

**Chosen by Seniors For MSC '54 Club'**

Honored with membership in the "54 Club" at Michigan State college's annual "Senior Swingout" ceremonies were Suzanne Jarvis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy O. Jarvis of Goldensgate drive; Alicia H. Cuminsky, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Cuminsky of Oakland avenue; and James L. Buchanan, son of Mr. and Mrs. James R. Buchanan of Henrietta street.

The "54 Club" is made up of 63 of 1,800 graduating seniors who will carry the responsibility for the class' future activity as alumni.

NEED SOMETHING FOR YOUR HOUSE? Then locate it by reading or using the "classified Ads in The Eccentric each week.

**Mrs. Longley Hosts Ibrx Annual Meeting**

Mrs. John H. Longley of Birmingham Road will be hostess to members of the Ibrx club at its 23rd annual meeting at 1:30 p.m., June 14.

Reports will be given, and three directors will be elected to succeed Mrs. Frank Crum of Grosse Pointe, Miss Hope Whitten of Detroit and Mrs. Wayne Wilcox of Northville.

**Students in Recital**

Barbara McCall Seaver presented her dance students in a three-act recital Friday evening at Cranbrook school auditorium. The first act was titled "The Animated Coloring Book," with act II a "Hit Parade of Dances" and act III a "Concert Group."

**NATURE NOW**

**Leelanau Peninsula Has Special Beauty**

By LYDIA KING FRETSE  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

"If you would seek a pleasant peninsula, look around you." With these words our founding fathers inscribed Michigan's coast of arms.

And so it was that over the Michigan Botanical club met at the pleasantest of our peninsulas—the Leelanau.

Located four miles west of Traverse City, the camp is nestled in rolling hills on the shore of a small glacial lake, deep and blue. Our trips afforded us into a variety of habitats representative of the area. We began with a trip to a rolling beech-maple forest which is Michigan's climax plant association.

Here the ground cover was at its best, giving us a second opportunity to see spring in bloom. May I say that these eyes have never beheld so many white trillium dotting the forest hills and dales and spilling over into the road sides and hedgerows?

THE WILD garlic or wood leek (Allium tricoccum) was also much in evidence both by its odor and leaf. I'll concede though it be, this plant is a member in good standing of the large lily family. The flower cluster had not yet burst its dark red enveloping membrane but the wide linear leaves were already beginning to yellow and droop by the time the flower will stand alone.

A native ground-cover plant much in evidence was the beautiful Canada violet (Viola canadensis). This has long held a honored place in my wild flower garden. It is a much branched and violet with the flowers in various shades of lavender and purple but which opens to show a white-faced flower with its center yellow-tipped and its three lower petals purple-veined.

This is one of the loveliest members of a rather difficult family since the species tend to hybridize. Among other varieties present we identified the long-spurred violet, several kinds of blue and yellow violets and the round leaved marsh violet.

ON SATURDAY afternoon we climbed Sugarloaf Mountain. Here a grosbeak sang out a welcome from his perch on an oak tree beside the trail. The sun shone full on his rosy throat and white breast making an unforgettable picture.

When we reached the mountain top a panorama of dune and shore, of lakes and wooded hills lay spread out before us. Little Traverse Lake sparkled in the sun and on the distant horizon we could just distinguish the

outline of South Manitou and North Manitou Islands. This inspiring view is only a small sample of the 1,750 miles of Great Lakes' shore line which is included in our beautiful state.

Later we viewed this same landscape from a look-out farther inland, which we reached by way of a fragrant apple orchard which led up to a lookout over Glen Lake.

OFTEN COMPARED to the lakes of Switzerland, this is surely one of Michigan's loveliest lakes. Cradled in wooded hills it owes the particular greenish-blue tint, for which it is famed, to the lime in its water and its limestone bottom.

Also on Saturday's itinerary was another lake secluded and un-molested for the most part. This is called Lime Lake from its bottom of marl—a kind of earth made of clay and carbonate of lime. Here growing in sweet seclusion your columnist saw for the first time "Primula mistassinica" one of the two species of primrose native to Michigan. The small rosettes of green leaves were hidden in the grass on the sunny water's edge. The five-petaled flower cluster on its naked scape varied in color from pale pink to magenta.

AS WE circled the rim of the lake one of our party whose mind turns first to things creeping and crawling, overturned a small log to find there a nature cache including one De Kay's snake, three tightly coiled millipedes and a large black spider which scrambled off carrying a light blue egg case larger than its own body.

We visited both a white cedar and a black spruce bog. In this type of habitat the earth is a wet spongy mass which often yields underfoot and is made up largely of decayed and living moss. Each

has its own special plant associations, the roots imbedded in deep layers of moss growing on earth, or fallen logs or old stumps. The less shaded cedar bog association includes such herbaceous plants as pyrola, Clintonia, fringed polygala, goldthread and miterwort. Among the marginal shrubs are red-osier dogwood, bog buckthorn and blueberry.

IN THE more densely shaded spruce bog, we saw fewer flowering plants and on its borders such shrubs as leather leaf, bog rosemary and swamp laurel were much in evidence.

Our trip yielded three species of orchids; the exquisite and rarely seen ram's head lady's slipper, the well known meadow flower and the long bracted green orchid.

Our Sunday's explorations took us to the Sleeping Bear dune country. Here we had lunch in the state park and then climbed to the top of Empire High dune where we could see 400 feet down its crescent slope to the water of Lake Michigan.

Michigan. This dune was built-up by wind-blown sand, deposited in ridges on a glacial moraine which was already 275 feet high. Dunes harbor their own plant associations for here the sweep of wind and wave make the life of any plant a hazardous adventure. Only the deep and strongly rooted grasses and perennials with long tap roots like pitcher's thistle, wormwood and beach pea can gain a foot hold. These are followed by hardy shrubs like sand cherry and willow, red osier, dogwood and sumac, and later by such trees as poplar, choke cherry and jack pine.

PLANTS ARE zoned according to their ability to withstand the elements. In this order they approach and colonize the sand until they reach the summit of the dune where they are met by the established vegetation of the area. There comes a day when this combined vegetation can finally withstand the onslaughts of sand and wind and then the dune action will cease.

But time ran out too soon and here recorded are but snatches of

the sights and sounds of a happy So again, "Stiqueric peninsula anomenam drem spico."

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