

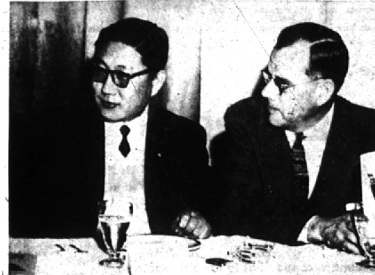
Today's terrific and almost terrifying international strife between so many nations is but evidence of the inability of too many individuals to gain mastery over their own negative characteristics, attitudes and habits. We seem to be goaded on by covetousness for material things; we seem willing to trade personal freedom for "governmental security." We are fearful . . . fearful of every tomorrow.

The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

Thursday, March 12, 1959

SECTION
F



Foreign Scout Leader

Chung-In-Kim of South Korea was the guest of honor at Scouting's annual Eagle Recognition Day Dinner held March 2 in Detroit. Seated with him are Paul Wilson (right), 962 Puritan, Birmingham, and Scout board member Joseph Conway, 4795 Burnley. Wilson, a Scout Council vice-president, recently attended the National Training School for Scout Executives at Mendham, N.J. While there he met Kim and invited him to spend a few days in this area before returning to South Korea. Kim will serve as director of activities for the South Korean Scout Association when he returns.

DOWN TO EARTH

Businessmen Have Growing Talents

By ALICE WESELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Recently your writer had the pleasure for the second time of visiting the Montreal botanical gardens. This time the visit was amid snowdrifts six feet high, so that the major time for the interview was spent in the luxurious green-houses.

My host was Mr. A. J. Verschling, who has a Belgian background—a good recommendation for any plantman. Prior to coming to Canada he had been a banker in his home town. Many of our finest growers I have met, and some of the ones who have made the greatest contributions in horticultural progress have a background of business.

Mr. Verschling has developed a successful concept of growing plants in sphagnum moss. He, no doubt, is not the first one with the idea. But he has prosperous examples of plants grown in this

medium, and he is generous in sharing his technique.

SPHAGNUM moss is stringy. After breaking it up with his fingers and sorting out the fibers, he soaks the moss over night in liquid fertilizer. It could be any of our houseplants.

Now he plants houseplants in the moss, allowing some of the moss to project out of the bottom of the pot, like a wick. The moss is packed solid around the plant and set in a saucer on pebbles. The plants are fed from the bottom, unless liquid fertilizer is being applied. He advocates doing it only when the appearance of the plant calls for it. Mr. Verschling likes to have pea gravel on the top of the pot to conserve moisture.

HE PREFERS using the glazed flower pots instead of the common greenhouse pots, because he says they do not need as much watering and he feels that because the air is confined within a glazed container the chemical reactions can work for the benefit of the plant in the fight for existence.

Here is an idea I saw within the large display greenhouses. They constructed tree formations from fitted pipe and covered over the pipe with the cork we see by the piece in flower stores (comes from Portugal). Now on these trees are hung orchids, moss like you see "dripping" from trees in Florida, and appropriate plant material.

Cactus is one of the specialties in this botanical garden. Mr. Verschling says that the reason our cactus plants grown inside sunny windows do not flower is because they call for more intensive sunshine than this climate can offer.

Cactuses which we see all over the world have their original locale in America. Hoora! We can tell the difference between Euphorbias and cactuses. They look similar, due to the cottony cushion on the stalk where the flower of a cactus comes into flower. A cactus plant does need fertilizer.

If you have an aloe plant in your home, you will find a leaf rubbed on a burn soothes the skin. It is used for radium burns. When you have gardening as a hobby you do meet such interesting people. Such as Mr. Verschling of the Montreal botanical gardens.

Gossett Named State Chairman For Library Week

William T. Gossett, vice president and general manager of Ford Motor Company, has been named state chairman in Michigan for the 1959 observance of National Library Week, April 12-18.

This will be the second observance of National Library Week. Gossett, 420 Goodhue, Bloomfield Hills, was elected a life trustee of Columbia University at the March 2 meeting of the University trustees.

People's Column

94-Year-Old Letter Written During Civil War

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following letter was loaned to The Birmingham Eccentric by Edward E. Andrews of Chesterfield street, Birmingham. The 94-year-old letter was written by a Birmingham resident to his friend stationed on the gunboat Forest Rose at Cairo, Ill., during the Civil War.

The letter belongs to Jacob L. VanWagoner of Waterford, father-in-law of Andrews. Jacob is the brother of the former governor Murray D. VanWagoner.

John Fitzpatrick Esq. Gunboat Forest Rose, Cairo, Ill.

Dear Friend,
Your letter dated Oct. 9th reached me this morning and after reading it I made up my mind to drop you a line at once and let you know how the land lays up here.

Well, our principal business at present is fighting the Copperheads. I did not think when you left here that we should have an exciting canvass, but the time has changed and the Republicans are up and doing and we shall carry everything in this state. I made a bet of a pair of Boots with E. R. King that we should elect R. E. F. on the home vote so you see I am a little combant.

TOMORROW we have the great meeting of the campaign in this county. Colfax of Indiana and many other speakers from home and abroad will address the masses. I would like to have you present to see and hear it.

Internal Revenue is on the increase and will add largely to the receipts from that source the coming year. Mr. Hughes is with me yet. Allen Buzalov of 5th Cavalry lost an arm in a fight under Sheridan in the Shenadoah Valley and James Grimes is reported dead. He died in the Rebel Cattle pen at Andersonville, Georgia. The rest of the boys as far as I know are well.

WE TALK some of reviving the Birmingham Dramatic Society but I hardly think we have the material on hand to draw crowded houses. Birmingham is improving every day, we have sidewalks on the principal streets and the Academy is biling with Crinoline this winter but I can't tell you today half that's going on here.

My better half is well and tenders her sympathy to you in your trials with hard luck and Greybacks, and would if she could send you a supply of soft bread for the former and fine comb for the latter but I think she does not understand the latter Gentleman's tactics very well and therefore does not know the proper remedy for them.

I ENCLOSE you three of Uncle Abraham's pills that we intend to administer to the Caps in this County in such quantities as will effectively squelch them. You know some of the ingredients so well that I am certain that you will administer the dose if you get the chance on the 8th of Nov. next with feeling of great satisfaction. I am not certain who I have written and have not time to read it over so I will stop here. Write me often and let me know how you get along. Gun Boating and other wise thrashing the Reb. and we will try and protect your rear from caps. I remain as ever

Your friend
Luther Stanley

NEED SOMETHING FOR YOUR HOUSE? Then locate by reading or using the Classified Ads in The Eccentric each week.

Fish Guide Published By Cranbrook Institute of Science

CRANBROOK — There are 234 kinds of fishes in the Great Lakes region. Prof. Karl F. Lagler, chairman of the Fisheries Department at the University of Michigan and Carl L. Hubbs of the Scripps Institute of Oceanography, LaJolla, Cal., have pooled talents to produce the only guide to all fishes in the Great Lakes.

Entitled "Fishes of the Great Lakes Region," the book was recently published by the Cranbrook Institute of Science at Bloomfield Hills.

Description, distribution, habitat, diet, and other scientific and lay information of Great Lakes fishes are included in the book. In addition, it contains illustrations of fishes on some 45 color plates plus 251 other illustrations.

The 227-page completely revised and reset edition (it was first published in 1947) may be purchased from Cranbrook.

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King in Missouri

Army Pvt. William M. King, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray King of Rochester road, Birmingham, completed the heating and ventilation

equipment maintenance course at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. King entered the army last August and completed basic training at Fort Knox, Ky.

SPRING TERM STARTS THIS WEEK

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