

State's Fur 'Crop' Is Big Business

By LYDIA KING FRESHE

Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

It is the nature of every mammal that he be covered with hair. Man, to be sure has lost most of the thickness of his, perhaps he has leaned too heavily upon other ways of warming himself.

Likewise such tropical animals as the hippopotamus and the rhinoceros slouch about in some torrid waterhole have little need of a protective coat.

However, no mammals are completely hairless although water-dwelling whales are making good suits and some species of tropical rats are almost devoid of hair.

In general the mammals of the temperate and arctic zones are wrapped in protective furs of a thickness which befits the climate in which they live.

Consider the weather, the weather is the thing. When the ear-liest French priests and explorers came to Michigan some 300 years ago, the oak openings had long been cultivated by Indian tribes who disturbed the wealth of fur-bearing animals only in proportion to their needs.

The plentiful deer and bear provided them with meat. The hides made a tunic or a necessary garment worn only in the coldest weather. The softest skins made a bridal sheath for a maiden beloved, and a rabbit's fur enfolded the papoose in his cradle.

IT WAS NOT until the white man came that the Indian learned to trade the fur of the beaver and the otter for cotton cloth and trinkets, for tobacco and whiskey, for powder and steel axes.

In the years that have followed, the slow process of civilization has sent many of Michigan's fur-bearing animals into the hinterland and has exterminated such species as the fisher, martin and Canada lynx.

Ohio U. Alums Joining Unit

Ohio University alumni in the Birmingham and Bloomfield areas are dusting off old college memories for an informal dinner with other alumni from the Detroit area.

Of new members in the group, there are 16 members from Birmingham alone and other alumni in the area are being invited to attend the club's next event, an informal dinner at the Golden Pheasant, Pallister at Second in Detroit.

Plans for the association's calendar will be discussed following the dinner.

The officers of the group were elected at the recent meeting, Thomas H. Morgan, Jr., of Rose-

To the early explorer and adventurer, fur was a kind of wampum which made fortunes. Later it often provided the cash to sustain the pioneer until he could clear and settle the farm land.

Now except in the most isolated regions, trapping and hunting for leopards has become a part-time enterprise providing a much-needed small cash income for the farmer, the school boy and the small town resident.

Last year Michigan's wild fur crop had an estimated value of \$1,342,411. To the value of their pelts such species as the raccoon, opossum, bobcat and red fox add excitement and adventure of the chase.

As a fur-bearer, the muskrat ranks first both in numbers and in the value of its pelage. Last year it was valued at \$596,612. Almost any swampy or marsh, especially adjacent to a corn field, makes a desirable home.

MINK LEADS in the value of a single raw pelt which is worth about \$17. However, the total value of the 28,090 animals taken last year was \$477,530, making the mink Michigan's second most valuable fur-bearing animal.

It was the beaver which lured the French trapper to the upper Great Lakes. The pelt not only brought great fortunes but during predatory raids, the state pays a bounty on the red fox of \$500; on the wolf, \$15 for the male, \$30 for the female; bobcat, \$500 in the upper peninsula only, and coyote, \$1500 per pair.

The trapper by 1920 he had reached a period of near-extinction. Under protective law he increased to the point that in 1931 the damage caused by his dams to crops, high-

ville, has been chosen president. Among those active in the formation of the group has been Mrs. Charles G. Kinnison, of Aspen road in Birmingham.

Will-O-Way Stages 'Chris du Monde'

'Chris du Monde' will be presented by Will-O-Way Playhouse on West Long Lake road near Telegraph beginning Feb. 23.

Performances are from Feb. 23 to 27 and from March 1 to 5, with curtain times at 8:15 p.m., except on March 5 when two showings will be at 7 and 9:45 p.m.

The story is of a brother against brother struggle and of the greed of a girl against both, with the gaiety of Mardi Gras time as background.

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REGISTRATION NOTICE

For the State Bi-ennial and Annual City Election, Monday, April 4, 1955

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

County of Oakland, State of Michigan

TO VOTE AT THIS ELECTION, all persons must be registered in the City by Monday, March 7, 1955, at 8 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

Citizens of the United States, 21 years old, who have resided in the State of Michigan six months and in the City of Birmingham thirty days prior to April 4, 1955, are eligible to register.

TO REGISTER: Call in person at the office of the City Clerk in the Municipal Building on or before 8 p.m. Monday, March 7, 1955.

TO TRANSFER a registration from one address to another address WITHIN THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM, send a signed request to the office of the City Clerk stating present address, former address, and date of moving to present address. Such transfer may be made any time up to and including Monday, March 7, 1955 at 8 p.m.

HOURS FOR REGISTRATION

Daytime
Monday through Friday—8 a.m. until 5 p.m.
Saturdays—February 26 and March 5—9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Evening
Mondays—7 p.m. until 9 p.m.
On Monday, March 7—7 p.m. until 8 p.m.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION with respect to voting regulations or registration regulations may be obtained by telephoning the office of the City Clerk, MIDWEST 4-1800—Extension 1.

IRENE E. HANLEY
City Clerk

ways and timber was such that an open season was again established. Now with a single beaver pelt worth \$16, trappers net an income of \$200,072 with beavers, our third most valuable fur-bearing animal.

The otter ranks fourth in single pelt value, \$15. Once abundant, he, too, is only now recovering from a period of near-extinction. The grey timber wolf, once abundant all over the state, is now extinct in the lower peninsula. There were 27 wolves taken by last year's count.

IN ADDITION to the species mentioned above, deer, badger, the skunk, weasel and coyote are also included in the state's list of valuable fur-bearers. Due to their predatory habits, the state pays a bounty on the red fox of \$500; on the wolf, \$15 for the male, \$30 for the female; bobcat, \$500 in the upper peninsula only, and coyote, \$1500 per pair.

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Residents Heading For East, South

By DOROTHY BENJAMIN

Eastern and Florida trips, home-moving, and aiding in wedding parties are among social notes for Birminghamites this week.

A week in New York is taking Mrs. A. E. Kimberly of Abbey to visit former Birmingham residents, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Kalchthaler, who moved from here about two years ago. While there, she and Mrs. Kalchthaler will spend time shopping and seeing shows in the metropolitan area.

Since the days of Cleopatra, woman has ever paid a high price for the furs which swathe her body. Man, too, goes forth he-dressed in animal hair. A felt hat of pressed fur is on his head, he wears a suit of sheep's wool and if he is lucky, he can drape over his shoulders a cape of camel's hair. In the end the ermine of lords and English kings is only the woe-wearer in his white winter pelage.

(All figures quoted are estimates made by the State Department of Conservation, based on firsthand reports from hunters and trappers.)

SHIRTS LAUNDERED 4 HOUR SERVICE

BIRMINGHAM CLEANERS

Woodward at Adams Rd.
(We Give S&H Green Stamps)

IN A NEW HOME of their own are the Herbert J. Flemings, who moved from the East Maple home to 1751 Norfolk two weeks ago. The Flemings moved to Birmingham last fall, and Fleming is an ad copywriter for Meldrum and Fawcett.

MRS. ROBERT BRADEN, of Pine Hill drive, has just completed a Good Citizenship Girls project for the Louise St. Clair chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She was chairman of selection and plans.

Mickey Bourke, daughter of the Henry Kourkes of Fairfax, was a bridesmaid for a Detroit classmate last Saturday. Mickey, who still attends school in Detroit with her brother and sister, was among attendants for Janet Athos as she spoke marital vows in Precious Blood church in Detroit.

Marking Laidlaw's birthday, which occurs on Valentine's day, they had fourteen guests in for dinner. Two days earlier, their daughter, Christine, had ten of her friends in to help celebrate St. Valentine's. The Laidlows bags had been scarcely unpacked from their week in Chicago.

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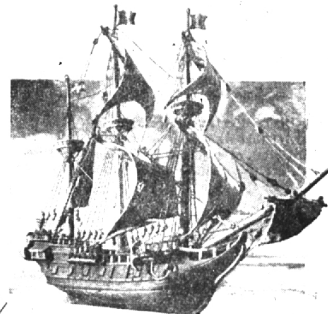
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No pirate ship laden with booty could have as great a wealth of adventure, history and romance as found in the sterling silver patterns seen at Lake Jewelers. Consider such names as Damask Rose, Stanton Hall, Reigning Beauty, King Edward, Chantilly, Old French, Etruscan, Romance of the Sea, Stradivari, Wishing Star, Louis XIV, Madeira, Old Lace, King Richard, Southwind, Memory Lane, Summer Song, and Candlelight.

No idle names these! The patterns bearing these exciting names were created to capture the spirit and atmosphere of their subjects. Master artisans and craftsmen have instilled in sterling, forms that transcend time, that capture yesterday and today and make them the heirlooms of tomorrow.

Thus, if you will consider the more than 139 patterns in sterling to be found at Lake Jewelers, study their names, compare the pattern with their titles. Like travel folders, these too will give you a glimpse into times and places especially appealing to the adventuresome heart.