

BAA's 4th Annual Arts Festival Here

With the holding, this week, of the fourth annual Bloomfield Art Association's Festival, attention again is focused upon this great and albeit ancient art of human communication. Art, of course, includes a variety of the cultural yearnings of mankind's individual and collective head and heart.

Indeed, to understand and appreciate "the universal languages of the expressions of art" is to place one's self on higher levels of living than would be without this contact.

Art, of course, comes into being not alone for the artist, but for the many more who intelligently respond to them, be they music, painting, dancing, sculpturing, histrionics... even the viewing of some of Nature's own out-of-draws majestic scenery.

FORTUNATE, WE BELIEVE is this Birmingham-Bloomfield-Franklin area because it contains many men and women whose interests and talents have brought into progressive being its organization dedicated to the arts.

There is reason to suppose that before man developed language he developed art as a form of expressing and communicating his ideas. During all the vast reach of history, representational art—that is, painting, drawing, sculpture—has occupied a central place in the human experience.

It is therefore, important that knowledge and understanding of art should be transmitted to each new generation. When young people emerge from the public school system, they should know more than a smattering about this aspect of their cultural heritage. Ideally, they should be aware of the broad stream of artistic development; they should have at least passing familiarity with great works of both past and present; they should be able to distinguish the work of the main figures in Western art during the past few centuries.

WITH ALL RESPECT due the few notable exceptions, it can be said that the schools generally do a poor job of transmitting this knowledge and understanding. Emphasis tends to be placed on doing rather than on knowing or appreciating. High school students, if they take art courses at all, are ordinarily encouraged to spend their time at art work rather than also learning to know and appreciate good art.

This can be defended—but only to a point. For though art can be a pleasing means of self-expression for those with a taste for that, ideally it is far more. Art is one of man's oldest and noblest forms of communication. Minimal knowledge of it is a key part of becoming educated.

Four Years For U.S. Congressmen

The idea that members of the House of Representatives ought to be elected for four-year instead of two-year terms has long been advocated by many students of the American system of government. The basic argument advanced in favor of such a constitutional amendment is that the longer term would permit congressmen to devote more of their time to their work and less to getting re-elected every two years.

That argument, though it is not all that can be said on the subject, is a compelling one. And the proposal appears to be gaining popular favor. In a recent national poll, 51 per cent of those questioned favored a constitutional amendment to make the House term four years. Only 34 per cent of those questioned were opposed. This is an indication that public sentiment is moving in the right direction—toward giving House members a four-year term.

THE PRINCIPAL ARGUMENT against this is that the present two-year term gives the voters a closer rein on its representatives in the House. If they do not act in accordance with their constituents' wishes, they can be ousted in two years. This is an advantage of sorts.

This advantage is far outweighed, we believe, by the fact that having to run for re-election every two years puts enormous pressure on a congressman. In a sense, he must run almost continually, and knowing that he can soon be whisked out of office may tempt him to vote for what is popular at the moment rather than on the basis of his honest convictions. Senators are entrusted with office for six years at a time. Why not increase the House term to four?

Perhaps the highest priced teaching anywhere on this earth is labelled "experience". Its price is high... which makes it of great value to those who accept its teaching.

"Is It Modern Art or Just a Town Plan?"



Editorial Page

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The Birmingham Eccentric

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A Free, Responsible and Aggressive Press Is Democracy's First Line of Defense

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Loss of Laos to the free world points up another Soviet Communist victory. When will the leaders of our free nations, led by Uncle Sam, plan their defenses so that they will not be out-manuevered every time by the Kremlin? When will the free world admit to themselves that there is no diplomatic way to win against the Soviet? Little by little, piece by piece, Communism acquires more territory and more human beings to enslave.

President Kennedy manfully has assumed personal responsibility for the Cuban fiasco. Apparently intent on a plan to counteract the recent invasion failure there, he wants to be sure that our three living past Presidents, plus other political leaders, plus Gen. McArthur are with him for his next move. This, of course, proves

that Mr. Kennedy knows considerable about "political salesmanship"—an asset always important in operating a democracy.

Wayne County's prosecutor has been accused of requiring his many assistants to "kick in" some of their wages for his political campaigns. This problem is about as old as politics itself... for practical politics merely is the application of human nature... and human nature in politics often is far removed from ethics and high standards of practice.

At a railroad crossing near Colorado Springs is a sign reading: "The average train takes a time to pass this crossing is 14 seconds... whether your car is on it or not."

City Beat

BY KEN WEAVER

Toby Want steps into his job as Birmingham Community House president with at least one major task facing him.

He must find a replacement for retiring Executive Director Effie Shaffer.

"Effie will be difficult to replace," said Toby. "She's been with the Community House 10 years and has done a tremendous job."

But he's tackling the task with confidence.

"We have three very outstanding people we're considering already, and there will be others."

TOBY'S THE KIND of man who makes decisions with the assistance of other people. He sounds his ideas out on others; if the reaction generally is favorable, he tries them; otherwise, not.

As he steps into this job, he wants suggestions for progressive changes; for imaginative, creative programs—he's not content to rest on laurels of the past.

Toby would welcome letters from citizens-at-large telling what they think of the Community House and its present programs and what they would like to see developed there.

Any takers?

TOBY KEEPS busy during the normal work day as a vice president of Young & Rubicam, Inc., an advertising and public relations agency with offices in Detroit, other large cities in the U.S., in Latin America and in Europe.

He's a resident of Bloomfield Hills, where he finds life quite enjoyable and the people "very friendly."

A NATIVE OF Indiana, he recalls the odors of a certain rubber plant in Mishawaka and his graduation from Fort Wayne Central High School.

Toby's former newspaperman. He served as sports editor for Associated Press in Indianapolis, the high school basketball capital of the world.

Toby flew with the GI's on the first B-29 bombing raid on Japan.

Names like Stilwell, Mountbatten, Chennault, Patton come easily to his lips.

Plots welcomed Toby along as a good luck charm. The closest he came to being hit was when a burst of ack-ack blasted the windshield on the plane on one of his missions.

AFTER THE WAR Toby put his promotional talents to work and soon rose to the top ranks at Y&R. One of the three or four top agencies in the country.

Talk to him today and you'll find an intense interest in the Birmingham Community House.

CITY COMMISSIONER Carl F. Ingraham sat in his car, his mouth open in disbelief.

He had just witnessed a woman driver: Pull out from her parking space in front of Jacobson's on Maple and—

Make a U turn around a school zone "no passing" sign, head east on Maple and—

At the signal at Bates, stop in the right turn lane; then instead of turning right proceed east on Maple and—

Travel a half block, stop and hold up traffic while backing into a parking space in front of John Meek's flower shop.

Shoot out this in one block from where she had been parked," said Carl.

Her license plates indicated she was from out of town.

SMALL WORLD DEEP—Ran into a former colleague at the U.S. Open last week: Bob Renner, former sports writer for the Fort Wayne (Ind.) News-Sentinel, now a PR man with the U.S. Golf Association.

Covering the tournament was Jim Costin, N-S sports writer. Jim, Bob and I used to gather with the rest of crew around the TV set in the N-S newsroom to watch the World Series, college football games and the Indiana high school basketball tourney.

NATURE NOW

By Lydia King Fresh

Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

'Water Wonderland' Nature Lover's Haven

Many of you who read these lines vacation in Michigan's north woods country. Not so spectacular as our great western deserts, plains and mountains our "water wonderland" yet offers a most satisfying attraction to some 18 million tourists who enrich the coffers of our state by more than six million dollars annually.

A recent weekend at our usual summer rendezvous on Walloon Lake which holds the memories of many satisfying summers. And if the hand which ties the key to the "hell" door trembles a little there is no longer a waiting child there to say, "Mother you are so sentimental."

THE WINDING PATH, is bordered by a forest of evergreens; among them Clintonia, foam flower, trillium, Canada violet, American yew and evergreen wood and spleenwort fern. Overall is the sound of wind and wave, of bird and branch coughing branch in the close canopy of the surrounding forest.

ALL THIS steals over the mind and the heart gradually somewhere between Standish and West Branch. This is that certain essential of this experience are linked with the gradual but distinct character of the surroundings.

When the road signs announce the town of Gaylord the forest is again taken over by the hardwood trees and a glorious sight it is to see the sugar maple deeply crowned with its leaves of the green of a shade so vivid that it is almost blinding. The forest are great beech trees with their smooth grey trunks and stiff and rigid. This combination creates the richest plant association in all our American flora.

ECOLOGISTS CALL the above

plant group the "beech-maple" climax forest which will result in this particular area if nature is allowed to follow her own course. Thus after hundreds of years of living and dying the resulting soil will produce the "beech-maple" forest the handsomest and richest of all our forest habitats.

And so it was that we came once more to the old cottage on Walloon Lake which holds the memories of many satisfying summers. And if the hand which ties the key to the "hell" door trembles a little there is no longer a waiting child there to say, "Mother you are so sentimental."

HORNED LARKS, red-wings and our familiar crow, song sparrow and starling spotted our return trip which led us home via Grand Rapids. Between Marquette and Kalkaska we saw hundreds of wild cherry, service berry and oak trees ravaged by the tent caterpillar.

As our car sped toward Cadillac we saw a large flock of waterfowl on the road some missing the speeding traffic. But persistence is an important factor in all of life's patterns and the race is not always to the swift.

At Grand Rapids, named for the Grand river and the region of Williamstown and Grand Rapids, we saw through the shale exposing the fossilized remains of what was once a swampy flora in Carboniferous times some 275 million years ago.

DOWN TO EARTH

'Busy Gardeners Earn Welcomed 'Breather'

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME

Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

By this time you should have your summer garden program underway. This means all the evergreens have been pruned, all the flowering shrubs have been pruned after their flowering cycle, your lawn has been mowed, your shrubs and trees have been watered.

ON YOUR PLANT supply shelf you will find plant food which is diluted in water so that you can follow feed any of your showy plants about the yard. They will show a prime beauty for your guests.

Each season it seems to get you your local garden equipment supplier and say: "What is new?"

REMEMBER I told you that in the future you will be able to buy a spray to discontinue from your lawn, there will be a spray which will act as a tranquilizer and help you relax.

Each season it seems to get you your local garden equipment supplier and say: "What is new?"

DO NOT CUT OFF the flower panicles of Viburnums because you

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

30 YEARS AGO June 23, 1931 A new schoolhouse is due and coming fast. The result of the school vote last Monday evening was no surprise and the election board was not rushed at any time.

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Commissioner Lawrence Hubert has the honor of being the first person in Birmingham to pay his 1931 village taxes. His check was \$1.00.

Hubert, only a few hours after he had received his tax bill. Believing that the prompt payment of taxes constitutes a citizen's duty to his community in general, Hubert made an earnest appeal to taxpayers in the village to follow his lead.

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BY GEORGE W.M. AVERILL

One Thing or Another

Completion of two years' study of Birmingham public school curriculum has been presented in the past few weeks to our board of education. This gigantic project—which would have been out of the question to buy—was performed by more than 100 dedicated volunteer members of the school district.

IT COULD WELL BE ONE of the final such citizen projects in the area of American education.

Take a look at the point the American public education system is today in relationship to the state. Local communities have all but lost their hold on their public school systems.

In Michigan for example, we must await the county board of allocation's decision on how much money we can raise locally for schools. County government comes first, then local municipal government such as townships and villages.

WE ARE ENMESHED with the state government through the sales tax returns. Local school boards—trapped by the 15-mill limitation—can't operate without these state funds. So here, too, we await the bureaucratic decision on who gets how much.

The federal government has been in the picture for some years through its defense education monies. Now we have the prospect of Washington increasing its determination about which schools get how much and for what use.

In this keeps up, we'll live to see the day when local citizens run to "Big Daddy" to see what courses are going to be taught our children—and who will teach it!

WON'T THAT BE PUN—having our politicians and bureaucrats vote in the hallowed halls of Congress whether home economics or spelling is more important for the all-American girl, and manual training or English compositions more valuable to the All-American boy!

Yes, the recent report of the Birmingham Citizens Curriculum Study Committee might become a historical example in future schools of how things used to be done.

BY DENI SCANLON

Talk of the Towns

Being behind a typewriter again instead of being in a car wheel on vacation has its advantages. It saves instead of burns the savings account.

It has other advantages, too. Life is again full of interesting bits of information about area residents and hometown humor has a way of backing while a reporter is off enjoying a holiday.

Speaking of the latter, a Beverly Hills mother called to say hello.

The conversation eventually led to her witty youngsters and this is what she recently overheard:

No. 2 Child: "Who do you like better, mommy or the principal?"

No. 1 Child: "Well mother, for heaven sake!"

No. 1 Child: "Who do you like better, mommy or the dog?"

No. 2 Child: "Aw cum on, I gave you an easy one!"

The classification of interesting information gained stature following a conversation with Mrs. C. A. (Peppy) Cohen of West Bloomfield.

Mother of three children who just finished teaching conversational French for the West Bloomfield School System, Mrs. Cohen has started on a new project.

She will teach French in an old barn on their property on Maple Road between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake.

The only pre-requisite is at least a year of "conversational French," Mrs. Cohen explained. She plans to have students from the first grade through junior high level.

"I have two sessions planned," she continued. "There will be a class from 9:30 to 10:30 and another from 11 to noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays from July 11 to Aug. 3. I want them to be very informal. We'll go shopping, play games, sing songs and talk—all in French," she said.

She's going to try a unique method of teaching. It will be geared to the "buddy system" with students "keeping tabs on their partner's French."

Back to the fannies. A woman who lives in a neighborhood on the west side of town divulged a good one.

Her husband turned around the house one morning visibly late to work and not too alert.

About an hour after his hurried departure, she went to the utility room to find a shirt board, plastic bag and cardboard neck form in the washing machine. His underclothes were in the incinerator.

A Beverly Hills mother-in-law-to-be summed up the nuptial situation at her house:

"I don't really losing a daughter; I'm gaining three closets."

There are more than 400 species of plants that feed on insects—but nobody knows exactly how many insects there are that feed on man.

The pilot who reached a new altitude record said it was "fantastic" up there. Well, it's pretty fantastic down here at times, too.