

## The Eccentric Mirrors Week in Review

### Gavel From Abroad In Ceremony Here

#### A Gift From Scotland

At a public ceremony in Masonic Temple Oct. 17, Birmingham Chapter No. 220, Order of the Eastern Star, held its sixty-fifth installation ceremony. Over 200 attended.

Mrs. Alex McVeau was installed as Worthy Matron and Alex Busby as Worthy Patron. Wallace Matthews, Past Patron formerly of Birmingham, now of Sarasota, Fla., presented Mrs. McVeau with her gavel.

It was a gift from her husband and his sister, May R. McVeau, who sent it to Birmingham from her home in Glasgow, Scotland. The ribbon with which it was entwined was of the McVeau plaid.

#### Tradition Acknowledged

Further observation of tradition, was acknowledged by the Past Royal Matrons of Esther Court of the Order of the



Mr. MATTHEWS MRS. McVEAU

Amaranth when they formed an honor line for Mrs. McVeau, after which Mrs. Ray Render and Mr. Matthews were presented with their retiring jewels.

Mrs. Matthews, here with her husband from Florida for the ceremony, was a member of the installing staff. Others included Mrs. David Masterton, Mrs. William Ferguson, Mrs. Walter Starr, Mrs. Rudolph York, Mrs. Parker Eckersen and Mrs. Willie Clemons.

#### Among Those Present

Among others present were Mrs. Edward Stutz, Mrs. Viola Menks, Mrs. Clifford Ross, Florence Bingham, Mrs. Paul Wogan, Mrs. Allen LeSage, Mrs. Orris Stark, Mrs. James Reading, Mrs. Lyla Theobald, Mrs. James Reading, Mrs. Alvin Lawrie, Mrs. Jack Copeland and Mrs. Richard Walden.

Also included were Mrs. Harold Reuter, Mrs. Glenn Barker, Mrs. James McIlroy, Mrs. Willard Paul, Mrs. Fred Little, Blanche Brooks, Mrs. Thomas Martin, Mrs. Arthur Schmidt, Mrs. Mary G. Kingswood, Mrs. John Stewart and Mrs. Theodore Sura.

Mrs. Henry Bowden was in charge of refreshments and Mrs. George Minihnick was chairman of the gift table.

### Dinner Party Calls Protocol Into Play

Protocol is claiming the attention of a number of Birmingham residents this week as they plan for a dinner honoring a high-ranking State Dept. official Monday evening, Oct. 29.

Philip H. Tresize, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, will be the dinner guest of Friends of Baldwin Public Library board members and their husbands and wives preceding a meeting to be held in the library auditorium at 8:15 p. m.

Mr. Tresize will discuss the developing common market and its meaning to us and to the rest of the world.

ENTERTAINING MR. TRESIZE will be Friends of the Library president, Comerford W.

### FAR Opens Nursery

Once again, as the Yuletide season approaches, FAR (Friends and Relatives of Retarded Children of Oakland County, Inc.) has its 1962 Christmas cards ready to present.

Unlike the public school programs, FAR is supported by service organizations and fund-raising drives, such as the annual Christmas card sale.

Until recently, all proceeds

McLoughlin and Mrs. McLoughlin; Jeanne Lloyd, Baldwin librarian; Mr. and Mrs. Ramon Von Drehle, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Page Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Carl Abbott, Mr. and Mrs. G. Thomas Christiansen, Mr. and Mrs. George Talburt, Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Knight Jr., Mr. and Mrs. George W. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony M. Menkel Jr., Mr. and Mrs. George R. Mosher Jr., Mr. and Mrs. James L. Cameron and Mr. and Mrs. Leroy W. Dahlberg.

Coffee and dessert will be served following Mr. Tresize's talk, and at that time members will have an opportunity to meet their guest. As a native of Michigan and a graduate of the University of Michigan, he is looking forward to renewing acquaintance with a number of former friends living in this area.

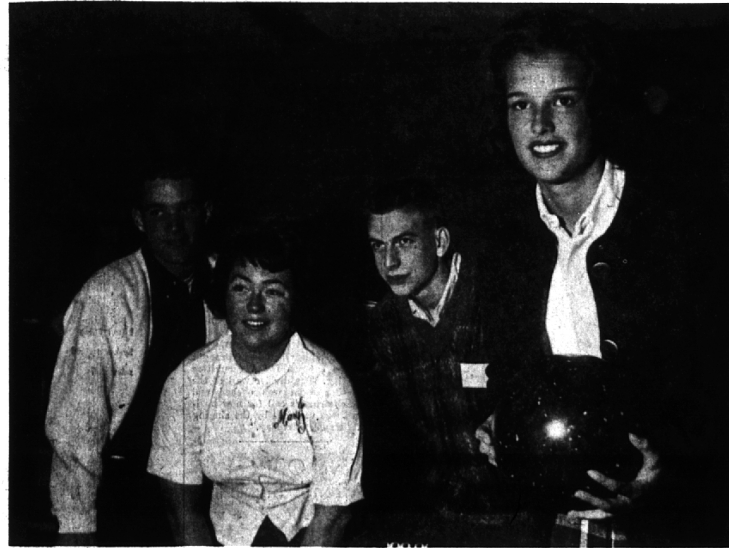
have been directed to the training and recreational center in Ferndale, but currently a nursery school is being supported in the First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham. Twelve children are enrolled.

Christmas card representatives from this area include Mrs. S. E. Milne of Fairway Drive, Birmingham, and Mrs. Bernard Schmidt of Bloomfield Hills.



COLLEGIATE SOROSIS ALUMNAE: Birmingham members of Collegiate Sorosis alumnae are deep in fund-raising plans for the total remodeling of and addition to the chapter house in Ann Arbor. Originally designed by the late Albert Kahn, the house has become outmoded in everything but its architecture. Members met in the home of

Mrs. Ari BeGole last week to spark a nation-wide bridge benefit, a Christmas tea and a Village Players' theater party. Among those having luncheon together were Mrs. Gerry Dudley (from left), Mrs. Arthur P. Hill, Mrs. Robert C. Von Maur and hostess Mrs. BeGole.



BIRMINGHAM ATHLETIC CLUB JUNIORS: Undaunted by Saturday's torrential downpour, cancelling out a hayride party, teenage members of BAC and their guests skirted across club grounds to adjacent bowling alleys for entertainment during the first part of the evening. Later they trooped back to the club for buffet supper, a "go"

at the squash courts and dancing. Mr. and Mrs. John Gibson planned the party for the youngsters, assisted by the Charles H. Leinenkugel's as chaperones. Among young fry present were Mike Quinn (from left), Mary Bode, Toni Uilenbroek and Kathy Beier.

### With a Song In Her Heart At Oxford

Following a four-month trip on the Continent last summer, Josephine Anne Dudeck, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul H. Dudeck of Brookdale Road, Birmingham, is currently attending classes at Oxford University in England.

Josephine Anne, who was graduated from Kingswood in June, writes that she was recently invited to become a member of Oxford's renowned Bach Choir (she sings soprano) and will participate in the group's March program at the new Coventry Cathedral.

At that time, the Choir will perform with the London Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.



Eccentric Photos by Bill Thom

### A Page of History Comes to Life

Editor's Note: Last week The Eccentric published an obituary notice concerning Mrs. Fred J. (Nellie Jenks) Mason, who died Oct. 10 in San Gabriel, Calif., where she had lived since 1938. She was born and raised in Birmingham and her great-grandfather, Capt. Laban Jenks, who settled in Birmingham in 1820, was the first justice of the peace in Oakland County. The following letter, written at our request by one of Mrs. Mason's grandsons, Frederick J. Mason II, should stir nostalgia in many an old settler's heart.

#### A Teller of Tales

"I am writing you regarding my grandmother's death, or perhaps I should say her life, as I think it might be of interest to a number of Birminghamites.

"She was a woman of unusual abilities and straight-forward convictions. She was also a teller of fascinating stories about early Birmingham life and particularly about her family.

"Her father and grandfather felt, as most men of that day, that a woman's place was in the home. But not my



THE FREDERICK J. MASONS

grandmother! She wanted to go to college and, in spite of her family's wishes, talked Olivet College into admitting her. This made her one of the first women to be admitted there.

"She told many times about how her grandfather came west to Michigan from New York state, making the long trip by ox team and wagon.

#### From N.Y. Via Ox Cart

"She said it must have been quite a sight to see her grandfather, Capt. Laban Jenks, arrive in Birmingham in 1820 with his train of ox carts. There was the usual wagon of household goods, plus a wagon of pattern-making tools and foundry equipment, PLUS a wagon whose sole content was a gigantic iron anchor from his sailing ship. This anchor was planted in the front lawn of his house (which would now be the corner of Maple and Pilgrim) and wasn't disturbed until the 1940's, when it was donated to the war scrap drive.

"She said the reason the family came to Birmingham was two-fold: One, the land they settled on was partial payment by the U. S. Government for services from the sea captain during the war of 1812; second, the Hunter brothers (of Hunter Blvd. fame) wanted captain Jenks and family to help them start a farm and implement manufacturing business and needed their foundry skills.

#### No Cider Mill, This!

"Grandmother's family soon were into many enterprises besides the farm tool business.

One started the only hotel in Birmingham, located in the block from Maple to Hamilton on the east side of Woodward. Another operated a distillery in the area of Franklin and, for want of a better place, stored his wares in the hotel basement.

"Grandmother, with eyes sparkling, used to tell how one cold night the hotel caught fire and the Volunteer Fire Dept. was called. Somehow they found the stored spirits and proceeded to sample them. They soon were so engrossed in their new found pleasure, they let the whole building go up in flames!

#### Lore of the Lakes

About this time, copper from the Upper Peninsula needed transporting down the lakes, so the family started hauling ore in their newly-founded shipping company. The demand for boats for shipping was increasing and soon they started building wooden-hulled freighters for others. They pioneered in the building of steel-hulled ore boats, several of which still ply the Great Lakes.

"I have been told by grandmother that the original family farm at one time embraced a great deal of the town of Birmingham, from Maple south and west to Lahser Road.

"My grandfather's ill health caused them to move to California, where he died in 1947 and my grandmother, at the age of 88, on Oct. 10."

#### Deadline Is Friday

Deadline for all organizational news, weddings and engagement announcements for use on The Birmingham Eccentric's women's page is 5 p.m. on the Friday before publication.