

THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC, BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN SECTION D July 26, 1962

Potpourri

by ROBIN BAHR



Small communities may become the backbone of theater in this country.

Periodically Howard Taubman devotes his column in the Sunday New York Times to the almost overwhelming problems confronting the New York stage.

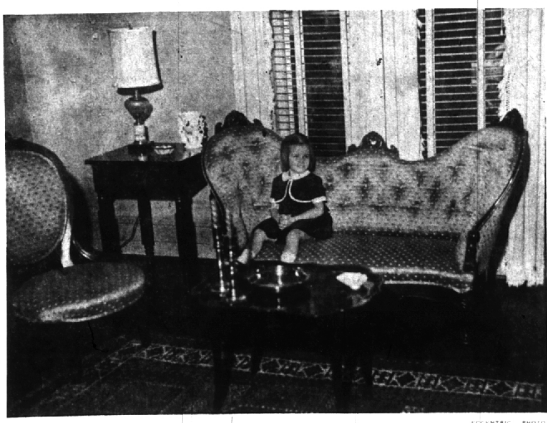
Production and labor costs are rising. The profit margin has considerably narrowed. There is greater risk and greater loss to the Broadway investor.

The only safe bet has proved to be a musical with well-known stars. Even these must run a couple of years to be financially successful.

AS A RESULT there have been fewer backers, fewer shows, and a decrease in experimental and serious drama on Broadway.

At the same time New York theater is decreasing in quantity and quality. Mr. Taubman and other New York critics have pointed out that theater is on the rise in small communities everywhere.

New theater groups are springing up. New theaters are being built. Road shows and local productions are (See POTPOURRI, 7-D)



Patty Moran, 3 years old, finds very comfortable a love seat in the 100-year-old home of Mr. and Mrs. George H. Fox on Bateh St. Patty lives at 652 Henrietta, Birmingham.

Victorian Furniture Undergoes Reevaluation

By MARGARET MORAN Special Writer

For a long time it has been fashionable to sneer at Victorian taste and to bewail or to ignore the furniture inheritance of the 19th century.

"Victorian" has been a synonym for "old-fashioned"—and its furniture the term is far from the compliment implied by "antique."

But 18th century furniture came back from the barn and Victorian is beginning to re-emerge from the attic for two reasons because it has endured for 100 years and because much of it dating before 1870 no longer seems as hideous as criticism made it.

FOR ILLUSTRATIONS of the wide variety of Victorian furniture and entertaining comments on it, the library offers the excellent books by Carl W. Drepper and by Raymond and Marguerite Yates.

The tone of the Victorian interior is not set wholly by furniture—the clutter of pattern and accessories crowded it and the whole period right out of favor. But there is beginning to be a cautious reevaluation of Victorian style. A bit of romance will not come amiss amid today's disciplined simplicity.

Behind the Welcome Mat

by CORINNE ABATT

I hate to disillusion the gossipy companies who spend millions to advertise their products and painstakingly explain the ingredients, but I choose my service stations for three reasons—curb/display, window-side manner and windshield washing technique.

Petunias or geraniums may give me a headache, but I will not give my vote every time over pyramids of oil cans or broken down cars. A friendly window-side manner, a greeting, a "no rush" attitude, an offer to check oil, water and tires and a thank-you—will always win my heart.

Window washing technique is self-explanatory. Top often the windows look worse after some attendant has slopped water on them than they did before.

RECENTLY, columnist Sidney Harris commented on a book which gave ideas for turning household scrap into useful articles.

Wonder if some of us mothers couldn't collaborate on an actual experience sequel for beginning readers—how to turn useful household articles into scrap.

First chapter: How to find and remove the kingpin bolt or screw in any mechanism.

Second chapter: How to lose same, immediately.

A sidelight on a column recommending a few weeks back on propagating roses by sticking a branch in a raw potato. The old cliché, the patient died, but the operation was a success, fits my experience. My rose branch faded away, but I have wrinkly, green potato leaves and small white flowers blooming vigorously.

FOR THE WOMAN who has everything—even a snappy new car—how about making a felt, sequined catchall for hanging in the car? Naturally, it would be called a G.I. litter bag.

While listening to an acquaintance describe his new car with power windows, power steering and power brakes, a friend boasted that her ten year old car had all of these things too. "Only," she added, "The power's all mine."

NEIGHBOR Dora Steels discovered an excellent combination cake by accident. She wanted a large cake in a hurry, but found she had only one box of cake mix—white. She found a box of brownie mix, combined the two and came up with a taste-tempting marble-fudge cake.

Coppin to Do Portrait of U. President

John S. Coppin, a Bloomfield Hills artist widely known for his portraits, has been commissioned by Wittenberg University's board of directors to paint a portrait of Dr. Clarence C. Stoughton, Wittenberg's president, who will retire next year.

Coppin has painted more than 125 portraits since 1923, among them four Michigan governors: G. Mennen Williams, Murray Van Wagener, Harry F. Kelly and the late Kim Sigler.

He has also done portraits of the late Henry Ford, the late General William S. Knudsen and Sir Alec Guinness.

Coppin acts in and directs plays at St. Dunstan's and is currently serving as the group's president.

Cranbrook Academy Joins Cultural Promotion Group

Cranbrook Academy of Art has joined the Detroit Adventure, an organization to promote cultural events and activities in the city.

Established in 1958 by the four institutions—Wayne State University, the Detroit Public Library, the Detroit Institute of Arts and the Detroit Historical Museum—the organization brings artists and scholars in the arts closer to Detroit citizens.

One of Detroit Adventure's outstanding contributions to the community is its cultural calendar, published three times yearly, covering a great range of day-to-day events, such as exhibitions, seminars, lectures, plays and films, symposia and workshops, offered in the city.

FROM THE BOOKSHELF

Autobiography Is Sensitive, Entertaining, Well-Written

TO CATCH AN ANGEL, by Robert Russell. The Vanguard Press, Inc., New York, New York. 317 pp. \$4.50.

Reviewed by Fred Mallender

To write an autobiography is difficult. To write one that is both entertaining and literary is an improbable task. The autobiographer, being too close to his subject to be objective, imbues his work with a certain unreality.

"To Catch an Angel" is that rarity, a thoroughly enjoyable autobiography. Once reading of it has begun, it is hard to put the book down. This reviewer could not.

Russell was born, the last of a large family, in out-state New York. His family appears to have been closely knit, without being overly interdependent.

merely in keeping the machine upright provide high humor.

The book is not just a collection of humorous or laudatory anecdotes, however. There are moments of great tenderness and sorrow, all told with a quiet deftness of noteworthy effect. The pages concerning the death of parents and the birth of children are remarkable writing.

PERHAPS THIS very brief sketch leaves the impression that "To Catch an Angel" deals with an ordinary man. Such is not the case. It is the story of a man of great stature in his chosen field, and a sensitive human being.

Robert Russell is also blind. Na learns are sought on this account, only an awareness that he is a

7 Local Painters Display Works in Regional Exhibit

Seven area artists will have their works on display in the 10th annual Michigan Regional Art exhibition which opens today at the University of Michigan.

The area residents and the names of their displays are: Sally Parsons, 1335 Willow Lane, Birmingham, "Landscape with Flowers"; Mildred E. Williams, 365 Baldwin Court, "Laura and Her Cat"; Shari Brush, 1370 Cedar Bend, Bloomfield Hills, "Steak Lake"; Lillian Hopkin, 1516 Lone Pine Rd., Bloomfield Hills, "Daydreams."

Jane McIntyre, 995 Timberlake, Bloomfield Hills, "Push"; Ruby Williams, 590 Haverhill Rd., Bloomfield Hills, "Down in the Meadow"; Carolyn Thurman, 25230 Wexness Rd., Southfield, "Flower Garden."

Local Best Sellers

- FICTION
- SHIP OF FOOLS—Katherine Anne Porter
 - UHURU—Robert Ruark
 - YOUNGBLOOD HAWKE—Herman Wouk
 - DEARLY BELOVED—Ann Morrow Lindbergh
- NON-FICTION
- OH YE JIGS AND JULEPS—Virginia Hudson
 - JFK COLORING BOOK—Alexander Roman and Jackie Kannon
 - THE ROTHSCHILDS—Frederic Morton

person who happens to be blind, not a blind person.

Quite a point is made of this distinction, which at first appears to be a semantic juggle. It may be, but the emphasis caused by word placement is important.

THE SIGHTED WORLD is taken to task for failing to comprehend that a person, although blind, is still a person. No special quarter is to be sought for him; pity and charity are not wanted.

It is not so much for his own darkness that the man who is blind must fear, but the ignorance and misguided kindnesses of his seeing brothers.

The announced purpose of writing this autobiography is for Mr. Russell to find a "quiet possession" of himself. Whether or not he did cannot, of course, be known; but each reader can find a man whose battle with life contains something familiar to very human being—fears, hopes, joys, sorrows. To read this book is to find a person who would make a wonderful friend and a superb teacher.

AS A PROFESSOR of English, Mr. Russell would naturally have respect for his language; he has much more. Few writers have a better command of the use and meaning of their language.

It is a pleasure just to hear the sounds evoked by the sentences. In many instances it is poetry in prose. It is sincerely hoped that "To Catch an Angel" is only the first of many books by a very talented man.

Books reviewed in The Eccentric have been loaned by Barnes and the Village Bookshelf.



HAM STACK

HARRY O. SMART KSUOQ

So many people ask about the kind of radio receiver to buy when they are interested in ham radio, perhaps we can help it down to a few fundamentals.

In general, there are two basic forms of short wave receivers. One form covers only the amateur bands and is definitely best for amateur service.

The other form covers all of the short wave spectrum usually from 1.6 megacycles to 30 megacycles and will generally cover the American Broadcast band as well.

THIS TYPE OF receiver is not as good for amateur use but does have the advantage of being more versatile and more useful. In the event that others in the family might enjoy an occasional visit with Radio Free Europe or Radio Moscow.

You will not be able to listen to local police calls as this service has moved to much higher frequencies than are usually available on commercial sets.

If the receiver, then, is to be used for amateur radio only, it is best to stick to a set covering the amateur bands only. If it is to be (See HAM STACK, 2-D)

ANNUAL MIDSUMMER FURNITURE SALE

VERY SPECIAL SAVINGS ON CUSTOM-BUILT UPHOLSTERED COLONIAL FURNITURE

4 Cushion Custom-Built 96" Sofa, from \$249.50

Finest quality construction by a famous manufacturer. Select from decorator fabrics including tweeds and prints. All cushions are foam rubber with zippered covers and are reversible. Arm caps included in price. Order now at Sale savings!

73" Sofa, \$169 Love Seats \$129 Chairs \$79 Ottoman \$34.95

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Interior Decorating Counsel At No Extra Cost

Not Quite Telstar, But . . .

Mr. and Mrs. William House, 1276 Webster, Birmingham, have their own "his" and "hers." His is K8VDA; hers, K8VCB. Both will take part Sunday in an operation whereby local ham operators will establish radio-telephone contact between patients in the Oakland County Medical Care Facility and their relatives. Mrs. House "stands by" as House tests his equipment.