

Area Youths Participating In Institute

Official representatives from Birmingham area high schools will participate in the 13th annual High School Institute on Democratic Living at the Ruckham Building, 90 East North, Detroit, on Saturday, March 17.

The conference, sponsored by the Junior Round Table of Metropolitan Detroit, is scheduled from 9:15 a.m. to 3 p.m. Keynote speakers will be the Honorable Wade H. McCree, U.S. District Court Judge.

The institute is sponsored in cooperation with the Detroit Round Table of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

ERIN NEWHOUSE, of Seaholm High School, Birmingham, is a member-at-large of the Junior Round Table's executive committee. Kathryn Ruhl, also of Seaholm, will be hostess to a conference discussion group.

Area high schools with delegates on the planning board are Seaholm, Marian, Southfield and Wylie E. Groves.

Enrollments Open For 2 Classes at Cranbrook Academy

CRANBROOK—Enrollments are now being taken for the spring term of painting and figure drawing classes for adults sponsored by Cranbrook Academy of Art Galleries.

Classes meet Tuesday and Wednesday evenings in the studio, located beneath the Art Academy library.

The course in figure drawing and composition meets Tuesdays and Wednesdays, while painting classes are scheduled for Wednesdays starting March 21. Both are held from 8 to 10 p.m. and last for 10 weeks.

Jack Madison, painting instructor at Cranbrook Academy of Art, teaches the classes, which have been planned to interest both inexperienced artists as well as advanced students. Size of classes is limited and applicants will be accepted in order of receipt of tuition and enrollment form.

Pottery Show At Local Gallery

A pottery show is being featured during the month of March at the "Room at the Top" gallery, 276 E. Brown, Birmingham.

Works of many Michigan potters are featured in the show, along with paintings, water colors and prints. The gallery is open 12 noon to 5 p.m., Monday thru Saturday.

Civil Defense Plans To Be Discussed

Oakland county residents have been invited to a session on the Program of the State of Michigan Office of Civil Defense—a Report to the People, Michigan State University Oakland 14 Saturday, March 31.

Robert S. D'Amelio will be speaker at the 10 a.m. session in Room 156, County state building. Civil Defense directors have been invited.

DOWN TO EARTH Builder, Flower Show Like 'Old Home Week'

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

The Detroit Builders, Furniture and Flower Show is over and many volunteer hours made the staging possible.

The planning for the Show began before the last show in Detroit. In the past large displays were placed by the motor car companies and estates, now the exhibits are planned and executed by the man on the street with an idea or a hobby to share. Every time the Show was visited the greetings by localities sounded like "old home week" at Woodward and Maple.

Mrs. Burlingame

Class was a feature of the Flower Show, whereby the winner in a week's flower arrangement competition won a trip to the Chelsea Flower Show in London. The winner of the trip to Europe was Mrs. Thomas Lennox of Grand Lake in the "old home" by Mrs. Joseph Ziska of Farmington.

14 Readers Work Up Speed in Course Here

Fourteen Birmingham readers are working up their speed to be between 1,200 and 5,000 words per minute at the Michigan Home System Institute session here.

The students this week are entering their ninth week of instruction at Saturday morning classes at the Unitarian Church of Birmingham. Eunice (Mrs. Robert) McTyre, of 548 Chesterfield, Birmingham, instructs the group.

Her pupils range in age from 10 to 50. They include high school students, scientists, attorneys, businessmen and school teachers.

WHILE SOME of her pupils are already reading at 5,000 words per minute, the group is practicing at speeds Mrs. McTyre calls "consid-erably higher."

Mrs. McTyre became interested in the speed-reading method in Detroit, where she enrolled in the course developed by Mrs. Evelyn McTyre, of 548 Chesterfield, Birmingham, at the time her husband and a 14-year-old son, Craig, were in the military service. She enrolled in the institute's teacher training program.

Mrs. McTyre and her three sons are avid readers. Craig, now 15, is reading at approximately 2,000 words per minute, his mother states.



Postmaster Rollie Reese (right) presents veteran mail carrier Elwin Harris with the post office's Superior Achievement Award as Harris begins his 43rd year of service with the department. Harris began "packing the mail" on March 1, 1920 and was known at that time as the "Village Carrier." In those days, he reminds us, he was one of two mailmen in Birmingham—and one of them was, actually, a mailwoman. At present, 92 carriers are employed by the local postoffice.

Veteran Mail Carrier Gets Service Award

By IRMA N. DAVIS
Staff Writer

When Elwin Harris first began delivering mail in Birmingham, in 1920, most of the homes he now covers were occupied by retired farmers and their families.

As Harris, 58, began his 43rd year as a mail carrier this month, his route had undergone some changes.

His sprawling boundaries have grown smaller. Vacant property has been filled in and sleek lines of new homes contrast with the period charm of earlier dwellings.

Only one or two of the residents on Harris's original route are still living. Nowadays, much of the mail is addressed to young couples "who come and go" as husbands are transferred to other locations.

TWO WEEKS AGO, Harris was presented with a certificate signed by Postmaster General Edward Luy and Regional Director Donald Swanson. He also received a demerit award for his "outstanding postal service, beyond that normally performed and for contributions to employee and public relations."

Birmingham Postmaster Rollie Reese considers his veteran carrier "an inspiration to all the personnel in the local office."

"Harris has maintained the reputation of all the veterans on his route and the individual service he performs is admired by all," says Harris's route originally covered the area from Woodward west to Southside Road, from Willis south to Lincoln.

BUT WHEN PEOPLE ask him for street directions—and many do—Harris has the answer at the tip of his tongue.

After all, he knows every inch of a big section of Birmingham—43 years of delivering mail here.

STRICTLY FRESH

A pessimist is a person who complains of the noise when opportunity knocks at the door.

A child is the only known growing object that can be



both fresh and spoiled at the same time.

Figures show that man has 12 million brain cells; that figures don't show, however, is how many are unemployed.

Michigan Drivers Get 'Pointed' Facts Via Radio Broadcast

"If you have a Michigan Driver's License, you come under the jurisdiction of the Michigan Point System," stated Secretary of State James M. Hare in urging Detroit area auto drivers to listen to a scheduled series of radio programs, broadcast locally on the Michigan Point System.

Set for 6:35 p.m. Saturdays on radio station CKLW, the airings will explain what the system is and how it works, going into details on points and how your points are counted.

The Birmingham Eccentric Features

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NATURE NOW

Sight of Little Junco Common These Days

By Lydia King Frehse
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

On a bleak snow-filled day walking a country road you are almost sure to see a flock of juncos twittering and flying in amongst the drying weeds. If you are in town watching a bird feeder, the chances are that these same little grey birds will appear.

The slate-colored junco is one of 10 species of the larger finch family common in the United States. He is slightly larger than the chipping sparrow measuring 6 to 6 1/2 inches long.

The adult male has a slate colored body, a darker head and a white breast. As he flies ahead of you down some country lane he will show his white outer tail feathers. The female is more brown-grey and the immature male has a wash of chestnut color on the sides of the breast. All have a heavy conical pink bill with which they crush weed seeds.

WE SELDOM HEAR the song in winter, but friendly musical twittering is exchanged between the flock. The mating song of the spring and summer is likely to be heard from some tall tree top and sounds much like that of the chipping sparrow.

The nest is a deep cup of weeds, grasses and straw lined with fine plant material. There are 4 to 6 greenish eggs speckled with brown. Since the nest is located on the ground

the mottled eggs and striped young form a protective pattern in a position very vulnerable to enemy attack.

JUNCOS WHICH winter in Michigan leave about May 1st for their northern breeding grounds. These reach above tree-line in the coniferous forests as far as Labrador and southward through the higher Appalachians. They winter from Southern Canada to the Gulf of Mexico.

The food of the junco is mostly weed seeds. This our little friend makes of himself a friend of the farmer. He also eats some harmful caterpillars but he never destroys grasses or fruit.

ON OUR MOST inclement nights this little bird may seek shelter in hay stacks or corn shocks but daylight will find him flying over fields and along country roads or lanes in search of food. Here in the suburbs of nearby Rochester we seldom look out without seeing a half dozen or more juncos busily hopping around on the feeder or on the ground eating the seeds provided.

The junco is sometimes called the snow bird. With a little kindness and attention it becomes very tame around the feeder. Bird banding shows that many of these birds associate together day after day and field permits they may be found in the same groups year after year.

JUNCOS MAKE devoted parents. Dr. Saunders reports that (The Lives of Wild Birds) ferociously attacking a milk snake (See JUNCO, 5-B).

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"With electric heat, there are no drafts or cold spots—even the floors are nice and warm," says Mrs. William Albert of Nankin Township, Michigan. "We saved \$300 on installation when we converted from the old system. Electric heat saved us space, too—now we have an extra closet where our chimney used to be. There's nothing to worry about or take care of. My draperies stay a whole lot cleaner. For all the electric appliances we have—range, water heater, clothes dryer, air conditioner—we think our \$35 per month electric bill is a real bargain. Believe me, once you have electric heat, you won't want anything else."

What about your home? Do you have a hard-to-heat room? Are you adding on a room? Are you buying a new home? Is the heating system in your present home more trouble than it's worth? One of the types of electric heating units shown below may be the answer to your heating problems. One easy way to find out is to ask your electrical contractor. Another is to call your Edison office. We'll be glad to send you a copy of our free booklet "Electric Home Heating" and will answer any questions you may have about the modern, worry-free way to heat your home—electrically.

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