

BAA Provides Art Center Here

Remarkable growth and development of the Bloomfield Art Association, whose "home" is a delightful hundred-year-old Birmingham house on N. Woodward, is eloquent proof of a declaration made years ago by famed writer Leo Tolstoy, who said: "It is a human activity having for its purpose the transmission to others of the highest and best feelings to which men have risen."

That Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills and other nearby communities contain men and women who either possess the talents of art, or appreciate and are inspired by evidences of art, is shown in the ready response of its roster of 230 Founder Members. To this list are being added daily the names of others desiring regular membership affiliation with BAA.

Approximately half of the Founders themselves are either professional or amateur artists, using various art mediums to express their ideas. These arts include painting, sculpture, illustrating, ceramics, metalworking, and teaching. The remainder consist mostly of persons with a sincere appreciation of the general theme of art. Their roster will be added to indefinitely by additional regular memberships.

IT LONG HAS BEEN KNOWN that this metropolitan area of Detroit includes men and women, of all ages, who are devoted to the arts. So it was of great interest to the Detroit Institute of Arts that the Bloomfield Art Association has come into being. The Institute is cooperating with BAA as a sort of "pilot model" for the development of other out-lying community art projects.

The Institute has made their staff and general resources available to BAA. Regular discussion and teaching meetings are being held in BAA's local center. Three exhibits already have been shown to the

public, which also include an appropriate motion picture and lecture to tie in with each exhibit. BAA's influence on local youth is evident, too, in the promotion of summer art classes, in cooperation with Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills school. These classes provide opportunities for local students at all age levels, with teaching sponsored by the Founders of the Detroit Institute of Arts. A variety of classes for adults will also be resumed this fall.

WE CONGRATULATE ALL those who have given of their time, talents and money to organize and get into successful operation BAA. In no small way they are playing the part of genuine benefactors to all who expose themselves to the art opportunities to be scheduled.

It is our strong conviction that, to quote in part an old Biblical phrase, "... man does not live by bread alone..." Within people there is an inner, hungering appetite for both the expression and appreciation of great and inspiring ideas. That is, after all, what good art is. There is no doubt but what BAA will find its tremendous helpful role in satisfying this hunger.

Perhaps the finest characterization of the aims and purposes of the Bloomfield Art Association is contained in the foreword in its descriptive brochure. They read:

"The richness of a community is not to be measured by its mansions nor by its material depositories of gold or jewels; it is to be found in the values proclaimed through those enduring arts born of minds that see beyond the ruins of temporal goals and crumbling vanities of little men. Such richness is a lasting heritage for our children and our children's children."

New Deal Pattern Modernized

Of late, many times you have read, seen or listened to high Republican officialdomers say: "Modern Republicanism? ... I'm waiting for someone to define it. I really don't know what it means."

That's a lotta double-talk, we think. Who coined the phrase, anyway? It was President Eisenhower. And what is Ike's present political program? Well, it's a very big budget—called plenty extravagant by many, including top Republicans.

Ike wants to dish out billions in foreign aid, some of it boondoggling, it is reported. Ike says he is against too much centralized control in Washington, D. C., yet he wants billions for federal support of

education and for roads . . . and if that doesn't mean further centralization of control of the 48 States in Washington, what does it mean?

IN BRIEF, IKE WANTS plenty of what the New Deal and the Fair Deals wanted, only on a larger scale. Add up all these Eisenhower "wants" and you have "Modern Republicanism" . . . revealed in action by the man who coined the phrase.

But you'll continue to hear the double-talk about that phrase . . . typical weak and cowardly attitudes by those who continue to "wonder what it means."

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Current proof that "crime does not pay" is seen in the capture of Mrs. Anna V. Thorpe, who absconded with \$80,000 of State of Michigan money 15 months ago. She already has admitted her guilt and will spend some years of her life in penal confinement. She was arrested in Corpus Christi, Texas, with her husband. Both admitted that they are "glad it is over", for they were in perpetual fear of arrest, and moved from one place to another like hunted animals.

Authorities say that there are 90,000 hairs on the average redhead's scalp, and over 150,000 on blondes. So let this serve as warning: the chances of getting blonde hair on your coat are almost twice as many as a redhead's.

Informed persons know that for years and years the influence of paid lobbyists in Lansing has had a great deal to do with the kind of laws placed on the books. Many times, the better lobbyists could be depended upon to provide factual data about numerous subjects and when so acting were helpful to legislators. But now the Legislature plans to enlarge its own research facilities, and may pay less attention to what the lobbyists have to offer. (However, lush expense accounts and personable qualities still can preserve much of the lobbyist status, many believe.)

We rejoice with the Trumans over the birth of their first and only grandson, born to daughter Margaret June 5. Now both Grandpa and Grandma will have a new and lively topic of conversation.

FOR THE BIRMINGHAM AREA'S BETTERMENT, THE ECCENTRIC URGES:

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Suburban Sidelights by Neil



"Why didn't you think of THAT before the game started?"



NATURE NOW by Lydia King Frehse

Bog Field Trip Rewards Botanist

Every living thing shapes its habits and manners to fit a particular niche in nature's economy. The resulting plant and animal associations present a variety of habitat groupings, which together make up the floral and faunal population of any locality.

Michigan is a highly glaciated area dotted with lakes and almost surrounded by water. It presents a variety of habitats from dunes, meadows and marshes to coniferous areas, from bogs to rich beech maple forests. Man's interference has created additional habitats, such as we find in cut and burnt-over timberlands.

ONE OF the most rewarding of these habitats from the botanist's point of view is the bog. Give him access to such an area and he is oblivious to insects, muck and rattlesnakes, for here, he will find that which he cannot see elsewhere.

We recently visited two bogs in the vicinity of Clyde, Michigan. Here great deep layers of sphagnum moss are gradually filling in a shallow pond. Such an area is called a quaking bog because of the wet spongy plant layer yields to pressure underfoot.

Here a top layer of living moss is covered with a variety of water loving plants that have deep layers of decayed sphagnum. Farphenomena Mrs. Frehse plants, this ancient moss retains water habits. Because it produces great quantities of aqueous tissue which are made up of the simplest of structures, it is one of the most absorbent materials in all nature. When dried, a plant will hold 100 times its weight in water. It therefore makes an excellent packing material for shipping live plants, and is a naturally antiseptic dressing for wounds. The peat of commerce is composed of layers of sphagnum and bog plants cut into bricks and dried.

WE ALSO visited a second more

On the bulletin board at the Birmingham ground observer post on East Maple road is posted this notice:

"Mrs. Smith, who has the coffee concession at Murray-Way Corp. across the road, invites observers any time, 24 hours a day, at the side door."

This is a nice neighborly gesture, and a short walk to a cup of hot coffee is a welcome relief for the man or woman who has been scanning the sky for the Air Force's strategic air command.

Although it is named "Birmingham", the post has relatively few Birmingham people serving it. Birmingham Lions club members staff it between midnight and 8 a.m. Thursdays. Other Birmingham citizens have volunteered for miscellaneous watches, depending on their normal family schedules.

Only full-time schedule is Thursday. Sunday is almost full.

Volunteers also come from Royal Oak, Troy, Ferndale, Franklin, Bloomfield township. They include a Disabled American Veterans post and an explorer scout troop.

More observers are needed. If you have or can make time—even an hour or two—GOC Supervisor Mrs. Eileen Vines, 113 Columbia would be most pleased to hear from you.

mature bog. Here the more established and-layer supports a greater variety of plants including a scattering of tamarac and black spruce trees. More demanding herbaceous plants including marsh cinquefoil, meadow snuff, yellow lady's slipper and several other varieties of orchids were present. Wild cranberry vines grew thickly interspersed in sphagnum, their delicate tendrils still covered with edible fruits, the result of nature's deep-freeze.

The rattlesnakes escaped us. But we saw how plants adjust to their environment; their hangers, their structure and their eventual fates molded by their particular habitats.

Nothing sets a person so much out of the devil's reach as humility. —Jonathan Edwards.

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Happenings of Long Ago

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

60 YEARS AGO
June 21, 1907
"Bert Kerr with his buzz-wagon turned a corner suddenly, Monday night and Joe Schoonover's horse, just as suddenly turned the buggy over and ran away scared most to death. The girls were not much hurt, and Monsieur Bert did the only thing left for him to do, and that was to gallantly take the girls home in his auto."

"The Goble farm, this side of Pontiac, has been purchased by Pontiac business men and will at once be made into a fine cemetery. The name chosen for the cemetery is Greenwood. Winding drives, park trees and shrubbery will make it a veritable park. It might not be amiss to remark that two Greenwood cemeteries within five miles of each other will sooner or later cause complications. We would suggest that the name be changed."

Advertisements—Two-story, 7-room house in good repair, cellar, fruit, etc. house would cost more than \$1,000 to build—and that's all we ask for it. Opposite school house, between Merritt and Martin on Chester street.
30 YEARS AGO
June 23, 1927
"Fire threatened the downtown district of Birmingham today following the ignition of a large waste paper receptacle at Woodward and Hamilton avenues. The paper burned itself out, however, and the fire department was not called. It might have been pretty bad, it is said by eye witnesses."

"Free swimming pools in the village" is the cry today of the Bigger Pool club of Birmingham.

JUNE
... and they will be Married next Saturday
Add to their supreme happiness by selecting thoughtfully the Gift you will give them! Make yours a Gift to be treasured . . . a Gift of enduring style, and quality and pleasure in its use.
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