

B'ham Women Declare Extra Baby Dividends

(Special to the Eclectic)

NEW YORK—Birmingham women declared extra baby dividends in the 1955-1960 period.

An analysis of data gathered by the Census Bureau last year reveals that the local birth rate during that span was relatively high.

In the technical and unpoetic language of the bureau, the growth

is discussed under the heading "fertility ratio."

That figure, it states, represents the number of children under the age of five, in any given locality, per 1,000 women in the child-bearing ages, 15 to 49.

THE SIGNIFICANCE of the ratio, explains the bureau, indicates the natural growth tendencies in the particular community.

It is a matter of great importance to merchants, to home

builders and to city planners who must be able to gauge future needs.

Birmingham's fertility ratio, based on the total under-five population per 1,000 women, is given as 486.

This compares favorably with the figure listed for many areas, which shows as few as 123 children in that age group per 1,000 women.

WHERE THE proportion of small children is high, it means greater-than-average sales of juvenile furniture, such as cribs and baby carriages, more sales of baby foods and toys, bigger drug and medical bills, additional housing needs and all the other special requirements that go into the raising of children.

A study released last year, based on a Department of Commerce report estimated that the yearly support of a one-year-old child amounted to \$456 and that it rose to \$1,014 a year when the child became five. By age 10, parents were spending \$679 a year.

BECAUSE OF the higher birth rate in Birmingham, its households are larger than those in many other localities across the country.

The average household now consists of 3.34 persons. It was 3.31 in the East North Central States generally and 2.9 Central States generally, in the state of Michigan.

Government figures point to a real increase in family size in recent years. They indicate a direct relationship between people feel in their economic and social conditions and the size of the family they are able and willing to raise.

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DOWN TO EARTH Group Creates Garden; Fruits Keep Growing

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME

Special Writer for The Birmingham Eclectic

It was Norman Vincent Peale who wrote: "Each of us has imprisoned splendor which can be released so ordinary people can live extra ordinary lives."

This quotation keeps ringing through my ears as I volunteer teams work in the soil with people who are discouraged, dejected, and need to face toward tomorrow with a smile.

Recently the Bloomfield Hills Branch of the National Park and Garden Association gathered up a group of men and women and on a choice spot of the grounds of Pontiac State Hospital helped create a lovely rose garden with 30 roses, a patio and four evergreens to give winter interest.

This rose garden has been developed as a living tribute to Mrs. Watson who gave endless hours of service to help the patients at Pontiac State Hospital enjoy flowers.

patients and through its beauty will help the weary feeling of achievement. These two results help a patient to be more cooperative with others and direct their health pattern toward emotional stability.

LAST WEEK I told you how Margaret Essery used shredded bark for her driveway. Yesterday, I saw someone with an arbutum collection of rare shrubs at Isabel Zicker's home where she used it among the shrubs to retain moisture and to keep the weeds under control and now here is a third one.

Ground-up bark can be found in three sizes: fine, medium and coarse. The fine shredded bark is ideal for the planting of orchids or any type of seeds which you wish to plant.

You fill a pot with it and saturate it with water until it is thoroughly soggy. As the seedlings grow their own true leaves, you water the pot with a liquid food using one-fourth teaspoon to one quart of water.

THIS BEAUTY SPOT is called the Watson Rose Garden and this group of patients has organized a Watson Rose Garden Club, petitioning for membership in the American Rose Society.

This garden is in the center of a sunny area where the buildings surround it like a letter U. During its construction many eager helpful eyes watched its progress from the three-story building.

The activity and beauty of the location will give secondary therapy to those who are not able to participate in an outdoor program.

The care of the site will satisfy the hunger of being needed of these

THIS IS repeated with the second set of true leaves. When they seem established you can either place them in a flower pot or in their own soil or continue their growth in ground-up bark, feeding with fertilizer every two weeks because now you are practicing hydroponics.

Seedlings grown in ground-up bark will surpass those grown in soil as they will be sturdier and will have a better developed root structure. Let's get some local reports on trying this new method.

At the University of Minnesota Experimental Station they have developed the moonchild and sun-gold apricots which are freestone and seed with type. These trees (See DOWN TO EARTH, 5-B)

WEEKLY VISIT He's in 'House of Correction'

By IRMA N. DAVIS

"When I started at the Eclectic—that was 35 years ago—I worked a week before I knew George E. Averill was the owner. He used to put on coveralls and like to not pick up a broom to start sweeping.

William E. Dove, 640 Wallace St., Birmingham, chuckled as he sat at his desk in the "House of Correction," so named because it is headquarters for the proofreading department of Birmingham's weekly newspaper.

Here Bill scans the news and the ads as they come off the presses. It is up to him, and two other proof readers, to catch the "typos" and the inaccuracies that sometimes creep through the most carefully checked copy.

Here also are Bill's files and his collection of classic misspellings that he has garnered over the years.

AND HERE, under his own filing system, are hundreds of items whose usefulness will be vouched for by editorial and other staff members of the paper.

When someone wants an extra jump of sugar at coffee break time, or a match because "someone borrowed mine," or an odd bit of information, it's Bill who has it.

He has turned 58 on June 10. Fellow-workers trooped into his headquarters to congratulate him, and Bill took time to give them his birthday cake. The Eclectic traditionally presents a cake to each employee on his birthday.

"They're sure give me a lot of them," he said with a big grin.

BILL ALWAYS has a chuckle tucked away and he will show it through his list of "boners." "Look at this one," he says as he points to "June for

press room foreman, composing room foreman, stone man, proof superintendent and now, proofreader."

BILL WAS MARRIED in 1929 and took out his citizen-ship in 1950. He was a citizen because I wanted to be a citizen when our first child was born. I figured if this country was good enough to support me, I owed it my allegiance.

His oldest child, Alysanne, graduated from MSU and worked for a while at the National Bank of Detroit. She is now employed at National Bank of Detroit, 16, is a student at Seaboard High School.

Her father is a man of varied interests. In addition to gardening, he collects stamps and coins, does some woodworking and "just finished a telephone stand and a radio cabinet. I discovered it in needlepoint—the embroidery my mother did for me."

He is a member of High Twelve Club and several Masonic organizations, and is a past master of Birmingham lodge.

HE AND HIS WIFE lead a quiet life since Bill's heart attack in 1950. Bill has had to give up his membership in the Birmingham Quadrille (square dancing) club since he is no longer an expert. At work, he has given up the less physically demanding work of proofreading.

"You have to have a smattering of everything," he says. "You have to be a pianist and a trumpeter." "You have to be a pianist and a trumpeter."

When he moved to the States, he went back to his old trade, working for a Detroit job printing and then for the Birmingham Eclectic in 1926. Beginning as a compositor, he has "been all over the place here, working as

100 YEARS AGO

Lincoln Cabinet, Generals Map Strategy for Bull Run

By LON K. SAVAGE
Special Writer

Abraham Lincoln called his cabinet and his top generals to map out a strategy for the coming year. He laid his cards on the table.

The nation was demanding an offensive—an attack—a march for Richmond. Time was running out. He had served half their time and had nothing to show for it.

A Confederate force had been amassed at Manassas, 30 miles to the south. There must be a battle. He spoke mostly to old Winfield Scott, the federal army commander, and to Brig. Gen. Irvin McDowell, newly appointed commander of the troops at Washington.

The cabinet members, too, looked at the two soldiers, firmly behind the President's demand for action.

SCOTT STILL was reluctant. He had drawn elaborate plans for his "Anaconda," to choke the South into submission by controlling the Mississippi and blockading the coast, and now this plan was about to be discarded. McDowell, too, asked for more time

to drill and discipline his troops. "You are green, it is true," Lincoln answered, "but they are green also."

So McDowell then came forth with the plan he knew Lincoln wanted to hear. He would move 30,000 men in three columns south from Washington against the Confederates lined up behind Bull Run at Manassas under Gen. P. G. T. Beauregard.

Gen. Robert Patterson, despite his delay in moving south from Pennsylvania, would see to it that the Confederate army under Gen. Joseph E. Johnston in the Shenandoah Valley was kept busy.

If the two rebel armies were kept divided, McDowell could win.

THERE WAS some discussion

about Patterson's part in the campaign. His delay in moving toward the Potomac had annoyed Scott, who was considering replacing Patterson.

Finally it was decided Patterson would be kept in his post. And the plans for the Battle of Bull Run had been set. As the war was getting entirely too close to Washington.

Only the day before the meeting, the private steamer St. Nicholas had been captured by Confederates on the Potomac while going from Baltimore to the Nation's capital. (Unbeknownst to Lincoln, the capture had been led by Gen. (See LINCOLN, 5-B)

NATURE NOW

Special Writer for The Birmingham Eclectic

Ohio Park Trip Reveals Many of Life's Species

One of the pleasant aspects of summer is the opportunity it affords for family recreation. For those minded toward the out-of-doors one of our many accessible spots is a happy choice for a day's outing or for a camping vacation.

On a recent weekend we arose betimes to attend a Rotary Club field trip held at Oak Openings Park located in Lucas County Ohio, just south of Toledo. Here an area of 2,300 acres presents a varied and interesting habitat for plants and animals.

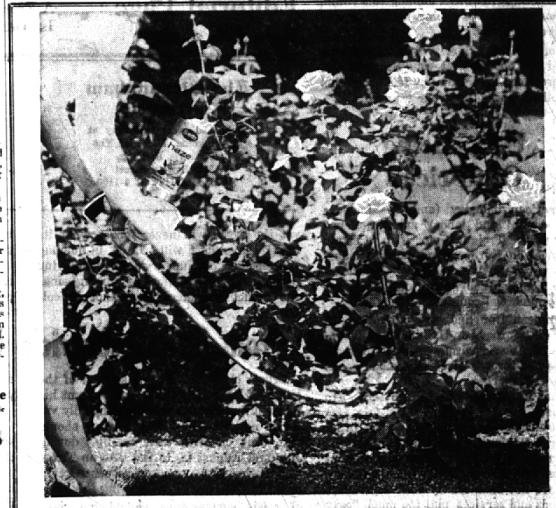
"WHAT IS

so rare as a day in June?" That indeed when all nature conspires to provide a symphony of air fragrance, color and green growing, vibrant with the soft, quivering with the dappled shade of woodlands, bright with the radiance of sun on flowing water.

Here Swan Creek meanders through great trees that knew many dawns and sunsets long before our little lives began.

THIS REGION like our own Michigan was sculptured by the action of the last glacier thousands of years ago leaving a series of barren sand beaches in the region then occupied by the western end of Lake Warren, and the glacial lake which was much larger and stood some one hundred feet higher than Lake Erie now stands.

As time wore on the winds gradually added the sand leaving a quiet life since Bill's heart attack in 1950. Bill has had to give up his membership in the Birmingham Quadrille (square dancing) club since he is no longer an expert. At work, he has given up the less physically demanding work of proofreading.



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