

## BAA Art Festival a Success

The recently staged fine-day Birmingham Arts Festival, planned and directed by the Bloomfield Art Association, (BAA) proved to be a successful venture.

Starting "at scratch", the BAA committees put together more than 30 various exhibits, ranging from painting, sculpture, photography, crafts and hobbies, ballet dancing, choral and instrumental music groups, and many other expressions of the creative urges that exist among people.

Robert Thom, artist, and general chairman of the Festival, and Mrs. Elmore Wollering, who handled a wide variety of the Festival's organizational make-up, both have declared themselves satisfied with the public response to the project.

FINANCIALLY, THE FESTIVAL was self-supporting, leaving a surplus balance of \$2,000 to aid in preparing next year's Festival.

Chairman Thom has declared that this entire Birmingham-Bloomfield area is far above the average community in the in-

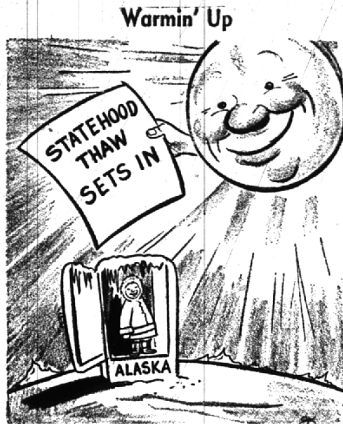
herent cultural potentialities of its citizens, both as creators and as appreciators of the arts.

He points out the fact that the Cranbrook Academy of Art, plus other associated Cranbrook cultural projects, laid the original foundation for the attraction of many artistic-inclined residents to this area.

There is not, of course, any question but that the development of one's artistic potentialities, in any form, enlarges one's life-horizons; it allows one to release inner urges, and also brings pleasure and happiness to those who merely see and hear.

THE RECENT FESTIVAL was a considerable project. Hundreds of adult men and women, as well as youth, participated in its program. That it will become an annual event will gratify countless thousands—many of whom come from nearby and distant communities.

"All the arts are brothers; each one is a light to the others", saith Voltaire.



NATURE NOW by Lydia King Frehe  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eclectic

## Flora on Manitou Charm Naturalist

South Manitou is the most southern in a chain of islands which lie off the west coast of our lower peninsula. Together these land masses make a wide arc which in pre-glacial times connected the Leelanau with Waughoshance point off Wilder-

ness point. The islands emerged from the familiar white T. graniform and the early red T. erectum. Also present was the less common T. flexipes and several varieties new to these eyes which may be hybrids between the two latter species. On the Leelanau mainland we saw the always rare ram's head lady's slipper and on the island the larger yellow lady's slipper, the striped coral root and the long-bracted green orchid.

Other rare dune plants were a red anemone (A. multifida) and the creeping buttercup (Ranunculus flammula var. reptans). Among the many mosses on the island is Neckera pennata which makes a shaggy blanket high on the trunks of mature trees.

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## Saving Porcupine Mountain Park

Should Michigan's beautiful Porcupine Mountains State Park have a mining company to operate within its borders? Outdoor lovers say NO! Upper Peninsula citizens want mining to go ahead; claim it will increase U.P. employment and taxable wealth.

If you want your State to retain this Park without the trespass of objectionable mining operations to disfigure portions of

its scenic beauty, contact the Conservation Dept., at Lansing.

It may help to prevent harm to the Park—though Conservation Dept. officials have admitted that already existing mineral rights, held by private citizens who sold the land to Michigan, may allow operation of mines. Anyway, it won't do a bit of harm to write, wire or telephone Lansing.

will not deter the trip's success. If only the other military services could see as clearly above the waves... wouldn't that be nice?

Considerable controversial discussion has taken place in high Washington, D. C., circles relative to the proposed Senate Bill to solve some of union labor organizations' problems. The legislation offered by Senator Kennedy is pointed out by some (including Democratic Senator McClellan and Labor Secretary Mitchell) as not inclusive enough to meet the situation's needs. Others argue that, 1958 being an election year, Kennedy's plan is the best that can be enacted—meaning that Kennedy and his supporters don't want to lose any labor votes. Well, that's quite normal for most legislative bodies... they refuse to meet problems' head on. In this attitude, of course, they are supported by the silence of those of their constituents who do want corrective labor legislation on problems of the day.

Want a free color TV set? Ask Ike to put you on the Federal Communications Commission—maybe you'll also receive free expense-paid trips from some of the business enterprises the Commission is presumed to regulate.

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

Birmingham continues to rate as a safe community insofar as auto traffic accidents are concerned. The National Safety Council has just awarded the city two citations; one for its thorough and complete maintenance of accident records, the other because it has had no fatalities during this year's first four months. To be sure, local police may take considerable credit, together with city officials who "make the rules of our local roads." But both pedestrians and motorists, too, are entitled to some praise. Let's endeavor to keep our local records very low in accident and fatality data.

Walter Reuther and his top UAW leaders have found it necessary to curtail overhead expenses, just as business does under similar circumstances. UAW's members, about a fourth of them, are unemployed, and so dues are not coming in.

The U.S. submarine Nautilus has left Seattle for a 26-day submerged trip to Panama. Even though it will not "come up for air" until Panama is reached, it is expected that lack of open air visibility

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## ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

A detailed study of business activity in the United States, covering all parts of the country, stamps Birmingham as a solid, sturdy market, with family earnings and expenditures, during the past year above average.

The figures bearing this out are contained in Sales Management's annual copyrighted survey of buying power, just released.

Net incomes in Birmingham during the year, after deduction of personal taxes, came to \$71,896,000.

THIS WAS EQUIVALENT to earnings per household of \$9,394, obtained by dividing total income by total number of households. It compares favorably with the average in other parts of the United States, \$5,921 per household, and with the average in the State of Michigan, \$6,406.

Just how good a year it was in Birmingham, despite the last quarter slump, is brought home by the fact that local residents, with only .0142 percent of the national population, accounted for .0239 percent of the national income.

And, with more money available to them for spending, they bought freely, making 1957 a top year for retailers in general.

THE SALES TOTAL in the local stores reached \$78,889,000, with most lines of business benefiting. It exceeded the 1956 volume of \$72,565,000.

Since the expenditures were higher than the amount earned by the local population, it is clear that the city was the shopping hub for a wide area.

Each community is rated in the survey to show its relative standing as a market, based on such considerations as number of people, the amount earned and spent and the growth outlook.

BIRMINGHAM'S RATING, called its "quality of market index," is given as 187, or 87 percent higher than the national average.

Successful as the year was locally, it would have been even more so had not a feeling of uncertainty developed toward its close. As elsewhere, a wait-and-see attitude was adopted by the buying public.

People began salting away their money, adding to the existing backlog of savings. In Birmingham, Chamber of Commerce Manager Charles Mortensen told us the other day, more and more of these savings seem to be going into cash registers. A tide-turning observation, we all hope.

## Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eclectic

50 YEARS AGO  
June 19, 1908

"J. Roy Blakeslee is the happy owner of a new auto. When you hear the biggest chug, chug, chugging and the loudest toot, toot, tooting, the loudest ever you heard, that is Roy and his auto coming clear the track and watch out!"

"Lost! Between William Herbinson's and Birmingham, a heavy back comb set with amethysts. Finder will please leave at the firm office, and make a school-ma'am's sad heart rejoice."

30 YEARS AGO  
June 21, 1928

"Work is being completed on the first baseball diamond for the use of Bloomfield township residents in the new township park east of Kensington road. The diamond is expected to be ready within a month."

15 YEARS AGO  
June 17, 1943

"Who Birmingham is to pick the first edible carrot, beet, bean, pea and potato? Let us know and this column will record the first"

for posterity. Melon patch location will be kept secret on request."

"It has been many months since Service and Sgt. Grant Springs knocked off a local 'num-buck' office. It must be that the policy operators have now quit selling tickets in Birmingham."

The first Christmas tree is believed to be of German origin, dating from Boniface, English missionary to Germany in the eighth century. Martin Luther is believed to have introduced the candle-lighting tree.

The population of the United States presently estimated at over 172,330,000 by the Census Bureau, an increase of 14 per cent since 1950.

"Advertisement—For 8 years I ate only baby food, everything else formed gas. Now, thanks to Ad-ler-ics, I eat everything and enjoy life."

"More people might live to a ripe old age if they weren't too busy providing for it!"

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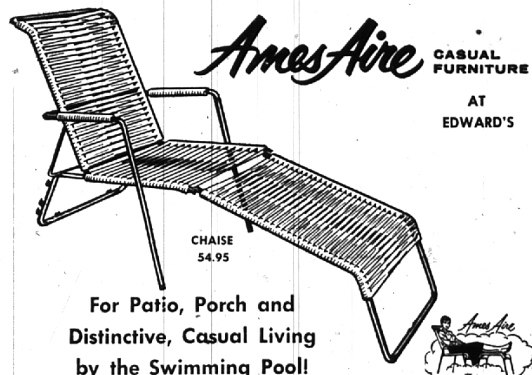
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