

Local Women Attend State Convention

Girltown plans, which Bloomfield Hills resident Mrs. William O. Merrill spurred when she headed the Federation of Women's Clubs in Michigan, are being furthered at a convention in Detroit this week.

Mrs. Merrill is among those attending from this area. Many have reservations for luncheon at least among the three days' convention events that began yesterday.

Leading the delegation are Mrs. Lawrence Heintz, president elect, and Mrs. Carl H. Rice, now president of the Birmingham Woman's club.

OTHERS FROM THE Birmingham women are Mrs. Matthew Cammaret, who is a project chairman for the state conv's Girltown plans, and Mrs. William Way Merrill and Mrs. E. S. Sikorski.

Also, Mrs. Harold Turner, Mrs. William Mergeler, Mrs. Irving Brown and Mrs. Wilbur U. Johnston.

From the Junior Woman's club, also associated with the Michigan federation, those expected at Detroit are the club's president, Mrs. James P. Lowman, Mrs. Louis

Chi Omega Event On Saturday

Chi Omega's Spring Eleusinian Luncheon will be held on Saturday afternoon, April 2 at Dearborn Inn, and will be an annual affair honoring Founder's Day. Hostesses this year are the Detroit and Dearborn Alumnae.

Speaker for the afternoon will be Dr. Alice Tarbell Craborn of Wayne University, author of "In Detroit." Courage was the "Fashion." This is a book dedicated to the part women have played in the development of Detroit throughout its history.

North Suburban Chi Omega Alumnae may phone their reservations to Mrs. Roger Buchanan or to Mrs. M. C. Shepherd.—The luncheon will be at 12:30.

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

Randall, Jr., and Mrs. A. F. Blakelee.

PLANS WERE discussed last week at a board meeting for the club's April 12 meeting, when skits will be program highlights. Mrs. Rice, Mrs. William O. Merrill and Mrs. Warren Pratt, are being asked to attend that meeting.

The program will feature talks by G. C. Mennen Williams, one by a McCall's magazine editor, and other noted persons.

NATURE NOW

Mosses, Fascinating Plant Forms

By LYDIA KING FREHSE
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

In last week's column we wrote about those small and humble plants called the mosses, the relation to man and their origin and importance in nature's economy.

The term "moss" is often used erroneously.

The "Spanish moss" which drapes the trees in our southern lowlands is a flowering epiphyte (Tillandsia) belonging to the pineapple family. It resembles another lichen "Old Man's Beard" (Usnea) of our northern and eastern evergreen forests.

"Reindeer moss" which forms carpets of grey coral-like growth over the barren wastes of the north is also a lichen (Cladonia), as is the "ice-land moss" from which northern people make bread.

Our "club mosses" belong to the Lycopodium family and are allied to the ferns.

"Irish moss" which is used for food and medicine is a species of brown algae.

THE NATIVES of Asia eat a starchy lichen called "Cup moss"



Mrs. Frehse

topped with handles; others are shaped like little pears or red-checked apples, some stand upright topped with long beaks, still others droop like jeweled pendants.

THEIR LEAVES are charmingly braided or hooked, carved like spoons or feathered, like diminutive plumes and ferns. You will find their capsules, leaves and manner of growth just as characteristic and more fascinating that the structure of the lily, the dogwood or the maple.

If you already know your way around the more obvious botanical highways, you might enjoy tackling the study of mosses.

Begin collecting whenever you are out-of-doors for once you look around for them you will find these interesting plants growing almost everywhere.

AS YOU collect place your specimens on a flat of sand where they will keep growing for many months if watered occasionally.

You will be surprised to find how many of the larger species you will be able to identify with the aid of a 20X hand-lens, a beginning text-book and plenty of patient study.

When you have determined the genus and species of a specimen, mark it with a typed label cut from a 3 x 5 card inserted like a small flag in a split match stick. You will be surprised how much even a limited knowledge of these plants will enhance your enjoyment of the out-of-doors.

YOUR SCRIBE had worn out one copy of "How to Know the Mosses" by Elizabeth Dunham, before she graduated to the books written by Dr. A. J. Grant, the dean of American bryologists.

It is my hope that this column may inspire some of you to go and do likewise. No other of my botanical adventures has afforded me quite the same degree of satisfaction as has the study of these beautiful and diminutive plants.

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Named Sigma Chi 'Heart' At University

A Birmingham sophomore at University of Michigan on March 19 was crowned that university's Sweetheart of Sigma Chi.

Jean Webster was home to tell her parents next day of the previous night's date for Charles Weir, also of Birmingham, when the date turned into a coronation.

Jean, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Webster of Hamstead, was nominated for Sweetheart by Charles, also a sophomore, whom she had dated since the two were juniors at Birmingham High school.

AT MIDNIGHT the queen's name was revealed, and Jean, who was wearing a red, full-skirted taffeta gown, was presented with an armpit of white roses, a Sigma Chi pendant, and a silver tray.

The tray was inscribed "Sweetheart of Sigma Chi."

Jean has an identical twin sister, Judy, and both are Delta Gammas, but a dual-title was impossible since Judy doesn't usually date a Sigma Chi.

CHARLES, SON of Mr. and Mrs. Preston Weir of Bryn Mawr, has just been appointed chairman of public relations for the Interfraternity council. He is a pre-law major.

Jean and Judy will be attending the 100th annual convention of Sigma Chis in Cincinnati, O., in June, along with last year's Sweetheart. Competition for national sweetheart closed previously, and Jean will not be eligible until next year.

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