NATURE NOW

By Lydia King Frehse
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Giant Cornucopia Overflows With America's Foodstuffs

With Thanksgiving, America's gigantic cornucopia overflows once more, flooding the nation with an incredible variety of foodstuffs.

Behind our evident opulence as a nation stands the enterprise, ingenuity and hard labor of the farmer and the development of the industries which surround him.

We are also fortunate to have a climate across the great plains and valleys which is conducive to the growing of a wide variety of fruits, vegetables and grains with their correlate production of meat, dairy products and fats.

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LET US CONSIDER our soil which is the basis of all our prosperity. Our United States has more fertile acreage than any other area of its size in the world.

One-fifth of its total is cropland located in the fertile and well-watered East, the great grainfields of the Midwest and the vegetable belts of the Pacific Coast.

Mrs. Frehse

Half of our cropland is suitable for pasture and grazing. Such areas are scattered throughout the East and Middle West, but they are centered in the great ranches of the South and West.

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OUR RICHEST agricultural lands lie within a great triangle with its points set in Ohio, Texas and North Dakota.

Although this area includes only one-fourth of the United States, it contains more than twice the cropland of the rest of the country.

Our five major crops are produced on four-fifths of the land. Corn heads this list, and in spite of our one minute breakfasts of corn cereal, we eat most of this grain in the form of pork and beef. Wheat, hay and oats are next in order.

Our fifth major crop is cotton. It and wheat are our two "big cash" crops, and they are marketed directly.

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OUR OPULENCE is not a piece of good luck, and it was not until our careless use of the land had already made serious inroads in our production that we began to conserve our natural resources.

During the early colonial days our forests reached like a green tide from the Atlantic to the Pacific, save for our plains and deserts. Was an Eastern farm impoverished? There was another for the taking in the as yet unoccupied Midwest.

But the years took their toll of our precious topsoil, and it washed down the swirling rivers and blew away in great dust storms. Now informed scientists, farmers, business men, engineers and even politicians are becoming aware of the threat to our natural resources.

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AS LONG AS 100 years ago Abraham Lincoln signed the Land Grant College Act, thus initiating America's declaration of independence from hunger. This action was the beginning of an agricultural revolution which is still in progress.

At that time a farmer worked two hours to produce a bushel of corn, and it took six million farmers to feed 30 million Americans. Today a bushel of corn represents only nine minutes of farm labor, and seven million farmers feed our population of 185 million people.

The day of the small farm is ending, for one and a half million farmers now produce 85 per cent of the nation's agricultural output.

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CREDIT FOR OUR productional success must also be given to the laboratory scientist for his valuable research in the improvement of both plant and animal strains as well as to the invention and improvement of new machines and more efficient transportation methods.

Today America's gross natural product of some $521 billion is almost double that of her competitor, Russia. How to share more equitably these rich gifts of our land has become a problem of grave concern to every thoughtful citizen.

German Teachers Elect OU Man as Their President

Dr. Robert E. Simmons, associate professor of German at Oakland University, was elected president of the Michigan Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German at the November meeting at Ann Arbor.

He was vice president during 1962.

Prior to his appointment to the faculty at Oakland in August, 1960, Dr. Simmons taught for four years at Marquette University in Milwaukee.

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WHILE THERE, he helped reactivate the Wisconsin Chapter of the AATG in 1956, serving as secretary for two years and as president from 1958 to 1960.

He received his doctor of philosophy, master of arts and bachelor of arts degrees from Stanford University.

Dr. and Mrs. Simmons and their six children live in Rochester.

Wonnbergers Attend English Study Session

Representing Michigan and the Michigan Council of Teachers of English on the board of directors of the National Council of Teachers of English at its annual meeting at San Francisco will be Annetta Wonnberger, assistant professor of English at the Detroit Institute of Technology, and Carl G. Wonnberger, head of English at Cranbrook School.

Both will attend meetings of the Affiliate Division of the NCTE. Mrs. Wonnberger is president of the state English Teachers Association.

Wonnberger will be the featured speaker at the general assembly for composition of the NCTE and will speak on "Writing—a Way of Life."

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HE IS THE AUTHOR of numerous books and articles on the teaching of composition and is past president of the Michigan Council of Teachers of English and director of the Independent Schools Association of the Central States.

The couple will spend a week in San Francisco.

Wonnberger is a member of the NCTE's committees on the gifted student, the scholarly appraisal of works taught in high schools, all-school English and the achievement awards.

He is also on the board of directors of "The Student Writer" and "National Scholastic Writing Awards."

Both Mr. and Mrs. Wonnberger are directors of the Cranbrook Summer Theatre School.

Art Institute To Exhibit Ernst Work

The largest comprehensive exhibition to date of the work of Jimmy Ernst, contemporary artist, will be shown at the Detroit Institute of Arts Dec. 10 through Jan. 5.

According to Robert Kinsman, associate curator of contemporary art and organizer of the exhibition, the show consists of more than 60 works dating from 1942 to 1963 including oil paintings, gouaches, drawings, one mural-project model and one piece of sculpture. It will not be seen outside Detroit.

An illustrated catalogue will be published by the museum and will include an essay by Kinsman, the first major evaluation of this artist's work.

"Jimmy Ernst's art has, since 1957, emerged as one of the strongest and most original forms of expression in contemporary painting," Kinsman said.

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ERNST WAS born in Cologne, Germany, in 1920, the son of great surrealist artist Max Ernst. He has lived in or near New York since 1938 and is presently associate professor of art at Brooklyn College.

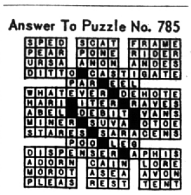
On the opening evening, Ernst will address the Friends of Modern Art at a dinner in his honor at the Detroit Institute of Arts. He will lecture on "The Artist in Society" at 3 p.m. Dec. 12 in the Lecture Hall.

A lecture on "The Art of Jimmy Ernst" will be given by James Johnson Sweeney at 3 p.m. Dec. 15. Sweeney is director of the museum of Fine Arts of Houston, Texas.

Joins Detroit Ballet

Teresa Swiontek, 1798 Haynes, Birmingham, has been named one of six dancers to join the Detroit City Ballet.

Answer To Puzzle No. 785



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ECCENTRIC PHOTO

JUROR JOHN A. Jacobson, an instructor at Arts and Crafts in Detroit, examines one of the works submitted for the sixth annual Members' Show and Sale at the BAA.

BAA Opens Sixth Annual Holiday Show

The sixth annual Members' Show and Christmas Sale opens Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Bloomfield Art Association, 1516 S. Cranbrook Road, Birmingham.

Approximately 70 paintings and 30 pieces of sculpture were selected by juror John A. Jacobson, from works submitted by BAA members, to hang in the gallery through Dec. 29.

A Christmas Art Market sale will also take place in the lower level. Mrs. Meyer Cantor and Mrs. Paul Davison are cochairmen of the sale, and Mrs. Robert Larsen and Mrs. Ed Glowacke are assisting. All types of gift items will be available—jewelry, cards and glass, as well as paintings and sculpture.

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THE EXHIBITION is held to stimulate public interest in the works of members of the BAA.

A maximum of three weeks was allowed from each artist to be juried by Jacobson, an instructor at Arts and Crafts in Detroit. Mrs. C. A. Hall was chairman of the committee in charge of hanging the show which is open daily except Monday from 2 to 5 p.m.

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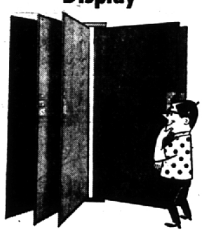

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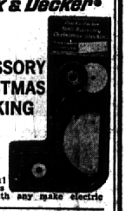

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