

# Bandwagon Gets Rolling To Build Chain of Islands

By ELMER E. WHITE  
Michigan Press Association

The bandwagon promoting an idea to build a chain of islands in Lake St. Clair is getting crowded but when it will get rolling and how far is anybody's guess.

Detroit's City Plan Commission, the State Conservation Commission and U. S. Sen. Philip A. Hart, D-Mich., have all indicated an interest in the proposal set forth last year by Paul Lutzweiser, aide to Secretary of State James M. Hare.

Each agrees extensive studies would be required, however, before a decision could be made on whether and how to implement the plan.

**THE PROPOSED CHAIN** of 20 islands might well fall to the federal government, Lutzweiser said, because Lake St. Clair is an international body of water.

The plan for the islands could well emphasize the international characteristic by giving the recreational facilities proposed themes from other lands.

Lutzweiser's ideas include a Tivoli garden on one island, similar to the giant amusement spot in Copenhagen, Denmark; an oriental island with Japanese cherry trees and a tea garden; one with Dutch windmills, tulip fields and canals; or similar German, Polish, French, Irish or Italian themes.

Scores of recreational facilities could be incorporated into the island chain. These would include bathing beaches, marinas, nature trails, riding stables, picnic tables, ice fishing areas and others, Lutzweiser said.

**ONE OF THE MAIN** advantages of the idea, according to its author, is the flexible time schedule.

"If started at once, an island could be created each year for the next 20 years," Lutzweiser said. "If the leisure-time requirements of the area demanded it, the job could be done in 10 years, or five."

What is needed now is just what Hart, the Conservation Department and Detroit area civic leaders are discussing: studies by competent engineers, planners and conservation experts.

**IMPROVED ECONOMIC** conditions, new highways and increased motel and resort facilities throughout the state gave Michigan its best tourist year in history during 1962.

State Tourist Council Director Robert J. Furlong said these and increased promotional activities helped induce vacation travelers in

Michigan to spend more than \$680 million last year. This was five to seven percent increase over the industry's business in 1961.

"This increase is especially significant because Michigan's annual income from tourism had remained at about the \$650 million level since 1958 while many competing states were recording increases," Furlong said.

**THE IMPROVED** highway system plays a major role in the tourist industry, said Furlong.

"The greater capacity of freeways for traffic volumes, speed and safety means these limited access highways are drawing travelers from some of the older routes," he said.

"This can be quite beneficial to communities close to the freeways, while less conveniently located areas may lose some 'pass-through' business."

Several communities are counteracting the traffic pattern shifts by stepping up their promotional efforts to attract tourists, the council director noted. "With adequate informational signs, our highways will continue to encourage even more recreational travel."

**A GROUP OF** newspaper officials have been enlisted in the effort to familiarize Michigan citi-

zens with the content of the proposed Constitution, which will be voted on April 1.

Ink White, St. Johns editor, who served in the Constitutional Convention, is continuing as head of the convention's public information committee. He has gained support from newsmen representing 14 areas.

The group, headed by White, plans to help coordinate the presentation of information about the new document in Michigan newspapers before the voters pass judgment on it.

The newsmen participating on the committee, some representing daily papers and other weeklies, are spread throughout the state.

They represent the Tecumseh Herald, Manistiquie Pioneer Tribune, Gaylord Herald-Times, Monroe Evening News, Coldwater Daily Reporter, Crosswell Jeffersonian, Wayland Globe, Midland Daily News, Brown City Banner, Petoskey News-Review, Grandish Independent, Fremont Times-Indicator, and West Side Courier, in Detroit.

Joe Schmidt, Detroit Lions linebacker from Pittsburgh, was overlooked by many Ho scouts upon graduation from college because of "poor knees," yet the '62 season is his tenth in the National Football League.

## The Birmingham Eccentric Features

### DOWN TO EARTH

## Put Hands to Work Arranging Flowers

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

At this time of year, if you have a member of your family who must stay inside, plan a tract of arranging flowers for them. It is good exercise for fingers with arthritis. I grow lex Convexa, a low growing shrub which holds its glossy leaves in the winter for winter green in bouquets.

Also for a green filler, don't overlook tips of your evergreen juniper.

Have your "helper" sit in a chair with a television table in front of him filled with the miscellaneous materials. If you are entertaining, you will appreciate having this arranging task done for you.

Perhaps you have a picture of an arrangement which could be duplicated to assure the end result having a good balanced arrangement.

**WHILE THE** table is in working position you will want to have your houseplants aerated with a kitchen fork, using a stroke to introduce air in the soil. Move from outside of the pot toward the center.

Unattractive leaves can be removed, and the leaves themselves will benefit from having milk rubbed on the surface for gloss (not mineral oil). We have commercial sprays which can give a fine shine to the plants, too.

Shh, I am not above poking an appropriate artificial flower into a flower pot if it would improve the total effect. We must keep up with the times and good artificial flowers are everywhere.

**YOU CAN** also place some artistic branches of forsythia into your existing flower pots.

These branches should have been immersed in warm water for a couple of hours. In the morning, place them in the plant. You will have to watch closely because these forced branches do not develop if they dry up even once.

**THE OTHER** day I had a talk with D. C. Middlewood, our city forester. We were chatting about the street trees which have been planted in the area and you may want to identify them should you plan to place a shade tree on your property.

On the south side of Hamilton Ave. the Dolgo flowering crab has been planted. It will have white flowers and bright red fruit.

On Woodward and Maple you will find many mountain ash.

At the entrance to Parking Lot 2 you will see a fine specimen of double-flowering weeping Japanese cherry tree.

**THE DEPARTMENT** is impressed by the Scanlon red maple because it keeps its shape in maturity. In the future they plan to use more flowering trees (which have an impressive longevity) and Norway Maples to beautify our town.

We have many new garden readers and we want to remind them that the tree of Birmingham and its environs is the flowering arbutus.

In this category of tree you can have white, pink and red flowers, and later, fruit which can be bright red, green, yellow, purplish red, orange and dull brown. So here is a tree which will give the owner shade, an attractive fruit, spring flowers and a dividend of fruit to attract the birds for the winter season.

By judicious pruning you can have a fashionable tree with a Japanese accent.

**The Sunday** is the core of our civilization, dedicated to thought and reverence.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

**As we keep or break the Sabbath,** we nobly save or meanly lose the last best hope by which man rises.

—Abraham Lincoln

By Lydia King Frehe  
Special Writer, for The Birmingham Eccentric

## FLORAL ARRANGING can be an excellent exercise for hands with arthritis and a big help if you are planning a party. Both real and artificial can be used, of course. If the individual is not well acquainted with

flower arranging methods, a picture of an arrangement may be used as a guide. A television tray set in front of the arranger for the vase and "green matter" helps keep all necessary materials within easy reach.

## Veterans Get Bonus On Life Insurance

(Special to The Eccentric)

**NEW YORK** — Former service men and women in Birmingham are reaping a \$59,000 financial harvest at this time, thanks to an out-of-the-ordinary payment of dividends on their GI insurance.

The windfall represents their share of a \$27 million dividend declared by the government for holders of such insurance. Part of it they would have received anyway, in the normal course of events, upon the anniversary dates of their policies.

**THIS YEAR,** however, in line with plans announced at the White House, the entire regular dividend of \$27 million together with an extra dividend of \$9 million, is being turned over to the veterans now. The majority of the checks were sent in January. The rest will be sent this month.

Approximately 920 of the 3,961 veterans who live in Birmingham will share in the current payment.

There are among some 5,250,000 veterans in the United States, out of a total of nearly 22,000,000, an eligible because they hold federally-sponsored life insurance policies.

Most of the money will go to those who were in World War II and have National Service Life Insurance coverage.

The remainder is for veterans of World War I who have U. S. Government-Life Insurance.

**THE AMOUNT** going to the 920 policy-holding veterans in Birmingham is estimated at \$69,000.

The two volume of business that it will generate in local retail stores will be several times that much, its experts say. This is what normally happens when the amount of money in circulation is increased.

The government's expressed purpose in releasing the cash at this

time is to "provide a needed boost to the national economy," in the words of the President.

**THE VETERANS** Administration, in making public the preparation plan, explained that it consists for the most part, of a return to the policyholders of a portion of their premium payments.

The money has become available because the death rate among veterans is lower than had been expected.

The extra of 90 million was declared because it was felt that the insurance reserve funds had grown to a size greater than necessary.

**John D. Monroe,** director of the Oakland County Department of Health.

An additional 150,000 are partly incapacitated because of this disease, in which the pressure of fluids in the eye is higher than normal.

It is also estimated that two percent of those over 40 years of age have this eye affliction, and more than half do not know they have it.

When the disease is not detected and brought under control, it usually leads to progressive loss of vision to the point of blindness.

**IF ONE SEES** halos around lights, has vague visual disturbances such as blurring of vision or green mild pains in the eye and headaches, or has increased difficulty in adjusting to darkness, a doctor should be consulted.

For those who wear glasses, the

## S'field Mothers Announce 'Dimes' Still Coming In

Southfield Mothers March chairman Mrs. Elmer Porman and Mrs. Edward Watkins announce receipts may exceed \$2,000 as donations still trickle in.

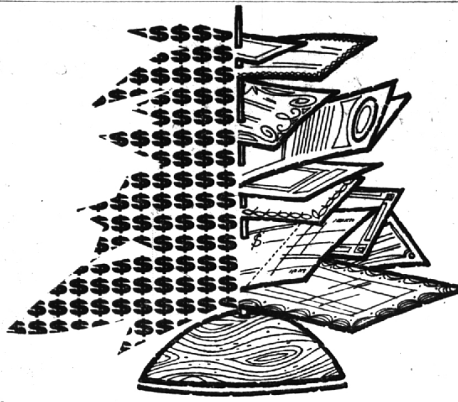
In Lathrup, Mothers March chairman Mrs. Edward Lympers announces returns of over \$800 thus far with the possibility of

more to come in from returning vacationers.

The chairman state they wish to thank everyone who contributed to the Mothers March, especially the women who marched despite severely cold weather. illness forced many who formerly marched to decline their posts this year.

Donations are still urgently needed. Mothers March checks may be sent to County March of Dimes chairman Al Kalline, Pontiac State Bank, P.O. Box 599, Pontiac, Michigan.

Residents who wish to help celebrate the 25th anniversary of the National Foundation — March of Dimes.



(got bills to pay?)

## GET THE MONEY HERE

Taxes, winter heating and the holidays ahead mean bills. Bills that can add up quickly. If you need some help with yours, Detroit Bank & Trust is the place to go. We'll lend you the money that will make it easier for you to pay your bills. Fast action. Low bank rates.

the Most Experienced Bank in town

### DETROIT BANK & TRUST

WOODWARD-HAMILTON • WOODWARD-14 MILE • WABECK BUILDING  
WOODWARD-OAKLAND DRIVE-IN OFFICE

### NATURE NOW

## Nuthatch Seen Frequently in Winter

Once each week we visit our bird feeding station in the Rochester area.

Here we are almost sure to see sparrows, juncos, southern downy woodpeckers, titmice, chickadees, cardinals and nuthatches.

The white-breasted nuthatch is a small grey-blue bird about six inches long. The white of its underparts extends upward around the eyes and shades to a rusty wash on the flank and under the tail covers. He wears a shiny black cap and his grey wings are tipped with grey and white.

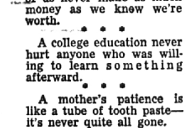
**ALTHOUGH THIS** nuthatch is one of our permanent bird residents we see less of him in the summer when he prefers northern woodlands. He winters as far south as Arizona and the Gulf states. During the cold months he frequents orchards and houses where he will seek out a bird feeder and quickly claim his share of the food.

### STRICTLY FRESH

It's strange the way most of us never make as much money as we know we're worth.

A college education never hurt anyone who was willing to learn something afterward.

A mother's patience is like a tube of tooth paste—it's never quite all gone.



**You're getting pretty old** when you can remember when you couldn't buy phonograph records at the grocery store.

It was thus that we saw him last Sunday only making rapid round trips upon the suet but packing all his bill could hold in the cracks of the bark of a nearby tree. This he was storing to use some cold winter day when everything is covered with a coat of ice.

**NUTHATCHES** ARE like feathered mice in the bird world. They are able to crawl about among the branches or on the trunks of trees either head upward or downward as they choose.

Because they often find their food in cracks in the bark, nuthatches can see it better by traveling head downward. This habit has earned for them the title of "upside down bird."

Nuthatches have long bills, straight and sharp. Their tails are short and square but they do not use them as props as do the woodpeckers and creepers. Instead they depend upon their strong toes equipped with sharp claws which they can turn backward while clinging to their perch.

**NO BIRD** is more nervously alert, more filled with a nervous restrained vigor. As he travels head downward on a tree trunk he inspects every nook and cranny. As a result of his tireless searching there is constantly disappearing down his throat a procession of insect adults, larvae, pupae and eggs which if left unmoisted would result in injury to the trees which harbored them.

The nuthatch also eats pine seeds, acorns, beechnuts and chestnuts. His habit is to wedge these into some crevice which will hold them securely. He then uses his strong bill as a hatchet to "hatch" open this stored food. Thus he earned for himself the name of "nuthatch."

**IN SPRINGTIME** he leaves his company of winter friends to select a mate. Together they find a roosting knothole in some old orchard or woodland. This they decorate and line with plant materials and feathers. They may also select an old woodpecker's hole or they may nest in a bird box.

**A Cue From Cupid...**

Dear Sir:

Roses are red, violets are blue—  
What Valentine gift will she get from you?  
A card or bouquet? Oh, heaven forbid,  
She even got these from her beau as a kid!  
But it's easy to make her the world's gayest wife,  
And prove she's a darling—the love of your life!

We're suggesting a Diamond from Lakes' sir.  
The gift that will whisper: "I love you" to her;  
Or china or silver or even a watch  
Will say all year, "You're really top-notch!"

So why not appoint yourself Man Of The Year...  
Gain titles like "Darling," and "Sweetheart,"  
and "Dear!"  
It's easy... because a gift from Lakes' will say  
For you to your wife on St. Valentine's Day:  
"You're sweeter than sugar; I'm glad you are mine,  
So accept with affection this nice Valentine."

Please Don't Forget The Date...  
Thursday, February 14th

## Lakes' Jewelers

"The Sterling Store of Birmingham"

Woodward at Maple MI 4-5315