

NATURE NOW

Second Spring in North Woods

By LYDIA KING FRETSE
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

To those of us who spend long summers in the north woods, the Decoration Day holiday marks the opening of another season. This year the occasion was combined with the annual camp-out at Lake Louise of the State Botany and Audubon clubs.

In shallow and protected waters at both Boyne City and East Jordan the mute swans were nesting. It was a pretty sight to see the graceful female brooding her eggs while the male, his head thrown back between his great raised wings, kept close guard.



Mrs. Fretse

The nest is a bulky affair, built of aquatic vegetation just above the water's surface. Swan mate for life. If the male is killed, the female will go on year after year with her futile nesting routine, brooding her infertile eggs for the regular five or six weeks' incubation period.

In THE Pigeon River state forest we observed as neat a piece of nature's camouflage as we have ever seen. Although we were led to within 20 feet of a nesting sharp-tailed grouse, it was minutes before we could make out the marked and barred bird. Nestled motionless at the base of a small red pine, her tail fanned out against its mottled back, she

was nearly invisible. In the end it was only her shining dark eye which betrayed her.

The drive along Lake Michigan's shore between Bay View and Cross Village has a monopoly on beauty in any season. Now as we journey northward it gave us a second preview of spring.

Under their canopy of great trees newly leaved the white lilies, the banesbane and the yellow lily a slipper kept enviable company with feathery ferns and blooming shrubs.

OUR DESTINATION was Wilderness Park, that strip of virgin forest along Michigan's top shore line which represents one of her finest remaining natural areas. Here we realized a long awaited hope—to see the rare dwarf iris (iris laeustris) in bloom.

Growing only in restricted areas along the lake shores of Michigan, Huron and Superior it has been a mecca for many a botanist.

As we entered the park we found great patches of this plant at the peak of its short blooming period. Interspersed with the dainty fringed polygala, it made an unforgettable picture. Its diminutive height of less than three inches and its large clear blue flower give it the charm of an alpine species. At Wagoshance point a finger

of marley soil reaches out into Lake Michigan to make an unusual habitat. Now such plants as butternut, Indian paint brush, Michigan primrose and creeping thyme make natural rock gardens of the shore line. In the autumn I have seen the whole peninsula abloom with gerardia, fringed gentian and bladderwort.

BOTH BUTTERWORT and bladderwort are carnivorous plants. The former traps and digests small insects on its chartreuse-colored leaves which grow flat on the soil in a small rosette. The contrast of these with the deep purple spurred flower is unusually beautiful.

Bladderwort has submerged leaves finely dissected which look like roots. These are equipped with bladders which act as traps for microscopic animals. The bright yellow flowers are on naked stalks which rise above the water.

At Wallon Lake the familiar rooms unfolded as the waves lapped us to rest with their murmur. In our deepest sleep a great horned owl called, but at daybreak a very's ringing song chased away the gloom of the forest night. At twilight the day ended in beauty with the well-loved notes of the wood thrush.



HOSTESSES ON THE LINKS were the Forest Lake country club women who staffed the snacks and coffee table where tournament players paused between holes. Shown are Mrs. Virgil E. LaMarre, at left and Mrs. Fred C. Handren, next to her, helping three players, left to right, Mrs. Don Watkins, of Birmingham Country Club, Mrs. Louis Colombo and Mrs. Norma Labisky.

Vagabonding Eastward, Stan Holt Compares Occident with Orient.

By FANNIE ATEN

Searching for the point where Occident blends into Orient, Stan Holt has reached Greece in his vagabond trip of six to eight months through Europe and the Middle East.

Hitch-hiking or traveling by motor bike, Holt has seen Barcelona, Spain, Rome, Paris, and other cities, comparing the cultures in his letters home.

His pastures and the Norman Trouser of Snowshoe circle in Bloomfield township.

HIS TRIP began last January 16 when he took the Christo Columbus out of New York for Gibraltar. In Seville, Spain, he saw the first contrasts. "In everything from landscape to people and methods and mode of living."

After an eight-hour TAP trip to Madrid, secured with much difficulty, he found that city "extremely cosmopolitan and very beautiful with wide boulevards, fountains and expensive cafes."

"A curious thing about the Del Prado," he writes, "is that one of the world's great museums, in Madrid, they have no artificial lights on any of the pictures and many of the works are lost because of the darkness."

OF THE MUSEUMS' Rubens, Goya, El Greco and Velazquez paintings, he chose as favorite a "Klugey" which you viewed through a mirror that gave the impression of 3-D.

"The blending of culture in the architecture of the ancient city of Toledo," which Holt viewed on a "hitchtrip," he says, "is quite unusual. The city has been inhabited for 21 centuries and has seen Moors, Romans, Goths and Christians."

Of the many El Greco paintings there, he says that their surroundings give them a much greater importance and interest.

HOW SCIENTISTS of 300 years ago solved the problem of visibility for the cathedral in Toledo he describes. "The pines of the organ are arranged in vertical and horizontal positions to compensate for the range in pitch of the sound of the music to the human ear," he says.

A boat he took to Mallorca from Valencia, he says, "21 hours late on a normal 12 hour run. Of Barcelona, the 'great night life' of Spain," he says "the old section is very interesting—streets so narrow you can touch both sides of the street with outstretched hands."

AFTER PARKING about various cathedrals and castles," he says of his trip to Nimis, France and Avignon, "looking at innumerable Roman ruins, I decided it was time to head for warmer shores." At

breakfast, lunch and dinner of seven or eight courses, afternoon tea, cake and sandwiches, all for four dollars.

Hotel bulletin boards gave him word of people going places, and he found hitch-hiking very easy.

IN APRIL, he took a river steamer down the Nile to Cairo, and caught another boat from Alexandria to Greece.

In Greece, he felt the first blending of Occident and Orient. "There seems to be a very subtle tension or cordiality," he said, "in the realm of cultural pattern and background."

"This is the reason why I am going to the Near East," he wrote, "to see how and where the climax is reached and how the pendulum will change its swing."

In Athens, he saw the Parthenon, which he ranked among things to always remember.

Birthdays, anniversaries, guests, births, parties are all new—all the society editor about them.

COOL AS . . . the proverbial cucumber . . . but ever so fashionable. A sunback dress of wispy Egyptian cotton voile with a drusy jacket of Crulyn linen. The big, full skirt makes it just the thing for summer . . . Tebilized® and of course it's washable. Sizes 12 to 18.

\$29.98

SHADOWY SHEER

A wispy dress with the long look . . . cool as a summer breeze, in a soft swirl print of the finest imported Egyptian cotton voile. Styled with flattering tucked yoke and gored skirt. It's Tebilized® washable, so it's pretty and ever so practical. Sizes 12 to 18.

\$29.98

And Dad Would Like BERMUDA SHORTS

—to wear with his new sport shirts. We have all the fine cotton fabrics in a color selection that includes Khaki and Cord.

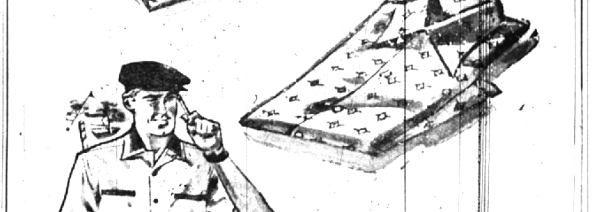
\$3.98 to \$5.98

OPEN FRIDAY EVENINGS

Mulholland MEN'S AND BOYS' DEPARTMENT

223 North Woodward

For Dad . . . For Yourself . . . Choose From This Bivy of Beauties!



cool casual colorful SPORT SHIRTS

Styles, Colors and Patterns to Suit Every Man's Taste

Whether you're buying sport shirts to give Dad on his Day (June 19) or to wear yourself, you'll find here your best bets for smart good looks, outstanding value. Nearly every fabric or weave and so many colors and patterns to choose from, you're sure to hit right on the target of Dad's taste . . . or your own.

\$2.98 to \$6.98

And Dad Would Like BERMUDA SHORTS

—to wear with his new sport shirts. We have all the fine cotton fabrics in a color selection that includes Khaki and Cord.

\$3.98 to \$5.98

Mulholland MEN'S AND BOYS' DEPARTMENT

OPEN FRIDAY EVENINGS



The Welcome Wagon Hostess Will Knock on Youth Door with Gifts & Greetings from Friendly Business Neighbors and Your Civic and Social Welfare Leaders

On the occasion of Change of residence Arrivals of Newcomers to Birmingham MRS. H. WALES PRICE Midwest 4-0516 (No cost or obligation)

You're pampered . . . never hampered with Skippies by Formfit

Treat yourself to a really soothing slimming! This light, light Skippies Pantie trims and smooths you with the gentlest touch—no bones, bulk or bind. You're pampered—never hampered—because Skippies are designed to "go with" your active way of living. Fashioned in freedom-minded nylon elastic net, with satin elastic front and back panels for added control. Try it—for easy-on-you new figure beauty! No. 843; S, M, L, \$7.50. XL, \$7.95. Other Skippies Panties and Girdles from \$3.95.

THE F. J. Mulholland COMPANY 223 North Woodward

New Life Romance Bra No. 366, in cool cotton broadcloth. 32A to 38C. \$2.00