it on the polished table.

Between its covers lay heart-break and delight. There concealed his love of the great American wilderness.

Shuffling through the big sheets, Lizard's expression also was changed from indifference to interest and to delight.

After he had finished he exclaimed, "I have never seen anything like this before. The people do not know who you are, but depend upon it, they shall know."

WITH THIS encounter began the wave of recognition which was to encompass and reward half a lifetime of struggle and creative effort and which was to lead to the publication in London in 1827-30 of the "Birds of America."

It is fitting that the first illustration in this famed collection should be that of the wild turkey gobbler for then as now, he was America's largest and most spectacular game bird.

Audubon painting in what was then a revolutionary style, caught the bird in his native habitat; striding through the canebrake, the sunlight gleaming on his coppery and iridescent plumage.

His long gobbler's beard of black bristles is swaying in the breeze; his red legs armed with strong fighting claws are striding over the leaf-strewn earth.

IN ADDITION to his painting, Audubon left the day by day journal of his trips down the Ohio, the Mississippi and the Missouri.

Travelling slowly by flatboat, he took time for much leisurely exploration of the wilderness. He also left many bird biographies including one of the wild turkey.

Audubon reports that in those days when autumn came, the gobblers would gather into great flocks to move gradually toward the rich lands of the river bottoms. The hens were still busy guarding their families of half-grown chicks and would travel in separate parties intent on gathering the seeds, nuts and fruits which were falling to the ground.

Both parties followed the same course, taking wing only when

first leading them to higher ground where they would keep dry.

Thus the little family foraged over woodlot and clearing finding the grain, fruit and nuts which the wilderness so abundantly provided. They were especially fond of pecans and wild grapes.

Sometimes they dined on beetles, tadpoles and small lizards. With the coming of winter the flocks were again united and by early spring they were ready to repeat the pattern of their kind, being joined by the young cocks and hens in the same courting play of the previous season.

LIKE THE passenger pigeon and the buffalo, the wild turkey belonged to the great American wilderness.

A remnant of his kind is yet to be found in our South Eastern states where he has retreated to the hinterland and where he lives out this same life-cycle in what is left of the virgin woods and swamps.

Because the wild turkey is such a splendid target, a great effort is being made by game commissions to restore him to more accessible areas. This plan has been successful, especially in Virginia and Pennsylvania, where a hunter can once more return from the field carrying a bronze gobbler over his shoulder.

But no one can restore those rich autumns of the long ago. For the wildlife of the great American wilderness is gone, taking with it the young painter who walked in the sun-drenched woods, his sketch book under his arm.

Loving that rich land as few men have loved it, he has preserved for us much of its essence and its beauty.



LONG LINES — Vertical stripes emphasize the long, sleek lines of bathing beauty Esther Claire as she poses for photographers on the shores of Miami Beach, Fla.

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**BLUE CROSS-BLUE SHIELD**  
is now more important than ever before!

**PLAY IT SAFE!**  
How Ready Is Your Help For Danger?

If you employ domestic help including part-time maids, baby sitters, etc., it is to your benefit that they have certain information.

There are many occasions when these persons are in your home alone. For this reason you want to be sure that if a fire or other emergency should occur your home is in safe hands.

Believe it or not, it is not unusual for the fire department to get a call and the party calling (generally the domestic help) having no idea where they are located.

LISTED BELOW are a few items of information which will, if imparted to your help, put your mind at ease when you are away from home.

1. Be sure they know what fire department to contact and the phone number. This item is especially important if you live on the out-skirts of town. You may be in the city or in the township limits and the first few minutes of any fire are most important. Don't waste them. Know your fire department!
2. Next, your street and house number; be sure they know it. Birmingham does not have fire alarm boxes and it is very important that the correct address is given over the phone.
3. THEY SHOULD be instructed in the operation of the thermostat control of the heating unit. They should know that if anything goes wrong with this unit they are to turn the thermostat as low as it will go, to prevent the burner from coming on immediately, and call the fire department giving the address and nature of the trouble.
4. Domestic help should be instructed not to burn papers outside on windy days and never close to buildings, fences or shrubbery. The fire department is equipped with an inhalator and a rescuer with a crew trained to administer oxygen in cases of drowning, failure to breathe, etc. You and your help are entitled to the above services of the fire department. So, "Play It Safe!" Know and have your help know where, how, what and when to call for the services of the fire department.

Prepared as a public service by members of the BIRMINGHAM FIRE DEPT.

News copy submitted early is necessarily given preference, so the "early bird" usually gets the spaw.

**LEGAL NOTICES**

Oliver H. Kirk, Atty., 207 Wabash Bldg., Birmingham, Mo. 41292

STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court in the County of Oakland, in the Matter of the Estate of MARY THETA B. CAMPBELL, Deceased.

In a judgment of said Court, made at the Probate Court in the City of Pontiac, in said County, on the 23rd day of November, A.D. 1953.

Present, Honorable Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

Order appointing time for hearing.

Notice is hereby given and it is hereby ordered that the time and place for hearing the claims against the estate of said decedent shall be the 5th day of February, 1954, at nine o'clock the Court will be in session at the Court House at the City of Pontiac, Michigan.

All creditors or claimants against the above estate are further notified and ordered to prove their claims at said hearing and prior to said hearing. No written claim therefor, with this Court and with the fiduciary of this estate under oath, containing sufficient detail to enable the fiduciary to determine the nature and amount of the claim.

ARTHUR E. MOORE,  
Judge of Probate  
11-27-53

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