

Potpourri

by JULIE CANDLER
Special Writer



Curiosity draws people into the old red barn at 188 N. Hunter in Birmingham. They're intrigued by the contemporary metal sculptures in the window of a Grandma Moses building. Even more intriguing is the story behind the unusual establishment.

Visitors step into a creaky showroom where red carpeting and black panels show off models of architectural sculpture by Malcolm Moran and Donald R. Ruby. The sculptors moved their workshop into the old barn over two years ago. There they began assembling the wall constructions and metal sculptures they are commissioned to create for new buildings and shopping centers.

ANYONE WHO has ever visited their showroom may have seen an enchanting bronze sculpture of a boy holding a kite on a string, or an abstraction of an owl, or the intricate assemblage of metal that forms a handsome rooster. These items were created, not as commissions, but as artistic experiments.

So many people saw and liked the boy, the owl and other Moran-Ruby creations that the energetic and likeable young men decided to expand their operation. They set up a small shop on Woodward in Birmingham, where craftsmen are now hand-producing 13 of their designs.

They contracted with a New York firm to distribute their sculptures nationwide.

THE MORAN-Ruby sculptures seem to be as fascinating to the public as the old red barn is to passers-by in Birmingham. Already, the hand-crafted items are being sold by over 500 stores across the nation. A downtown Detroit store announced a showing of the art accessories. Within a few days after it opened, the counters were bare.

The partners hired a manager and set up headquarters for their art accessories line in a former pet shop alongside the barn. They're making plans now to add five or six bronze castings to their line next year.

Meanwhile, in the red barn where the sculptors assemble their one-of-a-kind architectural commissions, creative freerackers are popping. It's enough to give any visitor a burst of confidence in the future of the arts in America. When artists can live by their art alone, the future looks great.

THE ARTS are faring well in our Birmingham high schools, too.

At Seaholm, members of the Proscenium are making ambitious plans to produce "A Midsummer Night's Dream," the "spectacular," will commemorate the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth in February.

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Dialogue

(Continued from 1-D)

seen Jennie, Silver's wife, for what she is—a jealous woman devoted to the destruction of Silver's morale and talent—Silver continues to nourish his blind spot.

Indeed, Silver's inability to face the truth about Jennie and join his life with Rebecca, the woman he likes and wants to love, makes for a plot which is the book's only major weakness.

Fortunately, by the time the plot is resolved, the reader is so caught up in the lives of the main persons that he swallows the improbable resolution with a shrug.

WHILE CERTAINLY not a great novel, "The Sound of Not Bells" is a satisfying one.

In addition to the dialogue which could hardly be improved, Weidman gives the reader a full canvas of believable characters. He further gives the flavor of two slices of New York life—the immigrant Jewish world and the butler-and-Bentley inhabited Uptown.

The reader believes in both worlds. By the end of the book he knows the people who live there. And he cares how they live. A reader can't ask a great deal more than that.

BRIDGE

in BIRMINGHAM

By BUD MAYBAUM
Southern Michigan
Bridge Association

The recent National Fall Bridge Tournament was held at Phoenix this year, and due to the distance from this area, not too many attended from here. However, those from Oakland and Wayne County that did attend did proudly for themselves.

One of the interesting features of this tournament was the International Team Trials. Today's hand was played by David Carter of St. Louis and Gerald Michael of Wichita, who came in fourth. The semi-psychic bid by Michael led to the winning of this hand.

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North and South vulnerable.

NORTH
▲ K J 10 5
♦ 10 4
♥ Q 7 3
♠ Q 8 6 2

WEST (Michael)
▲ 9 7 3
♦ A 3
♥ A 10 9 6 5
♠ K 4 3

EAST (Carter, dealer)
▲ A 2
♥ K 9 7 6 5
♦ J
♠ A 10 7 5

SOUTH
♥ Q 8 4
♦ K 8 4 2
♠ J 9

The bidding:
EAST 1 ♠
SOUTH 2 NT
WEST 3 NT
NORTH 4 ♠

Opening lead: 2 ♠
The semi-psychic bid of one spade by Michael caused North to lead this suit of clubs. The normal lead

by North of a spade, which other North players led, caused a quick defeat of the contract.

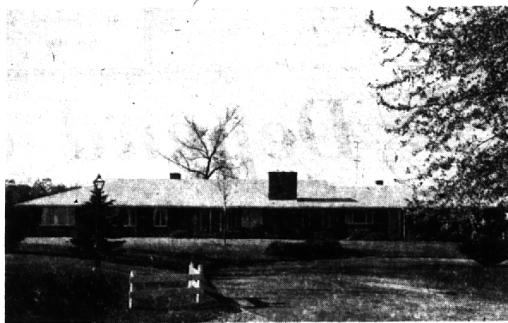
West ducked the opening lead in dummy and then allowed South to win the trick with the jack of clubs. South now could not switch to a spade from his holding after the spade bid of West and he could not continue the clubs and a heart lead would be fruitless, so he switched to the ace of diamonds. North won with the Queen of diamonds and led another club.

Local Best Sellers

- Fiction
GENIUS—Patrick Dennis
THE PRIZE—Irving Wallace
CAPE COD LIGHTERS—John O'Hara
Nonfiction
POINTS OF MY COMPASS—E. B. White
TRAVELS WITH CHARLEY—John Steinbeck
RENOR, MY FATHER—Jean Renoir

Wilson's
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Former residents of this area to do very well were Barry Crane; Mr. and Mrs. Joseph G. Bloom and Herman L. Lewis, Jr.
The date has been set for the last week end in February for the Southern Michigan Bridge Knock-Out Teams. You may want to go to a national or regional tournament. You may have up to six members on your team. This event is limited to only Southern Michigan Bridge members. You may contact Ed Clarke or myself for further details.
Dear Santa:
I would like to have a pair of black boots and one pair of English riding breeches and leather riding gloves.
From Amy Robinson
P.S. Please bring my mom a pair of black high boots.



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Completely air-conditioned with 5-ton Chrysler Airtemp.
An established area of fine traditional homes. Excellent for a growing family.

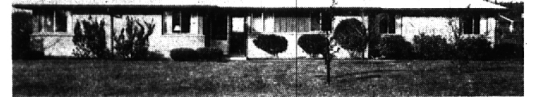
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Novel

(Continued from 1-D)

advisers and sticky moments when the constitution stands a good chance of losing out to its first strong challenger.

It would be unfair to reveal more of the story since this is, after all, a suspense novel.

THE AUTHORS, perhaps because of their newspaper training, tend to be a firmer ground in the development of the plot than in interpreting their characters.

For instance, Col. Casey is not only intriguing, but also slightly wooden. President Lyman is two-dimensional although I suspect the writers were more concerned with the office than with the man.

Prentice, Scott, Clark and Broderick are present in the story as abstractions; they stand for something well enough, but they never really breathe.

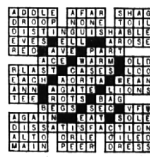
On the other hand, we are dealing here with a theme that overshadows the characters—we are dealing with a plot to throw the President of the United States out of office. This overriding consideration makes the book believable in spite of some weak characterization.

THE WRITING is concise and uninvolved, without frills or elaborations, but still meaty enough to give the reader a sense of reality as he follows the plot development.

The speech of the characters is credible, given the circumstances, but again that monstrous theme looms larger than anything else in the book.

The authors have written well and if the plot and the plotting tend to overshadow the character development that is perhaps to be expected in this field.

Answer to Puzzle No. 736



Yours for the asking

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