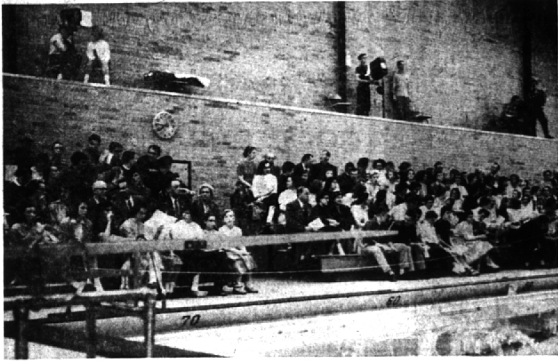


The Birmingham Eccentric

SECTION C

Thursday, April 18, 1957

How much lovelier our world would be, and every person in it, if mankind could somehow rid itself of the habit of speaking critically of others! Much of it is said in fits of speaking other and better words . . . perhaps one can help to lessen such criticism if he fills his mind with thoughts that flow from love's deep well.



APPROXIMATELY 500 spectators filled the stands each night as 80 Birmingham high school Aquabells staged their water ballet, "Shopping Spree", last Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Photo above was shot at the new Derby junior high school swimming pool as the opening night crowd was arriving. Under the direction of physical education instructors Miss Sally Reid and Miss Judy Stevenson, the precision swimmers performed in a well-prepared show which used lights, costuming, music, comedy and a central theme to provide an evening of good entertainment.



THESE WAITRESSES from the department store's restaurant served up imitation bottles of popping champagne before they dived into the pool. From left are Karen Altmansberger, Barb Hays, Les Stevens, Jan Hershberger, Barb Falconer, Carol Drinkard, Judy Mitchell and Mary Heavenrich.



LOOKING LIKE Daisy Maes, Gail Christie (left) and Sue Tabor, two country cousins, express shock at the big-city ways of a large department store. The two were featured in a synchronized swimming number.



Well known artist John S. Coppin of 4301 Echo, Bloomfield township, touches up a portrait as son Torry, 6, watches his father's technique. Torry should be well acquainted with his father's painting methods by now for the younger Coppin has posed for several paintings including the portrait behind him and the boy on the cover of Motor News' March issue.



Reconstruction of John S. Coppin's cover painting for Motor News was not easy because of space limitations that were not as troublesome for Coppin (so the photographer says) as for the photographer. Posing at Murphy's barber shop are Jack Knight, R. P. Austin, Bill Murphy, Pat Mulcaster, Edmund M. Roberts, Dee Kemsley (at window), George Misaris and Bob Anderson.

Artist Uses Local Barbershop As Model for Magazine Painting

By WILLIAM H. THOMAS

Bloomfield township artist John S. Coppin probably would have to search at length to find a barbershop more appropriate than the one he used as a model for his painting which graced the cover of the March issue of Motor News, official Automobile Club of Michigan publication. Coppin, art director of the auto club, made sketches and photos of Bill Murphy's shop at the corner of Woodward and Maple to paint the third in a series of early model autos which Motor News has been using to front their national magazine which is seen in 360,000 Michigan homes.

The building was constructed in 1889 and since 1890 has served as a barbershop for Birmingham residents. Wallpaper prints in the shop picture "The Great John L. Sullivan" as he must have appeared in advertising handbills when he fought Jake Kilrain in July, 1889, the same year the barbershop's cornerstone was laid.

COPPIN HAS used at least one other Birmingham landmark as a model for his "ancient auto" series. This is one of the homes on Willets street behind Jacobson's Maple avenue store.

Born near Stratford, Ontario, Canada 52 years ago, Coppin attended Stratford Collegiate Institute, a junior college, and then studied art under guidance of John P. Wicker in Detroit before taking a study trip to Switzerland, France and England. That Coppin "has arrived" as one of the country's leading artists is attested by portraits he has done of people prominent in professional and public offices.

AMONG THESE are Henry Ford, former Michigan governors Kim Sigler, Murray D. Van Wagoner and Harry F. Kelly; poet Edgar Guest, and Gen. William S. Knudsen. This latter portrait hangs in Frederichsberg Castle, Denmark.

Often criticized for being "just a portrait painter," Coppin silences his critics when he says, "You take portraits out of the history of painting and what do you have left?"

But Coppin is not "just a portrait painter," either. He can do landscapes and still life with splashes of color or in subdued hues. Coppin believes colors should match the mood or character of the object being painted.

COPPIN, WHO meets people easily and (See LOCAL BARBERSHOP, Page 2-C)



There is little resemblance between John S. Coppin's cover painting for Motor News' March issue and Murphy's barber shop at Woodward and Maple, even though Coppin used sketches and photos of the shop to paint his early Twentieth Century scene. Coppin, of Bloomfield township, is doing a series of paintings of early automotive scenes, and though he uses some Birmingham landmarks the paintings are not meant to be of any particular place. The auto is a 1908 Buick.

Russell Stover
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