

Puppets Pop Up for Fun and Moppets

THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC, BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN
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SETTING THE stage for a performance by puppets of "Willie and His Wind Engine" (a space age drama) at the Wing Lake Elementary School are Junior League puppeteers Mrs. Charles Freihofer (left) and Mrs. Donald A. Bouchard.

Puppets don't die and they don't fade away! Indeed, they may well be the oldest, best known and most universally loved performers of all times.

For puppets, in one form or another, have been entwining people in every civilization since the beginnings of time.

They still are. The Birmingham Junior League and the American Association of University Women puppeteers present plays weekly during the year to children in institutions, schools and hospitals throughout the area.

MRS. DONALD A. Bouchard, chairman of the Junior League puppeteers, explained that puppetry is one of the League's most ambitious projects.

"Everything is hand made," she said. "One group of women meet once a week to make the puppets, costumes and scenery for next year's show. Another group is 'trouping' or performing once a week from November to June."

MRS. CALVIN A. Dennison, seeing the children's delight, of leader of the AAUW puppeteers, course," she says. "The other comes in the sheer fun of becoming a magic and, mighty little person for a while."

"It may be that the figures are tiny and thus more adaptable to a child's world," she said. "Or it may be that puppets possess such doubly satisfying to see an entire production come to life through one's own efforts."

"And it is fascinating to see our puppets develop into definite personalities by dint of our own imaginations and creativity," she said.

SO DO adults. Mrs. Charles Freihofer, who is in the current Junior League show, "Willie and His Wind Engine" (a modern space age adventure to the moon), maintains that performing is every bit as much fun for the adult as it is for the audience.

"Part of our pleasure comes in



MAKING SURE the giraffe's fluttering eyelashes are just right is Mrs. Calvin A. Dennison, head of the puppeteer group of the American Association of University Women. All the women who volunteer for the "puppet service" aren't sure whether it is more fun for them or for their audiences, normally children in institutions and hospitals.

VON BRAUN AT TOWN HALL

'Can't Foretell Payoffs of Space Study'

By ETHEL SIMMONS
Staff Writer

Only a few humorous remarks laced the speech of Dr. Werner von Braun, famed German-born physicist and U. S. missile authority, who spoke to the Birmingham Town Hall last week on a serious topic: the man lunar program.

But he earned a big laugh and at the same time introduced his subject, "Why We Must Explore Space," when he quoted the old lady who said, "Why can't people stay at home and watch television as the Good Lord intended?"

The handsome, heavy-set Dr. von Braun, who will turn 51 this month, stood erect at the lectern, his hands clasped behind his back.

Tickets are going quickly for next year's Town Hall lecture series, according to Town Hall President Mrs. Ford Pearson. She urged those who have applications already to mail them in as soon as possible since they are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Those who do not yet have applications may call the Town Hall office at St. James Episcopal Church for information.

and his head held high almost as if he might be viewing America's man-to-moon shot.

IN HIS SLIGHTLY guttural voice, he answered the old lady by stating the purpose of space flight is "to satisfy our curiosity."

"There is always a man who wants to know what's under the rock, on the other side of the hills, on the moon."

He joked, "Columbus didn't know where he went, where he was when he got here or where he'd been when he got back, but here we are."

Explained Dr. von Braun, "Most brilliant minds are completely unable to predict what will be the

most important result of their discovery."

INDIRECT payoffs to the lunar program, he said, include "a stimulus to education. Space and space flight fascinate kids and makes them learn even dry subjects such as math and physics."

Dr. von Braun called the transition that power today's civilian part of the "technical fallout" from our space research.

He repeated a line about "from making missile nose cones, we

learn about heating and can make better cooking pots, and that's where the money is."

DR. VON BRAUN, director of the George C. Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., said the present lunar program is designed to implement the President's promise one and a half years ago to put a man on the moon and bring him back.

The current fiscal budget is \$2 billion, he noted, and it will go up

to \$3.7 billion for 1964 if Congress approves.

"It is a clear task," he said. "Taking a man to the moon and bringing him back can be planned."

Then he emphasized, "It is not just a straightforward industrial program. It taxes the ingenuity of the people in all fields of natural sciences."

TO MAKE THE program succeed, Dr. von Braun asked for popular support. "It's your money we're spending."

When he showed color slides of missile development during the second half of his program, he said, "This is not a Buck Rogers presentation but a program we are pursuing with all possible speed and vigor."

There was something Buck Rogersish, however, when he stood before a slide of the Saturn V-vehicles (in actual size ranging from the 160-foot Saturn 1 to the 326-foot Saturn 5).

He also showed the steps of the Lunar Orbit Rendezvous Mission, which would take three astronauts to outer space in the mother ship of Saturn 5.

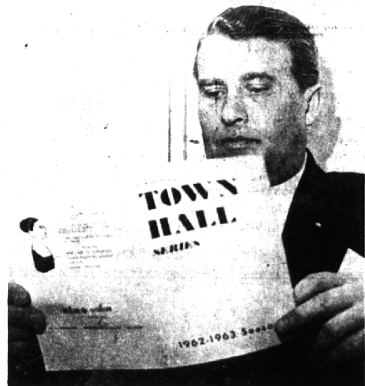
TWO ASTRONAUTS would go on to the moon landing in the Lunar Excursion Module, resembling a giant grasshopper with its wide-windowed "bubble" and leg-like landing gear.

Said Dr. von Braun, "The astronaut's safety is uppermost. Our objective is at least one way out of every possible dilemma."

His lecture, the concluding one in the 1962-63 Town Hall series, was introduced by Mrs. Ford Pearson, president of Birmingham Town Hall.

It was one of only six speaking engagements Dr. von Braun is said to have accepted for this year.

GUESTS at the luncheon which followed in the Birmingham Country Club included Dr. and Mrs. Magnus von Braun of 3318 Tenth, Birmingham. Magnus is Werner's (See VON BRAUN, 2-D)



ALL BRAINS AND von Braun, the renowned space scientist takes a peek at his lengthy biographical sketch in the Town Hall program before going on stage to deliver the final lecture of the season. He confided backstage, psychologically speaking, on the effects of space travel, "I think there are fewer screwballs out there than there are here on earth."

New Form Seen in Broad Setting

'Wit and Whimsy' Is Sometimes Bitter

Reviewed by
ROBERT BROWER

The title of the exhibition at the Cranbrook Academy of Art Galleries is a catch-all that allows Kenneth R. Sawyer, the curator of this traveling show, a chance to exhibit the new "Pop" art in a broad setting.

He brings together many directions on one small piece of common ground—Wit and Whimsy.

The Pop, or of Southern California in this show uses the common objects of popular culture, the enlarged cartoon, the enthroned Coke bottle, an umbrella attached to a sculpture, or window-display type food.

THERE ARE non-pop artists here, too, who have developed unusual styles and uses of material which may be whimsical, such as George Ortman's red, yellow and blue "Cube" with recessed ping pong balls.

Robert Mallery's broken pieces of wood glued roundly into the shape of a horse skull is not part of the new movement, as he stated recently in Baltimore. He at- verified.

tempted to categorize pop art as passive since it took complete elements and used them as art.

Mallery said of his own work

Community Concerts Announces Next Season's Artists

The board of directors of the Community Concerts Association of Southern Oakland County has announced the programs selected for its 17th season, 1963-1964.

At a meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joel Eiley in Royal Oak, the following attractions were planned: The Cleveland String, 20 instrumentalists; Witold Malczewski, Polish piano virtuoso; "In Oretta Time"—Bernard Izzo, baritone; Janet Carlson, soprano, and David Burk, pianist; Ray De la Torre, guitarist, and Beverly Wolff, mezzo soprano.

The members who joined or renewed their memberships, will receive their cards in the fall, when all artists and dates have been verified.

"I have to modify the found objects even if it's only to spoil them."

CONTRASTING POP art with abstract-expressionism, as passive, the other as aggressive, is too easy a simplification.

If, for example, we look at H.C. Westerman's "Pillar of Truth" we see a Coca Cola bottle covered with aluminum paint, centered on top of a balustrade painted in gaudy version of swirling endpapers. Certainly this is not a passive acceptance of popular culture but a better over-statement.

In Claes Oldenburg's "Pie and Two Cupcakes on a Plate," made of plaster and painted to resemble a dime store window display, we are first amused and then begin to notice an over-fullness. The cupcakes are crowded against the wedge of cherry pie whose redness is almost bloody. A tinge of horror suddenly becomes attached to the extreme commonness of his subjects.

When ROY Lichtenstein makes an enlarged pencil cartoon drawing of a U.S. Air Force B-52 bomber

ing his machine guns, isn't this a comment on the war mongering of some of our funnies?

Mariotti's formal gentleman in wood is a fascinating combination of the real and unreal, of illusion and abrupt lack of it.

The subject is a derby-hatted man, holding an umbrella. The carefully shaded drawing of the face is on the flat front of a wooden block whose top was carved into a derby hat. A cast of a real hand, a real stick pin, and a real umbrella contrast to the simple block of wood for a body and the pencil sketched shoes on the sculpture stand.

THIS NEWEST style in the art world of America has a heritage, it dates from the Dada art which developed in Switzerland, Germany and France, near the end of the First World War. The protests of Dada art have been an undercurrent in many of the styles which followed it.

Newer humorous and grim incongruities of life have again reached the surface in a new art form in the U.S.

Potpourri

by JULIE CANDLER
Special Writer

Two of the artists exhibiting currently at Balogh Gallery are putting their hearts into their work.

The artists have hung their work amidst the gallery's large, colorful oil and watercolor paintings. They have priced their small crayoned creations at 10 cents apiece, a reasonable enough price for taking home a small part of a little girl's heart.

The signatures on the bargains are "Beth" and "Nancy." Artist Charles Balogh, director of the gallery, claims the young artists are his daughters.

MEMORIES of Grandpa come back to Mrs. R. H. Dickenshead, 1235 Dorchester, Birmingham, when she sees paintings by artist Milton Kennitz. The Ann Arborite concentrates his talented paint brushes on Michigan subjects, such as U of M campus scenes.

Pete Dickenshead remembers last summer days at a big cottage her grandfather owned at Georgian Bay. As a cousin of Pete's, Kennitz was also eligible to bask in Georgian Bay glory at Grandpa's. Pete remembers watching Kennitz trace the byside grandeur onto his canvases.

She says Kennitz now has his own summer place at Georgian Bay, as well as a handsome Ann Arbor house designed by a Japanese architect.

BENEFIT PERFORMANCES at Birmingham area little theaters are getting popular as fund-raisers. Village Players tickets chairman Mrs. William E. Kegel says the opener of every major Players show this season has been bought up for a benefit.

For the "Thurber Carnival" in May, two shows will be benefits. Bloomfield Farms Garden Club has taken over the Playhouse of Village Players for the Mar. 29 opening of the mystery chiller-diller, "Design for Murder."

TO CLOSE on a musical note: a prosperous party host was standing at his backyard barbecue, continually turning a spit on which a suckling pig was roasting. A guest who had made too many pit stops at the cocktail bar walked up to the amateur chef and stammered, "I don't know what you're playing, but your monkey's on fire!"

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