

Kappa Alpha Theta alumnae will be gathering at 7:30 p.m. on August 18 at the home of Mrs. Robert Copeland, to meet active members of the sorority. Mrs. Copeland lives at 516 Hupp Cross. The summer event is in charge of Mrs. Ferd M. Brock, chairman, and Mrs. Beilly Bird, Mrs. Logan J. Milliken and Mrs. Henry McDonnell.

Nature, Seldom Dramatic Copy

BY LYDIA KING FREHSE
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

A literary agent recently offered this bit of advice to nature writers: "Make your material more dramatic. We publish to bring the average reader."

Any honest naturalist has a name for this. It can be done with a camera or a pen, and its chief end is to entertain. This kind of recording and reporting has its place. It is dramatic and spectacular, but it is scarcely a true presentation of nature.

There are instances where a mouse has defied a rattlesnake. However, less spectacular but more likely, end to such an encounter, is the mouse's slow journey into the stomach of the snake. But the naturalist and his more specialized friend the scientist meet nature in quite another guise. These have a day-to-day association with plants and animals in their native haunts as well as in the laboratory.

THE NATURALIST sees the slow pattern of each day's unfolding. Much of it is neither dramatic nor spectacular. He sees the unending struggle to satisfy life's elemental hungers; for food, for living space, the insistent urge toward the completion of the life cycle.

All these together spell out the word "survival"; the difficult difference between life and death for the species.

The living world is made up of two kinds of organisms. Each of these has its own design for living. Between the two are many differences as well as great similarities. Of plants there are some quarters of a million species; of animals three-quarters of a million. Other millions have been neither studied nor named.

IT IS obvious that even to know one's way about in the midst of such an immense and diverse world is a life-time job. One must be aided and abetted by the gifts of knowledge left by past scholars plus a never-ending diligence of one's own.

For the most part this way of life is neither dramatic nor spectacular. To the naturalist falls the task of constant observation and recording of life's behavior in its native habitats.

He also is interested in all the interplay between every factor that contributes to the living conditions which surround each species. He is equally involved in the relationship and interplay between every plant and animal in its own environment.

THE SCIENTIST is primarily concerned with accurate classification and experimental discovery. Often his observations tend toward the minute, the special, the restricted. He needs a lifetime to explore intimately some problem or some limited area of the life process so he may add to the already known facts. Often he is seeking to verify some hypothesis which he has worked out on paper, or to prove some theory in which he has reason to believe.

Frequently the naturalist freezes on the mountaintop or lakes in the desert. He explores the rocks, the log, the river, the ocean. Strange insects and tropical diseases often make his life a nightmare. He is out from family and friends. After a hard day in the field he spends half the night classifying and preserving his specimens.

ON THE OTHER hand, he is often accompanied by like-minded people on adventuresome expeditions to all parts of the world where he sees rare plants and animals, fantastic people and places. He likes his job and finds great satisfactions along the way as does his stay-at-home brother who "nat-

stalk of bonnet. But looking thereon, I have an uncommon delight in the encounter because of my acquaintance with, and feeling for, these two common forms of life and all they suggest.

THE LAZY drone of a cicada fills the August air. I do not see the little insect; but I know his ways and his song recalls a lifetime of adventure in many places with many people.

The wood thrush calls, his haunting song sounds more than notes on a scale. It is the poignant index to a world of its own. It recalls the summers of half a life-time and a way of living I do not care to forget.

In the end, the naturalist sees life and he sees it whole. Dramatic? Spectacular? Sometimes. How much of this he can convey to others and how he accomplishes this feat is a question with many answers.

Engagement Told at Family Party

Mr. and Mrs. Herman F. Luhrs, Sr. of Lathrup Village announced the engagement of their daughter Nancy Lou to John Bernard Dunn at a family dinner and cocktail party Saturday.

Nancy graduated from Lincoln high school in Ferndale. She attended Michigan State university and is now an employee of the business research staff of General Motors.

Her fiance is a graduate of Kiski prep school in Saltburg, Pa., and is now a senior at the university of Michigan in the school of economics. He is a member of Theta Delta Chi fraternity.

Guests arriving from out of state for the occasion were Herman F. Luhrs, Jr. and family from Memphis, Tenn., Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Alsbach and family of Dayton, Ohio, and Mr. and Mrs. George Emme and son of Chicago, Ill.

The couple have not set a wedding date.



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At Audubon Camp In Wisc. Lake Area

Mrs. F. K. Ratcliff, 292 Yarrow, Birmingham, is one of a group of adults from throughout the United States taking part in the pioneer session of the new Midwest Audubon camp in Wisconsin.

The camp is located at Hunt Hill in Wisconsin's northern lake country. In the immediate vicinity are state and national forests as well as several acres where projects for the restoration of land and wildlife resources are being carried on by state and federal conservation agencies.

Have You Met

The Charles Wilson family which has moved to the Birmingham area. The Charles Wilson, Jr. and their son, Kevin, have moved to 342 Brooklawn, Troy township. Wilson is an engineer with WXYZ-TV and is active in Masonic groups while his wife is an Eastern Star. Kevin, 5, will attend Pontotoc school kindergarten this fall.

Are you thinking of buying a new home? Then read the "For Sale—Houses" columns on the Classified Ad page of this week's Eccentric.



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