

WEEKLY VISIT

Use Their Names 'Discretely'

By IRMA N. DAVIS
Staff Writer

What's in a name? "Utter and complete chaos comes especially if you're one of the Robert Davises." The Davises, says Robert Lockwood Davis, partner of the Birmingham Travel Service, "are a family of confusion. You should see the blank looks we get when one of us introduces the other Bob Davis," echoes Robert Ward Davis, manager of Calico Corners on Telegraph Road. These two Bob Davises find their problems compounded because they were married in the same week of the same year to wives with similar first names. To complicate matters a little more, the two men have signatures that are almost indistinguishable from each other.

"IT FINALLY got to the point where the other Bob switched his account to another bank of the same bank. I remember one time—that was about a year ago—neither one of us got our bank balances straightened out," says Bob L. Name "anastus" have followed this Bob even abroad on his trips for the travel agency. In Europe, especially, he often used the name Robert Davis registered at the same hotel. "I guess Robert must have been a pretty popular name when I was born," he observes. "Then there was the time in Tahiti—when I had registered and locked my luggage cases in the hotel room closet. I went out and while I was gone, the hotel clerk let my room to another Bob Davis."

"WHEN I GOT BACK, his luggage was in my room—he'd gone swimming. You have to know the hills—nothing ever moves fast and it took us a day-and-a-half to get that one cleared up," says Bob L. Bob L. added that the mixup con-

tinued when his "almost roommate" planned to leave on the same plane, belonging to the local French airline. "First they'd cancel one of our reservations, then the other." The Davises have become inured to receiving each other's phone calls and over the years have come to regard the situation as a joke. "Depending on how I feel, I will advise people on almost any subject if they ask for 'Bob Davis,'" he says. "I'm forever getting calls asking for advice on colors and materials," says Bob L.

HE ADDS that he has learned that most people "don't really listen on the telephone, until about the third or fourth sentence so usually follow my. This is Bob Davis" with something startling. They know then which one of us they are talking to. "He has had to devise a system, also, to keep the books at the travel agency straight because the other Bob Davis picks up his travel reservations through us. At the end of the month, I often find that our own people were charging me for his. I enter the word 'me' in parentheses, after my own ticket purchase, to identify the charges. Ann, the wife of Robert L. recalls the surprise she felt when she saw the bill for her ticket. The other couple's wedding in June of 1953.

PREPARING FOR her own marriage to Robert Lockwood, only a few days away, she discovered that her lifelong friend, Lynn, had just married Bob Ward Davis.

Both women were raised in Birmingham and had played together since kindergarten days. When Lynn moved to Birmingham in 1945—that was in 1945 when the Bob L.'s moved to Birmingham—she discovered they also had been childhood acquaintances in Escanaba.

The two families see a lot of each other. The older children—who are old "pros" at handling telephone mixups—visit each other overnight and even the cats belong to the two Davises. Singing and furniture refinishing are high on the hobby list for both families and they enjoy art, music and similar interests.

BOB W. SAYS deliveries occasionally seem "heeled" at handling of warding off the dumping of a ton of pea gravel on his front lawn one day, followed soon after by the near-delivery of four yards of fertilizer.

"I thought they were for the other Bob—but that time I was wrong. They were meant for a landscape man who lives here—name of Bob Davis."

Both Bob W. and Bob L. are of similar build and coloring and both wear crew cuts, though the former says "there isn't much to cut." Both men admit, however, that their interviews with this reporter might have been "just a little too much" if they had taken place simultaneously, as originally planned. "I can just imagine it," says "me" of Bob W. "Mrs. Davis, I'm Bob Davis. Meet Bob Davis."

Appointed Rounds
A 60-year-old milkman in Nottingham, England, who never failed to keep his appointed rounds—even on his wedding day—planned to take the honeymoon he and his wife never had time to have.

Brightie Again
About 200 patrons were routed from a Philadelphia movie theater during a Brigitte Bardot film when smoke filled the building. Firemen said the air conditioner overheated.

Long Walk
Waltress Inez Sutton, of San Diego, Calif., has the proof, smut on corn and egret on wheat, that she did not flourish without the aid of insects which disperse the minute spores of these injurious pests.

Happy, Not Shy
Officials in a London, England, zoo explained why a 5½-foot earthworm could not be seen by the general public: "If an earthworm is happy it burrows."

STRICTLY FRESH
The man who invented macaroni must have used his noodle.

When a speaker makes a few well-chosen words, they are often lost in the other stuff he says.

A BUILDING has been built on the hillside as a powder room for the guests. Unusual and abundant lighting completes the planning for this interesting home of the Bekolay's in our Birmingham area.

Next stop is the John Hopkins, 1515 Lone Pine Road. Here, nestled in an area of dense trees, is a home with unusual features. The moving of a lawn or the raking of verges is not a detail to bother them (ahem).

Their home has unusual design with the carpet in front of the home entrance assuring the guests of a "dry arrival" if the weather is inclement.

The architect's handling of this detail is clever. The daily living takes place at an upper level of the living room is a large deck. As you there relax, you become a tree dweller. Other major rooms also have their own private decks out into the trees.

GROUND COVERS, railroad ties to hold banks, and large stones help nature along with her program here.

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The Birmingham Eccentric Features

DOWN TO EARTH Landscape, Architecture Provide Unique Designs

By ALICE WESELLE BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Have you taken time lately to enjoy the appearance of the homes in "downtown" Birmingham and especially their renewed style of architecture?

The Warren Olsons at 584 Townsend have extended their remodeling to their landscaping. In the rear area they have bridged the lawn and the perimeter flower and shrub beds are raised with the help of a combination spilling perfect, eye-laying hospitality.

Another interesting garden site is the John Bekolay home and grounds amid fourteen acres at 2925 Evergreen Road. The home has been established for many years of old English architecture and with the interest of the owners in paintings and Cameo Glass they have a perfect setting.

FOR THOSE WHO are being introduced to Cameo Glass for the first time, like Mrs. Burlingame, their pride is evidenced by the fusion of various colored glass. Then the pattern design is carried through to the right level of color and design. No color is added.

Call to see the outstanding French designer and they have many of his masterpieces. France and England are the primary sources for this fine specimen glass.

On their property they have steers and chickens, plus a large vegetable garden. Their pride in their development of a Hawaiian Garden in their valley near the waterfall which drops at least 12 feet with a "good splash."

As they often have 300 to 400 guests, a large area has been developed for their hospitality. There are eighteen picnic tables and benches with a guest house having a grass roof. There is also a barbecue center and orchestra shelter near the paved dance floor. There is an attractive table designed around a huge table and this is used for hors d'oeuvres.

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NATURE NOW

Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Good Year for Tourists; Banner Year for Bugs

Now in October we have come to the end of summer. Carefree days have given way to the routine of school and office and we find ourselves involved again in the maze of our city ways.

Once more we have shared our woods and waters with a host of visitors. The trail of the tourist, which reached its peak during the last three weeks of August, will continue well into October, when Nature covers our hills and valleys with a blanket of color.

Although the number of park visitors in 1951 has been about 25 per cent less than last year's, the annual trek to the woods and waters yet bespeaks the hunger of the human spirit for the earth and the sky, the wind and the water. The urban dweller has not wanted himself from these elemental satisfactions. Give him a day or a week of freedom and he will return to them and their healing ways.

WHAT HAS BEEN a good season for the tourist has been a banner year for the "bugs" in the area.

Such insects as the forest caterpillar and the tent caterpillar, the grasshopper and the leaf roller, have eaten their way through acres of greenery. Other pests are the Japanese beetle, the grape berry moth and the cherry fruit fly have destroyed tons of fruit.

A serious phase of insect injury which may rival the destruction caused by direct feeding is the con-

nection of insects with fungus plant diseases. Such killing pests as Dutch elm disease, chestnut blight, smut on corn and egret on wheat, could not flourish without the aid of insects which disperse the minute spores of these injurious pests.

ALTOGETHER the insects of the United States demand as many as 10 per cent of every year's crop. Their account with the American people is a total estimated loss of \$14 billion per year.

However, if insects are destructive they are also agents of beauty and usefulness. Once again they have pollinated many of our flowers and much of our fruit. Their busy flight which began before the opening of the first spring flower will not end until the last goldenrod and aster stands brown and empty in the fall.

On a warm sunny day an observer clocked the insect visitors which came to a single five-inch square of yellow flower cluster. They arrived at the rate of 12 per minute or 720 during an eight-hour day.

AT SUMMER'S END, Nature becomes lavish with her paint pot. But she also uses her pigments in subtle ways here and there. The maple leaf from yellow to red; there revealing the orange fruit of the running strawberry bush hidden within its crimson colored husk and hanging a cluster of unripe purple grape against a blue October sky.

The fall migration of song birds is now well under way. The bluebird's wing is paling and the goldfinch shows its jerky flight. The red-winged blackbirds who hovered over the marshes with a great fluttering have gone and the war-

'Assembly' to Convene For Jr. High Students

The Assembly, sponsored by a group of Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills parents and under the direction of Florence Schofield Young, has been formed to provide a monthly series of parties for eighth and ninth graders attending local junior high schools.

It has long been felt that this group has too few supervised outlets between the time dancing classes stop and high school functions begin.

THOUGHTFUL consideration by both parents and teen-agers has produced a format for fun geared to junior high level.

As a result, the importance of meeting and mixing with young people from different schools on a continuing basis is being emphasized. Elimination of the "date" problem has been solved, since it was determined that boys and girls may attend the parties individually, with a stag line to help keep things going.

There will be no dancing instruction unless there are requests from Assembly members themselves for demonstration of some of the new steps.

on bulletin board calendars. Birmingham Community House is the locale for all eight parties, the first one scheduled for Oct. 25. Seanholm High student, Kenny Pool, whose five-piece band is "very big" with all teen-agers this season, will provide the music. Ken is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Edson K. Pool of Glenbury Circle, Birmingham.

PATRONS AND patronesses for Assembly include Mr. and Mrs. William B. Bachman Jr. of 28, Mrs. Maynard R. Andrew, Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Egan, Mr. and Mrs. Russell S. Strickland, Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Frye, Dr. and Mrs. Richard G. Pearce and the William K. Ginnans.

Others are Mr. and Mrs. Bethel B. Kelley in Birmingham; Mrs. Purdy, Dr. and Mrs. John L. Wiant, Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Ostermann, Mr. and Mrs. Laurence B. Avison Jr. and Mr. and Mrs. Wendell S. Smith.

JUNIOR Planning Committee for Assembly gathered at the Community House to help complete plans for the first party. The group will include representatives from each school in the area.

Among them will be Tommy Hal Ostermann, Mrs. Prickett, Dolly Garrick, Sherry Strickland, Adriane Andrew, Nancy Kelley, Bruce Nally, Margaret Ann Egan, Bill Muma, Patsy Harding, Sally Ann Wiant, Chuck Webster, Bradford Lays, Dressel Douglas and Elizabeth Frye.

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members of the newly-formed Assembly gather around Ken Pool as he demonstrates his electric piano. His audience is (from left) Bill McNaughton of Bloomfield Hills Junior High, Judy Wink of Marian High School, Margaret Ann Egan of Groves, John Lefley of the Hills Junior High and Nancy Kelley of Kingswood. Ken is a student at Seanholm.

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