

# Potpourri

By JULIE CANDLER

It was 2:35 p.m. "Texas time" and 10:35 p.m. in Moscow on Friday, Nov. 22.

Dr. George A. Roeper, director of the City and Country School of Bloomfield Hills, saw a Moscow citizen approaching him with his forefinger pointed to his head. The man was imitating the triggering of a rifle and saying "Kennedy."

That was how Dr. Roeper learned of the assassination of President Kennedy. He and Mrs. Roeper had just returned from a performance of the Bolshoi Ballet, and he was walking down the hall of Moscow's Berlin Hotel.

At the time of such a news shock, says Dr. Roeper, "It's a very frustrating feeling to be alone in a faraway country whose people don't seem to be especially sympathetic to your country."

**YET HE AND** Mrs. Roeper soon learned that the Russians were deeply concerned over our nation's loss of its President. The man who broke the news to Dr. Roeper rushed him to a radio and tuned it to the Voice of America.

"That surprised me," said Dr. Roeper, "because the Russian usually doesn't dare to do that in public. This man was very upset and serious."

Others of the traveling group of 90 American educators gathered around to hear the tragic news confirmed in English by a distant, wavering voice.

Russians came up to their group, shook their hands and showed a deep sympathy for the Americans that night. They made remarks such as "Kennedy good man."

**WHEN THE RUSSIAN** Intourist Service guides joined their party Saturday morning, their first words expressed sympathy to the visitors.

"Many of them said their hopes for peace had never been as high because they were confident that Kennedy fought for peace."

Thereafter, every meeting with Russian educators, including the minister of education, began with the Russian hosts offering condolences and the call for a moment of silence.

Russian radio did not inform the nation's citizens that the killer was a Communist sympathizer.

It was several days before they were told that Oswald had once lived there and had a Russian wife.

"**THEY KEPT SAYING** it was just a Fascist who did it." When members of the Russian press interviewed Dr. Roeper and others in his group that Sunday, they questioned them about the school children who had applauded in Dallas.

To which question, appropriately, a Texas educator replied with the dignified statement that we are all Americans and that the whole nation mourned the death of the President.

Perhaps, he suggested, the children were sent home without explanation and thought it was a holiday. That's the explanation I want to believe and hope the Russians believed it, too.

**SO CONVINCING** was the performance of Dyke Dweilay in "The Village Players" "Inherit the Wind" that Potpourri wants to put it in print. The Dweilay vocal chords and acting ability suited the role of the always-candidate-but-never-a-president orator perfectly. Suited me, too.

**ESTOMPE MEANS** "tone down," in case you run into it when you're playing Debussy. Our Potpourri plea for the correct definition of the word was answered by Mrs. Ken Meine.

Her musical informant was her husband, former French hornist, now an administrative interne with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

The family has moved to Birmingham for the year's internship, made possible by a Ford Foundation grant, and Mrs. Meine thinks our town is interesting.

"I find something new every day," says Mrs. Meine, who sounds like the kind of stimulating person who's always looking.

**8-D THE BIRMINGHAM (MICH.) ECCENTRIC** Dec. 12, 1963

## DOWN TO EARTH

# Something to Share Brings Holiday Joy

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

The holidays have arrived, and you know why you feel so good: You are planning to share with others a gift, a visit, or perhaps a home decorated for the community to share its beauty.

When we are working with patients and we want to turn the tide toward better health, we have them create something for somebody else. Now there is a lesson for today.

Here is another tidbit for you to think about. You know how busy you are at this time of year with greetings to send, packages to mail, purchases to be made. How you wish you started earlier so that you could relax and enjoy the excitement.

**I DID PLAN** ahead once, all of the cookies were baked, the packages were wrapped, the house was trimmed and my friends hated me for my efficiency without time to talk to me.

So relax and know that busy days are standard equipment and form the excitement of happy holidays.

Get set down to business and give you ideas for your home. After the purchase of your Christmas

tree, stand it up in a bucket of water with three cups of sugar in it after you have pounded the cut end of the tree with a hammer to aid osmosis.

This will give "vigor" to your tree and save some of the fluid to be emptied in the receptacle you stand the tree in when placing it in the house. Every once in a while take a teaspoon of sugar yourself, the effect will be the same.

**IF YOU PLACE** two cups of lukewarm water in a large mixing bowl and beat into it a full box of soap flakes (not granules), you will have wonderful imitation snow for your tree and other decorations.

If you wish an easy decoration for a narrow mantle, just purchase a loaf of French bread and poke green in it, trimming with the decor best suited to the location. This decoration will stay fresh for a very long time due to the moisture of the bread.

You may make an attractive contemporary arrangement by selecting a large pot or tub and placing a large, bare branch in it, which you have sprayed ahead of time. Gold or white looks nice on the branches, then decorate as you wish.

**YOU CAN MAKE** stunning Mexican-styled luminarias (lights) by collecting empty white bleach bottles, cutting them into a pleasing height and filling with sand, about four inches, and placing in the

and a low candle. These contain a measured distance along your entranceway are very effective.

Survey your cupboard for odds and ends of fancy glasses which could be large goblets or wine or sherbert glasses. You can stack them, some wrong side up, some right side up, joined by transparent tape.

**Slide Program**  
**Will Feature**  
**Greece, Italy**

The Bloomfield Art Association will preview its second annual art tour, to be highlighted by a cruise of the Greek Islands, at a slide and talk program at 8:30 p.m. Friday.

"An Evening with the Gods" will be presented by Clifford B. West at the Birmingham Art Center, 1516 S. Cranbrook Road, Birmingham.

According to West, he will show "the architecture, sculpture and painting of Greece and Italy."

Four Director Walter Centomini, manager of Oakland Travel, Inc., will be at the program to answer questions about the tour.

**WEST, A PAINTER**, spent more than a half-year in Florence recently recording on film the sculpture of the Italian masters. He is on the board of trustees at the BAA and taught at Cranbrook and Kingswood and the BAA.

He has had one-man shows and group shows, has won first prize Prix de Rome Alumni and has executed murals in many buildings around the Detroit area.

The program is open to the public. There is an admission charge for non-members.

You will probably be interested in placing a scene inside with miniature balls, small angels, etc. These ornaments can be hung inside by using fine thread. Then an interesting candle can be placed in the top elevation.

**DON'T OVERLOOK** the motifs you can design out of odds and ends with small evergreen boughs on a bamboo stand.

We know that April is the best time to trim evergreens, but there are a lot of our evergreens which have needed a haircut for a long time and they will be a source of fresh boughs for inside use.

Many telephone calls come to your writer this time of year to give a suggestion for a good gift book for serious gardeners. There is a new book just being released this week which is the best publication I have ever seen: "How To Landscape Your Own Home," Rodale, publisher Rodale Books, Inc.

It has 1,500 pages, 600 illustrations. It is the ultimate, without any exceptions, in the knowledge it can share with you.

**THE WRITER** just takes you by the hand and in good layman language teaches you how to plan your property, how to run a home nursery, how to pick up seed pods of the unusual and have hundreds of rare plants yourself—all for a garden maintenance and a full treatment of indoor gardening, both greenhouse and window sill.

**ORIGIN UNKNOWN** One of the earliest Christmas carols still sung today is "The First Nowell," based on a medieval shepherd song. Scholars are uncertain of its country of origin, and both France and England claim it.



Mrs. Burlingame



## Photographing the Pope

Tony J. Spina, 3525 Squirrel Road, Birmingham, sights "The Pope and the Council" in a series of original photographs depicting the Ecumenical Council of the Catholic Church at Vatican City, Rome. A 10-day showing of 50 chronological pictures of the council by Newspaper Photographer Spina opened Monday at the Arwin Galleries in Detroit. The exhibit is scheduled for a global tour.

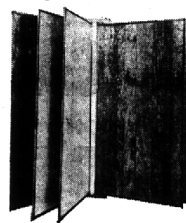
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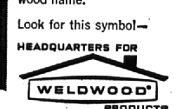


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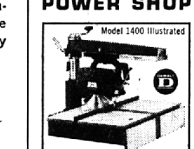
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