

WEEKLY VISIT

He's a Printer and Craftsman

By IRMA N. DAVIS
Staff Writer

George Migrants, superintendent of the Cranbrook Press, calls himself "a working foreman."

His co-workers and employers no doubt consider him a master craftsman.

Under his guidance, Cranbrook Press turns out an enormous number of items for the foundation's institutions as well as all of the routine printing of its office stationery and supplies.

Migrants' introduction to the printing establishment took place on the last day of January, 1939, when he arrived to help operate a rickety linotype machine, acquired from one of the Booth string of newspapers.

"No one else could work it," he says, "and I came to help for a week of night work—it sure turned into a long week."

AT THAT TIME, the work for the institution was done on two hand-fed presses. Today, in Migrants' words, Cranbrook Press has "nearly a dozen two automatic presses, modern linotype machine, power cutter and folder, two pressmen, a linotype operator, a compositor and a girl Friday."

It also has an apprentice typesetter, Michael Donnelly, who is training under the tutelage of Migrants.

The 61-year-old superintendent began his own career as an apprentice compositor with his brother-in-law and sister who operated the Franklin Press in Jackson.

From there he progressed to a Jackson printing company where he learned to run a linotype machine and became foreman of the composing room.

MIGRANTS MOVED on next to the Eaton Rapids Journal where he "got out the paper" for another four years.

"I worked there from one year to the next," he says, "St. Patrick's day, four years later," he grins.

Following a stint at a printing company in Lansing, Michigan, Migrants "fell into a good job," as he puts it, with a tinny corporation in Detroit and was linotype operator and foreman for "10 years almost to the day."

In 1939, he came to The Cranbrook Press where he has been employed ever since. Interpersed in his early years there was "some substitute work of The Birmingham Eccentric," during the war years.

His hobbies are woodworking and home maintenance. "You know, I practically built our home from scratch at Tawas Bay. The Migrants lived there for 13 years and he "drove back and forth every week end."

"HARDLY EVER missed," Migrants' comments in a quiet voice.

He said the family "found it hard to move away from Tawas last fall." He, his wife and their youngest son now live in Chester.

The couple's four older children are married and the Migrants now have eight grandchildren—almost nine," smiled the tall grey haired superintendent.

He spent his first 10 years at Cranbrook as a linotype operator before his promotion to his present position. In his quiet way, he shows his pride in the way he handles his made papers, for example, and in his eye for artistry.

He is apt to bring out a copy of the first assignment he worked on at Cranbrook, after the cylinder press was installed.

A REPRINT of a story that ran in a national magazine, it contains outstanding color reproductions and a cover design by Migrants. It was the magazine's painting exhibition at Cranbrook in 1940.

The 30-year-old printing establishment, founded by George G. Booth, has maintained high standards as a private press under the superintendency of Migrants.

Whether or not printers "are a special breed of men, like doctors, architects or firemen," as someone once claimed, "they must combine a mechanical knowledge with artistry, patience and a basic sense of humor."

Migrants' "long week" has been spent amply fulfilling the requirements.

100 YEARS AGO

Tennessee, Arkansas Withdraw from Union

By LON K. SAVAGE
Special Writer

The Civil War was nearly a month old 100 years ago this week, but aside from the bitter hardships there had not been a battle.

In the North, a cry for action began to make itself heard—a cry that would become almost a refrain in the approaching weeks.

In the South, preparations went quickly and swiftly to meet this action.

While North and South prepared for battle, some of the most important events of the war were taking place in the border states, where the people were picking their sides. Two states—Arkansas and Tennessee—made their choices 100 years ago this week; they chose the Confederacy.

THE CRY for action came to Lincoln that week in messages such as this one from Wisconsin's governor: "There is a spirit evoked by this rebellion among the liberty loving people of this country, it is drawing them to action, and if the government will permit them to act for it, they will act for themselves."

St. Lincoln conferred with his army commander, old killing Winfield Scott, and General Scott worked long and hard on his largely-ignored "Anaconda" plan—to blockade the Southern coast, send troops down the Mississippi and choke the South into submission.

And Lincoln called for 82,000 more soldiers and seamen to put some such plan into effect.

AT MONTGOMERY, the first

Confederate Provisional Congress passed acts empowering Davis to take the whole land and naval force of the South for defense. And the congress authorized him to do what he had said he would do two weeks before—issue letters of marque to private vessels which wished to prey on northern sea commerce.

At Richmond, K. F. Lee planned his battle for anticipated attacks from north, west and east and made out commissions for officers to lead units in from all directions to offer their services.

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Stamps of Approval

Mike Wilkinson, 9th grade student at Derby Junior High School, fans out a collection of "covers" for the approval of seventh grader Karen Pritchard and ninth grader Rick Nuffer. They are members of the school's Stamp Club, sponsors of the third stamp fair at the school on May 19. The exhibit will feature both adult and student stamp collections, a movie and a stamp sale booth. The event is open to the public.



Appreciating Art

Second graders at City and Country School for Gifted Children in Bloomfield Hills look over one of the many art objects displayed at the school's annual Spring Gallery Saturday and Sunday. They are (from left) Bill Booth, 7, of 1565 Washington, Birmingham, Karon Schwartz, 6, of Detroit, and John McIntosh, 6, 19110 Midway, Southfield. Proceeds from the sale of art objects like this cast bronze sculptured horse by Paul Suttman will be used for the school's scholarship program.

NATURE NOW

Miniature Pollen Grain Wonder Dust of Nature

By Lydia King Freshse
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Pollen is the "wonder dust of nature." On any spring day in the atmosphere you breathe carries tons of this vital substance to distances which may extend from a few inches to as much as 400 miles. But its destination is pre-determined. To accomplish its task as the male component in reproduction it must fall on or be carried by some living pollinator to the stigma of a flower of the same species. Without this magic connecting no seed could ever form within the dark interior of the ovary.

Neither would there be a continuing stream of fruits and vegetables flowing to our tables and our domestic animals would soon perish.

SOMETIME DURING your inquisitive childhood you must have thrust your face into that of a flower only to come away with your nose covered with yellow dust. Lilies especially are provident with their pollen, holding up their powdery anthers for all to see.

Or if you live in an oak-shaded suburb, you may sweep up this yellow powder by the dustpan full on any day in late spring or early summer as it falls from the millions of male flower catkins that bloom unnoticed over your head.

Like an assortment of tiny and fragile jewels are these pollen grains. Scientists armed with electronic microscopes delight in their individual sizes and shapes: conic, spherul, ovoid. At most the grains of pumpkin pollen measure one one-hundredth of an inch in diameter; at least those of the Alpine forget-me-not only one hundredth as much.

WIND - POLLINATED plants produce medium - sized pollen grains which are designed to float freely in the air. Both the heaviest and the lightest grains are carried by insects whose bodies are especially adapted for this task. Large plants do not necessarily produce large pollen grains. Those of a giant sequoia are comparable to those of a violet.

A pollen grain is a single cell enclosing its own set of chromosomes which unite with those in the ovule to make a seed. Each is a speck of protoplasm serving as a link in the life cycle of a plant. Each will determine every detail of the pattern of its species whether it be a tall oak, a delicate herb or an exotic orchid.

POLLEN GRAINS are enclosed in double covers so fashioned that they can contract or expand according to moist and dry conditions which hinder or encourage dispersal.

Yet the outside coat is so indestructible that a scientist training his lens on a thin cut section of anthracite coal can tell you what species of plant shed its copious pollen in a coal age swamp some 250 millions of years ago to make that piece of coal! He also can say that it is the richness of oils imprisoned in these ancient pollen grains that causes the fire to burn so warm and so long on a cold winter's night.

TODAY'S SCIENTISTS are also exploring oil shales widely scattered throughout the earth's crust which hold enormous quantities of wonderfully preserved pollen grains.

These become an authoritative means of the flora of their respective regions written millions of years after the frail structures of the plants themselves have perished.

Flowers are ever provident of their precious pollen. Hawkweeds, dandelion and chickory close their petals on a dark overcast day and during the night as a protection against the wind. Fragile flowers such as the spring anemone, bloodroot and gentian are so cautious that they open only on the brightest sun. Jack-in-the-pulpit covers its anthers with a well-placed hood while wild ginger and May apple bloom under a protective mantle.

The large pea family designs its petals to enclose the pollen-laden stamens. However, the largest number of flowers insure their fertility simply by tipping their heads to keep their petals dry.

To fulfill its destiny each microscopic pollen grain must hit a target of a size of a pin head at exactly the proper moment. How this is accomplished will be presented in next week's column.

Check That Spray

Going to spray for insects in your orchard or garden?

Do not use a sprayer that has previously held a used control solution, warn Michigan State University horticulture specialists. They caution that chemicals used in weed control are not safe for plants, and that the sprayer cannot be completely cleaned.

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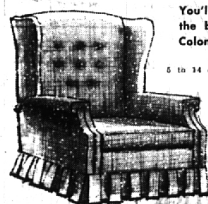
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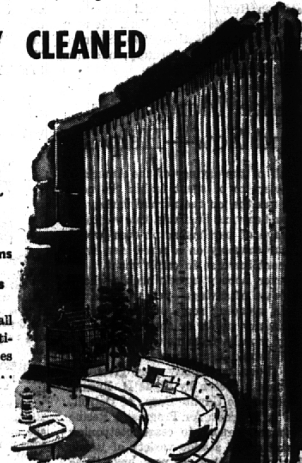
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The Birmingham Eccentric Features

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Stamped Sleuths Seek Stockholder

August T. Wagner's "fortune" is found, but where is he?

Dividends from stock investments he dormant awaiting the claim of Wagner, whose last address known is 865 Knox St., Birmingham. Tracers Company of America is seeking to pay Wagner and 25,000 other missing stockholders a total of \$17 million in old holdings.

The stockholders' addresses are old—some dating back 25 to 35 years. Wagner's last known home is occupied by a family who knows nothing of his whereabouts. Information about Wagner's present location can be sent to Tracers Company of America, 516 Madison Ave., New York 22, N. Y.

A tip may be worth a neat egg to Wagner.

Math Teachers To Convene Friday

Miss Marjorie Pickering of Birmingham is scheduled to attend the 12th annual conference of the Michigan Council of Teachers of Mathematics Friday through Sunday at St. Mary's Lake.

Miss Pickering is registration secretary of MCTM, a department of the Michigan Education Association. She and some 250 mathematics teachers from throughout the state will hear speeches and discuss phases of math curriculum at the MEA camp.

Group meetings will cover nearly all mathematics curriculum from elementary school through college. The discussions will include topics like geometry in the primary grades, mathematics program in the senior high school, mathematics curriculum in the Soviet Union, and junior high school mathematics.

Happy Winners!

Sporting smiles as they receive vouchers for their prizes in the Birmingham Merchants Travel Contest from Martin Frank, vice president of the Retail Division of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, are

Birmingham policeman Richard H. Thomas and Master Dirk Anderson. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas and young Anderson were guests of the Chamber at its annual dinner party April 19.