

# The Birmingham Executive Features

SEPTEMBER 28, 1961 PAGE 7

## NATURE NOW Nature Trip Brings Unusual Discovery

The naturalist who spends hours observing the commonplace sometimes sees the unusual. While on a recent field trip along the banks of the Clinton river near Utica, he came upon a mother goldfinch dead on her nest, her wings still spread in a protective posture. Securely anchored in a small burrow some 50 inches above ground, the nest was carefully constructed of plant fibers interspersed with plant down, giving evidence of belonging to the first nesting period.

AT THE TIME of her death the mother bird was brooding a single egg which remained intact. Of all our songbirds the goldfinches nest latest, waiting for their first brood until late in the season. In July or early August when a fresh supply of this seed and other composite fibers are available for nesting materials and their parents are ordinarily built twice. On this same afternoon Mrs. Frishe found another nest in a similar location. These young were five days old. These represented a second brood.

THE NEST WAS carefully built. Records show that the goldfinch takes an average of 15 days to complete the first nest. Sometimes both the plant fiber and the down used at this time are from the same willow and poplar. The second nest was made of the fibers of the swamp milkweed interlaced with thistle down.

PROBABLY because of a more abundant supply of materials, the second nests in late August are completed in five or six days.

THE DEAD BIRD'S first laying cycle was interrupted and would have produced from four to six eggs.

THE MOTHER BIRD feeds her young at one-half intervals by regurgitating partly digested seeds of thistle and composites. In the nest holding the young we found three young, all of which they reached well up around the neck on either side.

ONE QUESTION asked which may be in your mind is "How will their migration flight?" The answer is that since the goldfinch is a seed eater he need not leave until the seeds are being sown. The goldfinch is well feathered and scientists agree that hunger is a more potent factor than cold in migration patterns.

ONLY THE mother bird so long dead knew the manner of her secret end.

BUT the metronome of life continues to beat in fast tempo for our songbirds friends who live out their small and defenseless lives in the midst of unnumbered threats.

NEVERTHELESS, many wish not look forward to their husbands retirement, the more car. "A significant proportion of women do not want their husbands' retirement, they feel that there will be more housework to do, that their daily routine will be disrupted, that they do not want their husbands home all day, and that they will have to live on a lower income."

"Higher-status wives feel that they will lose social prestige and personal relationships. Few wives who enjoy their husbands' retirement as providing a time when they can enjoy their time together with their husbands."

"WOMEN ARE apprehensive of having a member of the household in their presence who has no established pattern for use of his waking hours at home. They are unwilling to have their husbands' retirement as providing a time when they can enjoy their time together with their husbands."

Dr. Donahue's comments are contained in "Retirement: The Emerging Social Pattern," a new book authored with Harold L. Orbach and published by the Handbook on Social Gerontology.

IF YOU HAVE a sunny window bench to put up some of the small flowering plants so that you can enjoy them inside at the first hint of a frost.

WITH fall approaching and the weather beginning to get chilly, many Mrs. Burlingame are building outdoor pits for grilling food. Cozy meals topped off with an old fashioned sing are ideal for families for they include the children and build memories for the youngsters won't forget.

Such a pit should be at least 16 inches deep and as wide as you wish. You can start bricks on one end to line the rim of the pit and use a good idea to place sizable bouillards around the perimeter to prevent someone from toppling into the fire. For a few feet around the circumference of the circle you can spread either fine gravel or ground up tree chips. Then bend that circle over and place your chairs and benches.

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There are 35 articles telling how amateur can develop her varieties of all categories of plants. There is a good lesson on the basic laws of genetics.

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# WEEKLY VISIT He Puts Your Best Foot Forward

By IRMA N. DAVIS Staff Writer

"I'm my own worst customer," said Larry (Lawrence) Sherman, partner-owner of Sherman Shoes, 17 W. Maple in the heart of the Birmingham business district. The 26-year-old Sherman swears his store has more than his share of shoes in his size because "You see, we specialize in getting or making anything anyone can wear up to 12 inches—and like to wear styles that I shouldn't."

A 1957 GRADUATE of the University of Michigan and a history major, Sherman said, "I guess I'd be a well-rounded business man."

That he is, with interests ranging from reading, music and the theater to sports.

Although he had worked around his father's Detroit shoe store from the time he was 15, Sherman regarded his first year of full-time work in this field as a truly odd period.

"I wanted to see if I really liked the shoe business—and I did," he said. He and his parents "sat around and waited for 10 years to buy the local store my father owned—the late Phil Williams. They purchased it in 1958."

SHERMAN'S father operated the Birmingham store for the first few months while his son continued to work at the store. He then moved the air force in San Antonio, Tex. Since that time, the young business man has headquartered in Birmingham.

Quiet-spoken, he has a fund of odd facts about footwear at the tip of his tongue, especially as they relate to local customers.

He has been the emphasis in the store shift from the fitting of the young family to a preponderance of the men's shoes. He also noted that his masculine customers are less concerned about the size they wear than women are and more of a problem when it comes to fitting.

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to convince them they have been incorrectly fitted.

SHOE MERCHANTS in Birmingham use scientific methods of measuring feet. Sherman said the old-time criterion on "foot length."

"I watch the arch," he added. Sherman said area men "most often wear size 10 or 10 1/2 shoes. In men's in the area, 95% of 9 1/2 and this represents a substantial increase over 1954's average size 8."

Women, he said are fitted about the same larger than in the past year.

"But it's the teen-age girls who are hardest on their feet," he added. "Their feet grow ahead of the rest of their bodies and they just can't accept a change of one or two sizes in a six-week period. That often happens, you know."

### Michigan Facts

Michigan State University, second in size to the U. of M., has many "firsts" also: It was first to provide extension service for the tourist and resort industry... first to teach scientific agriculture... pioneered in teaching hotel management and institutional administration... established the first College of Communication... the first educational television station east of the Mississippi... and boasts the largest free-sending ceramic in the world—the 10 1/2 foot Spartan statue.

The nation's oldest commercial broadcasting station is WJLW, Detroit, which began operations in 1920.

Forty-one of Michigan's 83 counties border on one of the four Great Lakes which wash the shores of the state.

Michigan is the nation's No. 1 producer of potato chips!

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## Retirement Can Create Problems For The Wives

100 YEARS AGO

## Confederates Decide Against Fall Invasion

By LON K. SAVAGE Special Writer

Brig. Gen. Stonewall Jackson, already something of a hero in the Confederate army, received a pleasant surprise 100 years ago this week when riding by the train station at Fairfax Courthouse, some 10 miles southeast of Washington, D.C.

As Jackson watched, a one-car train pulled in, and a tall, slender, dignified man descended from the car. Troops in the area suddenly began cheering. To Jackson's amazement it was Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy, visiting his troops almost within sight of the capital of the United States.

IT WAS TIME for decision for Davis and the South in Washington, Davis' young, former friend, Gen. George B. McClellan, was rebuilding the Union.

At least fifty thousand men in three generals said—probably sixty thousand. At the time, there were only forty thousand in Confederate troops in northern Virginia.

AND SO DAVIS made his decision that the Confederacy could wage no major offensive that fall to the front. He had a decision forced partly by necessity, partly by Davis' controversial policy of forcing his forces scattered on every front.

The decision made, Davis returned to Richmond, deeply discouraged.

Michigan has more public parks than any other state, including the largest state park in the country—Porcupine Mountains. Michigan's camping areas can accommodate 7,600 families at one time—more than any other state park system.

## Internal Revenue Service Reports Tax Cheating Cases on Increase

Intelligence-Division were referred to other divisions of the Service for additional tax and penalties where applicable.

PERSONS BROUGHT TO justice during this period included reprobates of almost the entire range of professions and business, from graverigger to steely-legged.

Included were 28 prison inmates in 6 different prisons, including one who filed income tax returns on non-existent income and withholdings, in fraudulent evasion of income tax.

Unreported dividend and interest cases also comprised a sizeable portion of the cases successfully prosecuted.

PERSONS PROMINENT in the nation's news came under court action during the year.

They included Massachusetts industrialist Bernard Goldfine, found guilty of individual and corporate income tax evasion and sentenced to prison for one year and \$10,000.

Also included was William W. Dowling, man, guilty of income tax evasion, suspended two months in prison, and fined \$12,000; former Illinois senator, three years probation and \$5,000 fine for income tax evasion.

LaVerne Redfield, a Reno millionaire who acted as his own attorney in his trial for income tax evasion and was found guilty, sentenced to five years in prison and fined \$80,000; "Goose" Tatum, professional gambler, sentenced to three months in prison and three years probation for failure to file income tax returns; and Joseph Negro, manager of a former world champion boxer, fined \$5,000 for failure to file income tax returns.

IN THE RACKETEER field, actions were taken against Tony Accardo, Chicago, sentenced to prison for six years and fined \$15,000 for income tax returns under oath of perjury; Mickey Cohen, Los Angeles, convicted of income tax evasion, conviction of failure to defeat collection of taxes and income tax evasion, sentenced to prison for 15 years and fined \$30,000; Anthony Coppola, New York, convicted of income tax evasion and sentenced to six months imprisonment for failure to file returns; and Abe Mitchell, Reading, Pa., found guilty, but not yet sentenced, for evasion of wagering excise taxes.

Telephone and Telegraph Company, subsidiaries, and affiliates, of monies due and payable for long distance telephone calls. This operation in effect concealed a national telephone company employees to its switchboard agents and undetected.

IN THE WAGERING and coin-operated gambling device enforcement raids were staged during the year. In total, 431 arrests by White personnel, plus a large number of arrests by other law enforcement agencies, were made.

Approximately 335 different locations in 100 cities were involved; more than 100,000 devices were seized, as well as a number of weapons, including handguns, revolvers and other items were seized.

INTELLIGENCE DIVISION actions against the major racketeer element were intensified during the year. In particular, the connection with the service's participation in the attorney general's drive on organized crime, resulting