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Here's an Investment That Keeps Paying Off

By RUTH VOGT
Special Writer

Excitement and adventure lies in many areas. For some it means climbing aboard a plane and telling the pilot to take them 'round the world.

For others, it's exploring out of the way city streets in distant lands. But for a whole lot of our town's population? It means nothing more complicated than opening wide one of the two heavy doors of our Birmingham Community House.

THE ANNUAL "Roll Call" is about to be sounded as Birmingham citizens are asked to contribute to the support of their building. With no house-to-house solicitation for funds, the drive's success will depend entirely on the contributions mailed in between Mar. 15 and Apr. 15. But back to the Community house.

THE MINUTE the feet feel the touch of the piece of flagstone in the portals, the second the "smell" of this particular house is experienced, the "feel" of it as one enters is taken. In the way of under the sign at the foot of the stairs saying "place all books here" there is the same excitement, the adventure, (in a very different way) as when boarding or alighting from a plane or ship of train.

For under its high and stable roof lies just about anything one could wish. In the way of companionship, learning or growth (Is it true that no other city in the country has one just like ours?) It could be.

In the half-dozen years living on the edge of the town which supports it, not one season has passed when it wasn't taken advantage of. A garden class was attended in one of the rooms tucked behind the furnace room. There, each Tuesday, a group of eager plants discovered, with the guiding help of one who knew her way around in the flower world, exactly what made plants and shrubs grow.

AT ANOTHER level, on the first floor, during another term everything was learned (or most things) about what went into making a house attractive enough to label it a "home." This was surprising.

It takes something more than the dollar bill it takes an awareness of what goes with what and a certain alertness of what your family's needs are, in order to create a real home. Way upstairs, on the top level, many Tuesday mornings have been spent in the room boasting a beautiful fireplace and winged backed chairs, plus lovely endtables, listening to a woman who tries to explain, in understandable language, just what makes the world so round like it does. And why. This class? It dealt with politics, geography and current events. In a wonderfully stimulating way.

AND ON the main floor? Exhi-

bits have been viewed. Luncheons have been eaten, only to sit back after everyone has had the second or third cup of coffee, to listen to some speaker. Music has been heard, too, in this same huge room. Music which follows a person right home to the kitchen.



BASIL RATHBONE

Slate Rathbone As 'Master' At Will-O-Way

The Will-O-Way Apprentice theatre has announced that Basil Rathbone, star of stage, screen, radio and television, will be "the master" in their new "master class" in theatre, beginning February 10. The master class technique is used extensively in European musical circles, but has seldom been used in dramatic training. The technique brings to a group of serious advanced students a "master of great stature" in his field. Each member of the class takes part in previously prepared performances for the master's criticism. Rathbone will be at Will-O-Way May 3 and 4 to critique the performances of this Spring's "Apprentice class." The spring term will begin Feb. 10.

To qualify as a member of the "master class" a personal appointment for an audition must be made. Final readings will be Feb. 3, 4 and 5. The judges selecting students qualified for the class will include dramatic critics from the three Detroit daily newspapers. There will be a teenage as well as an adult section to the class. Pre-arranged attendance at Will-O-Way is not a requirement. Registration is now open for the regular spring term dramatic classes for children, teenagers and adults which will also begin on Feb. 10. There will be open houses at the apprentice theatre, Feb. 5 and 6, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Will-O-Way Apprentice Theatre is on W. Long Lake road in Bloomfield Hills.

Who'll Sit? Portraits are the assignment for the Feb. 4 meeting of the Bloomfield Hills Camera club. The meeting will be at 9 p.m. at the Cranbrook Institute of Science.

And tea has been sipped in the front part of the building. And people have been talked too. Most interesting, and vibrantly alive people. (Sometimes the ones wearing the silliest of hats have been the ones who have expounded the worthiest ideas. Funny, isn't it?) Indeed, this Community Spot has given much more than was ever expected when ground was broken a few miles outside of town. It's about time a "Thank You" was uttered for its gifts. To me...

This & That

(Continued from Page 1-A)

table) if they heard my question and if they also heard Miss Porter's answer. The immediate and spontaneous audience applause that followed this last statement of mine was eloquent proof that the manner in which economics is neglected in our educational curriculum was on their minds, too... and quite heavily.

As a matter-of-fact, after the banquet and even into the next day, several scores of those in attendance at the convention thanked me for raising the question.

I MAY ADD, TOO, that I also mentioned the subject to several representatives of Michigan's three largest Universities, Michigan State, University of Michigan, and Wayne State, who were present, and they, too, agreed that economics was a much neglected subject.

Of course, I knew this... and know, aware of the subject of economics, that the U.S.A. doesn't know it? That's why we have an almost uncontrolled inflation; why we have capital and labor in a constant feud, why we fail to make the fullest use of our abundant natural resources, achieve a more stable higher living standard for our people. Yes, Sir... and Yes, Ma'am! I do hope that Board of Trustees herey question and Miss Porter's answer!

Scope, Depth Mark 'Gasarama' Show At Cranbrook

Michigan Consolidated Gas company's award winning contribution to the education field, "Gasarama," will be presented locally to Michigan Mineralogical society at Cranbrook Institute of Science at 8:45 p.m. Feb. 4. The dramatic science show, designed to encourage students to take a deeper interest in scientific subjects, won the top public relations award presented annually by the American Gas association.

AS A CIVIC gesture of good will to high schools within its service area, Michigan Consolidated Gas has provided a special truck to transport equipment to fill the demand for school presentations. Through a series of demonstrations, "Gasarama" points out the role scientists play in the discovery of natural gas through the use of seismograph sound waves to detect gas deposits buried for centuries beneath the earth's crust. It dramatically tells the story of how natural gas is transported 1,200 miles to Michigan through three giant pipelines from Texas and Louisiana to serve homes and industry in some 12 communities.

Are you thinking of buying a new car? Then read the "For Sale-Houses" column in this issue of The Birmingham Eccentric.

Congratulations and Advice

Receiving congratulations as 1950 president of the Detroit area council, Boy Scouts of America is Merritt D. Hill, (right), vice president and general manager of tractor and implement division of Ford Motor company. William Holdsworth (left), parts and accessories department manager of Ford's tractor and implement division, is the chair-

man of the organization and extension committee for district one. W. Calvin Patterson (center), vice president of Michigan Bell telephone company is outgoing president of the council. Hill resides at 965 E. Glengarry circle; Patterson at 6155 E. Surrey, a n d Holdsworth at 831 Ivy Lane, all in Bloomfield township.

4 from Here Get Master's At Cranbrook

CRANBROOK — Among the 12 Cranbrook Academy of Art students who received their degrees at mid-year, Jan. 29, are four Birmingham residents, three of whom received their Master's degrees in architecture.

James Ross of Ann Arbor, a U. of M. graduate, who has been living with his wife Jacqueline at 247 Merrill, received his M.F.A. in painting. He studied painting with Jack Madison and ceramics with Malja Grotell.

ROBERT W. SEEVERS of Lincoln, Neb., who lives with his wife Marilyn, and small daughter Dayna at 1288 Bird, earned his Bachelor of Architecture degree at the University of Nebraska, before coming to Cranbrook. David I. Leash, who has also been living on Merrill, is a De-

troiter who was graduated from Lawrence Institute of technology with a degree in architectural engineering, and is now on his way to Colorado and the West.

Raymond M. Postvoorde, Jr., with his wife Carole and very small son Jamie have been living on Park St., and are now occupying the Wallace Frost house on Bonnie Briar during the Frost's five month trip to Spain, Italy, France and Greece, and is now an associate with the firm of Begrow and Brown, architects, in the Frost studio at the foot of Bates.

Cold weather doesn't freeze want ad's fast results.

Scooter Victim 'Is Improving'

Peter B. Stevens, 12, who lost his right leg as a result of a collision between a motor scooter and a car, Jan. 20, is improving steadily and is in good spirits, according to authorities at William Beaumont hospital Royal Oak.

Peter, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore P. Stevens, 2870 Big Beaver, was riding on a motor scooter that struck the right rear of a car driven by Mrs. Edith H. Bauer, 55, of 2409 Dorchester, Birmingham. The Troy police department has interviewed six students from Derby junior high school who were present when the accident happened, but none have been able to explain how the collision occurred. Mrs. Bauer was not held.

New Semester Set By Women Painters

The Birmingham society of women painters has launched into its new program. This group of working and exhibiting artists, has painted under the direction of such artists and teachers as Emil Wellinger, Sarkis Sarkisian and Frances De Erdelyi.

The group is now receiving direction and criticism on alternate Mondays from Albert Mullen, associate professor at the University of Michigan. Alternate Monday programs will feature Owen Brinard, from Michigan State university, with a lecture on structure, Michael Church from the University of Michigan and Jerome Karnowski, teacher of drawing and painting in the college of architecture at the University of Michigan.

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