At the Carnival

Fun like this is in store for visitors to the annual Scholarship Carnival from noon to 6 p.m. Sunday at City and Country School for Gifted Children, 2190 N. Woodward, Bloomfield Hills. The photographer caught this picture of Lisa Mackie, eighth grader at the school, at last year's event. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Mackie, 2725 Juniper Court, Birmingham. The school's large baseball field has been decorated in a circus theme to provide the setting for Sunday's event, sponsored by parents of the students. Included in the carnival are such things as a tot-lot, refreshments ranging from hot dogs to barbecued roast beef, a 1914 fire engine for short rides, donkey rides, special shows and games.

2-Foot Go-Kart Goes 3 Feet

By KAROL DARLING
Special Writer

WING LAKE — All boys collect things—mostly odd bits of string, paper, stones, rusty nails, frogs and similar objets d'nonsense.

But Steve Mair, 13, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alex C. Mair of Kolly road, collects engines, pulleys, shafts, nuts, bolts, wheels, springs and things, including a two-foot go-kart that sports a one-horse-power engine and a set of borrowed wheels.

When asked if it would go, Steve replied, "Well, that's very embarrassing. It went about three feet, then quit. If I'd had about $1.50 more for parts I could have kept it going."

AS FAR back as he can remember Steve has been putting together mechanical and electrical gadgets. His first bout with tinkering was at the age of four when he embarrassed his engineer-father by showing him how to start a stubborn power lawn mower.

Young Steve stepped up, tinkered with the gadgets, pulled the starter cord and was off to cut a batch of weeds.

He hasn't stopped tinkering yet. For a long time Steve worked hard mounting bells and switches on boards—final result—the bell rang if you hit it.

According to Steve, these first gadgets, while fancy, didn't do much. Now, he says, the things he makes work better—usually.

THE ONLY trouble is, he says, "They don't turn out like you think they're gonna."

For the past two years Steve has been wound up in the go-kart craze, having had six karts to date. Four of these he made, and two were "store-bought."

He modified the first "store-bought" from a top speed of 18 mph to a roaring 42 mph. This has been rather a wild kart since the throttle broke and the brakes just disappeared one day.

When Steve built his second go-kart, a friend, Kurt Lyons, went into the venture with him. His interest—four wheels. When the kart wouldn't go, Kurt tried to sell out but couldn't find a buyer. Steve solved the problem by installing a bigger pulley. Now Kurt won't sell out at any price.

STEVE CURRENTLY is working on a super go-kart—nine-feet long, all steel and a copy of an MG. When asked when it would be completed he said, "All it needs is a nine-horse engine. Oh,—and a body—but that's nothing."

Go-karts are not the only gadgets Steve builds. He recently built an amplifier which was supposed to be 4 inches by 6 inches. He miniaturized it to 1 inch by 1½ inches.

Steve is interested in models too, having built over 40 of them. Prominently displayed in his room are three on which he says, "I did a bang-up job."

ONE OF the most intriguing gadgets Steve rigged up was a burglar alarm for his bedroom.

He soon removed that gadget because, as Steve says, "I'd get up in the morning real drowsy and it scared the heck out of me when I opened the door."

Now, instead of the burglar alarm, he has an electric door lock which he says works pretty efficiently. He built this from an old electric valve and a doorbell button.

A push of the button unlocks his bedroom door.

Currently, Steve's gadget inventory consists of, among other things, an even dozen engines, including one from an army tank which weighs several thousand pounds and occupies half of the garage.

HE'S LOOKING around now for a tank to go with the engine. If he finds it—watch out!

Or would you rather have a ride in a two-foot go-kart?

Michigan Facts

Michigan people like to travel within their state. Michigan ranks seventh in the nation in passenger cars, with one for every 2.8 persons. Our motorists travel over 30.6 billion vehicles miles a year on Michigan roads.

Michigan has the world's largest shopping centers—Northland and Southland—located at the edge of Detroit, and the nation's second largest department store, the J. L. Hudson company, is in Detroit.

Foundry of Fortune is just another name for Michigan. It has more millionaires than Texas!

Nearly 43 percent of Michigan's workers are in the skilled or semi-skilled classification, and they average more earnings per week than do workers of any other state.

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The Birmingham Eccentric
Features
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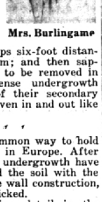
DOWN TO EARTH

Planning for Land Use Related to Landscaping

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Many of you in the last couple months have taken advantage of the local tours for numerous benefits and have enjoyed the many homes which have been open as the owners share their architectural design. Your scribe always has her neck out the window and over the decks observing the planning for land use in relation to landscaping.

As an illustration, the Edward Rothmans at 3665 Lakecrest aren't going to have any lawn to care for as their home sets up in a wooded hill overlooking a small lake with the living rooms facing this superb view.



Mrs. Burlingame

The mechanics of holding their lakeside hill was interesting. In Denmark, I had seen this same method: substantial stakes were driven in the hillside at perhaps six-foot distances between them; and then saplings which had to be removed in clearing the dense undergrowth were stripped of their secondary branches and woven in and out like a basket.

THIS IS a common way to hold an embankment in Europe. After the roots of the undergrowth have a chance to hold the soil with the aid of the simple wall construction, the problem is licked.

The outstanding detail in the front of the house is the landscaping of the island in front of the circular drive. Here, stones which are round and the size of a fist have been used as a mulch, to give texture to a large bed of evergreens and acid loving plants.

Can't you just hear Mr. Rothman bait "the boys" at lunch as he brags about all of the lawn he has to maintain. He has it made.

THE WALTER Truettner home is next door with their hillside setting. Apparently they "hunger" for green grass as in an intimate hillside garden their only span of green is about 12' X 18'.

Their home has a large deck, the entire width of their house, overlooking the lake which peeks through the trees. They don't aim to do much walking up and down the steep bank, so their promenading will be on their deck.

I can just imagine a continental breakfast every morning there or that quiet time late at night when you steal outdoors to hear the noises of the night as shrouded in nature.

THE FRONT entrance of the Truettner home is approached by walking through a courtyard of modern design with the walk around the perimeter of the courtyard being covered for weather protection.

In the center is an exposed motif composed of a pool with a natural waterfall made with rocks placed with a pump assuring a constant spill of water.

Carefully selected small stones as well as appropriate plant material combine to create a real picture for the occupants as well as for those who come to call.

Look your place over. Select the location of your property which is just blah. Have the dramatization of this area as your Number One challenge for 1961.

IT IS THE style this month to be fighting insects on your property. In "The Handbook On Biological Control Of Plant Pests", by the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens, one of the articles points out: "Man is a part of Nature and as such he can scarcely upset the balance of Nature. He can only shift it. Learn to recognize the helpful insects."

The praying mantis and lady bugs can be your best friends in your garden.

As a part of the explosion of plants and animals, the book points out that every four months the inhabitants of the world increase by as many people as those living in New York City today.

AT THE present time, the USDA is working on research to sterilize male bugs by gamma-rays. These insects are released and by a constant release of sterilized male bugs, each succeeding generation is further outnumbered with sterile males until eradication results.

At the present time this method is being used on the screw-worm fly in the southeastern states.

I have told you about ordering packages of lady bugs for your garden. Now, don't you feel up to date, a 1961 gardener?

NATURE NOW

By Lydia King Frehse
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Plant and Animal Life Flourish in Meadows

If you are alive you are either a plant or animal.

In the language of the scientist, "A plant is any member of a group of living organisms exhibiting irritability in response to stimuli, though generally without voluntary motion in a true sense. An animal is any member of a group of living beings endowed with sensation and voluntary motion as distinguished from a plant."

There are a few possible exceptions to these definitions. They apply to such little understood groups as the myxomycetes and certain virus forms. Both of these, at the level of our present knowledge, seem to be questionable since they behave as plants in some respects and as animals in other ways.

MEADOW PLANTS make a home and provide food for a host of insects, birds and mammals. These plants team with crickets, grasshoppers, katydids and beetles.

Here the crafty spider weaves her incredible web. Here ants build their apartment-mounds and here butterflies and moths sip flower nectar, their intricate body shapes tuned to their pollination rites.

Mrs. Frehse

The song of meadow birds is one of the loveliest of nature's voices. Such species as song and field sparrow, bobolink and meadow lark nest here in the shelter of tall grasses or in small shrubs. Eggs and young are so vulnerable that these birds lay larger clutches to allow for the many young which will be destroyed.

Here on a late April day we have found as many as 18 earth-colored eggs hidden in the dried-grass nest of the hen pheasant. Here throughout the summer she mothers her brood of chicks. And here after a sudden summer shower, the bobwhite calls his name from the hedgerow, the clearest whistle in all of birddom.

The marsh hawk flies low over the meadow, sailing back and forth above the sea of waving grasses, his wary eye turned to the movement of snake and frog and rodent.

Here in spite of a hoard of enemies, the field mouse lives her prolific life, half hidden by the tunneled grasses. Small as she is, her abundant kind destroy some five million tons of hay in the United States each year.

HERE TOO are the summer runways of the cottontail rabbit whose defenseless body feeds the carnivores of the meadow and its adjoining woodlands. In the bordering hedgerows the woodchuck digs his burrow and here, when late autumn sears the land, the hunter comes to fill his game bag.

All this teeming plant and animal life represents the climax of a creative urge which had its beginnings in a single cell, cradled in water in an age so long passed that we cannot comprehend its antiquity. Neither can we understand much of the process by which life has evolved through these millennia to reach the amazing diversity which it spreads out over any summer meadow.

THERE ARE THOSE of us whose childhood experiences are linked with some loved summer meadow. For us twilight will always be more than day's end. It is lighted by the glow of fireflies, vibrant with the sound of late-feeding crickets, heady with the perfume of meadow flowers and new-mown grass, accented by the call of night birds.

And over all broods an audible stillness wherein the meadow mouse stirs in her small tunnel of grass and the drowsy owl rouses for his night's foraging. Then, life's hunger appeased, deep night falls over the teeming life of the summer meadow.

We Agree

The London Daily Mirror quoted a tycoon as saying: "I collect gold bars. They don't burn, and if you keep them in a safe they don't wear a hole in your pocket like money.

Of All Places

Kris Kringel has been named chairman of the Chamber of Commerce Christmas street decorating committee for 1961 in Bell, Calif.

100 YEARS AGO

Missouri Capitol Falls; Harpers Ferry Burned

By LON K. SAVAGE
Special Writer

This week 100 years ago was a bad one for the Confederacy. Federal troops occupied Jefferson City, capital of Missouri, and defeated state troops at Boonville.

And Confederate troops under General Joseph E. Johnston set fire to the arsenal at Harpers Ferry in northern Virginia and withdrew, leaving it to the Yankees.

The conflict between state and federal governments in Missouri erupted again June 11, when Governor Claiborne Jackson and his military commander, General Sterling Price conferred at St. Louis with Nathaniel Lyon, former commander of the St. Louis arsenal who had just been promoted to brigadier general.

The meeting was futile. It broke up after four hours with Jackson's refusal to allow federal troops free movement in his state. Lyon's insistence on that very thing. The result amounted to a mutual declaration of war.

JACKSON AND Price hurried back to Springfield that night and by morning had called for 50,000 troops to repel "invasion" by the federal troops.

Next day, the Missouri government, with a rapidly forming army of volunteers, withdrew to Boonville, 50 miles up the Missouri River, and set up their defense.

Lyon, meanwhile, began moving 2,000 troops and artillery by steamer toward Jefferson City. Arriving on the 15th, they occupied the city and raised their flag over the state capitol.

From there, Lyon again pushed westward on the river and landed his men unopposed on the 17th four miles south of Boonville. There he met Jackson's troops in a sharp fight and drove them from the town.

Though casualties were small on both sides, the fight left nearly all of Missouri in federal hands and drove Jackson and his government into refuge in the southwestern corner of the state.

MEANWHILE, back east, Johnston had been watching with trepidation the advance of a federal column under General Robert Patterson from Chambersburg, Pa., south toward Harpers Ferry, and each day his fears grew.

The Union victory at Philippi had alarmed him to some extent, and almost daily there were demonstrations against his men.

(Part of his fear was based on a June 13 raid against Confederates at nearby Romney—a raid led by Colonel Lew Wallace, who was to go down in history as the author of "Ben Hur").

Having completed the job of moving usable firearms and equipment from Harpers Ferry, Johnston finally resolved to leave the position which "it perfectly suited the enemy's views" to have him occupy.

ON JUNE 14, 15 and 16, he blew up the town's long railroad bridge over the Potomac, set fire to the public buildings and evacuated his 7,000 men from the fortress in a long, dusty caravan.

With black smoke curling up from the town behind them, they headed south through Charles Town, camped at Bunker Hill and finally stopped near Winchester.

Patterson, meanwhile, advanced with painful caution. His men crossed the Potomac, tested the arsenal, and, with some surprise, found it empty. Taking courage from the withdrawal, Patterson reported the rebels "have fled, and in confusion. Their retreat is as demoralizing as a defeat."

The withdrawal was taken that way in Richmond, and both Robert E. Lee and Jefferson Davis were unhappy over it. Nevertheless, Johnston's new position at Winchester was to prove crucial in the most important battle of that first year of war—First Bull Run.

Next week: McClellan's advances into West Virginia.

★ ★ ★

Civil War Centennial Interest on the Rise

WASHINGTON, D. C.—America has taken hold of the Civil War Centennial and is responding to it through spiritual, patriotic and sentimental motivations in a manner that is phenomenal.

That is the conclusion revealed in a summary report issued by Karl S. Betts, executive director of the National Civil War Centennial Commission, as the agency winds up its third year of operation.

The series of programs which have so far marked the observance, ranging overall from religious services to inaugural and battle reenactments, he said, have been planned strictly by the states and localities themselves.

"FROM THE beginning," he explained, "the commission has urged a grass-roots approach to what we look upon as the greatest commemoration in world history. Early in our operations we urged, in a published guide that has been widely circulated over the nation, that each state and locality choose the events out of its past during the five-year period of the war that it considered best worth remembering."

Accordingly, the director cited, the centennial formally opened on Jan. 8 with a special message from the White House urging a nation-wide observance.

The response was immediate. Programs on that date included special religious services in churches of all faiths, special ceremonies at Grant's Tomb in New York and at Lee's Tomb in Lexington, Va., ceremonial observances at the service academies, and special services at the birthplaces of Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis.

OTHERS, INCLUDING a reenactment of the attack on Fort Sumter and of the battle of Lexington, Mo., have followed.

Next big event on the program will be the reenactment of the first battle of Manassas, recognized as the initial major engagement of the war. This will be staged July 22-23 on the site of the contest and is expected to constitute perhaps the most spectacular ceremony on the entire centennial schedule.

The Department of Defense, National Park Service, National and Virginia Centennial commissions, and the First Manassas Corp., a non-profit group formed to work out plans for the portrayal, are cooperating in arranging it.

Following that, the Missouri State Centennial Commission will dedicate the new Wilson's Creek Battlefield Park at Springfield, Mo., Aug. 9.

AS CALLED for by presidential acclaim, the centennial is designed to encourage people to derive inspiration from the deeds of the men and women of the North and South during the Civid War and "to renew our dedication to the task which yet confronts us—the furtherance, together with other free nations of the world, of the freedom and dignity of man and the building of a just and lasting peace."

This goal was announced early to set the tone of the many observances that have been projected. The executive director said he is convinced the people of America have it in mind as they proceed with their programs.

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