

Hail To Our Arts Festival!

If, as the Good Book strongly declares: "Man does not live by bread alone . . .", then the various cultural offerings being exposed to local public indulgence this week are strong proof of this area's acceptance of the above quote.

For, as you all know, during this week the Birmingham-Bloomfield-Franklin and contiguous communities are enjoying the second annual Arts Festival program. This program is dedicated not only to the traditional work of painters and sculptors, but it includes music, ballet, dancing, drama, literature, light opera—all staged in the combination serious-humorous neighborliness of a lot of people losing themselves for nine days in an environment of the creative arts.

A SCRUTINY of the over-all program again reveals the fact that this part of Michigan contains an unsurpassable number of talented men and women, with

youngsters of both genders added. It provides proof that the Birmingham-Bloomfield-Franklin and nearby "neighborhoods" are peopled with folks whose professional activities, and/or their hobbies, include one or more of the arts that comprise this Festival's program.

A strong organization such as the Bloomfield Art Association, aided by many other groups and individuals, is spearheading this Festival . . . and may we emphasize again that such an activity works with a zeal and ardency so typical of enthusiastic volunteers!

SO, FOR THE SECOND consecutive year we shout: "All Hail To the Birmingham Arts Festival program! May it bring both to those whose personal efforts comprise the various facets of the program, and to those who merely appreciate it, a goodly measure of entertainment, education, and inspiration . . . for, remember . . . 'Man does not live by bread alone . . .'"

Mankind's Virtue Better Than Law

Years ago, Calvin Coolidge said, "There is no way by which we can substitute the authority of law for the virtue of man."

These words came to mind when we read of the dedication of the carillon tower on the Capitol grounds to perpetuate the memory of the late U.S. Senator Robert A. Taft.

Since Taft died six years ago, Congress and the 48 State Legislatures have passed "a million laws to enforce the Ten Commandments." Have they made us a law-abiding people, or lessened crime, juvenile delinquency or labor racketeering?

It seems that the more laws, the less law. The "authority of law" is at low ebb. Taft himself helped write many laws, but is remembered for only one.

WHO CAN IDENTIFY any particular

law with the names of Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln or T.R.? Few indeed.

Coolidge was right. Men grow great in the people's eyes only because of their virtue—their character.

Taft, Webster, Clay, Calhoun and LaFollette have been chosen as our five greatest Senators. They are remembered for what they were more than for what they did.

Present legislators who rent porches, appoint relatives and beat their bosoms as "friends of the pee-pul," while picking their pockets, are of bedbug size by comparison with these five men.

As Mr. Hoover said of Taft, the thing that matters is that the memory of those who "stood for moral principles in public life" be preserved.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Rise of Cuba's Fidel Castro proves that human beings respond to the dramatics of situations more quickly and popularly than they do to stark realities. Castro was able to lead a force to oust former dictator Batista from Cuba's Presidency; that he did by playing upon emotions. Now that he is in Cuba's top public position of leadership, he doesn't know how to lead the people to democratic self-government, or to economic security. His country will fall back into the limbo of a leaderless type of society. Depend upon the non-democratic mob to take over.

Down in Alabama a right ruckus was waged because public libraries that stocked a child's book in which the author told of a white rabbit marrying a black rabbit.

These ardent segregationists down there opposed having the book available to the public through libraries. The book was removed. But the memory of the funny bunnies remains to plague the non-funny humans.

Hoffa labels Reuther "without either brains or guts." Reuther comes back with "Hoffa uses muscles for brains," or something like that. Boy! if those two labor leaders would stage a sort of feeding-debate cross-country, charging, say, a couple of bucks per seat, they'd get enough gate receipts to increase their union men's wages without contributing to inflation—if, of course, they will give the receipts to their dues-paying members.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

A flopping, fluttering shirttail is acceptable in your home, but it only shows you are half-dressed at a public meeting.

Toreador pants are proper for a girl to wear around the yard or on picnics, but not for walking down the aisleway in a city commission room.

Sweat shirts are practical on the athletic field or for a camping trip, but hardly the torso covering for a middle-of-the-evening public appearance.

Jamaica-length shorts are cool on a vacation or at the beach, but are hardly a girl's costume for an evening in town. Especially when topped by an open-necked, shirtwaist.

BLUE JEANS ARE PRACTICAL for odd jobs around the house, but not the proper leg coverings for an evening appearance at the town's top municipal meeting.

These types of informal (?) costumes seem to be the rule rather than the exception for Birmingham high school seniors who are required to attend several Birmingham city commission meetings

during the school year.

This semester's practically over. However, before it ends and students and faculty scattered for the summer, this seems a good time to plant the idea that better grooming should be expressed when the new seniors start making their city commission visits next fall.

OVER A PERIOD of several years, at regular Monday night Birmingham city commission meeting I have observed the deterioration in the dress of these high school civics class members.

Whatever the reason—stupidity, carelessness or disrespect or other—the adults in the audiences continue to show their quiet amazement over the students' informality (?).

Sure, it's an assignment for you, students.

But let's dress properly for these and other public meetings.

Not from squalorville.

Not like beatniks, either.

Just dress as you do for your regular classes.

Rawhide!



NATURE NOW

by Lydia King Frehe
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Rare Orchid Found on Michigan Trip

The year is 1810. It is the time when Daniel Boone, mighty deer slayer, roamed the primordial wilderness of young America.

It is August of the same year. Thomas Nuttall, the English naturalist, is exploring the wilderness along northern Lake Erie and Lake Michigan. While botanizing on Mackinac Island he discovers a plant new to science.

It is May 31, 1959. Our saga, though less romantic, is none-the-less satisfying. Dr. Edward Voss, director of the University of Michigan's plant project, is the leader for the Michigan botany club's foray at the Mackinac Island park on the most northern rim of the Lower Peninsula.

Spread out at our feet are deep beds of the lake dwarf iris (Iris lacustris). This is the plant discovered by Thomas Nuttall 149 years ago. The dwarf iris, seldom more than four inches high, grows rampant along the roadside, half shaded by conifers. It is a diminutive version of its kind, covered with a wealth of deep blue-purple flowers emerging from a bract at the tip of the stalk. The blossoms are three-parted and perfect. The stamens are hidden at the base of each flower division while the sepals bear a yellow-fringed crest. This complex structure is especially adapted to cross-fertilization by bees. The flowers, about one and three-fourths inches in diameter, are large in proportion to the size of the plant. The whole creates an effect as beautiful as it is rare.

THE DWARF iris is conspicuous because of its abundance and its wealth of showy bloom. However, the prying eyes of the naturalist seldom soon discovered in its midst a far rarer flower—one which has eluded our scribe for more than 145 years. This is the tiny fairy-slipper orchid, Calypso bulbosa.

Its genus name is for the seafaring hero for seven years held the Greek Ulysses a captive on her island home. Its species name is for the small basal bulb which furnishes the food supply to carry the plant over winter.

There are many of us who call the Calypso the most exquisite of all the orchids. Upon discovering it for the first time the naturalist John Muir wrote in his journal: "How long I sat beside it! I don't know. Hunger and weariness vanished and only after the sun was low in the west I splashed through the swamp exhilarated, as if I never more to feel mortal care."

The three lance-shaped petals and three sepals which are alike in shape and color are spread in an ascending wing-like pattern over the shoe-shaped lip which is lined and spotted with madder purple. Its opening is marked with three double rows of beard-like yellow hairs.

Upon first sight the delicate purple stem seems to spring naked from the forest floor, but a closer look reveals a single oval leaf which hugs the ground and is no more than an inch in length.

FIRST THE iris, and finally the orchid, are in the direct evolutionary line of descent from the more ancient and simple lilies. Both are flower aristocrats, the orchid proclaiming its supremacy by its complicated and intricate structure so finely turned to the pollinating insect.

But this high degree of specialization has its price. Although an orchid pod may contain as many as a million seeds, it is a small and therefore contain so little food that they have almost lost their power to germinate. Thus the orchids present an object lesson revealing the disadvantages which accrue in the quantity production of living things.

Happenings of Long Ago

Bite of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO

June 11, 1909

"The big man may look down on the little fellow, but it is just as well to bear in mind that the prize pumpkin at the fair seldom makes the best pie."

"Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Miller of Detroit gave us a friendly shake as they passed by Wednesday. They look like Detroit is worth living in."

"Frank Deer and his bride of a week have settled down in their cozy home next on Maple avenue and you would think they had been keeping all their lives. Frank has got so he can say 'my wife without blushing.'"

30 YEARS AGO

June 6, 1929

"Action on paving Long Pine road from Woodward Avenue to the Redford road was tabled by the Bloomfield Hills commission today following failure of taxpayers to agree on the kind of pavement to be used."

A study committee has recommended that no changes be made in Birmingham's village charter.

Birmingham's tax rate for 1929 will be \$12, or \$1 more per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. The budget will be \$311,231.20, with \$317,600 obtained from property taxes.

15 YEARS AGO

June 8, 1944

W. Cott Allen of Birmingham has been elected president of the Detroit Bar association. For the past four years, he also has been a member of the Birmingham city commission.

Birmingham school district voters will go to the polls next Monday to elect board of education

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