

Childhood Memories Flourish in Spring

By LYDIA KING-FREHSE,
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

On a day in late March when the sun shows warm but the air was still chilled with the damp melting snows, Grandmother would set out for the "creek-field". She went to dig horseradish roots which she grated to make a table relish. In her person, life bestowed upon your scribble a rich heritage, for she was endowed with loving and generous ways and with such patience that she would have made off her joints as fast as a little girl, eager to follow.

On such a day as this, we would cross the south meadow in a diagonal line which led us to the old pear tree and beyond to that curve of little Tommy Run creek where the black walnut trees grew. But first we must put down our basket to the song of the stream running over the rocks.

A narrow border of ice still clung to the clay banks thickly set with Hawthorn, with swamp dogwood and willow.

THE INDIANS we learned early for did it but figure in the Indian legends of the Chickpea tribes for whom our valley was named.

The red men called it "Kinnikinnick" and smoked its dried purplish bark in their black pipes. This was long before the white man



Mrs. Frehse

leaves hidden in the debris of last years dead grass. She had a way of pushing aside the last of the snow with her overhoes and she knew where to dig. Her sense of direction was unerring, leading her to those hidden gifts of fruit, herb and root-stocks upon which we depended for food or condiment or medicine.

While she filled her basket a little girl was free to wander and dream along the creek banks. Did she hear the early voice of the song sparrow perched on an empty weed stalk?

IT WAS thus that we heard it together and the gears between had not been long enough to erase a memory. Did she see the winter house of the muskrat in the swamp marshes? It was always at the falling of the first snows that we followed old Rocky to his very spot to see set out his winter trap-line. And the wind-blown nest of a white-footed mouse away from the tip of the nearest cattail? "Do not disturb" admonished she, "the little blind babies are asleep inside."

On the ground under the walnut trees were left some empty shells in which the squirrels had drilled neat holes. On October afternoons we came away from here with well-filled sacks while the crows called and the corn waited in proud yellow piles.

Then the bright green nuts stood out against the blue sky like knobs

on the empty branches and the yellowing leaves lay limp on the slow-moving stream.

In every way it went into gun stocks because no other wood has so little jar and recoil. In furniture it did not warp or shrink and its heartwood took a satiny polish. Now we cherish what pieces of it we have left.

When the basket was filled with horseradish roots the small snails were cleaned of its sticky load of clay and we were on our way home.

IN MAYTIME the pear tree would be white with bloom and we could search for arrow heads among the newly turned furrows.

On a day when the killdeer was picking his way over the uneven earth and the song sparrow was shaping his cup-like nest in the low hedgerow, we once found a perfect Indian "bird stone". It was fashioned like a question mark of dark grey rock, hard and highly polished and its handle was pierced to admit a string.

All this the little girl remembers and much more. For some memories keep green—as green as the spring willows that still line the banks of Little Tommy Run Creek.

Pledge Sororities At Bowling Green

Carolyn McLesee and Sue Sleat, students at Bowling Green State university at Bowling Green, O., have pledged sororities, among 11 groups pledging 205 women.

Carolyn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh D. McLesee, 4975 Brookdale, has pledged Delta Gamma, which Sue, whose parents are the William G. Sloats of 5784 Inkster, is a pledge of Chi Omega, Tuesday.

Mark Judy's Day

A birthday party Saturday at the Loren E. Beach home, 32340 Arlington, Beverly Hills, marked the 10th birthday of their daughter, Judy Ann. She entertained 16 girls, her grandmother, Mrs. R. T. Beach, of Royal Oak, and her young brother, Ray. Straw hats filled with candy were place-favors.

Society deadline is 3 p.m. each

Have You Met

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond E. Shaw, a teacher-executive combination, who live at 6450 Sherringham, Wing Lake? They moved here from Detroit, and while Mrs. Shaw teaches fourth grade at East Shaw, belongs to the Corinthian Southfield township school, Shaw lodge No. 241 F. & A.M.

is branch manager for the Meyer-cord Co. Their daughter, Phyllis Ann, is the wife of Lt. (j.g.) Robert H. Dressel and they and their daughter, Diane, live at Norfolk, Va. A son, 2nd Lt. Richard J. Shaw, is in the U. S. Air Force.

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Baldwin Staff Plans Curriculum Carnival

Curriculum Carnival, presented by the staff of Baldwin school, and election of officers of the P.T.A. will be held Monday, March 21, at 8 p.m. in the school auditorium.

Booths containing exhibits of the materials children use to learn in school will be set up by the teachers who will also explain the items and answer questions.

The exhibits will include teaching aids, textbooks, supplementary books and actual samples of children's work. Through these materials the relationship between language arts, social studies and other fields will be displayed. The purposes and goals of the various academic areas will show parents what today's education is at Baldwin.

THE following booths with their respective committees will be set up: arithmetic—Miss Marjorie Campion, Miss Alice Tricke and Miss Ann Noblet; language arts—Mrs. Marjorie Highlander, Miss Mary Rathbun, Miss Dinne Baker, Mrs. Joanne Winston and Mrs. Pauline Farkov; science—Mrs. Catherine Reed, Miss Nancy Middleton and Miss Kerwin Shoun; social studies—Mrs. Patricia Rice, Miss Lucille Mackson and Miss Jeanne Killoran.

Music—Miss Elaine Warren and Miss Dorothy Rossetti; art—Howard Malwitz; physical education—Howard Sutoris; music—Miss Eunice Ruff and Harold Jones; health and safety—Mrs. Virginia Kern; Miss Nancy Kennedy and Robert Morehead; kindergarten—Miss Maybelle Clara and Mrs. Mary Lindell; lunchroom—Miss Susan Mock and Miss Bar-

bara Lawson; library—Mrs. Martha McBride and her committee.

Arthur Roller, principal, is in charge of the program.

THERE will be a short business meeting preceding Curriculum Carnival at which time the officers of the P.T.A. for 1955 will be elected.

The proposed slate of officers includes president, Elliot Beyzick; teacher vice-president, Miss Jeanne Killoran; mother vice-president, Mrs. Edward Downer; father vice-president, Hoover Duff; treasurer, Richard Stevens; recording secretary, Mrs. James Frederick; corresponding secretary, Mrs. James Loughran; historian, Mrs. Foster Raymond.

Nominations may be made from the floor at the time of the election.

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



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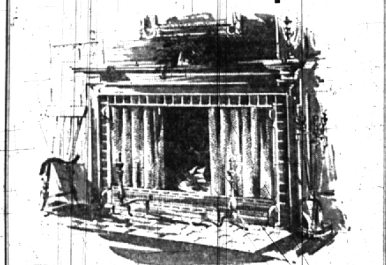
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