

Behind the Welcome Mat

by CORRIE ABATT

About now many folks have assembled a rather grim list of New Year's resolutions — cut out the high calorie foods, tighten up on the budget, go to bed earlier, get up earlier, quit wasting time, and so on.

Why not counter the grim resolutions with a few happy ones to brighten the coming weeks?

How about resolving to get the spring garden plans under way early and back it up by gathering

seed catalogues as soon as possible. Nothing seems to warm a cold gray day like the bright pages of a flower and seed catalogue.

A resolve to look into one new hobby by February might open a field of interest that will carry you happily through the cold and snow.

RESOLVE TO enroll in an adult education course in the next month. Not something you will need, but one which will intro-

duce a new and strange world—something you've never even thought about trying before. Stick with the national theme and dive into a course which presents a new frontier of endeavor.

For homemakers, how about a resolution to try at least one new recipe a week. Start it off with a recipe swap session with a few neighbors.

Home sewers might counter the grim resolution to wade through the stack of mending with a resolution to start early making up the new spring fabrics.

SINCE ADULTS as well as children are coloring these days—here are a few pages to add to the coloring book. Label them the post-holiday series.

This is a child with his new paint set. Color him polka-dot.

This is a husband looking at the December bills. Color him pale.

This is a non-athletic housewife on her new Christmas skis. Color her yellow.

This is the man who was the life of the New Year's Eve party. Color him green.

This is the wife who bought the gifts, wrapped the gifts, decorated the house, trimmed the tree, baked the cookies and cooked the dinner. Color her gray.

This is all of us wondering what 1963 will bring. Color us optimistic.

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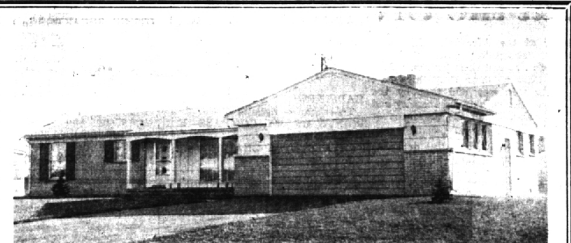


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15 Birmingham Years

Potpourri

by JULIE CANDLER
Special Writer

While the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce's Christmas carols were loudspeaking holiday cheer at them, shoppers around town last week were running into old friends faster than they were running out of money.

Singing and hearing from old (and young) friends adds a nice trimmings to anybody's Yuletide season.

I got some of this type of Christmas fringe benefit on Maple Avenue when I saw Dean Coffin amidst the snow-drops. Right out there in front of Santa Claus and everybody, Dean told me he's "mooding" another musical comedy.

HE RECENTLY conferred on the preliminary script with Bob Dearth, who co-starred in the last Coffin creation. Tentatively, Dean calls this one "The High Cost of Loving in Birmingham." It will center around those tiny credit cards and charge-a-plates, that create such big suburban problems.

Dean's first musical, "The Bloomingham Eccentrics," wowed Bloomfield and Birmingham when St. Dunstan's Guild presented it three years ago. Last year, "The Bloomingham Newcomers" delighted sell-out audiences when St. Dunstan's and The Village Players produced it for the Birmingham Arts Festival.

MEANWHILE, back in downtown Birmingham, who should greet me across the sales counter of a village sportswear shop but the gorgeous Jane McKinley—more extra tinsel on my holiday trimming. She tells me she is a junior at Michigan State University now.

Jane, of 1195 Derby, Birmingham, is working here during her holiday vacation. She's studying radio and TV at the university and should be a festive decoration on any screen. She proved in Seaholm High School activities like the variety show that she and a microphone go well together.

Across the counter at a local jewelry emporium, where he was on holiday duty, Seaholm grad ('57) Dave Lindley added some silver lining to my Christmas Cloud Nine. Dave, of 1178 Maple, still makes beautiful music with a piano. He is studying for his master's degree in business administration at the University of Detroit and teaching accounting to undergraduates there.

THE MAILMAN added to my Yuletide cheer by bringing back memories of a delightful afternoon three years ago in Amsterdam, Holland. My company that day was a night club pianist named Maxie and his family. With them was a beautiful blond English girl who sang at the same night club.

A Christmas card from the beautiful blond, Pauline Johnson, tells me she's singing at the Doopot in Amsterdam through February. If you're going to Europe anytime soon, go see Pauline. She might even sing you one of the American arrangements I sent her.

She told me in Holland that her audiences love to hear her sing torchy Yankee numbers like "Ten Cents a Dance." But the arrangements are hard to get over there. At her request, I sent a few numbers when I got back to the USA.

I wasn't in Amsterdam long enough (darn it) to see Pauline perform, but her accompanist says she's terrific. And every male resident of Birmingham or Bloomfield Hills, I am positive, will be wild about her, whether she can sing or not.

MORE JOYEUX Noel from the post office: word from Dorothy Averill. She and my former boss man, Bill, and family are all wrapped up in a bundle of PTA, Rotary, Elks, church choir, hospital auxiliary, glee club and scout activities in their new home of Tarpon Springs, Fla.

Dorothy says Bill enjoys year-around fishing and swimming and Gulf Coast sunsets when he's not busy running the Tarpon Springs Leader.

And over a Christmas punch bowl I renewed old acquaintance with Quentin Sickles, former U of M football hero, and his charming wife.

There's a definite art angle to the Bingham Farms couple's Yuletide experiences this year. Their two-year-old daughter got a hold of their ten-year-old son's Christmas number painting set. The toddler applied the oil paints artistically to her brand new Christmas dress, without going by numbers.

Yellowstone National Park was the first area in the world designated a national park to protect and preserve the natural landscape for human enjoyment. Established in 1872 by an Act of Congress signed by President Ulysses S. Grant, it has an area of 3,472 square miles, more than Delaware or Rhode Island.

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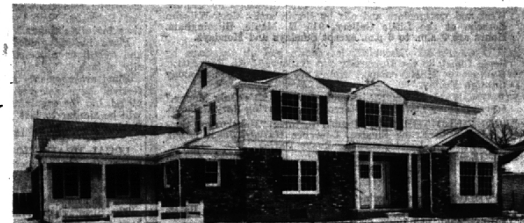
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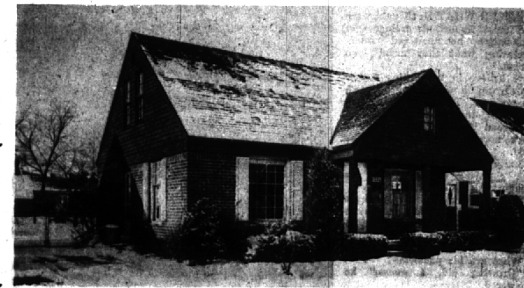
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