

NATURE NOW

Youth Returns in Maytime Memories

By LYDIA KING FREHSE
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

It is good to come back in May-time to savor once more the richness of my homeland. Of all the out-of-doors it is the trees that I remember most. Time has levelled many of them which served as landmarks.

The old elm which guarded the gate to the "East" woods, the pear tree which marked the site of the first settlement on my grandfather's farm, the sugar maple which sheltered the free-flowing fountain and lent its shade to summer kitchen and spring houses; these are no more. However twin black spruces planted nearly a century ago when the house was built, stand as I remember them, on either side of the front porch. The untidy nests of English sparrows decorate their branches as of yore.



Mrs. Frehse

AND THE apple orchard remains, although it holds only a scant half-dozen of the trees I remember. Each of these as the occasion arose has been replaced. So it maintains its identity, bordering the country road, filling the hollow between the Big House and the barn, the latter with its cupola and wathervane. The orchard was important and satisfying to us in every season. Here in May we gathered the first inky-caps and delicious morsels.

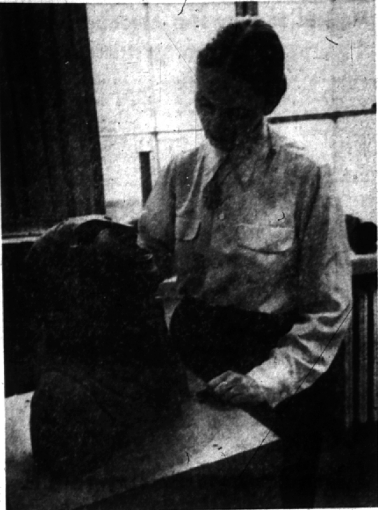
I knew each tree as one knows a person; the shape of its trunk and limbs, the fragrance of its

ed to span the season. There was the "early harvest" tree named for its early ripening fruit.

ITS LOW-GROWING branches reached over the rosebush on the fence, into the yard. Often we climbed there to taste a forbidden apple before its green skin had taken on the transparency of ripeness. From its fruit came the great bowls of apple sauce sprinkled with cinnamon which graced the heavily laden harvest table. The winesap was our "fall" ap-

ple. It went into our school lunch boxes until Christmas. Three of these trees are still alive and in bloom. At apple butter making time their fruit filled the wagon box made ready for the trip to the cider mill. The next day it was their juice that bubbled into sweetness in the big copper kettle over the open fire.

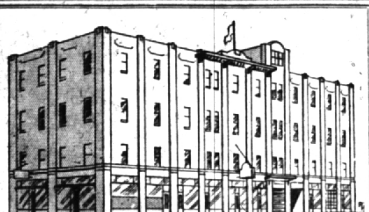
FROM WINESAP we went to Bald-grass under the tree which held the old rope swing and sheltered my play house. My face is buried in a double handful of violets. No-where else have I found their stems so lined and crisp, their colors so vibrantly and deep, as under that tree. The orioles and wrens are too busy overhead to notice one who stands still and silent under an old apple tree.



A DEMONSTRATION of her work was given by Julie Webb when the Terra Cotta Sculptors met at the home of Mrs. William Lowrie. Miss Webb, a pupil of Glenn Chamberlain, Cranbrook instructor, presented "Sculpture in Metal". She has exhibited her work numerous times and last year received a best of show rating in national competition.



GRADUATE NURSES received their diplomas at commencement exercises Monday from the Grace Hospital School of Nursing. Among the 52 nurses completing their training were, left to right, Mary Elizabeth Deighton, Carol W. Rowe and Amelia Blackwood. Mary's parents are the M. M. Deightons of Locherbie road and Carol is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Warren T. Rowe of Beverly road. Both were graduated from Birmingham high school. Amelia, a graduate of Denby high, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gavin Blackwood, 18215 Dunblaine.

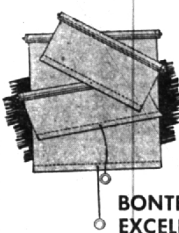


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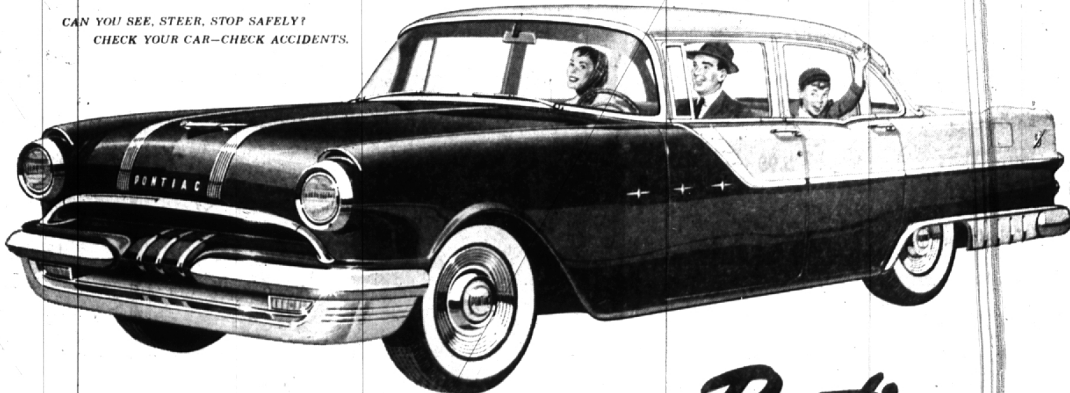
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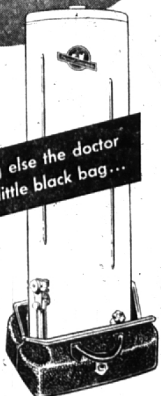
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