

# 'Will Continue to Serve,' Retiring Headmaster Says

By IRMA N. DAVIS  
Staff Writer

F. Alden Shaw is one "old soldier" who won't "fade away" while his students, past and present, remain to keep alive memories of the happy years Headmaster of Detroit Country Day School since he founded it in 1914. Shaw is retiring, but the word for a man who will continue to serve the institution as trustee and consultant. In addition, Shaw, who lives on a farm near South Lyon, will continue a second career which he calls being a "farmer by avocation."

"His boys" at the school have included such illustrious names as Assistant Secretary of State George Borchard, First National Bank president Charles Fisher and Edgar A. Guest, Jr.

SINCE ITS FOUNDING, boys from the primary grades up, have been his charges. The school has occupied five buildings and its staff has grown to its present 24 teachers although it must be admitted that the entire faculty "left" the school at one point in its history—to take part in World War I. Substitutes carried on in their absence.

The urbane and white-haired Shaw describes himself as an "eccentric" (or "liberal") who believes in equilibrium and subscribes to "the fundamentals as opposed to progressive education." He is quick to add, however, that "progressive education has a service in pointing out the emphasis on the creative arts."

He has seen his philosophy bear fruit in his own family. His three sons are all Harvard graduates; his daughter is at Bryn Mawr and his son is at Trinity College. Even his wife contributes to the family interest in education and serves as an accountant and bookkeeper at Country Day.

HIS FAITH in high academic standards is reflected in a statement of the purposes of American education, cited by the Essentialist Committee for the Advancement of Education, an organization which Shaw helped establish.

In a 17-point summary, the committee points out the need for re-establishment of rigorous standards of scholastic attainment; primacy of general and liberal education rather than vocational training; insistence upon a scientific manner and recognition of permanent moral values and "spiritual aspects."

Some of the other basic tenets are the highest possible development of each individual's ability for conceptual thinking; familiarity with man's past, recorded in the humanities and the sciences and emphasis on reading.

THESE BELIEFS are tempered in the committee's consideration for protection of the child in his right to be guided, disciplined and instructed. Country Day's headmaster has had the satisfaction of seeing this program directed by many schools since the advent of Sputnik.

Of today's children, he says "generally, they are more aware of the other hand of their expansive works are more profound."

"But," he adds, "I have perfect confidence in them for the future."

Children today are basically the same in many respects as the leaves. He recalled an incident involving a small boy who attended the school in its early years. It was then located on Euclid Avenue in Detroit.

"THIS YOUNGSTER had an excuse for not doing his homework properly that will sound familiar to any teacher today, except the maid and not a parent, not a headmaster," Shaw chuckled. "The boy's reason was, 'I told the maid not to do it that way.'"

Shaw is quick to credit his "dedicated staff" with the success of the school. Country Day has a record of 100 per cent acceptance for college, even in today's race for higher education.

He recognizes the need for sports and social activities and encourages cooperation between the school and Bloomfield Country Day School for Girls.

"Their girls supply the cheerleaders for our games and come out to root for our teams and of course they participate in the dances and in dramatic activities."

THE HEADMASTER hopes to find time for writing "on education" and "will keep in contact with Country Day."

At a reception May 21 for Mr. and Mrs. Shaw, men such as Senator Knudsen, State Supreme

Report Says Speed Kills

Compilations show that persons killed last year in highway accidents were totaled 10,970 as compared with 12,980 in 1959.

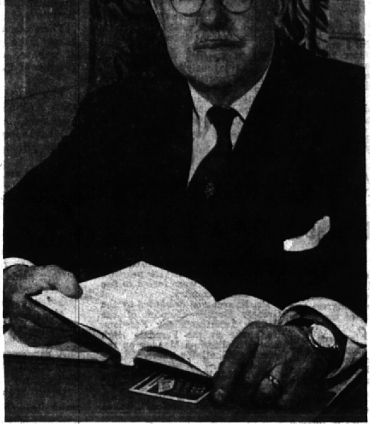
"Citizens organizations throughout the country should take heart in these figures," said J. Doyle DeWitt, president of The Travelers Insurance Companies. "This decrease in deaths due to speeding is more significant when you realize that it came in a year when highway accidents actually killed 400 more people than a year ago."

THE TRAVELERS president pointed out that speed has long been blamed as "the number one killer on our highways."

Even with the improved speed limit laws, the "number one" speed was listed as the primary cause of accidents which accounted for 51.1 per cent of the total deaths. As for injuries, the record was not so good. They increased nearly 10,000 with more than 400,000 blamed on speeding during the year.

Court Justice George C. Edwards, Roland A. Mewhort and Daniel Goodene rallied to honor the man who has done so much to help their careers.

Old grads, their sons and grandsons, and today's students all expressed the same wish: "Be sure to come back. The school needs you."



F. ALDEN SHAW

## NATURE NOW Pretty Green Leaves Vital Food Producers

By Lydia King Frehe  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eclectic

Now in early June, the earth is reclothed in living green. From my study window I can reach out to touch a newly unfolded leaf.

But this lush greenery is only a byproduct of nature's important business of food production which will continue at its peak throughout the summer months.

This unique function of all green plants centers in the leaf. Here and here alone nature is working during every hour of sunlight to make the food which sustains every living thing.

Leaves of every shape and size produce. The above tree working through the day-light hours will provide more than 3,500 pounds of pure food concentrate during one summer season.

TO ACCOMPLISH this, the tiny cells of the leaf have the power to lift to their surface large amounts of water collected from the earth by the plant's root system. At the same time certain of its cells are trapping sunlight to make food out of water and air.

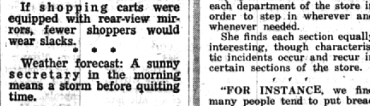
This it accomplishes by a process called photosynthesis which can only be carried on in the presence of sunlight by the action of a substance called chlorophyll. This simple inorganic element is turned into living tissue.

It is significant that the chemical formulas of chlorophyll and the hemoglobin of blood are so similar. The hub of every molecule of the former is an atom of magnesium

STRICTLY FRESH

If shopping carts were equipped with rear-view mirrors, fewer shoppers would wear sacks.

Weather forecast: A sunny secretary in the morning means a storm before quitting time.



An optimist is a guy who expects a pessimist to have a cheery outlook.

These days a gentleman is a fellow who tips his hat, without standing, when he sees a woman enter a bus.

Place of employment is where you go to rest after your vacation.

# The Birmingham Eclectic Features

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## 100 YEARS AGO Small Battle Has Important Effects

By LON K. SAVAGE  
Special Writer

Jefferson Davis arrived at Richmond 100 years ago this week in a tall Confederate government in its new capital.

But even as he rode through cheering crowds in Richmond, Yankee soldiers were pushing their way across the mountains of western Virginia to inflict his army with its first defeat.

It was the morning of May 29 when President Davis' train arrived, and the reception, someone says, was a welcome for a second George Washington.

A 15-gun salute was fired in honor of the new president. A delegation of notables met at the city hall to greet the general Lee, however, was in northern Virginia, preparing for a feared invasion from Washington.

Thousands of cheering and waving handkerchiefs as Davis rode through town in a four-horse carriage.

Davis was escorted to his quarters at the Spotswood Hotel, where he made a short speech. Then, after visiting his quarters, he went to the city hall for demonstrations of enthusiasm from the soldiers camped there.

BUT WHILE the Confederate troops at Richmond cheered, others were pulling back from the little town of Grifton in what is now West Virginia. Their commander, Col. George A. Porterfield, was being threatened by advancing federal troops from Wheeling and Parkersburg.

The Union troops had been ordered forward by Gen. George B. McClellan to occupy the important Baltimore & Ohio Railroad in western Virginia and attack Porterfield if he deemed it advisable.

Porterfield, with about 500 untrained mostly unarmed men, retreated to Phillippi, about 15 miles from Grifton; and the federal troops, commanded by Col. Benjamin F. Kelley, arrived at Grifton May 30. Kelley immediately made plans to follow and capture Porterfield.

On the night of June 2, 39 federal companies moved out in two columns, one by horse and one by foot, to divide into two sections to occupy the town and cut off retreat. Everything was timed to begin at 4 a. m. June 3, with a pistol shot as the signal.

BUT THINGS went wrong. A rain started and grew heavy during the night.

Michigan Facts

1. In land and water area combined, Michigan is the largest state east of the Mississippi and ranks 15th in the nation. Its area includes 57,022 square miles of land and nearly 49,000 square miles of water surface. . . a total of 106,791 square miles.

2. Michigan's area is divided into two peninsulas, and the Upper Peninsula—nearly one-third of the total area of the state—is as large as Delaware, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island combined.

3. Michigan's coastline is the second longest in the union—topped only by Alaska. In fresh water frontage, Michigan ranks over first. Our total shoreline—3,121 miles—is equal to the Atlantic coastline from Maine to Florida.

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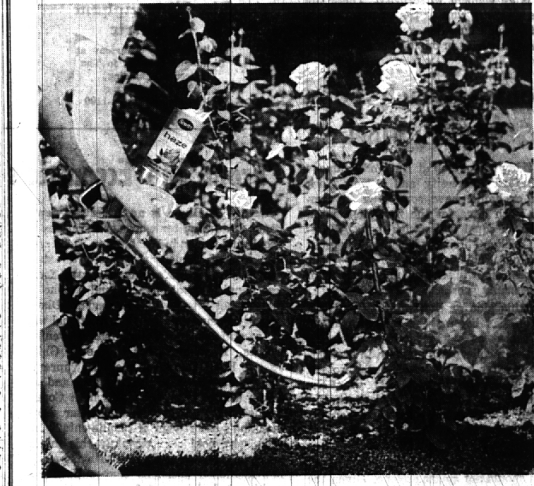
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## WEEKLY VISIT Variety Spices Super Market Job

By IRMA DAVIS  
Staff Writer

"I used to be bored working in an office—but not here," smiled Mrs. Ralph Finneren, checkout girl at Birmingham's newest A & P Store.

"The slim, young-looking mother of three explained that her duties were varied and "I like to meet people and there's always something going on."

Mrs. Finneren said that every employee is trained to work in each department of the store in order to step in wherever and whenever needed.

She finds each section equally interesting, though changing incidents occur and recur in certain sections of the store.

"FOR INSTANCE, we find many people tend to put bread in the bottom of the shopping carts and the loaves come out looking like pancakes."

"Another thing," she said, "is the matter of pies. We are instructed to put them in bags, so carefully, and you'll be surprised at the number of customers who pick up the bags sideways. Then the juice runs out. If it's a berry pie."

"Mothers' Day is fun. The kids come in with nickels and pennies—last year we marked down the cartons the last day for five cents each."

MRS. FINNEREN said she and her fellow workers particularly enjoy the friendly atmosphere.

"Our manager, Mr. Tuuk, is nice to everybody and he makes us all chuckle when he gets

on the loud speaker?"

On a dull day he is apt to tell the public, "We're not making a nickel today, folks—we're just here to keep you happy." She grinned.

"HE'S THOUGHTFUL, too," she added. "When kids get lost, he tells us to announce that, 'so and so's mother is lost.'"

"We've never had a child left over," she contributed, displaying a sense of humor all her own.

Mrs. Finneren finds that keeping mothers, along with a full time job, "works out pretty well."

The girls—Joan, 14, and Mary Ann, help out and I manage to get dinner started when I go home for lunch. Then too, my husband is a big help."

He is a wholesale salesman for an ice cream company.

Her youngest, Ralph, 7, helps just by being funny.

and all the children have their chores."

SHE AND HER husband are both good at bowing and bridge and are very interested in politics, especially on the local level.

The Finners family "travels all over with a tent" and have "probably camped in every Michigan state park. We just go to rest and relax."

When her daughters were younger she was a Girl Scout leader and "I'll probably wind up being something in Cuba, with young Ralph coming along."

BEFORE HER MARRIAGE and until her first child arrived, she worked as a companionist operator. Several years ago, she returned to the working world, beginning at the A & P located on South Woodward.

"I like my schedule," she said. "My day off is on Wednesday, so I feel I'm working only three days at a time."

"I guess it's the variety I like best," she explained. "Things come in and out of the pop bottle refunds on high school skip days."

"Speaking of bottles," Mrs. Finneren grinned, "it's really something when a bottle of ammonia gets tipped over. It happens every once in a while."

"ANOTHER THING," she added, "you should see the looks of amazement in the mouths of my customers when they see the books I have stowed in the baskets, especially bananas and canned animal crackers."

"I think we must sell more animal crackers than anything else."