

A person may be a regular church-goer, yet not too ethical, too honest, or too decent in his own living. But consider "To be sure, his men may not be a very good Christian, but by going to church something good may rub off on to him. After all, why expect a first or second grader to jump into the role of senior volunteer?"

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SECTION A

Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area



Noted Hills Architect's Deal Grows into Branch of MSU

Wilson's \$10 Million Gift Rewards 20-Month Quest of Bob Swanson

By GEORGE R. AVERILL
Editor, The Birmingham Eccentric

When in the years to come, Michigan State University erects new buildings on the 1400-acre Meadow Brook Farms estate, announced last week as part of a ten-million-dollar gift by Mr. and Mrs. Alfred G. Wilson, the name of J. Robert F. Swanson, of Bloomfield Hills, head of an architectural firm bearing his name, necessarily must loom large on that campus.

For it was Swanson, first as chairman of the Oakland county planning commission, secondly as an individual citizen with more than a professional urge to see educational plants made available to American youth, who visioned this potentially vast project.

IT WAS HE WHO, after a year and a half of unceasing effort, eventually carried the idea to the Wilsons, culminating in their generous gift to the higher educational program for Michigan.

The History of Swanson's first vision of the need for an institution of higher learning for the ever-increasing college-age population of this Oakland county area, through to the Wilson gift to MSU, is an interesting one.

It reveals something of the Swanson personality, his own experience in community planning, plus a nature that is tenacious in its persistence to see a good idea to physical completion.

IN THE SPRING OF 1955 Swanson, as chairman of the Oakland county planning commission, became convinced that the time had arrived when Michigan's second most populous county should acquire the educational services of its own institution of higher learning.

Swanson's first feeling was that, perhaps on a county level, with maybe some state aid, a junior college might be established, eventually to become a full four-year college or university center.

"Where is a good place to locate it?" was the first question Swanson sought to answer. So he and George Skrub, director of the planning commission, began to study the problem. They related an educational facility to population, to roads, to possible land sites, to proximity of industry.

"FINALLY," RELATES SWANSON, "we came to the conclusion that such a facility should be built some place between Square Lake road on the south, Walton boulevard on the north, and east of the city of Pontiac.

"This area, we found out, had within a radius of 15 miles (including a portion of adjacent Macomb county) a potential student population of 20,000. By 1970 we figured students would total 100,000. Certainly it was evident this area needed an educational facility beyond the high school level.

"My first idea was to focus the need for such an educational facility on the government of Oakland county, plus state and perhaps federal aid, what whatever various aids Michigan industry might offer," said Swanson this week. "I realized, too, that great emphasis should be placed upon the development of engineering, of the technological knowledge that a contributor so much to modern American life.

"BUT THE FURTHER I got into the subject, the more I realized the potential of such a venture. I contacted one Mr. Alfred G. Wilson, who then had wonderful 140-acre Meadow Brook Farms, and that palatial Meadow Brook Hall. . . this latter effort I envisaged as a cultural and fine arts center as part of an educational facility.

"WHAT THEN TO DO?" was the next question, "I smiled the indefatigable Swanson. 'If was then I thought I should contact Mr. Alfred G. Wilson, who owned that wonderful 140-acre Meadow Brook Farms, and that palatial Meadow Brook Hall. . . this latter effort I envisaged as a cultural and fine arts center as part of an educational facility.'

IT BECAME EVIDENT to Swanson that if the Wilsons would make the gift of their property, the school should become an extension branch of either the University of Michigan or Michigan State University.

So this possibility remained in Swanson's mind as he eventually, after many months of persistent effort, was able to sit down with Mr. and Mrs. Wilson to discuss the plan.

From the first, the owners of Meadow Brook Farms revealed interest in Swanson's program, Mrs. Wilson (the widow of John F. Dodge, co-founder of the Dodge Motor Co.) told Swanson that already numerous suggestions had been outlined to them for eventual use of their estate, located a few miles from the beautiful small village of Rochester.

HOWEVER, NONE OF THEM (See ARCHITECT'S IDEA, Page 2-A)



JUST THREE DAYS OLD. Scott Donald (left) and Tracey Ann Zuehlisdorff pose before a press camera for the first time at St. Joseph's Mercy hospital, the first Birmingham area babies of 1957, the non-identical twins' early Jan. 1 arrival made their parents, the Donald C. Zuehlisdorff, of 7500 Cornwall court, Birmingham, winners of The Birmingham Eccentric's first baby contest.

This and That

by George R. Averill

A prominent Canadian educator points out that all parents should watch their children for early "brightness." . . . examples of which are revealed when they walk, talk, and read very early in their lives. If the educator will include "watching television" as a sign of "brightness," then our nation today may well boast of a million of the genius genuis!

Originally, the Kellogg Foundation had assets of \$47,000,000. They now total over \$128,000,000. Battle Creek's Mister Kellogg certainly put a lot of grape nuts and corn flakes into that Foundation, providing much economic nourishment to many human organizations.

Every so often some of the executive officials of Detroit and Wayne County get good salary raises. . . yet members of the Detroit City Council are hesitant about giving themselves a needed increase. Why? No sensible answer can be given. Council members ought to be worth receiving increases, in keeping with the cost of living. Why should they for members of a Congress or Legislature be afraid to ask and get adequate compensation for the public service they render?

If the victims of the dope habit could make and enforce laws governing this evil traffic, well, woe that fewer future human beings would become victims. Enforcement of narcotics laws is very poorly supported by federal and State governments.

Statistics are offered every year on almost every subject under the sun. Those that relate to individual and national income, corporate profits, tax levies, etc., annually show higher figures . . . and unless the factor of inflation is taken into consideration, these annual statistics are not accurately comparable to prior years in many cases. For example, a profit of a thousand dollars in 1939 is just as much as a two thousand dollar profit in 1956, because the 1939 dollar is worth only 50 cents today. That's what the economists assert. That's what the communists assert. . . and most people who have a dollar to spend agree, too.

Now that Christmas again has come and gone, chimney flues should be clean enough to last another year. So are the pocket-books of many poppas, and maybe mummies.

With all the intelligence currently on earth, it is difficult to understand why those terrible out-of-door woods fires are able to invade residential sections in the vicinity of Los Angeles. That conflagration in the Malibu area, said to have cost about a hundred million-dollar property loss, is a typical example. Wonder why local governments there do not require wide fire lanes, bare strips of land incapable of spreading fire.

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It should be an obvious fact that means that one in a hand is worth two who are hush-hush.

Photographers: People who never worry about negative results.

Falling down on the job is a mistake sleepwalkers and flagpole sitters make only once.

Entirely new covers of the magazine are always turning over new leaves, only to have the book thrown at them anyway.

STRICELY FRESH

Catalogues or no catalogues, most women end up shopping by mail.

Literary critics and perpetual delinquents are always turning over new leaves, only to have the book thrown at them anyway.

Merritt D. Hill Named to Federal Advisory Committee

Merritt D. Hill, assistant general manager of Ford Motor's tractor and implement division here, has been appointed to the agricultural equipment industrial advisory committee.

The committee is advisory to the business and defense services administration of the U. S. department of commerce.

All makers of lesser spring mattresses and spring mattresses, "ROYAL" and "MATTRESS" are asked to call for literature.

Two Hungarian Couples Just Arrived, Just Wed

By JULIE CANDLER

It must be hard for two freedom fighters who were battling the Communists in Budapest only a few weeks ago to believe what happened in Birmingham last night.

For at 6:30 p.m. at First Baptist church, the Rev. Dr. Emil Kuntz performed a double wedding ceremony, marrying the former freedom fighters and their sweethearts who escaped Hungary with them.

On top of that, the refugees have found new friends who are helping them to begin a new life. And with it all, they have found political freedom.

THE TWO COUPLES and another pair from Budapest, Ignatz and his wife, Bela, 43, arrived here Friday from Camp Kilmear, N. J. They were met at the Detroit railroad station by Dr. and Mrs. Kuntz and Rev. Dr. Robert Manoskey, the church's assistant pastor.

The new arrivals are members of the Hungarian Reformed church.

Since Friday the brides and grooms-to-be have been staying with Dr. and Mrs. Kuntz at their home at 501 Larchlea, Birmingham. Since the Kontzes are of Hungarian parentage, they can converse with their guests, who up to now have mastered only a few words of English, such as "Not home—call church," which Mrs. Kuntz explained they should say when the Kontzes are away from home and the phone rings.

LANGUAGE IS NO problem so far for Fintor and his son, who are staying with another First Baptist church member of Hungarian background, Detroit Victor Almas, and his wife.

A real estate man, Almas is providing two furnished apartments (See COUPLES, Page 2-A)

Beaumont To Have Interns

An intern program will begin next July 1 at Beaumont hospital, signaling its complete medical development, according to Owen Pinkerman, the hospital's superintendent.

In a progress report to Birmingham Rotarians at their Monday noon luncheon, Pinkerman said Beaumont already has been visited by an American Medical Association inspection team, a praise to anticipated approval.

IN THE TWO years Beaumont has been in operation, it has treated over 36,000 emergency patients, he said.

Maternity cases average 270 each month, while surgical operations average 650, Pinkerman said.

The hospital is at full medical and surgical staff strength, he declared.

Pending hospital improvements include a central 60 radio-active therapy unit (already ordered) for the newly established medical physics department, one of only four in Michigan and the only few in the country.

THIS DEPARTMENT, Pinkerman explained, will study the application and uses of radioactive isotopes in medical treatment.

He said Rotarians at the hospital in the near future will be conducting another several million dollar drive for an additional 262 beds, which he says must be provided if the community is to have adequate facilities.

MEMBERS OF THE church's congregation witnessed the simple ceremony, spoken in Hungarian. It united 21-year-old Clara Kerekes and 24-year-old Szilard Kiss (pronounced Kish), who fell in love when they worked together as current laithe operators in a Budapest factory.

The second couple, 41-year-old Istvan Kerekos, and 25-year-old Teréz Pap, had been engaged for over three years. They had been unable to marry because of Communist measures in Hungary. The next Mrs. Kerekos was a forklift in a Budapest textile plant, and her husband was a leather craftsman in the same city.

Following last night's ceremony, the couples received the good wishes of their sponsoring Baptist congregation in a reception in the church banquet hall. The event preceded the annual dinner meeting of the congregation. Later the newly-weds cut a huge wedding cake, the gift of Birmingham's Machus bakeries.



CUPID VISITED the home of the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Emil Kuntz, at 501 Larchlea, Birmingham, last week, and the obliging minister married the two engaged couples involved last night. Both grooms are escaped Hungarian freedom fighters. From top to bottom are Dr. and Mrs. Kuntz, Teréz and Istvan Kerekos, and Clara and Szilard Kiss.



ROBERT SWANSON

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\$10 Million Gift Makes Possible MSU Oakland Unit

Quietly, without any fanfare, eight million dollars in property and two million dollars in cash was given to Michigan State University Thursday last week, when Mr. and Mrs. Alfred G. Wilson transferred title to their 140-acre estate, Meadow Brook Farms, seven miles northeast of Birmingham.

Announcement of the gift, the largest ever received by Michigan State University, was made at a luncheon at Bloomfield Hills Country Club, attended by 32 Oakland County business, educational, labor and political leaders, and representatives of MSU, headed by its president, John A. Hannah.

A special Oakland County advisory committee nucleus already has been appointed, to be supplemented soon with other local area leaders. This group will work with the University staff to the end that a new Oakland branch of the East Lansing institution will best meet the needs of the potential student body that will come.

IT IS HOPED that this new unit, amidst many others located in the vicinity of many Michigan's largest industrial enterprises, will receive their assistance in the actual development of the new campus. The idea of using Massachusetts Institute of Technology as a pattern has been discussed informally.

Within 15 miles of the Wilson estate, considered by educators as a reasonable commuting distance for students, the present population is about 15,000.

By 1960 population projections suggest that this area will increase (See \$10 MILLION GIFT, Pg. 2-A)



MRS. ALFRED WILSON

