Birmingham Girl Plays Piano In School Recital

Gretchen Rühl, 666 Baldwin Court, Birmingham, performed in an after-dinner piano recital at Wellesley College, Wellesley, Mass., Jan. 22.

Informal Sunday afternoon programs of chamber music are a popular new tradition at Wellesley.

Miss Rühl, whose parents are Mr. and Mrs. Harold B. Rühl, opened her recital with a prelude and fugue from Bach's "Well-Tempered Clavier."

A graduate of Birmingham High School, Miss Rühl is a sophomore at Wellesley this year. In addition to playing the piano, she has been a member of the college choir.

Degrees Are Earned

Birmingham was represented at Western Michigan's graduation ceremonies Jan. 21 when Erle G. Henderson, 921 Suffield, received a BBA degree and Richard A. Pressley, 6105 Idlewyle, received his bachelor of science degree.

Medical Mirror
WHAT DOCTORS SAY ABOUT:
Better Health Through Knowledge

Prescription Costs

- Ovulation Suppression
- Writer's Cramp
- Strong Minds
- Douching

Q. Why do most prescriptions cost $10 or more?

A. They don't. A recent study shows that the average price to the patient of a prescription in the U. S. is about $3. Over 60 per cent of all prescriptions were $3 and under. Only about one in 100 prescriptions cost as much as $10.

Q. Does the new contraceptive pill prevent or delay ovulation?

A. If taken for 20 days during the menstrual cycle, the oral hormone preparation which was approved as a contraceptive by the Food and Drug Administration in May of last year, prevents the escape of the ovum or the egg from the ovary. Suppression of ovulation can be accomplished month after month, apparently without harm to the ovary. When the user stops taking the drug, ovulation occurs each month in a normal manner.

Q. What causes writer's cramp?

A. Muscular spasm. Cramping can be helped by frequent rest periods, warm soaks, and writing in a more "relaxed" manner.

Q. Is the old saying, "Strong in mind, weak in body" true or false?

A. False. The highly intelligent are generally taller, heavier, and physically and mentally healthier than those of average intelligence. The mentally gifted tend to be independent, confident, and mature. Although they are inclined to be "risk-takers" in the world of ideas, the gifted have a more even disposition than the average person.

Q. Is daily douching desirable?

A. Doctors contend that the healthy vagina does not require daily mechanical cleansing.

It is your right and privilege to have your prescription filled at a pharmacy of your choice. Choose wisely on the basis of professional competency and price fairness.

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Happenings

(Continued from 6-B)

to be presented in the Baldwin High School Auditorium early this spring.

FRANKLIN—Mildred Wood entertained at cards Saturday evening for the following guests: Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Converse, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Facer, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Sherwood, Mrs. James B. Wood, Mr. and Mrs. Foster Baker and Mr. and Mrs. Leon Miller, of Birmingham.

Interest in the old - fashioned dances, largely revived by Henry Ford, is being shown by many residents of Birmingham and vicinity.

15 YEARS AGO
Jan. 17, 1946

Forty-seven young people will graduate from Baldwin High School at the annual mid-year commencement on Jan 24 at Baldwin Auditorium. Coming to deliver the address will be Dr. Henry Hitt Crane, pastor of Central Methodist Church, Detroit, widely known lecturer and speaker. His topic, he announced, will be "Achieving an All-in-All Victory."

A campaign for an orderly improvement of many streets has been suggested as one of the year's early activities for the City Commission. City Manager Donald C. Egbert recommends a study looking toward installation of parking meters in some of the streets of the city. The commission authorized such a study be made.

For the third straight victory of the season, the steadily improving Maple Hardwood squad won a 30 to 22 decision over a hard-fighting Mt. Clemens team in last Friday night's league contest in Baldwin's fan-packed gym.

Since Jan. 1, all sugar rationing has been removed from the Pontiac Board to the Food Ration Board, 144 W. Ford St., Detroit . . . The new sugar ration book, Form R. 352, consists of one number 39 sugar stamp and nine spare stamps.

2-Day Meeting Held At Mormon Church

A two-day conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints was held at the Detroit Stake Center in Bloomfield Hills over the weekend.

Stake President George W. Romney, 1830 E. Valley Road, Bloomfield Hills, conducted the conference.

Guest speakers from Salt Lake City, Utah, were Elder Richard L. Evans, a member of the Council of Twelve Apostles, and Elder J. Leonard Love, a member of the General Welfare Committee.

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NATURE NOW

Stickpin Dot Points Out Abundant Tree Sparrow

By Lydia King Frehse
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

The neat and dainty tree sparrow is the most numerous species of winter songbird in many areas of our midwestern landscape.

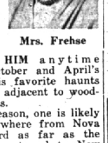
Everyone knows a sparrow or thinks he does. However, too many people consider the house or English sparrow as a prime representative of this family.

The truth is that this bird is not a sparrow at all but a member of the Old World finches. Brought to New York in 1851 to destroy an insect pest, the house sparrow soon earned a reputation as a prime example of a pest itself. As a result of its adaptive powers and its amazing fecundity it has during this last century spread its untidy ways over most of the United States.

THE ANNUAL Audubon Bird Count, made Dec. 26 in a representative area of northwestern Oakland County, tabulated 2,994 house sparrows to head the day's list. Second was the tree sparrow with 2,249 individuals.

In contrasting these two birds one must declare the tree sparrow an aristocrat among the "true" sparrows while the so called house sparrow has defamed a family to which he does not even belong.

On a recent visit to the bird feeding stations at Kensington Park we saw the tree sparrow at his best, active and approachable, clearly defined against the bareness of branch and snowy groundcover.



Mrs. Frehse

LOOK FOR HIM anytime between mid-October and April's ending when his favorite haunts are weedy fields adjacent to woodlots and thickets.

During this season, one is likely to see him anywhere from Nova Scotia southward as far as the Carolinas and westward to New Mexico. Over the years we have found occasional nests in Michigan's north woods country but this species usually breeds and summers among the stunted trees and shrubs that border our Canadian tundra or along the alders, willows and bushy borders of our Artic coasts. In the autumn he streams southward in immense flocks.

AFTER READING these lines, we hope you will "re-think" the phrase "Just a sparrow". Among its kind the sparrow family can also point with pride in voice, looks and habit to such members as the white-throat, song and vesper sparrows.

No bird song is more poignantly beautiful than that of the white-throat, none more continuous and more varied than that of the song sparrow, none more haunting than that of the vesper sparrow.

And there are those who find their quiet browns and greys as satisfying as the bright colors of our more flamboyant birds.

THE TREE SPARROW is often called the "winter chippy" because of his resemblance to the chipping sparrow. As we lately saw him, his bright chestnut cap, the black "stick-pin" dot on his light grey (washed with pale pinkish-brown) breast are convincing field marks. Also characteristic are his two white wing bars and his bill, yellow below and dark above.

Built on or near the ground in the shelter of low vegetation, the tree sparrow's nest is made of shredded bark and plant down. Within the feather and hair-lined cup are laid four to five greenish-blue eggs spotted with brown.

AS EARLY AS February in any spring, you can hear his metallic but tuneful song. It opens with several long high notes, quickens as it progresses and ends with a drawn out jubilant note. On our recent encounter we heard only the friendly and conversational twittering of the flock.

These birds keep happy on the coldest of days protected by a heavy coat of feathers and a thick layer of stored fat which accrues from their diet of oily weed-seeds.

WHEN THE SNOW lies deep, tree sparrows gather in large flocks to feed on grass and weed stems which still lift their seed-heads above the snow. This species is unique in that half of its food is grass seeds including those of crab-grass. Ragweed, purslane, amaranth, lamb's quarters, chickweed, sheep sorrel — obnovious weeds all—comprise the other 50 per cent.

Today we were once more enamoured of the dainty and rollicking ways of the tree sparrow and of the characteristic "stick-pin" dot which marks his breast and again we recall Alan Devoe's thoughts as set down in a recent "Nature Now" column.

When winter erases the "gigantitude" that is nature in her more benign seasons, its bareness then reveals many intimate and intriguing details which we might otherwise have missed:

In last week's column on the poinsettia, a typographical error resulted in a misleading statement. The sentence said, "By Christmas the poinsettia bears white "blooms" and is a species developed from a "sport."

It should have read, "My Christmas poinsettia bears white "blooms" and is a species developed from a "sport."

Chug, Chug; Woo, Woo: RR Sounds on Records

The steam locomotive has had its day and easy-to-maintain diesels have taken over on all the major railroads in the United States.

But anyone who still relishes the haunting whistle of a steam engine dashing through the night can relive the experience with one of several phonograph records that have been produced by railfans throughout the country.

Realizing that the treasured sounds would one day become extinct, railroad enthusiasts carried their tape recorders aboard trains or set them up at trackside locations where the last steam locomotives were still operating.

The result of all this recording activity is the existence of over 60 long-playing discs of steam locomotive sounds from the four corners of the world.

MICHIGAN RAILROADS represented on these discs are Grand Trunk Western, New York Central, Pennsylvania, Soo Line and Wabash.

Seven classes of Grand Trunk Western steam locomotives are heard on "Detroit Division," a 12-inch monaural LP. Switching operations at Durand, a train of empty cars arriving in Oxford and commuter and freight trains at Royal Oak make up this disc.

One of the freight trains is pulled by 6322, a Northern-type locomotive that figured in the historic last regular run of a steam locomotive on any major U. S. railroad last March 27.

BECAUSE OF grade crossings at Royal Oak and Oxford, "Detroit Division" contains a satisfying amount of whistling.

"East Freight on the Nickel Plate" is a 12-inch LP devoted mainly to steam locomotives of the Nickel Plate Road in neighboring Ohio. But a portion of it has some Grand Trunk Western steam-powered commuter trains in the Bloomfield Hills-Pontiac area.

Gets Promotion

Michael J. O'Hara (right), of Birmingham, receives congratulations and the eagle patch from Capt. Wilbur A. Pawson, adjutant, Bad Kreuznach Post, after being promoted to specialist fourth class in Germany. Specialist O'Hara, son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. O'Hara, 855 E. Maple, is a refrigeration specialist. The 20-year-old soldier entered the Army in January 1959, completed basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and arrived overseas the following July. O'Hara is a 1958 graduate of Shrine of the Little Flower High School and was employed by the Birmingham Ambulance Service, before entering the Army.

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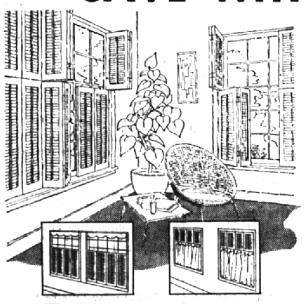

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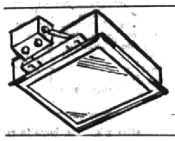

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