

## Behind the Welcome Mat

by CORRINE ABATT

I like men. I like them because they think big. You never hear a group of men discussing little things like cake decorations or party favors or ribbons on a hat. They talk about big things like the government tax program, the American League or how to change our economic program with European countries.

And when they get sick they think big, too. They never have little, nagging illnesses like colds, or flu or stomach aches. They have big and important ailments like sinusitis, pneumonia or gastric ulcers. If a man has an operation it's never a silly little patch job, it's a great big surgical extravaganza.

I LIKE MEN because they have a refreshing unconcern for the bothersome details of life. A man can put on a shirt and tie and be ready to take his family on a spur-of-the-moment jaunt in ten minutes. It is his wife who holds things up, packing a hamper of bottles, diapers and snacks, changing the baby and getting the children out of their pajamas and into clothes.

I like men because they are optimistic. For instance, if a man sees one little rain cloud in a sunny sky he doesn't immediately assume that it will pour rain all day.

It is his mother or wife who

views the one little cloud with foreboding and insists he wear his overboots and raincoat. Of course, nine times out of ten it rains all day, but still it is the man who made the cheerful assumption.

I LIKE MEN because when they make up their minds about something they stick to it. They don't vacillate back and forth wondering if the decision was right. If a man decides that stockings are the perfect gift for his wife he sticks to it and she will get stockings for Christmas—year after year after year.

Most of all I like men because of the way they behave when they gather together. In conversation they do not flap and flutter like pigeons on a public square. When greeting one another they do not employ the whole tone range of the vocal mechanism.

When queued up for a sale or even to enter a restaurant, they do not lunge and charge and leave one or more of their number pinned to the wall, hat askew, umbrella smashed and toes ground to a pulp.

MEN ARE orderly when they gather and for this reason alone I can forgive them for all the other things that I like them for.

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## Bookcase

(Continued from 1-D)

Mrs. Sanford gives little more attention to Ernest than to the other members of the family.

HE IS PORTRAYED as a normal American male, concerned with such important boy-matters as fishing, hunting, high school activities, sports — especially football and swimming—but not overmuch with his studies.

He got into scrapes. He had his bright young triumphs and his small defeats. But so did Marcelline and the other young Hemingways.

These early chapters may be read with special interest by Middlewesterners in their middle years, for they may be something of a mirror. Much that the author reports was common experience to many; e.g., her parents' attitude towards the dancing of the day and the searing issue of bobbed hair for women.

MRS. SANFORD evokes a nostalgic warmth in her descriptions of school, of family parties, of childhood crises, of the hi-jinks and low-jinks of young American sprouts reacting to their special world. Dr. Hemingway, a stern but loving parent, emerges as a kind of spiritual cousin of Father Day of "Life with Father," and for some of the same reasons.

It is probably the truth that no autobiographical work can be the real truth; the whole truth and nothing but the truth—one writer's fact is too often another's fiction,

dependent upon viewpoint and limits of information. But Mrs. Sanford's truth appears to be as unassailably real and whole as well-documented memory and words can make it.

THIS WAS her family as she knew it from being the oldest child-member. These were her family's lives and times as she helped to live them.

She has done an honest job of reporting. There were lights and shadows, and greys in between. The strong, fierce affection that bound the family together in those early years is effectively set down.

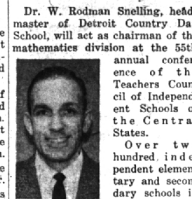
So is the foreshadowing of the changes that were to come later. Generally Mrs. Sanford has avoided judgment and the distribution of blame for those later phases—the troubles that clouded the Hemingway's family life as the children came to maturity.

HER HONESTY will not, of course, deter scholars from using her material to "prove" this thesis or that. They will use it, in the manner of scholars, for judgments about her brother and her family that will range all the way from reasonable to absurd.

Certain to be closely scrutinized for all kinds of meanings are the sections that deal with clashes between parents and elder son; especially those chapters about Ernest and the war, and about the family's postwar relationships.

Already much—probably too much—has been made of the similarity between the violent way the lives of father and son were

## To Head Section For Conference



Dr. W. Rodman Snelling, headmaster of Detroit Country Day School, will act as chairman of the mathematics division at the 55th annual conference of the Teachers Council of Independent Schools of the Central States.

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"AT THE Hemingways" is an important book. It may be read for its picture of the fortunes of an interesting family. It may be read for its portrait of a leading American novelist during his earliest years. Both ways the rewards are notable.

## Print Show Opens At Little Gallery

A new show will open at Little Gallery Sunday. Entitled "The Artist as a Printmaker," it displays the fifth in the contemporary American printmaker series being shown at the gallery, 915 E. Maple, Birmingham.

Included in the exhibition, which will last until Dec. 8, will be original prints by Arp, Barlach, Beuys, Bernad, Bonnard, Braque, Buffet, Callid, Chagall, Clave, Coc-teau, De Chirico, Denis, Dufy, Fischer, Kandinsky, Kokoschka, Klee, Laurencin, Laurens, Leger, Lurcat, Magnelli, Maillol, Marquet, and many others.

IN ADDITION, there will be a small group of illuminations, manuscript pages and incunabula from 1440 to 1557 and a few modern examples of bookmaking. Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. except Sundays and Mondays.



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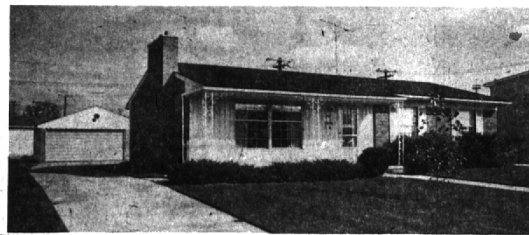
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