

So many people assume that the gift of life is something that Providence has handed them in a sort of routine way, to do with as they desire, unmindful of the indescribably wonderful possibilities of making of this gift a great and a marvelous achievement—the kind of achievement that may reflect the nature of Godness... and thus create for mankind an environment nearer to peace and happiness.



Octagonal Design for School in the Hills

## "Elves and the Shoemaker" To be Presented Friday

The first play of the Children's theater of AAUW, "Elves and the Shoemaker", will come Friday to the Birmingham theater for two performances at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. This gay and warm-hearted fairy tale is directed by Mrs. Richard Clooman, assisted by Mrs. Wade Hulbert.

Appearing in the cast will be: Harriet Fox, Norris Scott, Margaret Remondino, Paulette Slayden, Molly Mow, Mary Lou Marsh and Gay Trauerlicht.

IN CONNECTION with the ticket sale, children's theater this year conducted a poster contest, which was judged by Dorothy Siddall. Winners were Loch McAdam, Craig Kellstrom, Wendy Pardee, Randy Forcier, Steve Behndt, introduce Mrs. Dwight Struthers, speaker for the evening. Her topic will be "The First Ladies of the White House."

## Engineering Group Slates Fall Meet

The Engineering society of Detroit Junior Wives will meet 8 p.m. Wednesday in the Junior Room of the Rackham building. Mrs. Donald Gauthier, program hostess, will introduce Mrs. Dwight Struthers, speaker for the evening. Her topic will be "The First Ladies of the White House."

Members attending from the Birmingham area will be Mrs. James Wilson, Mrs. Leo Case, Leonard Gilchrist, Edward Jacques, Edwin Lau, Donald Smith, Arthur Koester and guest Mrs. Stanley King.

Mrs. Robert Zimmerman's centerpiece for the tea table will be done in a fall hue of autumn colors denoting the election theme. Pouring at the tea table will be Mrs. DeWald Fergie and Mrs. Thaddeus Majkowski.

## Group Meets To Discuss AFS Week

To plan for North Oakland county's part in American Field Service Week in late April, Mrs. Arvo O. Thalacker held a kick-off dessert luncheon yesterday at her home, 470 Lowell court, Bloomfield Hills. Mrs. George W. Romney, honorary chairman of AFS week, discussed the need to raise funds to expand the AFS program which provides scholarships for teenage exchange students.

## Localites Attend Award Ceremony

Queen Ingrid of Denmark accepted in the name of the Danish people, the Save the Children Federation 1960 annual award for distinguished service to children. Localites present at the award ceremony were Mr. and Mrs. Al. O. Grann, Mr. and Mrs. James A. Boreford and Mrs. Robert Van der Kooft.

## Attends Workshop

Mrs. Emma M. Swift, 875 Stanley, Birmingham, represented this area at the first annual pre-conference workshop Saturday at the MEIO. Volunteers attending the all-day session were told of plans for an all-day next January to raise additional funds to aid the 208 police victims in Oakland county.

## Junior Group of Goodwill To Present Annual Show

Junior Group of Goodwill will present its annual show and sale Nov. 13 at 2 p.m. and running through Nov. 16, Mrs. George Romney will cut the ribbon at the opening ceremonies at the Goodwill building.

The antique market will feature 53 well-known dealers who will display antique objects, furniture, china, jewelry, prints, etc.

## Artists to Display Work at Reception

The opening reception for the national exhibition of 15 watercolor painters, sponsored by the Michigan Water Color society, will take place from 2 to 5 p.m., Sunday, at the Community Arts Gallery at Wayne State university. Reception arrangements are under the direction of Mrs. John S. Lorne and her committee Mrs. Robert Rieder, Mrs. James S. Siddall, all of Birmingham.

In the receiving line from Birmingham will be Mr. and Mrs. Carl P. Rogers, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bender and Mr. and Mrs. Thad Brykaski.

## Musicales Gathers

The first meeting of the Moment Musicales was held at the home of Brenda Ebnesele on Adams road. Those performing were Carolyn Ruffer, Mrs. Walter Ruffer, David Wetter, Cathie Eddy and Louise Homberger.

## Suburban Scene

By Shirley Adams  
Society Editor

### Stage Veteran Stars Here

"I missed being born in a trunk, but was almost born in a theater. Mother took me to a show the night before I was born, says Muriel Donegan, starring in St. Dunstan's Players' comedy "The Girls in 509", Oct. 28, 29 and Nov. 3, 4 and 5. Local audiences watching the pert, youthful performance of petite Mrs. Donegan would have difficulty believing that this young lady is a veteran trouper with professional experience back in the silent movie and vaudeville days.

MURIEL, who is coyly evasive about dates and ages, started her career acting "some years ago" at the age of five, with a St. Paul stock company, playing Kitty in "Alias Jimmy Valentine." "A role I spent mostly locked in a bank safe." Little Muriel (presumably even smaller in those days) was busy in St. Paul and Minneapolis and later in Duluth and Chicago theater for some years after her youthful debut, becoming the first child to work stock on a contract basis.

DURING THIS time she played most of the classic child-star roles of the period, including "Little Lord Fauntleroy," "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm," "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," "Babes in Toyland," "Daddy Long Legs" and "The Littlest Rebel." A few years later another talented kid called Shirley Temple followed Muriel in most of these roles. About this time (she admits only that it was the time of silent movies) Muriel made her movie debut in "Snow White" for Universal Pictures.

### Muriel Goes to Broadway

The impresario, Oliver Morosco, "discovered" Muriel working in a show in Chicago and brought her to Broadway, where she was a success in the roaring twenties legitimate theater and musicals, including "The Ziegfeld Follies" and a year and a half with Charlotte Greenwood in the now all but forgotten musical "Linger Longer Letty."

### Disappointment Hits

A big disappointment came when she lost her first chance to play a Broadway lead when she was dropped from one company as too young for the lead part and replaced by Fay Bainter. (She's younger than Fay Bainter, that's a clue.)

### Gives Vaudeville a Whirl

She then teamed with a young dancer called Jimmy Cagney and gave vaudeville a successful whirl. Later she split with her dancing partner and met a talented, attractive dancer, Franklin Donegan, who also was looking for a partner. Muriel reports that "Frank and I danced and battled from border to border and coast to coast." Out of this tender, fast-paced relationship grew a romance and a marriage. When Vaudeville died and theaters closed behind them while they moved from city to city, the newlyweds decided to retire from the stage while they were ahead. Frank became an advertising man and Muriel a housewife.

### Retired but Still Active

After this, Muriel and Frank kept their hand in with occasional New York radio jobs they could work into their spare time, including a stint in the Mutual Network series "Witch's Tale." Today, a housewife in West Bloomfield, she still looks more like "The Littlest Rebel" than anything you'd look for in a witch's tale. She and Frank have kept up their interest and activity in the theater, lending their professional caliber talents to local amateur groups, including the Footlighters in Detroit, the Township Players and most recently St. Dunstan's Players.

## New City-Country School Overlooks Wooded Terrain

Something new has been added at City and Country school for gifted children in Bloomfield Hills. This fall, many of the students are now attending classes in the new octagonal building which has just been completed.

The new building, which is an architectural departure in design, is located on the side of a hill overlooking the swimming pool and the wooded terrain.

Four of the eight grades meet in the new building with the remaining grades and kindergarten continuing to meet in the old school building.

THE BUILDING is the beginning of an over-all, long range plan which eventually calls for an auditorium, junior and senior high schools.

It has been specifically designed to provide, in a compact space, a modern learning center for four groups of students. Adjoining each class room is a generously furnished workroom for individual or smaller group activities, a concept new in architectural and educational design.

THIS TYPE of room is especially desirable in a school for gifted children, in that it provides the facilities for enlargement of the student's curriculum on an individual basis and permits creative endeavor to be carried on without interference by the general group activity.

The hexagonal shape of the classrooms was developed to provide the maximum of useful space at a minimum of construction expense.

BEGINNING this fall, grades five through eight are now departmentalized with the lower grades remaining on the self-contained classroom plan. Mrs. S. L. Tessem now teaches French to second and third graders and Spanish to fourth through eighth.

New staff members include Mrs. Richard Blahuvilt, music; Mrs. Bernard Cohens, nursery; Elizabeth Halsey, sixth grade homeroom and social studies; Mrs. John Hilbery, art; Mrs. Eugene Kolby, nursery; Lynne Otoshi, fourth grade; Richard Younger, seventh grade homeroom and science.

A NEW IDEA has been instituted in the nursery and kindergarten. In addition to the permanent teaching staff, specialists in their respective fields are teaching the children.

Margaret Peterson, author of children's books and specialist in nature study is teaching the latter; Mrs. Robert Trethewey, dramatics and singing; and Norma Carter, dancing.

City and Country school, a non-profit school of 240 children, founded in 1941, by Dr. George A. Roeper is one of the elementary schools in the United States set up solely for the educational development of the gifted child.



A Typical Day at City and Country School

THE OBJECTIVES of gifted child education are to encourage individual child learn at his own level; to encourage any natural talents the child may indicate he has; and to give each child personal attention.

The average I.Q. in the grade school is between 100 and 160. Average size of the classes is 18. Twice a year, reports on personality development, social adjustment and general academic work are sent to every parent.

COMPOSITION writing is emphasized in the first grade to develop imagination. The school has three parts in its program:

- 1) Reading, writing and arithmetic.
- 2) To expose a child to great variety of learning, such as, creative writing, foreign language, music, art, dancing, fencing and shop.
- 3) To develop talents by ways of various clubs, art, dramatic, music, chemistry, science and shop.

WITH A waiting list for all grades, Mr. Roeper said that they expect to hit a total of 280 students next year.

## Card Party To Benefit Country Day

Before leaving for a trip to California, Mrs. Jordan H. Stover (H), president of the mothers club at Bloomfield Country Day school, made sure that their first money-making project for the year was in good hands.

Mrs. Stover appointed Mrs. William Ploch of Broadway road as chairman of a large benefit telephone card party on Nov. 16. And, Mrs. Ploch leaving with her husband this coming weekend to see son, William III, play football at Berwick academy in South Berwick, Maine, immediately enlisted Mrs. Paul McKeeney of Dunston road as her vice chairman.

Also serving on the committees are Mesdames A. James Stirling, J. P. Judd and Robert Vander Kloot.

Among the homes offered for the parties are Mesdames A. J. Brandt Jr., Leon Hill, Ralph Polk, Drew Haneline, Joseph Goodman, J. D. Richardson Jr., John Nagel, John Poole, Edward Sieber and M. M. Burgess.

## Candidates Elected

The Pembroke Manor association held its annual meeting at Pembroke school auditorium Oct. 11. Outgoing president Peter Higbie presented the existing status of Pembroke Manor's perimeters. Five new candidates were elected to the board of the association.

## Four to Co-Host

North Woodward alumnae association of East's kappa Gamma home of Mrs. William W. Decker, 4805 Cottingham road, reports and Co-hostesses include Mrs. Henry M. Hogan Jr., Mrs. Robert MacGregor and Mrs. James Winter.



Let's Go Formal

This will be the scene tomorrow evening at Cranbrook pavilion when guests arrive in formal attire for the gala opening of St. Dunstan's first production of the season, "The Girls in 509." Helping his wife out of the car is Mr. Charles Himelhof of Lake-

side drive, Birmingham. Waiting for the couple are Mr. and Mrs. Francis T. M. Loud of Villa road, Birmingham; and standing in background is Robert Raich of Bungalow drive, Lathrup Village.

## Norwegian Visitor Entertained

An exchange candidate of the Frysjer International Fellowship for 1960, Mrs. Frida Borge of Lenevåg, Norway, arrived in the United States Oct. 10 to tell about traditions of Norway. In exchange, a farm woman from Maine was selected to go to Norway to extend the friendship of the United States. This exchange is a project of the Woman's national farm and garden association.



MRS. W. H. BURLINGAME AND MRS. FRIDA BORGE

child care and adult education programs. Mrs. Borge were Mrs. Donald E. Irwin, Mrs. William McCallum, Mrs. E. G. Lawrence, Mrs. Marvin Katke, Mrs. W. H. Burlingame and the Duffield Shardelows.

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