

The habit of listing seems to concern the human family more than among any other animals. In spite of the efforts of women to prevent men's lips from touching theirs through the insulation of lip stick, the man continues to fall into the trap.

## Mich Bel Phon Bk Cnstantly Cked for Abbvns

You'd never guess it by looking at her, but Miss Diane Bartlett has a problem keeping down weight—75,000 pounds of it. That's the weight of the Birmingham telephone books—among others—Miss Bartlett is trying to keep down by abbreviating the listings.

Abbreviating each listing reduces the number of listings that demand two lines. Those two-line listings are a bugaboo of Michigan Bell's directory department. They take twice as much space, make the books larger, and are harder to follow to the proper telephone number.

To keep the telephone books from growing literally out of hand, Miss Bartlett and 17 fellow "directory editors" check each listing before it's printed, shrinking it as much as they can without destroying its meaning, or violating company rules.

Although "physician" undergoes surgery to become "phy" and "electrical contractor" gets short-circuited to merely "elec ctr," the words don't get a willy-nilly squeeze treatment.

MISS BARTLETT's pencil stabs are well aimed and highly selective. She follows a list of standardized abbreviations telling her what letters to remove, what to leave.

The list covers certain men's first names, building names where the building is accepted by the post office as a mailing address, and a whole lot of titles and designations.

Time was when street names were included on the list of abbreviations, but since subdividers created streets faster than good abbreviations could be developed.

street names appear in full on all new directory listings.

WHEN THEY'RE shown, localities also are abbreviated in accordance with the big black book. Royal Oak Township becomes "ROTwp," Livonia shrinks to "Liv" and Birmingham is reduced to merely "Bhm."

The practice wins a battle in the war against bulkier directories and wrong numbers, but it also causes confusion when directories are used for mailing lists. Telephone books just aren't a reliable source of Aunt Minnie's address when it comes near Christmas-card time.

That's because a given locality may not have a post office by that name, or may be served by a post office with a different name. There are four postal addresses in Southfield township—one of them called "Southfield."

A LISTING specifying the "Livonia" or "Liv" locality may be served by two other post offices in addition to Livonia's. However, the telephone directory people have a good reason for this.

"So far, we haven't been able to devise a way to include reliable information and still keep the size of the books down to practical limits," says Graham Smith, the man who watches over the compilation of the Birmingham phone book.

"We're working on that problem all the time, but it looks like until we can make two listings fit where only one was before, we'll have to keep abbreviating everything we can just to keep the books small enough to be usable for their original purpose—helping people find and recognize the telephone they want to call. That's the real reason for having a phone book in the first place, and that reason might be defeated if we used an obscure or confusing mailing address instead of a locality identification."

As a consequence, Miss Bartlett and her fellow directory editors snip and trim every listing in the constant struggle to make a telephone book hold more and more listings without showing its expanding waistline.

Each month they edit about 80 thousand listings, taking out three to eight letters apiece—that's about 400 thousand excess letters.

This preoccupation with letters of the alphabet might reasonably lead to make the girls allergic to alphabet soup, or shy away from a game of Scrabble.

Asked if this were actually the case, Miss Bartlett had a ready answer. "Ortnly nt!" she said.



TAKING LETTERS OUT of directory listings is Miss Diane Bartlett's job in keeping the size of telephone directories within usable limits. Each month Miss Bartlett helps remove some 400,000 letters from new telephone books.

## Parties Original

By VIRGINIA COLE

An appropriate party for this season of the year is a watermelon party. Adults, teens, or pre-teens will love it. Invite guests for 5:00 p.m. Upon their arrival, have ready plenty of ham-salad sandwiches, cakes and a candy bar each. While they are eating, divide them into two teams by having each draw a number out of a hat. All odd numbers are one team, even the other.

After eating, reveal your plan for a treasure hunt. Previous to the party, you have laid out an extensive treasure hunt trail by tacking signs to trees, posts, buildings, etc.

HAVE TWO trails marked, one for each team. Lay them out in opposite directions but both ultimately ending at the one treasure. The idea is to see which team can progress on their trail fastest and get to the treasure first. Treasure is watermelons enough for the gang.

To place your treasure, put the melons in a gunny sack, tie it shut and drop it into a lake, pool, stream, well, or any place to cool melons for good eating.

The sack well to a dock, tree, or something firm so it will not float away. Put them there early in the day to allow them to get good and cold.

THE TEAM first to find the treasure is winner and each member gets a prize. However, they wait for the arrival of the losers before attacking the melons.

When both teams are again assembled, provide each person with a paper cup and tell them to save their seeds in it as they eat the melons. Then let them fall-to and enjoy the treat. Provide a large can in which to discard rinds and plenty of paper towels for mopping up faces and hands.

With their seeds, they may now play two games; a seed-splitting contest and a seed relay. These will be done in their original teams.

PREVIOUS to the party, you have prepared a two-yard strip of plain colored oil cloth by marking it off in squares with large, black lines.

Place in center of each square, a number . . . any number. Lay the strip on the ground. Have player stand about three feet back from it at a designated starting line.

Individually, the players of each team step up and spit 10 seeds, seeing how far they can spit them. Higher numbers are farthest away. Team getting the most collective points wins. Prizes.

SEED RELAY: put teams in two parallel lines with an empty paper cup in front of each line. About 100 feet ahead of each team place bowl in which all remaining seeds of all players have been deposited.

Give first runner of each team a teaspoon. He must run to the bowl, scoop as many seeds into the spoon as he can, run back, put them into the paper cup, handing spoon to next player.

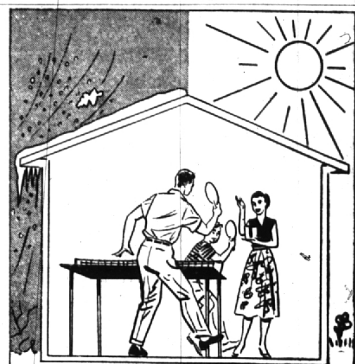
Continue until all on each team have run. Count seeds in each team's cup and determine winners. Prizes.

Looking for a pet for the children? See the Classified columns under "Pets for Sale."

## Becomes Officer

Among the 23 women who graduated from the Wave Officer indoctrination school, Newport, R. I., was Wave Ensign Virginia E. Hood, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Hood, 1017 Henrietta, Birmingham. Miss Hood has been assigned duty with the chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D. C.

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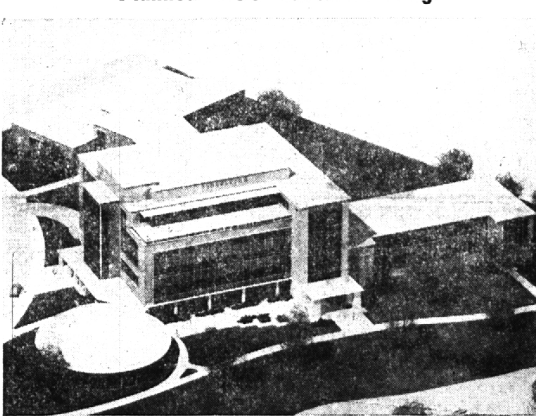
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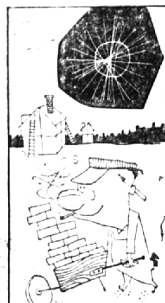
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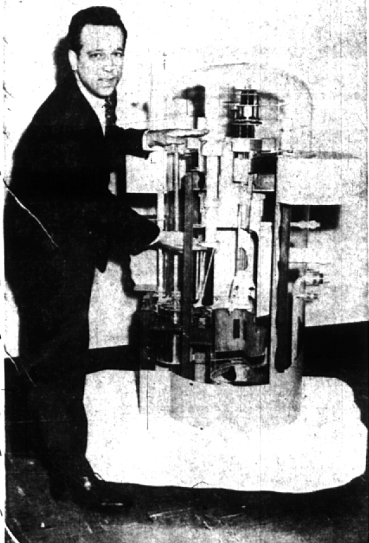
## Planned MSU Education Bldg.



MSU. EDUCATION BUILDING—A model shows how the \$4 million College of Education building will appear when completed in 1958 on the Michigan State University campus at East Lansing. It will overlook the Red Cedar river at Shaw and Farm lanes. An unusual feature will be a circular auditorium classroom (shown in left foreground) for use by large groups and experimental instruction. The building also will include facilities for closed-circuit television.



Residential construction in Oakland County is new primarily in the township areas, according to the Oakland County Planning Commission 1953 was the first year that more building permits were issued by townships than by cities.



## Nuclear Fuel Mechanism

DONALD J. SENGSTAKEN, 1712 Derby, Birmingham, design engineer with Atomic Power Development Associates, Inc., Detroit, uses a model of the APDA fast breeder reactor in explaining the nuclear fuel element handling mechanism to a group of 60 engineers and executives of Long Island Lighting Co. The recent New York meeting was one of the first of a nationwide series scheduled to transmit nuclear research and technology developments to the staffs of 54 private companies that are members of APDA or the Power Reactor Development Company.



## Hills Camera Club Officers

NEW OFFICERS of the Bloomfield Hills Camera club were recently elected for the coming year. Checking club records are, (left to right) Mrs. Alma Woodle, secretary; Karl Bailey, president; Mrs. Mabel Deller, past president; James C. McDonald, vice president; and LaFern Tate, treasurer.

## Unusual Exhibit Goes on Display At Cranbrook

There's an unusual exhibit at Cranbrook Institute of Science these days. It's a carefully arranged glass case filled with beer cans, paper plates, cups, cigar packages, coke bottles, and all the other types of odds and ends people scatter over the landscape. Its purpose is to call attention to the litterbug campaign, and it should encourage viewers to purchase the litterbug bags for home or car which are on sale at the institute.

A label on the unusual exhibit explains that a litterbug is one who, once he has consumed the contents, throws away the package or container wherever he happens to be.

THEY AUTOMATICALLY, almost unknowingly, throw trash around, making our cities, parks, and roadsides look like one big garbage dump, the explanation continues. "It is your job and mine to break the litterbug habit, to force ourselves to shove our litter into our pockets or keep it in the car until we are near a wastebasket. Let us 'Keep Michigan Beautiful'!" the label reads.

Photographic labels, 16 by 18 inches, with the label's message may be purchased at cost by clubs or

groups from the Institute of Science. The city of Birmingham is trying to get rid of litterbugs, too (See photo elsewhere in this issue.)

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