

Gift Provides Oakland With University Branch

Gift of properties approximating ten millions of dollars in value, to be used for the education of American youth, is an act that is worthy of enthusiastic praise and gratitude.

Such a gift was made last week by Mr. and Mrs. Alfred G. Wilson (formerly Mrs. John Dodge) when they presented their 1,400-acre estate, Meadowbrook Farms, near Rochester in northeast Oakland county, to Michigan State University.

This potentially great University extension-to-be is expected to be opened for its first freshman class in 1957 according to president John A. Hannah, who addressed a small group of County leaders at a luncheon last Thursday at Bloomfield Hills Country Club.

Conceived originally by the Oakland county plan commission, whose chairman is J. Robert F. Swanson, Hills architect, contact was then made with the Wilsons who soon agreed on the need for such an educational center in this, Michigan's second most populous county.

ALONG WITH THE VAST ACREAGE, the Wilsons also gave two millions of dollars in cash to be used to start the physical phases of the educational plant. Their vast, spacious, castle-like mansion also is included in the gift. A few acres are being retained by them for their own residence, recently completed.

Nothing of a definiteness as to curriculum was defined by Hannah, though he did refer to the fact that the new university extension, located as it is in the midst of Michigan's world-famous auto-

mobile center, would like to enjoy industry's over-all support, "especially if it is decided to emphasize the engineering and related scientific facets of education."

Proximity of the proposed educational center to the youth of both Oakland and Macomb counties is looked upon as an economic aid to students, most of whom will be able to live at home.

WHILE THE UNIVERSITY'S board has agreed to accept the Wilson gift, it remains for the Michigan legislature to make it official, since finances for most of its perpetual support will have to come from the state treasury.

This philanthropy is reminiscent of another great educational gift made many years ago when Mr. and Mrs. George G. Booth, of Bloomfield Hills, endowed Kingswood and Cranbrook schools. These institutions, and their related projects, have made this area a cultural mecca.

Oakland county's tremendous population growth during the past 20 years (and Macomb's, too) long have impressed leaders of the necessity of locating higher educational opportunities in this area of Michigan.

THE WILSON GIFT recognizes this need.

Thus, another educational torch is to be lighted... that its guiding beacon may well light the ways of future youth toward the development of better citizenship, more productive technological methods, enlightening and uplifting culture, is the hope and prayer of people everywhere.

False Prophets Offer "Tin Cup Alms"

Strip an enslaved, captive man of all his earthly possessions, except for the clothes he wears, and you create a human being who necessarily is dependent upon others for his food and shelter. If held captive long enough, he becomes servile, without that reasonable aggressiveness that makes mankind different from animals. Indeed, such a man literally would be holding out a tin cup for whatever alms others would give him.

If such a man were held captive by a despotism that wears the "sheep's clothing" of a paternalistic "welfare state", he eventually would find himself cast into the midst of a wolfish tyranny that is the very opposite of enlightened self-government.

WITHOUT ECONOMIC FREEDOM...

freedom to get a job... to save some of his earnings for himself and his family... without this fundamental security he would find himself tottering down the road whose routes are laid out by his government—and it would be the type of government that governs WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED!

That's the story of mankind's past experiences in nations that are many centuries old. It very definitely can be repeated in the times in which we now live. Uncontrolled by taxpayers, government emerges into eventual despotism.

This danger was never better emphasized than in the words of the 15th verse of the 7th chapter of Matthew: "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

It is rumored that some political chaps plan to petition American tailors to fasten larger hand-holds on the coat-tails of popular candidates for the U.S. Presidency. While this may not take the place of the survey with the fringe on top, it should provide better means for "dragging" purposes.

The quiet was broken by the whump-bang of the bepo orchestra. "Did you ever hear anything so wonderful?" Mary asked her dad. "Yes," he grunted, "when a truck loaded with empty milk cans hit a freight car full of live ducks."

Bill had been naughty nearly all day, and as punishment was sent upstairs to bed, before the evening's TV programs started. "And when you say your prayers ask God to make you a good girl tomorrow," her mother told her. "Why?" the child inquired. "What's on tomorrow?"

An eighty-year-old man kept a detailed record of what he had done during each hour of every day in his life, and then figured out how he had spent 26 years in sleep, 21 years working, 228 days shaving, and 140 days paying bills. He also spent 26 days scolding his children, and two days yelling at his dogs. Only 26 hours were spent in laughing.

A college professor recently came up with this bit of candid observation: An expert is like the bottom half of a double boiler. It lets off a lot of steam, but really doesn't know what's cooking.

Lamented the sheep to her baby lamb: "Hat dress is rayon, her stockings are nylon, her coat is orlon, her gloves are dyneel, and her slip is dacron. Yet, no doubt, some day she'll pull the wool over the eyes of her sweetheart."

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"My dear fellow, you can't afford to say 'no'!"

All Over But the Mourning



NATURE NOW

By Lydia King Frehse Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Plants Form Basis Of Life's Pyramid

In any season hunger is life's most compelling urge, but when winter's snow and ice reduce the natural food supply, its demands become most acute.

It is life's first law that everything which lives must somehow find nourishment for itself. Green plants, however, do not need to devour some fellow creature in order to live. They have the unique ability to derive their nourishment from non-living materials; water, soil, air.

But for an animal in the wild the situation is more complex. True, there are certain of his kind who are herbivorous and can select their food from a variety of plants. Others have omnivorous appetites which allow them an even wider range, since they can eat either plants or animals.

BUT FOR the carnivore, there is only one choice. He must either starve, be killed or be killed. If the victory is always on the side of the strong, it is to the cunning.

The barred tang, the claw concealed in soft fur, the poised beak cloaked in darkness—each of these will lead to the familiar stain of blood on snow and a pathetic handful of fur or feathers. And when spring uncovers winter's story only a pile of bleached bones will remain.

In the sea or on the land the great broad base of life's pyramid is made up of green plants which support its hungry boards.

The striped caterpillar of a monarch butterfly can eat all day, engorging himself on the leaves of the milkweed, a plant which fits his life's pattern. By nightfall he will have consumed his own weight in leaves. (A comparable performance on the part of your scribe would allow her a daily ration of 135 pounds of spinach.)

THIS CATERPILLAR is only one of a hoard of herbivorous insects which make a laager slightly higher on the broad base of life's pyramid than do the plants.

Above them come such insect-eating animals as snakes, birds and shrews topped by layers of herbivores and omnivorous animals. Finally we come to the carnivore who, among his companions in the wild, occupies the top of the pyramid. He is not necessarily the most intellectual, beautiful or largest animal, but he is the most highly specialized in his adaptation to his environment. As such, he requires a wider range of territory than his omnivorous companions.

This is especially true if the animal lives where life is thinly scattered, as it is in the open ocean, the mountain top or the desert. Where food is plentiful he can live in closer quarters. But wherever he lives, his own kind will be his rivals and they will set his living limits.

NOW LET US descend our pyramid. A wolf howling on a snowy hill needs two foxes to satisfy his hunger. Four grouse have recently made a dinner for each fox. The grouse have eaten a hundred berries, species which, if these are of the carnivorous type, have together devoured uncounted numbers of grubs, which in turn feed on plants. And so we are back to the category of our caterpillar who gorges himself on milkweed leaves.

And what of man and his hunters? Standing at the top of the pyramid, he has conquered his sharp-fanged competitors. In our western world he has bent nature's laws to his advantage until he surfeits with too much. What he still fears are the smallest bits of life—those bacteria, tiny and deadly, which defy both a filter and a microscope.

He man from his vantage point has yet to conquer another and a greater fear. This is the threat of himself and his own kind.

Thousands of people read The Eccentric Classified Ads. So remember, if you want to sell that hard-to-get-rid-of article, advertise in the Classifieds. Ad section of The Birmingham Eccentric.

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up Of The Birmingham Of Today.

50 YEARS AGO January 11, 1907 "We never will have a pure condition of politics as long as the man seeks the office, but when the office seeks the man there is some hope for honest men to run the government."

"Did you ever hear of such weather in January? Four days in the past week the thermometer registered in the neighborhood of 40 degrees. Monday night last such a downfall of rain with numerous flashes of lightning and heavy bursts of thunder would cause a man to look to his laurels. We never saw the like."

"Mr. Mallender entertained his Sunday School class at his home last Monday evening. The boys all report an enjoyable time. Ask them if they like oysters."

30 YEARS AGO January 8, 1927 "Bed sheets were advertised from \$1-\$1.29; pillow cases from 29c-39c; men's flannel work shirts at \$1; men's white broadcloth shirts from \$1.25."

Luther D. Allen, Oakland County road commissioner and life long resident of Bloomfield, was unanimously named president of the new village of Bloomfield Hills at the general nominating caucus Monday night at the district school on the Long Lake road."

"Evidence of a pronounced unrest on the part of Birmingham toward its present form of government was manifested Monday night when 29 local citizens, part of a group of persons listed by the village commission to investigate and report on the relative merits

of village and city form of government, met and formed an organization to study the merits of the Birmingham of today.

15 YEARS AGO January 8, 1942 "Birmingham's new superintendent of schools, Dr. Herman L. Shidler, is now more acquainted with his job and has made several innovations in the system. Tuesday night, for example, he held the Board of Education on the idea of a Board of Girls to counsel high school students of that sex. A new public relations program is also under way; a new vocational program which would lay emphasis on secretarial and distributive instruction, in cooperation with Birmingham merchants, is contemplated.

"In a story headlined 'Fire Shuts Down Buses; Housewives Unite On Shopping Trips,' it was reported, the railroad's commuter business had picked up 10 per cent since the ban on tire sales... difficulty in getting parts for bus repairs..."

The price of some delivered milk was raised to 14¢ a quart.

"School days are the happiest days a woman's life—if she's a mother!"

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Two unknown Birmingham area men recently earned the lasting gratitude of a Michigan conservation officer. This bit of information came from Birmingham Police Sgt. Richard Brown, who was the man in the middle.

Brown had sought out Vern Dockham, Oscoda county's conservation officer, to tell him where a just killed doe was to be found. (Some hunter apparently had shot the animal, which Brown had come across as he was roaming the woods near Mio.) Dockham learned where Brown was from, and told him he could do a favor.

Then Dockham explained that while on a routine errand, he had lost his wallet along one of the back roads as he got into or out of his car.

AWHILE LATER IN TOWN, he was approached by two men, who after saying they were up from Birmingham for some hunting, asked if he knew a good spot to get some shots at a deer.

"I told them a likely place, and as they turned to leave, one of them handed me my lost wallet!" Dockham told Brown. "While I still was amazed at my good fortune, the men got into their car and drove away."

"Maybe you can locate them when you get home. I'd like to let them know of my great appreciation."

Brown has gone through all his ideas to locate the two benefactors, but admits he had to give up.

"Those men seemed to have vanished," Brown speculates.

Sgt. Brown had lots of cooperation at the start of his search, compared to one of his fellow officers, Det. Sgt. Robert Schaule.

"Other day a call came in from a Birmingham man who reported his cat had

been shot in the head by a BB gun," Sgt. Schaule said.

"Any idea who did it? The complainant was asked.

Yes, he believed he knew—it was a boy in the neighborhood.

What is the suspected boy's name? Schaule asked.

The caller said he wasn't going to tell, that after all that was the police department's job—to find out who did it.

And thus law enforcement forges ahead!

Even your newspapers are going drive-in! The Sarasota (Fla.) News Tribune is going to erect a new building with a drive-in window for customer convenience. And air-minded subscribers are not going to be forgotten, either.

A roof platform for helicopter landings also is going to be constructed. Another of its spectacular features will be an 80-foot glass wall in the Florida (of course) style building.

From The Eccentric's issue just 50 years ago: "There are two kinds of girls in the world, the girl who works and the girl who gads. Command us to the former. Work lends dignity to a pretty girl, is an added charm to her. The girl who works, God bless her, combines the useful and the ornamental. She might gad about, roll on sofas, gossip and read story books, but she prefers to be of some account in the world and goes out as stenographer, teacher or saleslady or housekeeper and bravely makes her own way. Such are the salt of the earth and of such is the kingdom of heaven."

The girls who stayed home weren't noticed?

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