To possess one or more loyal friends is to be rich in a treasure that money alone can never buy. When in need of the understanding warmth of a real friend, all this world's material wealth in itself cannot take the place of such a human relationship . . . did I say "human" relationship? . . . I should do better by calling it "divine".

80TH YEAR—NO. 7

The Birmingham Eccentric

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 1957
40 PAGES

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

SECTION A

NOW 10c A Copy

Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area

This and That

by

George R. Averill

U. S. Virgin Isles Offer Ideal 'State of Relaxation' to Lure Vacationists

CHARLOTTE AMALIE, ST. THOMAS, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS—Here, on the top of a volcanic upthrust, lapped by warm colorful waters from the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea, is a hilly, a miniature-mountainous area that fits the dream of any human being—if that dream be a perpetually delightful climate, located where every view is a lovely picture, where all local dictionaries and conversation know not the words "hurry, haste, get-goin' . . ."

In brief, this farthest east of U. S. possessions is synonymous with a sort of humanly desired 49th State: the State of Relaxation!

This island of St. Thomas is one of three U. S. Virgins purchased by Uncle Sam from Denmark just 40 years ago for $25,000,000; that makes each of St. Thomas' 32 square miles cost about $295.

From the military viewpoint, these Virgins are in the same category as Puerto Rico (Whose San Juan is only 45 air miles away) and plays an important part in the defense of the Panama Canal.

APPROXIMATELY 14,000 people permanently reside on St. Thomas, whose only city, Charlotte Amalie (named after a former Danish Queen) is the Capital of the U. S. Virgin Islands.

Four-fifths of the inhabitants are direct descendants of the original African Negroes brought over several hundred years ago. Originally, Carib Indians were here when Chris Columbus found and named these Islands in 1493.

In previous articles about the Caribbean islands I have commented on the recent and current tremendous increase in tourists, some of whom build homes in which to spend vacations, or their remaining life-times.

THIS ESPECIALLY is true of St. Thomas and St. Croix, the latter populated by approximately 13,000 people, 40 miles from St. Thomas.

A third beautiful island is St. John, less than six miles from St. Thomas, with a permanent population of 800 natives. This small island probably is destined to become and remain the vacationists' quiet and restful paradise . . . for its "patron saint," Laurance Rockefeller, already has purchased and given to the U. S. National Forest Service 9,500 of St. John's 12,000 acres.

Thus it is assured to be free from commercial exploitation.

ROCKEFELLER has, however, formed Caneel Bay Plantation Corp. where in a lovely modern cottage development, accommodations are available for a maximum of 100 guests. Because of St. John's year-round average 78 degree temperature, accompanied by constant trade winds, much of its living is practically out-of-doors.

While visiting Caneel Bay Plantation one day with other American newspaper editors, we were hosted at a very toothsome buffet lunch in a colorful patio environment.

While eating I was pleasantly surprised to meet Mr. and Mrs. J. Robert F. Swanson, Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. McGinnis, Bloomfield Hills, and Mr. and Mrs. William H. Beatty, 1362 Latham, Birmingham, all of whom were Caneel Plantation guests. ("It's a small world")

A TRIP to the top of St. John provides a grand view of numerous other islands, including several in the British Virgin Isles group.

You will have Treasure Island pointed out to you as the title of Robert Louis Stevenson's famous book. On St. John, St. Thomas, and St. Croix, which constitute the U. S. Virgins, may be found the remains of nearly 500 years of the white man's civilization.

Dutch, English, French and Spanish groups came to these islands, prior to their being acquired by Denmark in the latter part of the 17th Century.

AT VARIOUS points on these three islands may be found some of the earth's finest bathing beaches. At sea level or from a high island scenic point, as one looks out over the coral-bottom waters, every shade from very light gray-blue to deep indigo may be seen—and when later shown via color film the scenes are lovely. The sunsets and sunrises are, for the most part, quite colorfully beautiful.

Honestly, I could write a score of columns about Uncle Sam's Virgin Isles . . . but space, and your time, will not permit.

St. Thomas Island is the greatest current tourist Mecca, with St. Croix second in demand. Just as much of Florida, Arizona, California, and other winter-sunny spots are attracting U. S. northern clime people, so are these Virgin Islands.

FIVE YEARS AGO, I was told, one could buy an acre of land on St. Thomas for $400 or $500. Today the price averages ten times that sum, and is going higher by the season. Roads are narrow, in good condition—they are the only U. S. roads where you drive on the left, as in England.

St. Thomas is known as a "free port". That is to say, you may find foreign imported goods at less cost than in the United States, as they come into St. Thomas without duty.

Tourists who are outside of the continental U. S. for over 48 hours may bring back up to $200 worth of goods, without the penalty of excise taxes. If you are out 12 or more days (but only once each six months) you may bring in up to $500 in purchases.

THERE ARE scores of small stores in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas' only city, and the home of its colored Governor, who is appointed by the U. S. President. Goods from many foreign nations, mostly European, are sold in the local shops, including much sports wearing apparel designed and made up on the Island.

Charlotte Amalie is situated on a beautiful bay, which provides safe anchorage for numerous yachts, local fishing boats and island cargo schooners.

Perhaps once a week, during the tourist season, large cruise liners come in and remain for the day. This offers shopping opportunities for hundred of passengers who flock ashore like sea gulls following the vessel itself.

GOOD ENGLISH is spoken on the Virgins, and the natives are courteous . . . although I was told that some of them resent the ever-increasing influx of whites who appear to be "taking over their ancient island."

Our newspaper group, consisting of 71 men and women, was housed in two hotels, the Virgin Isles and the famous Bluebeard Castle, each at opposite ends of the city, and each high up for splendid views of the city and bay.

Each hotel offered accommodations on a modified American plan, which simply means you get your room and breakfast and dinner—shifting for yourself at noonday, either at your hotel or some other eating place.

THE FOOD is good, as are the rooms and general services. But, if you plan to visit the Virgins, better make all arrangements in in advance.

Oh, yes . . . I must remind you that here in Charlotte Amalie you are given the nocturnal orchestrations of roosters and dogs. I first discovered this some weeks previous while on the British West Indies' island of Grenada.

But you can get used to almost everything, and I assure you that the dogs and roosters really won't spoil your holidays.

As I have mentioned previously, my daughter, Susan, was my pal here, too, and that added to the normal enjoyment of my stay.

THE CLIMATE of the U. S. Virgin Islands probably is as pleasant as any place on earth. Official weather records state that the highest temperature ever recorded was 91 degrees, and the lowest

(See THIS & THAT, Page 2-A)

INSIDE THE ECCENTRIC

Famous Designer Unveils Dinnerware
Page 1-B

Bloomfield 4-H Club Wins County Honors
Page 1-D

29 Franklin Students Develop Green Thumbs
Page 7-B

Westchester Residents Have 'Private' Newspaper
Page 1-E

Cranbrook Blasts Flint Northern 7-0
Page 6-E

New Lutheran Church
Page 7-D

	Page
Amusements	4-A
Bits of Birmingham	2-A
Business Briefs	4-D
Church	6-D
Correspondents	
Graefield Derby	4-B
North Adams	6-C
All other Areas	Section E
Down to Earth	2-D
Editorials	6-D
Nature Now	8-D
Obituaries	4-A
Round the Towns	1-E
School	5-B
Sports	6-E
Theaters	4-A
Women's News	Sections B-C
Want Ads	6-A

ECCENTRIC PHOTO

IT'S MORE FUN for these boys to climb through the knocked-out windows than to go through the door of this long-vacant house on Quarton road, Bloomfield Hills. Note paint splattered inside door. Beams on ground at right were pulled out by youthful pranksters.

United Community Services Director Sought for B'ham

Requested By Local Council

Assignment of a full time executive director to coordinate Birmingham-Bloomfield-Franklin community social welfare activities has been requested of the United Community Services (UCS) of Detroit, is was learned yesterday.

On behalf of his group, Charles R. Kass, chairman of the Birmingham - Bloomfield - Franklin Council on Community Services (CCS), has petitioned for an UCS director's office here and an estimated $15,000 budget.

The funds would be from those supplied by the local area to the fund-raising United Foundation Torch Drive, which financially support UCS' operations and programs.

There presently are four such UCS suburban divisions in the metropolitan area. Birmingham would be the fifth if approved by the Detroit UCS board of directors.

KASS SAID the Birmingham community would benefit greatly from UCS assistance.

"We could then call upon the UCS' professional and expert staff resources to help on some of our most pressing social and recreational problems," Kass emphasized.

He said the local area has many organizations, some of which duplicate activities, while there are sizeable gaps where nothing is being done.

THE CCS HAS representation from over one hundred local area organizations. It was formed several years ago as a coordinating and cooperating agency for local community services. Its progress has been slowed because it has had no full time professional direction, something it has discovered the Detroit UCS can supply.

Next Monday, the CCS will meet in Baldwin public library auditorium to hear a progress report from the group's youth activity committee.

Speaking at the meeting will be Dr. Howard Y. McClusky, University of Michigan professor of adult education. His subject will be "How a Community Council Works."

A new CCS board of directors and officers also will be elected.

New Rec Budget Asks More for Pools, Play Areas

It will look like next year's Birmingham recreation program budget allowance will be more than double the current year's, but that is not quite so, Board Chairman Mrs. William H. Jackson explained this week.

The board's proposed 1957-58 budget request of $110,822 has been submitted to the city commission and board of education for study and approval.

Within the next two weeks, the three groups plan to meet together to go into the details of this budget request.

THE SCHOOL board and city commission would divide the net cost of the program, which is estimated now at $41,076 each.

Anticipated revenues total $28,670.

The current recreation budget is $50,829.

"Principal reasons for the large increase are that two new swimming pools will be in operation this summer, we have enlarged our playground and baseball programs, and we plan to hire a full time woman recreation supervisor," Mrs. Jackson said.

THE PROPOSED budget also includes nearly $20,000 in operating costs of the Eton park ice rink, which this year were carried in a separate city fund and thus did not show in recreation department figures.

The enlarged swimming program is expected to add more than $20,000 in costs, and $4,000 more is planned for playground activities. The recreation supervisor's salary is estimated at $4,500, and $1,000 more will go into the summer baseball program.

Cigarette Ashes Cause $1,000 Fire

A $1,000 fire resulted Sunday from cigarette ashes which had been emptied into a plastic wastebasket at 808 Colonial court, Birmingham.

Firemen, phoned by neighbors who smelled smoke, found the basket had burned through the floor, fallen into the basement where flames had started up the walls.

Empty House Haunts Hills Policeman

By JEAN DAY

An annual spring problem in Bloomfield Hills, which Police Chief Stanley Kevern admits he will be "glad to retire from" next month, is that of high school youngsters from neighboring communities invading the area to make nighttime visits to a so-called haunted house on Quarton road.

For some reason, Kevern reports, the house seems to hold even more interest than usual with 32 youngsters so far this month having been picked up there by police. Located on Quarton at the intersection of Covington road, the empty house is owned by Rocco DiMarco.

Kevern cites last weekend as an example of what an "attractive nuisance" the house has become as 20 juveniles were picked up in the empty house. One group of four students had driven over from Berkley at the same time as a group from Redford high school arrived to see the house following a school dance.

SOME IN the group were return visitors, Kevern complained, who brought others with them. Seven from Redford were girls. Recently he also has found Royal Oak students at the house. He emphasized that it is primarily youngsters from outside the area that are investigating the stories of the "haunted cat-house."

Now a source of curiosity, the house once was one of the showplaces of Bloomfield Hills, Kevern recalls. It was built, he reminisced, as a miniature white house. The owner's widow, Mrs. Corrine Keller, gave the place its reputation for cats as she kept many in the house.

Passersby estimated there were between 50 and 100 cats at the house. Their bright eyes, seen as they ran up and down windows at night, Kevern recalls, soon gave the house its label.

EVENTUALLY the house became vacant and was locked up. Then school children began to investigate. The windows all are broken now. Kevern reports that it is "impossible to damage the building further," but that police try to keep juveniles away so they will not have accidents in the dark.

"Every time we board up the doors, the bars are ripped off right away," he sighed.

Best method for dealing with the offenders, Kevern and his staff feel, is that of having the youngsters and their parents appear before Kevern and the arresting officer. This bears out Kevern's long-time policy of dealing with juveniles in Bloomfield Hills.

If man-to-man talks can steer a youngster who has violated the law in a minor way, Kevern thinks this method of dealing with the trouble is much beter than putting a black mark against him.

FOR YOUNG offenders, he has what he calls his "personal file." They are on record there and nowhere else. Thus, if a young wrongdoer does not become a repeater, he has no record so far as Bloomfield Hills police are concerned.

Right now the police department has hope that the haunted house source of juvenile trouble will be eased if Di Marco carries out his plan to remodel the house as he intended when he purchased it about two years ago.

Ban 7-9 AM Parking On East Maple

Early Morning traffic congestion on Maple avenue got relief this week, but late afternoon traffic problems must await a new traffic count.

Birmingham city commission Monday night banned parking on the south side of Maple between Chester and Hunter from 7 to 9 a.m. This will facilitate east-bound commuter, factory and office traffic movement out E. Maple into Troy.

But before the commission restricts northside Maple parking (probably from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.), a new traffic count was asked. Latest police studies are from March 1956.

LITTLE MERCHANT opposition was expressed on the morning removal of parking, but the proposed late afternoon ban has drawn considerable resistance.

Chamber of commerce representatives Donald Cummings and Charles Mortensen expressed the conviction that merchants and shoppers would suffer if it is made too easy for east-west traffic to use Maple through the downtown business area.

Westbound traffic also will be prevented from making left turns onto Henrietta. This will aid traffic movement, city officials believe.

A PROPOSED one-way traffic pattern involving Pierce, Henrietta, Merrill and Brown streets was dropped. The commission concurred with the plan board that there was no demonstrated need for the system as proposed by the city's traffic consultant, T. Vandersteempel.

Improvement of turning movements at Southfield and Maple was assigned to the city engineering department for study.

All makes of inner spring mattresses repaired. One-day service. ROYAL MATTRESS COMPANY, Dial "O" and ask for ENterprise 6319.

ECCENTRIC PHOTO

COMPARING MERIT BADGES passed for eagle scout awards are Bruce Minturn, 14-year-old senior patrol leader of Troop B-4, and his mother, Mrs. C. B. Minturn, 1723 Yorkshire, Birmingham. Mrs. Minturn was awarded her girl scout eagle badge personally by Mrs. Herbert Hoover, who at that time was honorary president of the Girl Scout movement. Bruce received his Eagle rank at a court of honor earlier this month.

B'ham Chamber Elects Three New Directors

Names of three new directors of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce were announced at the chamber's annual dinner meeting Tuesday evening at Devon Gables.

They are Paul E. Kurth, of Huston Hardware company, Roland W. Reese, postmaster, and Wayne N. Mortimer, of Mortimer's Men's Wear.

They will replace three directors whose term of office expires at the end of April, Mark B. Bears, Arthur F. Blakeslee and Otis C. Thompson.

THE BOARD OF directors individually presented Arthur Blakeslee, retiring president of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, an engraved desk pen set in appreciation for his services.

George F. Pierrot, of TV World Adventure Series, principal speaker at the meeting, told of behind-the-scenes incidents with famous people.

THE PRESIDENT'S report for 1956 was released to the membership explaining the activities in which the Chamber becomes involved.

Each year, the chamber sets up a city budget review committee to study the proposed city budget in advance to make sure that needs are met but taxes kept as low as possible.

It also maintains a city ordinance committee to work with the city on ordinances or ordinance changes which affect local businessmen, and a national affairs committee which in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce of the United States makes recommendations to Congress on pending legislation affecting businessmen.

Everyone Invited To Stop and Look At Short Cartoon

The American Cancer society is bringing its fight against cancer through education to Birmingham. A house trailer shell converted into a small movie theatre will show here the ten-minute UPA cartoon, "Man Alive," continuously Monday and Tuesday.

The trailer will be located on Pierce and W. Maple, in front of Birmingham Federal Savings and Loan office, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. There is no charge for viewing the cartoon, which is designed to amuse the entire family.

Volunteer hostesses from the Birmingham area are Mrs. Harold Nash, Mrs. Walter B. Booth, Mrs. Adele Davis and Mrs. Inez Neilson.

Jones Becomes Chief, Moves On Same Day

Since Monday, a former Birmingham police sergeant has been Chief Milton Jones, head of the 12-man police force in Three Rivers, Mich.

Also on Monday his wife, Eva, supervised moving operations from the family's former home at 440 Bennaville, Birmingham. Jones joined the Birmingham force in 1947, served his last day here Fridav.

He is the father of three daughters: Christine, 6; Catherine, 4, and Carolyn, 2.

HAD TO LEAVE HOME!

HERE IS THE AD:

VOLKSWAGEN CONVERTIBLE, 1956. Show room condition, 2 tone white and yellow, white walls, $1925. Call MAyfair 0-9000.

HERE'S THE CUSTOMER'S COMMENT:

"The ad ran in The Birmingham Eccentric on Thursday. By Friday afternoon I had received 35 calls. It got so bad I had to leave home Saturday and Sunday. I placed this same ad in a Detroit paper and received only 5 Calls."

To Place A Classified

PHONE MI 4-1100

Dr. Paul Carter To Join Faculty Of U of Michigan

The appointment of Paul D. Carter (Ed. D) as assistant professor of education in the University of Michigan's school of education was approved last week by the Regents.

Carter, now assistant superintendent of Birmingham public schools, will begin his new duties with the 1957-58 year. He will continue to live at 839 Knox, Birmingham.

His appointment is a joint one with the university's extension service, and he will have an office in Detroit's Rackham building. He will supervise student teachers in the area, as well as teach courses in elementary education.

DR. CARTER JOINED the Birmingham public schools in 1942, was principal of Adams school, later elementary coordinator, before becoming an assistant to School Superintendent Dwight B. Ireland. He received his doctor of education degree in 1955 from Wayne State university.

"Birmingham has been a wonderful community in which to work," Carter told the Eccentric Tuesday, adding that he had always planned to move on to the university level.

$200,000 Street Resurfacing Plan Recommended

Nearly $65,000 will be spent this summer on resurfacing portions of six badly deteriorating concrete streets, the Birmingham city engineering department said this week.

These will be Elm, Maple to Forest; Hanna, Southfield to just west of Watkins; Oak, Lakepark to east of Glenhurst; Oakland, Woodto Adams; Poppleton, Maple to Oakland, and N. Woodward from Oak to Hunter.

City Engineer G. R. Serenbetz also recommended that the city plan to spend $45,000 each year through 1960 to resurface portions of 12 other streets.

THIS WOULD require a total expenditure of $200,000 in the four-year period, Serenbetz estimates.

He listed these other resurfacings:

Bates, Lincoln to Brown; Brown, Southfield to Chester; Brownell, Forest to Maple; Daines, Purdy to Woodward; Eton, Webster to Yorkshire; Lakepark, Oak to north of Midland; Lakeside, Randall to Quarton; Lincoln, Southfield to Woodward; Midland, Lakepark to Lakeside; Sheffield, Woodward to Eton; Southfield, Lincoln to Maple, and Willow Lane, Midland to Redding.

Redding road, from Woodward to Lakepark, should be repaved rather than resurfaced, Serenbetz recommended.

More Multiple Units Planned Along Eton Rd.

A Royal Oak builder plans to erect multiple family units on both sides of Buckingham, west of Eton, if the city will lower the street right-of-way to 60 feet. It now is 75 feet.

Commissioners set May 20 as a hearing date on the street vacation.

This property is in the northern half of a large triangle which the Oakland county circuit court said was desirable business property. The city lost the case, had to zone the triangle to business.

Builder Harold Garber has held preliminary discussions with city planning and building officials, who are recommending the city cooperate in getting dwelling units on this area instead of business.

The triangle is bounded by Eton, the Grand Trunk railroad right-of-way, and Graefield terraces.

Hunter-Oakland Rezoning Hearing Reset for May 13

A misunderstanding on the publication date of a legal notice has caused a week's postponement in the public hearing on rezoning of a small block at the northeast corner of Hunter and Oakland.

The hearing on to rezone to multiple dwelling the Barton-Cumiskey property at this location will be on May 13. The city commission recently turned down the petitioners' request for a rezoning to business.

Ritchie Resigns As GOP Chairman

Chad M. Ritchie, 1234 Covington, Bloomfield Village, resigned this week as Oakland county Republican chairman to accept a post on the county's GOP executive committee.

New county chairman is Arthur G. Elliott, jr., of Pleasant Ridge. Ritchie headed county Republicans for the past two years. He also is a former Birmingham mayor and city commissioner.

STRICTLY FRESH

Some union leaders predict a four-day work week within a few years and some employers wish that they could get four days of work from their employes right now.

A rooster is a regular passenger aboard a bus in Brisbane, Calif. Fellow across the desk from us says that the bus he takes to work each day is for the birds, too.

Watch for the first sign of summer: fall fashions in the department store windows.

There's nothing like the aroma of a steak being broiled in the back yard by an amateur chef to send us, posthaste, to the nearest hamburger stand for supper.

Women who wear halters when they go shopping should be kept in rein by someone with more horse sense.