

## Off Broadway: Birmingham Version



The Birmingham Eccentric dropped in last week on one of the strenuous four-day-a-week rehearsals of "The Bloomingham Newcomers", musical comedy opening tonight as part of the fifth annual Arts Festival.

Caught composer Mrs. Charles Himelhoch (left) in a musical conference with drummer Carl Stewart and musical director Mrs. John Schmidt.



### Lyrics Spell Out Theme of Show

#### Creme of Mint and Beer

Kind friends and lovely neighbors let us fill our cups with brew and drain 'em to the bottoms for we sure are feeling blue. No wonder that we're wearing every one of us a frown, for Herb and Fanny they are gonna leave our little town. Aint that sad... gee, that's good... that Jeff, he's all right. Right here in Mogadore for thirty years these folks did dwell. That's why tonight in Mogadore we're all of us feeling just about like hell.

(ASIDE) I guess that last part don't quite rhyme, or something.

They're going up to Michigan to live in sin and sham To cut up wide and handsome in the town of Birmingham. Or maybe twill be Bloomfield Hills these lovely folks will pick — but just to know they're leaving, well, it really makes us sick.

The readers of our weekly paper just won't think it's nice— they'll miss them woman's pages that was wrote by Fanny Rice.

For Fanny she's a writer with a lotta oddball views— which we all read once weekly in the FARM AND FAMILY NEWS.

Our Herbie was an engineer for Nickerheimer, Inc. But he became a salesman a lot faster than you'd think. Now Herbie's got a problem... gonna be a DEE-troit wheel.

Gonna sell the automakers, gonna wine, and dine and deal.

Well, Folks, we're gonna miss ya when ya take it on the lam— But you will knock 'em over when ya move to Birmingham.

Just keep on like you're doin and success will come galore.

Here's a heart... chock full of lovin'... from yer friends... in Mogadore.



W. C. SCOTT  
In Cast

#### Herb and Fanny's Farewell

In every parting there is sorrow  
Every absence has its pain  
So let us plan a bright tomorrow  
When we shall meet again

These pleasant years that we've been sweet  
With you, dear one, have all been sweet  
So even now we'll start preparing  
For time when we shall meet!

Oh we will not forget our life together ever  
How could the flame of memory ever cease to burn?  
And so these bonds of friendship never will we sever  
We'll hasten to return.

A few more hours, then time for leaving  
A few more moments with our friends  
But still this is no time for grieving  
For friendship never ends.

Each mem'ry of our joyous laughter  
Pleasant moments that we know  
Remains with us forever after  
No matter where we go.

#### Tender Loving Care

From Mogadore and Wellesley from Evanston and Rye  
From Shaker Heights and Tarrytown the families say good-bye.

They gotta say farewell to  
Friends, they're wistful—  
They are blue.

That's just when they appreciate a tender movin' crew,  
Tender lovin'... a tender lovin' crew.

We're gentle and considerate  
when we are movin' you.

#### The Clubs of Bloomingham

Let's start with the Altrusa  
It has international fame  
And Zonta Club's another  
one especially for a dame.

At last they've got a clubhouse without a Mormon near

Where Village Women now may sip their creme of mint and beer.



NELSON KIMBALL  
Producer



Rehearsals for "Newcomers" have sparkled with all the flair of Birmingham Village Players, St. Dunstan's Guild and volunteers from all over the Birmingham-Bloomfield area. "Chorus girls" Vange Hare, who claims she listens better with her eyes closed, and Liz Boyne wait from the sidelines between scenes in which they appear. Show will run through Sunday at the new Art Center.



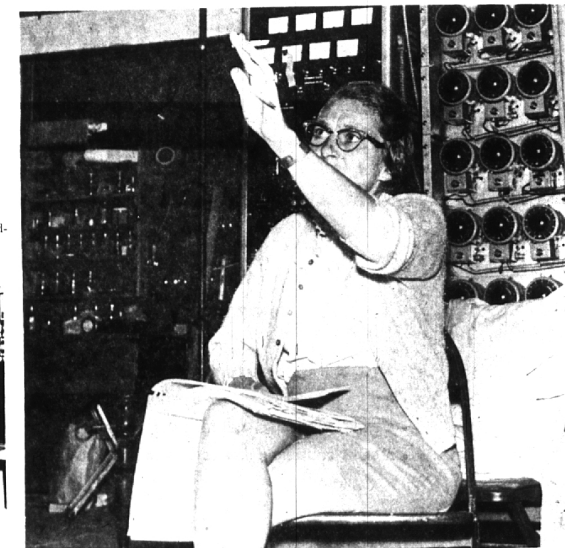
As of tonight, there'll be very little relaxing for members of the cast. Besides, the geodesic dome at 1516 S. Cranbrook near Seaholm High, locale of the show, doesn't boast a kitchen. Larry Hare took advantage of the one at the Players' last week while waiting for "on stage" calls.



One of the funniest scenes of the show concerns our town's housewives and their dozens of extra-curricular activities, be they social or up-lifting. The giant calendars used as props were painted with tender loving care by Russ Dunbar, who did six of them altogether.



Doesn't appear that problems can be too serious, as Dean Coffin and Ann D'Hyvere go into a huddle between scenes. Dean wrote the juvenile co-star. Direction was under the watchful eyes of Mrs. John Warner and Robert Davis.



Ooos! Somebody goofed a line. And prompter Mrs. Nelson Kimball is just the one to catch it. Although she never steps out in front, her backstage job is one of the most important. For weeks she's taken up her position in front of the lighting switch board at the Village Players'.