



### Puppet Performance

Students at Pierce School are entranced by the puppet show, "Willie and his Wind Machine," presented recently by the Junior League Puppeteers who have been touring Birmingham elementary schools since February. Lost in the performance are pupils (from left) Pam Burbott, Mike Jernstad, Gibby Underdown and Bobby Jernstad.

### DOWN TO EARTH

## Plants' Foliage Profits By Spring's Booster Shot

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

In order to become heartened by the weather which has been so slow in heralding Spring I have become very interested in the Farmer's Almanac. Let's test it together. The day you receive this column the weather should be warm, with showers; then after this treat, turn colder.

And by the way, check on your friends. If they were born under this cycle of Taurus they make the most loyal friends.

**FOLIAR FEEDING:** Cornell University has done considerable research to show that foliar feeding is very beneficial to plants in the Spring when the growth is fresh, the soil still cold. This shot of nitrogen to the leaves as well as the branches which are capable of absorbing a spray of fertilizer will have a real positive effect on any of your plants.

You can buy a spray which holds a mixture in a quart jar and fits on your hose which can be used for this purpose alone, to boost the growth of your plants. You must hold back on perennial shrub and tree foliar feeding until approximately Aug. 1 so that new growth will not freeze with Fall frosts.

Foliar feeding does not take the place of feeding your plants with a ring of fertilizer, placed on the surface of the ground, to be absorbed by the roots with each rain. Do not work fertilizer into the soil. As an illustration for each spreading evergreen I would distribute one and a half to two cups of granular fertilizer with a formula on the package of 10-4-4.

**CLEMATIS CUTTINGS:** Many of our readers have become special-

ists, or let's call them hobbyists, in the collection of clematis varieties. Henry Tiescher, who is curator of the Montreal Botanical Gardens, has had very good results with his nursery method of increasing stock. So, clematis lovers, try this technique in July.

Cut off a leaf with a thin sliver of the twig. The sliver is shortened above the leaf stalk and below the bud to a fraction of an inch. Dip the cutting in rootstock and place in perlite which is a snow-like appearing material like vermiculite.

(See PLANTS, 6-D)

## Highway Dept. To Conduct Aerial Survey

The State Highway Department will make aerial surveys during the next two weeks for 38.5 miles of highway in eight counties, it was announced today.

Survey crews have started setting up targets for the surveys. The "targets" are eight-foot long yellow reflector crossed used as reference points on the aerial photographs. They are set about 500 feet apart along the approximate line of the proposed new highway or old highway being surveyed for modernization.

**HENRY ALMUS**, head of the Highway Department's Survey Section, said aerial survey work can only be done in about 30 days in the spring—after the snow melts from the ground and before foliage obscures vision from the air.

Almus said more than 110 miles of highways will be surveyed from the air in the next month.

The projects scheduled for aerial surveying includes almost two miles of M-21 from Telegraph to Opdyke Rd. south of Pontiac.

# The Birmingham Eccentric Features

## NATURE NOW By Lydia King Frehse Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

### Outdoors Dons Finery When Spring Arrives

By LYDIA KING FREHSE  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Now in early springtime nature decks herself with all her bridal finery; her softest pastels, her finest textures, her most elusive fragrances.

Flowers are the essence of much of this beauty. Do not look for showy blooms or bold color; these come with summer's sun. Look now for small flowers in shady woodlots; for white, for pale pink, for blue and lavender. Do not forget to look overhead as well underfoot. Year after year the casual observer misses much of the biggest flower show of all, that which is staged by our largest plants, the trees. This display is in the oak trees as a rule, right now as you read these lines.

Because tree flowers are generally small and often greenish or yellowish and because they grow high overhead the show is often over before it is noticed. The permanent and woody structure of trees is built over the years while their flower buds are set in the autumn. No need to watch for a new growth of stalk for their support; they are ready to burst into bloom as soon as they receive the required day and length of light.

**THE WILLOW** is among the first trees to bloom. Following closely are red and silver maple, alder, poplar, cottonwood and elm. The oaks do not bloom until early June when their dead catkins cluck lawns and driveways.

Such trees as the horsechestnut, catalpa and locust with their showy

flowers wait to bloom until their insect pollinators arrive in early summer.

A short walk around the block and I have gathered a handful of willow and red maple flowers. Now aided by my hand lens I marvel at their perfect structure.

In the willow male and female flowers are borne on separate trees in the red maple some bear only male flowers, other both male and perfect flowers.

**THE "PUSSY" WILLOW** or male catkin is crowded with hundreds of flowers. As they ripen the entire surface is covered with pollen-tipped stamens. The female catkin is made up of many green pistillate flowers, each one when fertilized developing into a seed.

There are many other catkin bearing trees including poplar, oak and birch. After all nature knows and she has invented a successful technique and the catkin is an efficient way of producing huge amounts of pollen where it is needed for dissemination by the westerly wind.

Examining the male red maple flowers I found that they had already ruptured their anthers and were empty of pollen. I had recovered them from the sidewalk where they had fallen, their brief function completed. Since the female flower is the potential seed it remains on the tree to ripen into the familiar key. It bears a divided pistil which makes a more receptive surface for the wind-blown pollen. Both flowers have small petals. The reddish glow of this tree in early spring is due to its flowers.

Our most primitive seed plants reach back into the Carboniferous Era some 375 million years ago. Our modern present day plants, including many of our trees, go back to the Mesozoic period some 150 million of years ago.



Mrs. Frehse

## Exec Urges Tuition Costs Be Raised

Theodore O. Yntema, of Bloomfield Hills, an executive of Ford Motor Co., urged recently that tuition costs be raised to charge students for the actual cost of their college education and that low-interest, long-term educational loans be made available to students.

"On the average, we now make a gift to college graduates of some \$4,000 in educational capital, which represents the cost of their education in excess of tuition charges," Mr. Yntema said in a Leo M. Franklin Memorial Lecture at Wayne State University, in Detroit.

"COLLEGES AND universities are chronically short of money primarily because our present methods of financing them prevent the full monetary expression of demand for education.

"Nor is this all. The large portion of the cost that is not covered by the price of higher education must still be covered. It is covered in part by driving college teachers into research projects and outside consulting.

**ANOTHER PART IS** paid, in effect, by the families of teachers who stay in teaching although they could earn much more in some other activity. But most of it is paid by begging the difference from the public or the state legislatures.

"If, as has been suggested from time to time, tuition fees were raised to cover the costs of education in both public and private institutions, and if loans on easy terms were made available to anyone and everyone who wanted to go to college and could qualify, the problems of financing higher education would vanish."

**MR. YNTEMA**, a former college professor, said the financial benefits of a college education "make it a good investment, with a return comparable to that on investment in business."

"It might be desirable to institute a program of government guarantees of education loans

## Parasites Controlled By Constant Watch Of State Beaches

Michigan beaches and riverbanks, although well-cleared of the microscopic organisms which cause "swimmer's itch," are being subjected to even tighter controls of the parasites through a study being made at Wayne State University.

Wayne parasitologists are paying particular attention to the life cycles of the organisms through their host animals, birds and snails. "Swimmer's itch" is not contagious or dangerous. It can be prevented by brisk rubbing and thorough drying after swimming.

## Clear Finish

How do you finish wood to get natural color? Beautiful woods like west coast hemlock should first be sanded smooth. Next apply a coat of sealer. After drying, rub with sandpaper, then apply successive coats of clear plastic varnish or lacquer, allowing time for each coat to dry thoroughly. Buff each coat with very fine steel wool before applying the next coat.

modeled after FHA, he suggested.

The speaker cited several advantages to Federally insured student loans tied into education-act cost, among them: "Colleges and universities could compete successfully for the best talent in the country. Our independent institutions of learning would flourish. The huge state and local tax bill would come down."

## Area Students Train Under New Program

Activities this semester of Tally Davis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John G. Davis, 1089 Putney Drive, illustrate one of the distinctive aspects of the experimental program in teacher education at Central Michigan University in which she is enrolled.

Her program is one of two experimental programs operated by the Teacher Education Project at Central Michigan University. Almost 500 students, including three other Birmingham students, are enrolled in the two programs.

**THOSH STUBENTS** are Carol Ann LaMotte, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clayton LaMotte, 2136 Lavandale; Marilyn G. Taylor, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Taylor, 31896 Mayfair; and Ronald G. Yatch, son of Dr. and Mrs. George D. Yatch, 4244 Rouge Drive.

Both Miss Taylor and Miss LaMotte, freshmen at Central Michigan University and 1961 graduates of Seaholm High School, are enrolled in the project's four-year program.

**YATICH**, A 1960 graduate of Seaholm High School, is a sophomore enrolled in the project's five-year program along with Miss Davis.

To complete her program, Miss Davis, a junior this year, will spend one semester of her senior year and one semester of a fifth year as a paid member of a school staff.

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## CONAC Band Coming to Birmingham

The versatile 50-man Continental Air Command Band from Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, will appear in Birmingham Saturday, May 26, as part of the local Michigan Week observance. The band will march in a parade and

will present a concert. Michigan Week officials have arranged to have the band in the state during the entire week's observance, May 20-26.

### STRICTLY FRESH

Tenants and landlords have one problem in common: trying to raise the rent.

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friend's excuses when they are lame ones.

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