

Will-O-Way Classes

Registrations for the summer program at Will-O-Way Apprentice Theatre are now being accepted through June 2.

Birmingham Gets Progress Report On Future Alleys

It's better to look the barn before the horse is stolen, Birmingham city commissioners believe.

To preclude any future deadlocks in which business blocks might develop leaving stores in their center without alley access, the city has inaugurated an alley program.

At the commission's request, City Planner Herbert Herzberg submitted a progress report Monday night on his contacts with abutting property owners concerning possible acquisition of property for alleys in five business blocks.

Herzberg recommended that consideration be dropped on an alley at the rear of Brown street between Pierce and Purdy.

The PLANNER SAID the city should continue negotiations for an alley on the west side of Woodward between Merrill and Brown streets, and that some of the owners have indicated a willingness to work with the city on it.

An alley considered on the west of Woodward between Brown and Daines streets, Herzberg felt, would be unnecessary because each of the block's four lots has secondary frontage on a side street.

Despite Herzberg's recommendation that there be continued study of an alley west of Woodward between Frank and George, commissioners voted to drop the project after a verbal tongue-lashing from George Fugmann, 962 Ann.

When property owners on the block involved, Fugmann told commissioners "Once and for all, throw it out, because we the people, the taxpayers, are not interested in it."

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'Pied Piper' Gets Started

Getting instructions from the "Pied Piper" who leads them through wonderlands of nature are junior members of Cranbrook Institute of Science.

Until you tag along with several dozen junior members on a Cranbrook Institute of Science field trip, you will probably pass by 99 per cent of the excitement of spring without seeing or hearing or feeling or even knowing they are there.

With knowledgeable Pied Piper Walter P. Nickell striding ahead, a large group of us aged six to sixty, followed him over hill and dale recently, through woods and brush and swamps looking for signs of spring.

We were urged to ask questions, but our leader asked the most pertinent: Why does a garter snake have an odor? How many stages does a caterpillar go through? How does the moth of the lent caterpillar get out of the cherry ball where it has been all winter?

What made this hole in a goldfinch nest? How many offspring could result in one year from a pair of meadow mice if they were unimpeded by natural enemies?

THE ANSWER to that last one after a wild chase to catch a muskrat mouse in a plastic case so that we all could see it, is that a pair, unimpeded by disease, insects, birds' nests, with as much as 17,000 offspring in ONE year plus their many children and grandchildren!

Bird's nests were examined. "What species made this one?" asked Mr. N. Holding up a large mass of grass and leaves, loosely put together and lined with rabbit hair.

"A wabbit," piped a small girl. "Right," said Mr. N. "Now what bird uses the hair over again in its nest, after a rabbit has produced her litter?"

"Blank looks. No answer. Black-capped chickadees use it," our leader explained. Little Ann Forster of Bloomfield Hills held her hand fast enough to win the rabbit's nest for her fourth grade at Vaughan school.

BY THE END of the trip each child had one or more specimens of spring, some "over from Mr. N. some personally collected. We saw one boy carefully digging into a mass of grass for his plastic specimen case and asked him what he was finding.

"Oh, I just thought it would be frightfully interesting to watch it die," said that happy child.

A future scientist, no doubt. Not all were so serious. Kids being kids, they displayed the greatest excitement over the cap.

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5000 Birmingham School Children To See Film

Over 5,000 Birmingham school children will have seen a film on bike safety and another on the danger of accepting alcohol from strangers by the end of next Wednesday, May 21, with "Hansel and Gretel" at the Community House.

One of the most unusual Festival events will be offered on the closing Sunday afternoon, May 25, starting at three o'clock from the Bloomfield Art Association's Headquarters, 391 Woodward.

Called an "Art in Action" pilgrimage, this visit to artists' studios is no museum-tour type. Visitors will have an opportunity to observe the actual working techniques of two of the most highly regarded professional artists in the country today, each associated with work in quite different media.

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BITS OF BIRMINGHAM

THREE FIRES THIS YEAR in collection trucks may force a change in Birmingham's rubbish pickup schedule in the next month or so.

When Pierce school pupils recently picked states to do research projects on, Harvey Bell, 1961 Washington, went to the fight school for his information—his chosen state's governor. He picked New Mexico since the Bell family had a vacation scheduled there.

IT HAS BEEN REPORTED to this column that the city of Birmingham is maintaining an unusual condition in the vicinity of three of its Springdale golf course fairways.

Birmingham's new zoning ordinance colored map is a real pride and joy to city planner Herbert Herzberg, who "designed" this teen district patterns, including five colors, have been used to make the map easy to read and understand. These maps are part of the complete printed Zoning Ordinance and are sold for the nominal price of \$1.50 each at the City Clerk's office.

A 25-YEAR-OLD BIRMINGHAM MAN, Sp3 James Webber, is assistant education adviser at the army's HACOM education center, Patton barracks, Heidelberg, Germany, and in his military career has taught all ranks from private to lieutenant. He finds soldiers work harder to pass courses than most students do at civilian schools.

Art Festival Adds Plays, Studio Tours Additions to events already scheduled for the 9-day Spring Arts Festival May 17-25 include the St. Dunstan's Players behind-the-scenes rehearsal at Cranbrook's Greek Theatre on Sunday, May 25; three delightful plays to be presented at different times during the week by the Youth Theatre Workshop and Detroit Puppet Theatre of the Detroit Institute of Arts.

OTHER FIELD trips, ahead in May include cello, maracas and parrot digging in an Ohio quarry on the 10th; wildflower and bird migration study on the T14 at Point Pelee; exploring for orchids, amphibians, reptiles and birds at Froid Lake; the 24th.

Parents are welcome. In fact, one of the nicest things about these trips is to see fathers or mothers with young sons and daughters, plunging along examining trees, insects, birds' nests, with as much excitement as the children.

Bicycle Thefts Point Up Need For Licensing Though most of them are taken for joy rides and abandoned later, bicycle thefts have been on the increase recently in Birmingham.

Most of the bikes returned to their owners had been licensed, police said, noting that to identify stolen property by a license number and complete description on record at the police station. Police also suggested bikes should have locks, because an unlocked bike will be towed to a car with keys left in it.

Next Day, The Youth Theatre Workshop of the institute will present "The Witch's Lullaby," in which the entire cast becomes involved in a last three witches in Scotland. This also will be at Baldwin school.

On opening day, May 17, the Detroit Puppet Theatre will present "Gammer Gurton's Needle," a satirical adaptation of an old English play, at Baldwin school auditorium.

On the strictly amusement side, a square dance under the stars at the Parking Lot No. 1 promises all of the color and fun usually associated with dances given by the recreation board. It is expected to draw the net of game for the whole festival.

Marshall Fredericks is one of the outstanding names in sculpture in this area, such prominent buildings as the new Ford Auditorium. Even Kline is an exceptional talent with a genius for national recognition for her extraordinary work in glass. A superb mosaic mural in the Fillet Cultural Center is hers.

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FREE PARKING

Business Zoning Sought Again For Hunter Block

Another appeal to the Birmingham city commission on their petition to rezone a block on Hunter boulevard was filed by its owners last week.

The city commission Monday night referred the request to the Birmingham planning board, along with a second request from Dr. J. Clark Moloney for rezoning of property at Daines and Brown streets.

Dr. Moloney requests a B-1, non-retail business zoning, to use the property for doctor's offices.

Outstanding Cadet Gilbert P. Nolan, son of Mr. and Mrs. N. E. Nolan, 3178 Tuller court, Birmingham, has recently been awarded the "outstanding cadet" award in a ceremony at Michigan State university.

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