

# Potpourri

by JULIE CANDLER  
Special Writer



We're on a magazine kick today. For a long time, Potpourri has wanted to commend the little Michigan quarterly, "Voices," for the fine material it is presenting, even if the type is hard to read. We like it especially for encouraging the work of Michigan writers by buying same.

Writers like Henry Miller figured out how to write in Paris without any income, and survive. But he was excellent at bumming meals, and that seems to be frowned on around Michigan these days. So we are in favor of all publications which help to feed writers. It may not produce more good writers in Michigan, but at least they will be fatter.

Michigan poet Sheila Pritchard was once asked by a radio interviewer, "What can the people of Michigan do for their writers?"

Her reply, according to Birmingham resident and writer Priscilla (Mrs. Walter N.) Jackson, was, "Read them."

YOU CAN read about our local cultural triumph, the conversion of the former Birmingham sewage disposal plant into an art center, in Friends magazine. The publication, distributed by Chevrolet dealers, plans to run "before" and "after" pictures of the Bloomfield Art Association's new headquarters in its May issue.

The photographs are by a former sewer editor of The Birmingham Eccentric.

SHOW MAGAZINE bothers Dorothy (Mrs. Vincent A.) Zattel. She gets shook every time she reads that fancy publication about some event being presented in our part of Show's world.

"Why do they call it Birmingham Community House, Detroit?" says Dorothy.

Other Show-y ways of putting it are "Pontiac-Oakland Town Hall in Detroit" and "Pontiac Northern High School in Detroit."

"Show" is obviously taking the metropolitan point of view and labeling communities according to the nearest city of over a million.

Getting back to the Zattel residence in Lathrup, it's colorfully eye-appealing these days with a veritable gallery of oil paintings by the lady of the house. Several recent paintings are handsome studies of characters she and her husband saw in Europe. She painted them after she got back home, working from color slides taken by her husband and his well-trained Exakta.

THE FEDERAL Communications Commission has turned down the exchange of FM stations proposed by WHFI and WQRS. Owner Dick Hughes says he is disappointed that his fine arts station won't be operating from the WHFI transmitter on E. Maple Road. So you'll continue to find QRS at 105.9, unless they blow a tube. Hughes says he has a lot of Birmingham residents on the subscription list for his listener-supported station. Their fund-raising drive is coming along fine, but they still have room for more subscriptions, on whom they depend for new tubes and such.

YOU MIGHT think of it as a melodramatic corn ball, but "Uncle Tom's Cabin" used to be a great favorite with Birmingham play-goers.

First Village Players President Loren Robinson recalls several of the little theater group's productions of Uncle Tom, complete with bloodhounds. In one of them, a local amateur actress was running across the phony ice when a scaffolding gave way. Little Eva broke through the ice and made a big hit.

"We never did have a Little Eva who was under 40!" says Robinson.

## Darwin Exhibit Opens Tuesday At Cranbrook

Cranbrook Institute of Science will celebrate the birthday of Charles Darwin Tuesday with the opening of a new exhibit called "The Evolution of an Evolutionist."

Organized by the American Museum of Natural History and circulated by the Smithsonian Institution, the show will remain in place through Mar. 17. The Institute of Science, in Bloomfield Hills, is open daily from 10 to 5 p.m. with an admission charge on the weekends.

This strikingly interesting exhibit follows Darwin through his early, unpromising years, his adventure as a naturalist aboard H.M.S. Beagle and the period of provincial family life and quiet scholarship.

The final section is an explanation of the major points contained in his book, "On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection" (Darwin called this "the chief work of my life") and an evaluation of his contributions to science from the perspective of a century of progress.

Through a selection of photographs, drawings, memorabilia and textual material, the exhibit paints a portrait of the man, his habits and temperament, the people and events that helped to mold his career. Much of the story unfolds through Darwin's own words.

## 'Music of Opera' Course to Begin Next Wednesday

Beginning Wednesday will be a "Music of the Opera" course jointly sponsored by the Cranbrook Music Guild, the University Center for Adult Education and the Detroit Grand Opera Association.

Dr. Glenn D. McGeoch, professor of music literature, history and criticism at University of Michigan, will give eight lectures, concentrating mainly upon those operas to be performed by the Metropolitan Opera Co. when they are in Detroit this spring.

The course will be held in the music building at Cranbrook beginning at 8 p.m. Handling registration is Mrs. Benjamin Brewster, 5360 Brookdale Road, Birmingham, who is chairman of the series.

## Cranbrook Grants MFA Degrees to 2 Local Residents

Two Birmingham residents received their Master of Fine Arts degrees from Cranbrook Academy of Art last Friday.

They are Mrs. Alicia Mackie of 2725 Juniper Ct. and Tullio Petrucci of 187 Townsend. Mrs. Mackie received her degree in painting, studying with the academy's president, Zoltan Sepesby. Petrucci's major was graphics in the department headed by Laurence Barker.

Both Mrs. Mackie and Petrucci will remain at the Academy of Art for next semester. Mrs. Mackie will do post graduate work while Petrucci will complete his year of assistantship to Barker.

## Behind the Welcome Mat

by CORRINE ABATT

I am still living in the light of the book mentioned here last week, "Power of Words" by Stuart Chase.

I get the impression as I read that many of the world's ills are due to misunderstanding not necessarily caused by a difference in language, but to a difference in thought patterns and the backgrounds which form these patterns. People who speak the same language run into difficulties, for words mean different things to different people—Smith and Jones may have completely different conceptions of the meaning of "free enterprise."

IN ADDITION we do not express our ideas and feelings clearly. We load our conversation with jargon, meaningless phrases and expressions.

This misunderstanding comes at all levels of society—from husband and wife and parent and child relationships up, through town meetings and high level government discussions.

Obviously one thing we must learn to do to avoid misunderstanding is to listen. This is the subject of one chapter in the book.

These makes the point that Americans are not very good listeners in face-to-face groups. Amen! We are so anxious to talk and give our point of view that we do not hear the other fellow out.

WHENEVER ONE of our women's groups meets in the evening and the husband of the hostess happens to eavesdrop, he usually comments, "I don't see how you find out anything new, everybody's talking and no one is listening."

In this type of group where there are no sharp differences of opinion, the listening is not as important as when there are problems to be settled and arguments to be

reconciled—then listening is vitally important.

More often than not in a meeting where there are a few differences of opinion while Jones is giving his viewpoint, Smith instead of listening is busy going over what he will say as soon as he can get the floor.

CHASE TELLS of a suggestion by Carl R. Rogers of the University of Chicago.

When a political discussion breaks out at a dinner party, ask the company to try an experiment: before a response to a statement is made, the responder must state his opponent's opinion to the opponent's complete satisfaction.

In other words, Smith gives an opinion, but before Jones can give a different opinion he must restate Smith's views to Smith's complete satisfaction.

This technique could be just as useful in a parent-child of employer-employee situation.

Mortimer J. Adler of Great Books fame says that when he is questioned he often restates the question before answering saying, "Let me see if I understand what you are saying. Your answer is . . ."

ADLER ALSO stresses the importance of listening. Of the two, talking and listening, listening is the more difficult and fatiguing.

And the mind, that wonderful mechanism sometimes plays tricks, for ever when trying very hard to listen, it will end up recording only those things which it has found acceptable.

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## Students Take Part In Opera Premiere At Albion College

Five Albion College students from this area will take part in the premiere performance Sunday afternoon of a two-act opera by a member of the college's music staff.

The opera, "Noah," will be presented on the campus at 4 p.m. in Goodrich Chapel by the school's department of music.

In the choral society are Joan Helper, a sophomore from Birmingham; Nancy Little, a junior from Bloomfield Hills; George Ransford, a senior from Birmingham and John Schmidt, a junior from Birmingham. Playing first violin in the orchestra is Michael von Guttenberg, a junior from Birmingham.

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