

Plans were completed during recent luncheon at the Detroit Athletic club for the annual Patriotic ball sponsored by the Detroit Historical Society guild.

Mrs. Robert W. Brandon, 2874 Pine Hill Drive, Birmingham, is general chairman and will be assisted by Miss Jean Perrett, 1287 Kensington Road, Grosse Pointe, as vice chairman.

This year's ball will be May 7th in the newly decorated Crystal ballroom of the Park-Sheraton hotel. Clark Williams orchestra will play for dancing from 3 until 1 o'clock and the dance team of Ray and Madelon will provide entertainment during intermission. Grand marshal of the affair will be Commander W. W. Carlson, of the Broadhead Naval Armory, who will be escorted by his color guard, Gustave A. Wellensick, treasurer of the Detroit Historical Society, will emcee the intermission entertainment.

Proceeds from the ball will be marked for three guild projects: study and research fund; Arthur S. Hampton purchase fund—which is used to purchase items to round out museum collections; or to sponsor additional educational TV programs in the fall.

Tickets may be purchased at the door, or by calling Mrs. G. scores at Mrs. Lefkowitz.

Starr Auxiliary Sets Bridge-Tea To Finance House

Annual spring party for the South Oakland county auxiliary to Starr Commonwealth this year is slated as a bridge tea on April 29. The event will be at Cranbrook gymnasium, and proceeds will go to the auxiliary's fund for remodeling a cottage to house about 100 boys at the Starr school for boys at Albion.

Mrs. Pauline E. Sutton is head planner, who include Mrs. Dudley M. Carson, Mrs. Arthur Rajch, Mrs. Everett Bush, Mrs. Roy B. Fehr, Mrs. Lewis Erb, Mrs. Samuel J. Lang, Mrs. Charles Letts, Mrs. Arthur E. Moore, Mrs. Lewis Wake and Mrs. Peter Eckel.

Dramatic History of One Small Plant

By LYDIA KING FRIESE
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

The time, December 1788. The place, a secluded plain at the juncture of the Tugaloo and Keowee Rivers in the Blue Ridge near the border of North and South Carolina. The characters—the French Botanist Andre Mischaux and a small party plus their Cherokee Indian guides.

Mischaux was journeying north from his headquarters in Charleston on an exploration trip into the great American wilderness for his king, Louis XVI. His purpose was to collect such trees and shrubbery and game birds as might further enhance the exotic gardens at Versailles.

We tell his story here because it is linked with one of the rarest plants in North America, the little "Shortia galacifolia" which was mentioned in last week's column "In and Around the Smokies."

OF THIS expedition into the great American wilderness, we have only the diary which the great planter himself left as a record.

Already an acclaimed and well-travelled botanist, he must yet have marvelled at the great hardwood trees which dwarfed horse and rider. There is no richer ground cover than the Appalachian west where a botanist can still make a list of more than 1,000 species of flowering plants.

Not only do the flora of the north and south overlap in this region, but here in the Pleistocene, the great glaciers plowed over the continent isolating the ancient Tertiary flora. Trapping it in mountain caves where it has never escaped. This little diary, dog-eared and with bear's grease, had somehow found its way into the archives of the Philosophical Society of Philadelphia.

It was December and there was no flower, but the specimen which he carried away bore a single ripened seed pod.

Mischaux did not know the rarity of his little plant which came to rest unidentified on a forgotten shelf in Paris museum. There it lay until 1839 when Asa Grey engaged in compiling his now famous "Manual of Botany" was making the rounds of European

colony. Only three species of this interesting plant exist in the world, the other two being in the Orient.

And thus was rediscovered Mischaux's unknown plant which had been lost to botanical science for 50 years and one day. And so it was that your scribe looked forward with great expectation to seeing Shortia among the small plants "In and Around the Smokies" at the flower show—only to learn it had not survived the rigors of transplanting and storage.

We have seen Shortia only once and that on a well-remembered day as it grew in the lovely wild preserve of our friend Grace Votey at Honey Brook Farm near Grand Rapids.

HE NAMED the hypothetical flower "Shortia" in honor of the venerated Kentucky botanist, Dr. Short. Returning to America, Dr. Grey searched for it in vain. Time and again expeditions and individuals combed the Smoky Mountain region. At last Prof. Sargent of the Arnold Arboretum found Mischaux's old diary hidden in Philadelphia.

On Dec. 9, 1887, following its directions, he discovered on the banks of Bear Pasture Creek in the one region where it grew—"Shortia galacifolia."

THE PLANT fulfilled Asa Grey's predictions to a surprising degree. Its petals were white and irregularly toothed. It spread by short runners and grew in dense

Mrs. Votey, now of Birmingham, has spent a long lifetime in furthering the cause of wildflower preservation not only on her own farm but in the various garden and conservation projects in our state. She tells me she ordered her Shortia plants from a nursery "Gardens of the Blue Ridge," Asheville, N. C.

This, then, is the story of Shortia. Now it is so well guarded that even botanists who travel far to see it are blinded on the journey to and from its growing place just they divulge the secret of its hiding.

Attend Western Reserve's Dance

Nancy Maxwell, was escorted by Stuart Baker, and Mary Wilson by Earl Hathaway for the Council dance at Western Reserve academy in Hudson, O., last weekend. Nancy is the daughter of the Robert A. Maxwells of Mohegan, and Mary, daughter of the W. S. Wilsons of Latham. They were among 81 girls invited for the dance and the track meet with Akron South earlier that day.



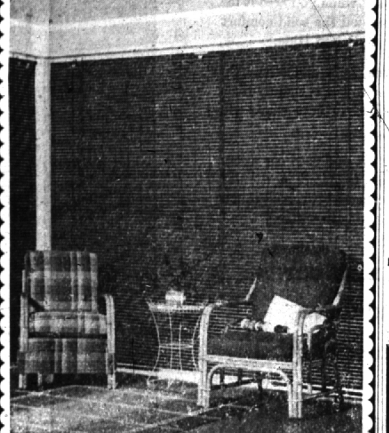
Wayne Maid and Nancy Wayne Cotton Collection for Summer

The Fresh-Crisp, Vibrant look emerges as one of importance for the new season. Cotton is the chosen fabric for this purity of line and lissome simplicity. Colors that glow illuminate this summer's fashions—for they are as clear and bright and gleaming as the summer landscape. The newest prints are simple and abstract—patterns are small and sometimes are placed closely together. Florals are gay and very fastidiously feminine with clear and vibrant tones.

\$3.98 and \$5.98
The F. J. Mulholland Company

SILVER SPRINGS WATER
Pure, Refreshing, Clear
Ask for Silver Springs Water at your favorite store.
Bottled At The NORTHVILLE SPRINGS

PORCH SHADES
Nationally known "RAYN-TITE"—basswood, water repellent, four colors. CUSTOM MADE ANY SIZE



Bamboo Matchstick DRAPERY
\$5.00 up
SHADES Per Panel CORNICES
OUR DRAPERIES INCLUDE:
★ Extra Heavy Webbing ★ Spacing Tape
★ Hemmed Edges ★ Extra Heavy Hooks
Rattan & Wrought Iron Furniture
Our Counselors Will Call with Materials, Advice and Samples, Day or Night.
Columbia LATTISHADES Woven Wood
LINCOLN 6-3311 LINCOLN 3-4656
Service for 29 Years
Open Thursday, Friday Evenings
2875 N. WOODWARD — 3 Blocks South of 12-Mile



Mrs. Friese



GREETINGS & GIFTS are brought to you from Friendly Neighbors & Civic & Social Welfare Leaders through WELCOME WAGON
On the occasion of: Change of residence Arrivals of Newcomers to BIRMINGHAM
Phone Mrs. H. Wales Price Midwest 4-0516 (No east or obligation)

Our Famous Formfit Week Is On—Now!
Come, see how our fitters can help you to new loveliness—

DAYTIME, PLAYTIME, GAYTIME, ANYTIME

Bewildered about which bra to wear with sweaters, blouses, strapless gowns? About which girdle goes best with suits, play clothes, party dresses? Our expert fitters have the perfect answers for every figure type, every fashion need—in our complete selection of styles and sizes. Be sure to consult them during Formfit week—look and feel your best—daytime, playtime, gaytime—anytime!

- Life Bras from \$1.25
- Life Girdles from \$7.50
- Life Foundations from \$10.95
- Skippies Girdles from \$3.95
- Skippies Foundations from \$5.95

The F. J. Mulholland Co.
223 NORTH WOODWARD

NEVER BEFORE a jacket like this ALL-NEW M'GREGOR DRIZZLER

Here's everything you could ask for in an outdoor action jacket. Trimly styled in rayon and cotton satin-back twill that resists wind, washes even in a machine. In a smart new collection of sunlit Spring colors. Sizes 36-46
10.95

Long Sizes \$11.95 Giant Sizes \$12.95

Mulholland's
Men's and Boys' Department
STORE HOURS 9:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.