

'For Free' Advice Is Usually Worth What It Cost You

By HELEN BRUNSON
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

A widowed friend of mine tells me that she thinks advice is "nix."

Since she was widowed three years ago, she's received tons and tons of advice—all free, and all (or nearly all) worthless. Her mentors consisted of relatives, friends and strangely enough, mere acquaintances.

They consulted her as to her health, her clothes, her job and her business affairs. On the latter subject, a few even offered to help her invest, or spend, her modest inheritance.

All professed they wished more than anything to help her and, of course, giving her advice was the best way they could do it without its costing them anything.

SO MUCH unsolicited counsel did she receive that she developed a special technique in dealing with her advisers. She listens with rapt attention while they deliver their sage judgment, says "M-hmm" and then promptly forgets what they say.

The trouble with people who are constantly advising is that they can manage your affairs so much better than they can their own.

This was demonstrated to me this summer when we had, on successive week ends, three different houseguests.

WE HAVE a large screened terrace attached to our garage, separate from the house and reached by going out a side door and following a short stone walk into the back yard. It faces the flower-gardens and we enjoy it very much.

But each of our guests advised in turn, "What you ought to do is:"

1. Cut a door at the back of the house and build a walk from it to the terrace.
2. Build another terrace on the back of the house.
3. Tear the present terrace off the garage and rebuild it on the side of the house.

SINCE EACH of these ideas is costly, I began reflecting on the way these three manage their own terraces.

I recalled that not one of the three has a screened porch of any kind. All three sit outdoors all summer and let the bugs bite them!

Most advice-givers preface their remarks with: "If I were you", and therein lies the flaw. They aren't you and therefore don't know all the angles of your problem. That's why their suggestions don't fit and won't work.

Asking advice from friends can be hazardous too, because when you ask guidance of a friend and receive it, you're stuck with it.

Suppose you have a new cherry red coat and ask friend whether to get a matching red hat or a silvery metallic one to contrast.

SHE ADVISES the matching one, but you find a dowdier silver one and buy it. Thereafter you must explain to her why you ignored her recommendation.

And so advice is "nix". The ones who ask for it, wish they hadn't, and the ones who are always dishing it out find their advice don't want it and won't take it as a gift.

Good and usable advice can be had from experienced investment counselors, architects, good doctors and honest lawyers. It costs money but it's worth it. The other kind is usually worth just what you pay for it.

College Center's Fifth Anniversary

Smith College's Davis Student Center celebrated the fifth anniversary of its opening last week. The opening house, featured a five-tier birthday cake, baby orchids, a sophomore at the Northampton, Mass., college, she is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James G. Neal, College Chamber Singers.



THE PASTIME of "gliding over the snow" is becoming more popular each season as is evidenced by the number of winter vacationers who enjoy the thrilling and healthful recreation. Where skiing started, no one knows, its beginning goes back so far and it was not a sport in those days but a means of getting over the deep snows. Ski enthusiasts, Mr. and Mrs. Von D. Polhemus, 26515 Captains Lane, Franklin, and their daughters, Joan and Susan, are enjoying the sport at Mont Tremblant Lodge, famous winter resort in the Laurentian Mountains of Quebec.

It is the normal hope of every loving father to become a king to his children, for every mother to be a queen. It is well within the understanding and faith of children to so consider their parents. Families thus reared are happy families.

COLE Workshops' Training Courses Aid SOC Leaders

Co-ordinated Leadership Education Committee is sponsoring four workshops for leaders, committee members, parents and other adults interested in Camp Fire Girls, Girl Scouts and Y-Teens.

Interested adults should register immediately with their education or training chairman. The Birmingham training chairman for Girl Scout leaders is Mrs. Charles R. DeWitt, 1259 Parkers Lane. Camp Fire registrants should contact the South Oakland County Training chairman, Mrs. C. D. Cole, 2678 Phillips, Berkeley. Registration for all workshops is free.

SPECIALIST creative dramatics, Mrs. Ellen Meyer, will instruct the workshop "Games and Make-beliefs" for leaders of all age groups. Games, skits, pantomimes, charades, plot situations and adapting plays from good literature will be taught.

Dates for this workshop are Tuesday, March 2 and 9, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The location is Redford Presbyterian church, 1600 1/2 Avenue near Grand River and Lahser.

The second workshop will be directed by instructors from Wayne University school of art education and is called "Craft for Blue Birds and Brownies." Instructions will be given for making objects from scraps and low cost materials, with emphasis placed on gay table and room decorations. The class will be held at Geu church, West McNichols at Oak drive, on Wednesday, March 3 and 10, from 12:45 to 3 p.m.

PHIL LUCASSE of the university of Michigan Extension service will be the co-ordinator in the "Leaders' Question Corner" for leaders of all age groups who have had at least three months recent experience with any children's group. He will conduct the class at Geu church on Thursdays, March 11, 18, 25 and April 1, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Mrs. Richard Gabor, former faculty member of the division of health education and athletics at Wayne University will instruct the workshop "Songs, Games and Singing Games for Blue Birds and Brownies." The activities are designed to aid children in development of imagination and in rhythmic expression. The group also meets at Geu church on Mondays, March 15, 22 and 29, from 7:30 to 10 p.m.

Seniors Take Honors At Agriculture Dinner

Richard Hartmann of Southfield Township and Donald J. Fryer of East Lansing, seniors, took top honors Tuesday night in the Michigan State College school of Agriculture. They led the list of honor students listed at the annual Agriculture banquet at People's church.

Richard is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John E. Hartmann, 25115 Farmbrook.

Society deadline is 3 p.m. each Tuesday.

The Birmingham Eccentric

Thursday, February 25, 1954

SECTION 4

Hills Garden Branch Plans March Meet

The March meeting of Bloomfield Hills branch of the Women's National Farm and Garden association will feature Mrs. Mary M. Streit speaking on "Do It Yourself in Lumber and Plants."

Mrs. Horace P. Shaw was hostess at the last luncheon meeting when it was announced that the next meeting will be at 1:30 p.m., March 14 at Christ Church, Cranbrook. Mrs. P. M. Thomas is chairman of the program.

Mrs. Streit is the wife of Dr. William F. Streit, the mother of two children and vice president of the City Lumber company. She recently returned from attending the first training course for women in the lumber industry, held in Oklahoma.

SHE IS a graduate of the University of Wisconsin and is vice chairman of the state central committee of the Republican party for two years and a teacher in the Detroit public schools. Prior to her marriage she also managed a book shop on Farmer street.

Mrs. Streit makes her own children's clothes and costumes and she and her husband have recently repainted a room in striped plywood. Her most recent assignment was to design the "Do It Yourself" show at the Women's City club, held Feb. 23 and 24. For the Garden club program, she will use mounted pictures and exhibits.

Following the program, tea will be served by Mrs. W. C. Ferguson and Mrs. John D. Tishbin, assisted by their hospitality committee. Participating will be Mrs. Lester L. Colbert, Mrs. Raymond Derringer, Mrs. Felix Bruner, Mrs. Albert Clarke, Mrs. Howard Harrington, Mrs. Donald O'Toole, Mrs. James Longwell, Mrs. G. J. Huebner, and Mrs. William Kahn.

Presiding at the tea-table will be Mrs. Donald James and Mrs. Edward P. Turner.

Have You Met . . .

Mr. and Mrs. John W. Chenault, 391 Tilbury road, who moved from Detroit? Chenault is manager of Fleet Sales department, Central Regional Sales Office of Ford Division of Ford Motor company. They have one daughter, Mary Anne, who is a junior at Michigan State college and is affiliated with Kappa Kappa Gamma. Mrs. Chenault is a graduate of Ward Belmont of Nashville, Tenn. Her husband was graduated from the University of Kentucky where he was a member of Sigma Chi. He is a mason, a member of the Scottish Rite and Moslem Temple of Detroit and member of the Oakland Hills Country Club.

Household Goods of every description are offered for sale in the Classified Columns of The Birmingham Eccentric.

Family Favorites

Stuffed Fish, Brazilian Style

(Editor's note: "Family Favorites" is a series of recipes gathered from people in the Birmingham area. If you have a recipe you would like to share with other readers, we urge you to send it to the Society Editor of The Eccentric. Or at a friend's home you may have enjoyed a special dish and believe it should be featured in this column. If so, let us know the cook's name and we will contact her (or him).

F. G. Garrison, 577 Westwood, has traveled extensively through South America and has brought back with her the recipes of many typical South American dishes.

One of her favorites is Stuffed Fish, Brazilian style, which she has made several times and which she says is very good.

While the preparation may look complicated, Mrs. Garrison said that the dish is really not hard to put together. The only thing to be careful about is the cooking of the shrimp and the oysters. Too hot a fire or over-long cooking, will make them tough.

The fish, blue fish or any good fish, is baked with the head left on, for that is the Brazilian way.

MRS. F. G. GARRISON

- PEIXE (FISH) RECHEADO (STUFFED)
- 1 fish, weight 3 pounds
 - 24 shrimp
 - 18 oysters
 - 1 teaspoon cornstarch
 - 1 chopped onion
 - 1 onion, sliced in rings
 - 6 peppercorns
 - 1 tablespoon chopped parsley
 - 1 bay leaf
 - 2 tablespoons melted butter
 - 1 scant cup bread crumbs
 - 1/2 cups white wine
 - salt and pepper

Leave the head on the fish, wash fish and place in roasting pan with chopped onion, peppercorns, parsley, bay leaf and butter.

Scald shrimp, remove shells and turn them over gently in a frying pan, frying with butter until they are a golden brown, over a slow fire.

Add bread crumbs, salt and pepper and 1 teaspoon of the mixture in the roasting pan or until the mixture is the right consistency for dressing—not too wet.

Stuff the fish with this dressing, sew it up and put it back in roasting pan. Put the onion rings all around it. Pour over it one cup white wine. As the fish is baking, taste frequently and as the fish dries while baking, add the last 1/2 cup of wine a little at a time.

When the fish begins to brown, it is slow fire put the oysters in a covered pan and cook them over a slow fire until their edges begin to curl. Turn them into the roasting pan with the fish and stir in the mixture of cornstarch mixed with a little water in the sauce in the pan.

When the sauce is thickened, put the fish on a platter, surround it with theysters and the sauce. (Strain the sauce if you wish.) Serves 4-6 people.



MRS. CHARLES R. WILLIAMS

Mary Anne Foster Wed In Afternoon Ceremony

A white antique taffeta gown was worn by Mary Anne Foster for her marriage Saturday to Dr. Charles Robert Williams. The Rev. Robert DeWitt performed the single ring ceremony at 4 o'clock in the afternoon at Christ Church, Cranbrook.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sparkman Deats Foster of Quanton road, Bloomfield Hills. Dr. Williams' parents are Mr. and Mrs. Charles Noble of Detroit.

Dr. Robert Poole and Dr. Freeman Wilner.

MRS FOSTER chose a cocktail length gown of silver-green antique taffeta and matching accessories, with a cluster of pink calla lilies pinned to her purse. Mrs. Williams was dressed in champagne taffeta with beige and cocoa accessories. Her shoes, green or chibis, were also pinned to her purse.

Orchard Lake Country Club was the scene of the wedding reception, immediately following the ceremony. The new Mrs. Williams changed to a winter navy suit with navy coat and accessories and red shoes. The couple will enjoy a two-week skiing trip in Northern Michigan, returning to their home on Ewald circle after March 1.

The attendants were matching cocktail length frocks of pale blue taffeta and matching headpieces. They carried nosegays of violets.

Attending the groom as best man was Dr. Frederick Henderson of Detroit. Ushers were Leo A. Renault, Jr., George Richard Dean.

Several Birthdays Noted in Lathrup

By BETTY DWORK
Staff Correspondent
FL 1-3362

LATHRUP VILLAGE—Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. McCullough of California drive held a birthday party recently in honor of their daughter Jane's ninth birthday. Refreshments were served and guests were Judy Grimes, Linda and Sandy Martin, Judy Himes, Sandy Braun, Liz Dickerson, Marianne and Janice McCullough, Janice Clark, Sharon Sloan, Dianne Simpson, Sharon Krav, Edwina Cobb and Barbara Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. David P. Anderson of Bungalow drive invited a number of the members and their wives of the Lathrup Men's Bowling club for cocktails Saturday, Feb. 20, after which they attended a dinner dance at the Birmingham Country club.

Mr. and Mrs. S. F. Slavik and sons Stephen and Richard returned after spending a San Diego drive after spending a month in Fort Lauderdale and Key West, Fla.

Mrs. Allison Rauch of Golden-gate drive was guest of honor at a birthday dinner given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Williamson of Highland Park. Ten guests were present.

Mr. and Mrs. Burtin H. Ackles of Glenwood drive invited a number of their daughter Betty's friends to celebrate her seventh birthday recently. A group of the girls practiced ballet lessons together, after which refreshments were served. Guests were Debby Hobbs, Linda Fedley, Cathy Carson, Linda and Carol Stanton of Birmingham.

Monday, March 1, will find members of Lathrup Women's club at the House in the Woods in Lathrup Village for their monthly business meeting following which some interesting and informative movies on California will be shown. Pre-



MRS. EFFIE SCHAFFER

House Reservations Are Jig Saw Puzzle

If Birmingham only had a Zonta club, the Community House could proudly and truthfully say they "housed" the area's social activities from "A to Z."

Without a Zonta club, they have to stop some place down the alphabet, but are still able to bring a bit about the clubs and organizations which call the House "home." L. Gilbert, Mrs. Raymond Derringer, Mrs. Felix Bruner, Mrs. Albert Clarke, Mrs. Howard Harrington, Mrs. Donald O'Toole, Mrs. James Longwell, Mrs. G. J. Huebner, and Mrs. William Kahn.

Presiding at the tea-table will be Mrs. Donald James and Mrs. Edward P. Turner.

Most of the time the job is quite simple, Mrs. Schaffer smiles, "but it does have its moments."

"The second week of the month is usually like trying to work out an exceptionally difficult jig saw puzzle. You just have more pieces than space and there are times when I begin to wonder."

"WHEN THESE busy times strike, it seems as though the House would pop wide open if we tried to get another person in it."

Mrs. Schaffer said that, by using every available room, including the staff office on the ground floor, 12 groups can be accommodated. This assigning rooms is the various groups, Mrs. Schaffer tries to determine the nature of their activities, what physical requirements the organization has, and to place them in the most "comfortable" room available.

"We try to place groups which will be having quiet or serious discussions away from those whose program will be noisier and disturbing. There are times when we have to place one group in the auditorium and another in the men's lounge, which do not work out happily."

"PERHAPS the one club will be having a speaker who will be trying to deliver his message while those in the adjoining room are busily playing the piano and enjoying critical singing. It's hard on the speaker and disturbing to his listeners."

"A committee meeting to discuss plans, will not be able to have a very successful meeting if they are in a room near a dancing class, for example."

"A card party, with its buzz of conversation, may be very annoying to all organization trying to hold a ritualistic meeting, such as the Evhians or Rebekahs."

"Much as we try, we sometimes fail to give these clubs the place they would like. Most of them understand that. Most are very patient with us."

"ASKED HOW far in advance reservations must be made, Mrs. Schaffer said it was governed entirely by circumstances."

"There are times when an organization could come in, in force, be given a room and hold their meeting, with no more advance notice, than no."

"Most groups play it safe, and at least make inquiry several weeks in advance."

"Some have booked a year in advance. Right now, there are several organizations who have already made reservations for space whose meetings will be held next February."

"Most of our groups are 'steady customers.' We can schedule their weekly or monthly meetings automatically. In the event they change a meeting date or place, they notify us, and that particular time is open for anyone who wants it."

SINCE MOST of the craft classes are of greater interest to women, the ladies of the area actually use the House more than do the men, Mrs. Schaffer pointed out.

"However, there are a number of the men's clubs which are on our regular list. All the service clubs, with the High Twelve, meet here weekly. From 8 o'clock in through the summer until we close in August. Some leave us earlier than that, as they plan outdoor meetings. All come back in the fall, though, and we can set their schedules up with no trouble."

Admitting that House staff members might be prejudiced, Mrs. Schaffer concluded by saying, "A month behind the desk, handling these requests will prove to anyone that the Community House is really the 'Heart of Birmingham.'"

"More than that, it will give them a very good feeling that it reaches far beyond our immediate area. We schedule meetings for county groups, men and women, and for convocations and in one cases which draw attendance from even greater distances."

Couple 'Adopt' Greek War Orphan

Days will be brighter for Michael Stamkos, 11, because of Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Rogers, 887 Reading road, who have "adopted" the lad through the Foster Parents Plan for War Children.

"Born in the Florida area of Greece, Michael is the youngest of three children, whose father was killed during the rebel war in 1948, while escorting a food planeload to . . ."

Like many other children of Greece, Michael is dressed entirely in clothing which he has received from the Plan.

In a report to Mr. and Mrs. Rogers, the mother said the mother and children were in one room over a stable. The government allowed them a pension amounting to \$12.55, supplemented by a small tract of land they own.