

# NATURE NOW

## Many Signs Herald Spring's Arrival

By LYDIA KING FRESH  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Time for more "pebbles" from my nature pocket. March "came in like a lion" with the year's deepest snowfall. So if the old adage holds, it will "go out like a lamb."

Regardless of the prediction of any almanac or weather prophet, our spring has already begun as of March 20 at 10:45 p.m., EST, when the sun crossed the equator coming northward.

By this gesture the earth has once more made its quarter turn bringing, with it the vernal equinox, "vernal" for spring. If "vernal" here belongs to the scientist it is a word equally claimed by the poet. "Vernal youth," "vernal bloom," "vernal joy."

Many of our life's experiences are linked to the expected, the ordinary and fulfillment of the changing seasons. It is a kind of ebb and flow which this scribble should hesitate to relinquish for the more monotonous delights of some tropical paradise.

As soon as the frost leaves the earth, it is spring plowing time. The old steel plow has been retired along with the surfer with the fringe top, and now a tractor turns over that priceless commodity called "soil."

But the kilted steer picks his gingerly way over the uneven furrows and the song-sparrow sings from the old stump in the pasture.

WHO IS worried about the soil? You had better be a little worried for 35 per cent of it has already shifted to the wrong places; blown away through wind-erosion and carried down stream by our waterways.

This, because of the destruction or lack of wise management of our watersheds. Our marshes filled with aquatic plant life have an important function than their annual date at dawn with the duck hunters of the land.

A recent drive we came upon several burnt-over lots and fields. Spring ground fires are a wasteful way of doing your out-of-door clean-up. In addition to destroying the homes of ground-nesting birds and animals, they burn the loose leaf litter, grass, shrubs and small trees which if undisturbed would provide the organic material so needed to enrich the soil.

AS SCIENCE discovers new ways to estimate the life of our earth, more zeros are added to a figure that already bankrupts the imagination. Professors B. A. P. of Harvard and Tyler of the University of Wisconsin have just turned up two fossil algae, two fungi and a calcareous flagellate whose age they estimate at some two billion years. All this going on in a world already aged two and a half billion years!

Speaking of the earth's history—once in a blue moon a book comes to the desk of your columnist which is so good that it must reach for her pen to tell her author how much she has enjoyed it.

Such a book is Martin Morrell's "When the World Was Young." Here is set down in simple words but with accuracy, understanding and charm, the story of the earth's history and how it came to be populated with the plants and animals which have inhabited it through one exciting age after another.

IT CONCLUDES with some chapters devoted to Homo Sapiens and his brave attempt at that experiment which we call civilization. Note to those of you who have expressed an interest in the doings of past ages via "Nature Now"—"please read this book."

Theaters are filled with audiences rapt in rapt attention at such pictures as "The Sea Around Us."

## Family Favorites

### French-Canadian Meat Spread

A most unusual recipe is this French-Canadian meat spread, called "Cretons" by Mrs. Constant Bouchard, 579 Tooting Lane, got it by a "handed-down" manner from her French-Canadian grandmother in Quebec.

She makes it frequently and whenever anyone outside the family eats it, they always ask for its making. It is a delicious spread on toast in the morning. Mrs. Bouchard said, and goes well with steaming hot cups of coffee.

She has also used the meat mixture as a spread for sandwiches or canapés.

Pork is always the meat used and Mrs. Bouchard advises making no more than two pounds at one time. The meat must not be too lean or else the mixture won't have the desired spreading consistency.

Mrs. Bouchard puts the prepared meat spread in an old-fashioned crock, puts on a lid, and stores it in the refrigerator. It will keep a week.

Helen Bouchard is a member of the Birmingham Musicale and sings in the chorus. She is active in the Holy Name Altar Society and is kept busy being the mother of three growing, active children.

MRS. CONSTANT BOUCHARD

### CRETONS

2 pounds of fresh pork butt—ground salt and pepper  
1 medium onion, minced  
Put the meat and onion in a large sauce pan or kettle and add 1 1/2 cups of water. Cook uncovered over low to medium fire for two hours and stir occasionally to prevent the mixture from getting browned or burned.

At the end of the cooking period, most of the water will have cooked out of the mixture, but it will still be a little runny—which is the way it should be.

Take off the heat and stir in 1/4 teaspoon ground clove and 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon. (Be careful—not too much!) Add more salt and pepper if needed.

Pour into a crock and let chill over night in the refrigerator. The fat that congeals along the edges of the crock may be removed, if desired. The meat mixture will have enough fat left in it to spread as easily as butter.

Editor's note: 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).

### Botanist Is Speaker

Dr. Marion Hall, botanist for Cranbrook Institute of Science, spoke at the meeting of the Southeastern chapter, Michigan Botanical club on Wednesday at WWJ auditorium. Dr. Hall's address, illustrated with colored slides, was on "The Mark of Man-Ecologic Dominant."

Bargains galore in Want Ads.

### Have You Met . . .

The Elroy L. Sandberg, 999 Pleasant street, who moved from Cincinnati, O., in February. Sandberg is controller of the automatic transmission division of Ford Motor company. They have two children, Ronald, age 14, and Louis, age 18. Their hobbies are golfing and gardening.

### ARTHRTIS?

I have been wonderfully blessed in being restored to active life after being crippled in nearly every joint in my body and with muscular soreness from head to foot. I had Rheumatoid Arthritis and other forms of Rheumatism, hands deformed and ankles were set.

Limited space prohibits telling you more here but if you will write me I will reply at once and tell you how I received this wonderful relief.

### Mrs. Lela S. Wier

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### Have You Met . . .

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert R. Dusendorf, 21745 Sheridan drive, who moved from Detroit? Dusendorf is sales manager for the Nelson company of Detroit, Royal Oak and Ann Arbor. He is immediate past president of the American Society of Sanitary Engineering and a member of the national board of directors of the same organization. His wife is past president of the Women's Auxiliary to ASSE, now first vice president to national auxiliary and a member of the Detroit Parliamentary Law club. They have one daughter, Joyce, who was graduated from Albion college in 1953. She is now training to be a buyer for Jacobson's in Jackson. Joyce is past president of Delta Zeta, the Panhellenic council and Zeta Epsilon Lambda. She is past secretary of the Mortar Board society and is listed with Who's Who among Students in American Universities and Colleges. The Dusendorfs are members of All Saints Episcopal church in Detroit where he is a member of the vestry and she is past president of the League of Women of the church. Mrs. Dusendorf's hobby is public speaking.

### On Student Paper

Patricia Hamilton Hoy was elected associate circulation director of the Sophian, student owned and managed bi-weekly newspaper at Smith college, Northampton, Mass. Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry D. Hoy of Cranbrook school, Patricia is a sophomore at Smith.

### Have You Met . . .

The residents of 695 East Fourteen Mile road? Mr. and Mrs. Herbert R. Hengst and year-old Randy came from Ortonville, Hengst is principal of Barnum Junior high school and a Rotarian. They are members of the First Methodist church.

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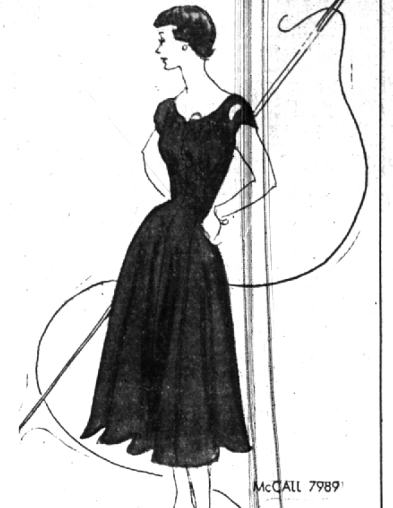
### Have You Met . . .

Former Detroiters, Mr. and Mrs. Jay Mills, who now reside at 16210 Beverly road? Mills is an engineer for the Ainsworth Manufacturing company in Detroit. They are members of the Camera club and the Metropolitan Methodist church in Detroit.

### Awarded Pledge Cup

Linda Ball, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan M. Ball of Shirley drive, was awarded the Delta pledge cup of Delta Delta Delta social society at Randolph-Macon Women's college at Lynchburg, Va.

### OUR FABRICS ARE SEW WORTHY



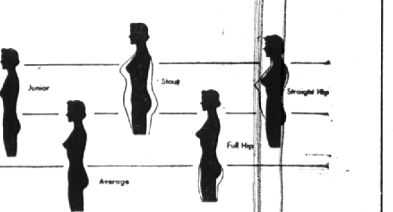
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