

# Studying A School's Curriculum

A few weeks ago, at the suggestion of Supt. Eugene L. Johnson, a number of parents whose children attend the Bloomfield Hills public schools formed a committee to study the educational curriculum. They will give special attention to the courses in physics and science, in keeping with the national emphasis on these subjects, since the recent launching of Russia's satellites.

We congratulate Supt. Johnson, his Board of Education, and the Hills' citizens who comprise the committee.

CERTAINLY, PERIODIC scrutiny of a public school's curriculum by taxpayer citizens is a worthwhile endeavor. Such a citizens' committee, if it be a composite representation of the various facets of the community's economic and knowledgeable life, should be of great aid in the development and maintenance of a well-balanced curriculum.

The Eccentric recommends this study committee plan to all publicly supported school districts.

# Rally Kremlin Captives To Revolt

Admiral William H. Standley, our Ambassador to Russia in 1942-3, said on the Manion Forum, "Of one thing I am positive, and that is that the democratic revolution in Russia is inevitable—and imminent."

He points out that thousands of Russian soldiers and officers joined the Freedom Fighters of Hungary in the first stages of their revolution in 1956. These soldiers had to be replaced by the Kremlin gangsters with specially indoctrinated troops.

Many, if not most, of these new troops were Mongolians from Siberia or China—not Europeans.

It is also known that tens of thousands of Russian soldiers deserted to join the German armies when Hitler invaded Russia in 1941. They thought the Germans were coming as liberators.

EUGENE LYONS, WHO SPENT years in Russia as a newspaper correspondent, in his book, "OUR SECRET ALLIES," agrees with Standley.

In their struggle to be free, more Russians have gone to Siberian salt mines—under Czars, or the slave labor camps of the Reds than any other people in modern times.

Why is it not the open and avowed policy of our government to do everything short of actual physical combat to get the message of freedom to all enslaved peoples . . . to rouse them into their own revolution against their masters?

Why does the free world hesitate to win over the captives of the Kremlin over to democracy's environment?

How else, short of actual war, can the barbarism of the Kremlin be vanquished?



# NATURE WALK by Lydia King Frehe Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric Oaks Are Common In Part of State

Now the oaks lift their empty branches to the winter sky. Their strong roots, massive trunks and thick bark are common to every southern Michigan landscape.

The oaks have one feature which distinguishes them from all other trees; their fruit is always held by a cup. It develops from inconspicuous flowers, the male a pendulous stringy catkin, the female a small cluster growing at the axis of leaf and stem.

The cluster under your oak eye in early June is made by the discarded male blossoms which have shed their copious pollen on the wind. Both male and female flowers are borne on the same tree.

The oak genus, *Quercus*, is large and wide-spread including nearly 300 species. They are slow growing and long-lived trees and shrubs.

THE NORTHERN VARIETIES lose their leaves in the autumn but some of the southern species such as the live oak and certain of the laurel oaks are evergreen. The live oak is common in Florida and the Gulf states where it is often covered with Spanish moss. Incidentally this latter plant is not a moss but a flowering air plant belonging to the orchid family.

The oak family is divided into two main groups named the red and the white. The former is characterized by leaves with rounded lobes. The fruit matures in one season and is sweet and edible. The red oak has brittle or hair-tipped lobes on its leaves. The fruit matures in two seasons and its kernel is bitter.

ANOTHER WAY of distinguishing between the two groups is to examine the acorn cup. That of the red oak group is lined with woolly hairs while that of the white is smooth. The Indians used both varieties for food as the acorns of the red oak group lose their bitter flavor when boiled.

The oaks of Michigan are variously classified. The most commonly known species include the black, bur, chestnut, pin, scarlet, red, single cumber white and swamp white. They are a difficult family even for the botanist because they tend to hybridize and authorities differ as to the number of species growing in our state. There is also great variation in the shapes of individual leaves.

The oak is noted not only for its variety of species but for its size and longevity. Among the large trees thus far discovered by Michigan's Botany club survey is a white oak in Pontiac which measures 195 inches.

Donald Peattie, in his tree book, lists 10 species of oak in eastern and central North America and reports a white oak at Salem, Mass., which was already a landmark when Columbus was founded in 1625.

Today the lumber of many species of oak is used for furniture and building materials. A less known by-product is tanning, made from the bark. Our pioneer fathers found the oak most satisfactory for their cabins, churches, barns, barrels, bridges and ships. Many woods have particular uses but none is as versatile as the oak.

In the end the oak is king of our hardwoods; the white oak is the most important timber tree in our North American sylva.

# From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

'Tis said that a raisin dropped into a glass of champagne will continue to rise and fall. 'Tis also reported, on good authority, that a glass of champagne dropped into a person may cause that person to act like a raisin, too.

Proof that the people of the United States are peace-loving is evident from the fact that it does not start a war, does not seek territories belonging to other nations. On the one hand, this is a strength of democracy; on the other, it does grant a potential enemy the opportunity of attacking us first. Moral: we must continue to remain militarily strong.

Two schools of thought exist in top civic and military jurisdictions in the federal government; one wants the army, navy, and air forces kept separate over all command and development, while another is just the opposite, seeking a one-man sort of assistant commander-in-chief to the President. Both schools, however, appear to want acceptable defense results. Both need, apparently, the letter and the spirit of co-operation, practical compromise, and renewed selfless dedication to the great objective they were created to achieve.

Why do most units of government, large, small or in between, continue to increase their budgets? For the most part,

it's because of citizen apathy toward the problems of self-government, plus the quite natural tendency of most officials to offer more and more public services. If you want your taxes kept down, then you'll have to participate in those activities that let your officials know how you feel. Most elected public officials are very mindful of the wishes of organized and articulate voters.

Every day your newspapers tell you about a variety of troubles among human beings; from international frictions to neighborhood shootings, rows, etc., etc. One should remind himself, when reading his newspaper, that most people do not get into situations that warrant publication . . . many have no troubles at all. Your newspaper prints what is NEWS . . . and to the everlasting credit of the average man and woman, he and she lead reasonably normal and quiet lives.

Holland's control of Indonesia is now but history. Led by Reds, the native population is taking over everything, albeit, Colonialism, of course, has been abandoned in Indonesia by the Dutch, who prospered for generations by exploiting the islands. Surely, the entire human environment is being up-turned and so often over-thrown in these turbulent times. Never have the forces of Right and Wrong been so completely engaged in mortal combat.

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

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- Continuation of Best Possible Types of Area's Subdivision Growth
- Complete the Landscaping of B'ham's Civic Center Park
- Lowest Possible Tax Rate Consistent with Municipal and School Needs

## The Birmingham Eccentric

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## Ticklers By George



"This breakfast food is awfully old . . . Johnny Mize hasn't played with the Yankees for years."

## 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.

50 YEARS AGO  
January 31, 1908  
"We have certainly been enjoying a most delightful winter so far, not yet has the old thermometer seen zero and all in all it is a dandy winter."

"When our women went to Lansing they took with them 175,000 individual signatures besides petitions from women's clubs and other organizations aggregating 100,000 more. Yet they say women don't want to vote."

"Why not Birmingham? Many of the small towns are making the children happy by flooding water lots, thereby converting them into skating rinks. The children enjoy it, mothers are relieved of the anxiety of having the little ones in dangerous places. It would take our marshal but little time and would be entirely forgotten."

30 YEARS AGO  
February 2, 1928  
"Harry Brooks, Southfield airman, returned home last night with the official record for America for distance in a light plane. The award was made following the completion of 472 miles by Brooks in his attempted nonstop flight to Miami, Fla."

"Plans are under way this week for the first social affair to be given by the official record for America for distance in a light plane. The award was made following the completion of 472 miles by Brooks in his attempted nonstop flight to Miami, Fla."

"Aid of village historians and of those settlers in Birmingham who remember the village when it was a mere handful of houses is asked today by members of the Civic League in discovering old land marks and in marking them before they are entirely forgotten."

15 YEARS AGO  
January 2, 1943  
"Where's my 60 gallons of gas?" asks a Berkley resident. One night

last week he parked his truck on E. Maple near Elm street and went to the theatre. When he came back one blanket and 60 gallons of gas were missing.

"A father phoned police last week and asked officers to look on the lookout for his son, who had taken the car without permission. Officers did not run across him."

"A real estate man had this to say after learning that some of our rural neighbors were snowed in for days before the County got around to clearing the main roads: 'Maybe some of the folks who built outside the City in order to escape City taxes wish they were inside to get the benefit of prompt City snow plowing.'"

"For some strange reason, Dr. William P. Mowry, of Detroit, sends us a postcard announcing the removal of his office. Facts about himself include this odd testimonial: 'I'm a doctor, but not "The Medical Value of the Live Red Ant.'" Figure that out!"

## Suburban Sentiment

THE EASY WAY  
Wouldn't there be less hurry, Frustration, cost and fuss  
If we let the Janeses worry  
About keeping up with us?  
—Corinne R. Abalt

## ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Why do women cry?  
That's a puzzler men have pondered for centuries, at such varying occasions as the offering of an engagement ring, the death of a loved one, the winning of a beauty crown or the climax of a soap opera.

For those—or a million other things—Tessie turns on the tears. But how does she pull the trigger on those tears that have befuddled helpless males since the dawn of time?

According to researchers on the subject, Tessie's tears don't rush immediately. First her heart speeds up, her skin becomes cold, digestive action is halted and blood pressure is raised. Then when the tension breaks, the eye lotion of the tear gland (located just beneath the outer bony rim of the eye socket) begins to flow.

TEARS SWEEP ACROSS the eyeball and collect at the inner edge of the lids in a sort of pool. Some overflow.

Small tubes at the corner of both eyelids collect tears, draining them into a tear sac, which lies beneath the skin and muscle tissue alongside the bridge of the nose.

Another tube extends from the tear

sac to the inferior of the nose. Thus, during a heavy cry, a runny nose occurs.

IS CRYING HARMFUL?  
On the contrary, say these researchers, most psychologists and physiologists feel crying may be helpful on occasion, since it occurs in a state of emotional transition and is almost always accompanied by a feeling of relief.

So when women cry, unless they're turning on phony tears to sway a hapless male to their point of view, they're simply bringing their nervous system back into balance and returning to mental and physical well being.

THEN WHY DON'T men cry?  
They could, and readily, but from childhood they're conditioned to believe that tears are taboo to all that's masculine.

Achilles shed tears over the death of Ajax. Alexander wept on beholding the land he had conquered. Napoleon, watching his French army disintegrate in the Russian winter, sobbed in frustration and grief.

Joe Smith? He turns purple, pops a vein, gets an ulcer—and remains dry-eyed through the whole dismal mess.

LEGAL NOTICES

John E. Marx, Atty., 727 Penobscot Bldg., Detroit 26.

STATE OF MICHIGAN. The Probate Court for the County of Washtenaw, Michigan, do hereby certify that the will of the late JOHN E. MARX, deceased, was admitted to probate on the 15th day of January, A.D. 1958.

Present, Honorable Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of WILLIAM DAVIS HOPPER, also known as WILLIAM DAVIS HOPPER JR. deceased.

William Davis Hopper, III having filed a petition praying that an inventory of the said estate be admitted to probate as the last will and testament of said deceased, and that administration of said estate be granted to said petitioner, will, or to some other suitable person, do hereby certify that on the 15th day of January, A.D. 1958, the said probate court, in and for the County of Washtenaw, Michigan, do hereby certify that the will of the late WILLIAM DAVIS HOPPER, deceased, was admitted to probate on the 15th day of January, A.D. 1958.

Present, Honorable Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

Other proceedings time for hearing closed.

Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the WOODBURY LAKES RESIDENTIAL ASSOCIATION, INC. shall be held on the 15th day of April, 1958, at the Club of Birmingham, Oakland County, Michigan.

By A. L. Gurnick, Secretary

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