

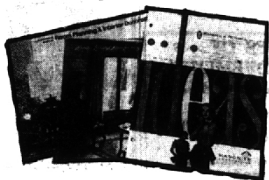
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NATURE NOW

By Lydia King Prehase
Special Writer for The Birmingham Economic

Frog Reflects Emergence Of Animals from the Sea

Life took a daring and significant step when it left the security of its age-old watery home to begin a precarious existence on land.

Scientists believe that the first land animals were scorpion-like creatures whose fossil imprints can be found in Cambrian rocks as much as 500 million years old.

They also think that the first known imprint of a foot was made by a frog-like animal who was a pioneer amphibian living in the Devonian age. We can, therefore, look back an estimated 350 million years to a new beginning in the tide of life.

AND THIS early amphibian did more than make the first imprint of a foot. He had already developed a voice. Hitherto the silence of nature among the vertebrates had been broken only by the spouting of lung fish as they rose to the surface to renew their supply of air.

However, the first step on the land was not a complete severance from life's watery cradle.

The very name "amphibian" suggests "two lives." And so it is that today the frog which I will soon hear on any day is so made that its egg and tadpole stages must be lived in the water where it still breathes with an ancient structure called a gill.

It is interesting to note that to this day the embryos of reptiles birds and mammals (including man) show rudimentary gill clefts in their early stages.

THE FROG occupies a position midway between lung-breathing reptiles and gill breathing fish.

It must be an adult before it can exist using its lungs as a land animal. It can survive the winter on the bottom of a pond at low temperatures, for the coldest water contains the most oxygen.

As soon as the temperature of the water rises in spring the frog's pulse quickens. Then the water loses some of its oxygen at the very moment that the creature requires more of this element. If it is to survive it must rise to the surface to fill its lungs with air.

ITS LIFE on land is also limited to a habitat moist enough so that its delicate skin, which is supplied with large blood vessels, is kept wet. This enables the amphibian to get some of its oxygen from the air directly through its pores, whether he is hibernating under water or living on land.

The moist skin of the frog also acts as a cooling factor on hot summer days since evaporation leads to a lowered temperature.

On cold, sunless days the skin pigment expands and darkens, lessening its reflective power. Thus some of the sun's warm rays are absorbed enabling the amphibian to remain warmer on cool days.

AT THIS TIME of year your children will enjoy scooping up a jar full of the jelly-like eggs of the frog from some ditch or pond. Let these rest a few days and the stagnant water will teem with small

round bodies sporting long flat tails.

In due time arms and legs will appear, the eyes will be elevated and the shortening tail is finally absorbed. (At this point it is expedient to empty the jar in some nearby ditch or swamp.) Soon the developing tadpoles will make periodic rushes to the surface, showing that their lungs are beginning to function.

SINCE A FROG is practically defenseless, nature has provided it with some protective skills which point toward survival.

It can throw out its forward hinged tongue with lightning speed to catch its insect food. When handled it squirts from its bladder a clear fluid which even though it is harmless, serves as a deterrent to human interference.

Furthermore, the animal secretes a poison which protects it from certain predators. The frog's keen sight and hearing also act as de-

Movie Guide

Parenteen Committee
Birmingham P.T.A. Council

MOVIE	Green Sheet	National Legion of Decency
Giant	A, MY	A1
Hanging Tree	A, MY	A2
Them	A, MY, Y	A1
Torpedo Run	F	A1
Son of Flubber	A	B
A Girl Named Tamiko	A, MY, Y	A2
Blue Hawaii	A, MY, Y	SC
King of Kings	F, C	A1
Fabulous World of Jules Verne	F, C	A1
Public Pigeon No. 1	A, MY	A2
Days of Wine and Roses	—	A3
Term of Trial	—	—

CODE:

GREEN SHEET

These audience symbols are intended as broad guides to selection, and do not indicate either recommendation or non-recommendation of the films to which they are applied.

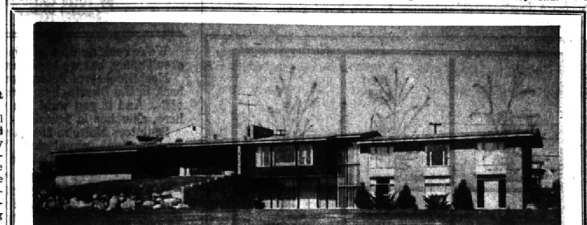
A Adults
MY Mature Young People
Y Young People (12 years to 16 years)
C Children (unaccompanied by adults)

NATIONAL LEGION OF DECENCY

A1 Morally Unobjectionable for General Patronage
A2 Morally Unobjectionable for Adults and Adolescents
A3 Morally Unobjectionable for Adults
B Morally Objectionable in Part for All
C Condemned

SC A separate classification is given to certain films which, while not morally offensive in themselves, require some analysis and explanation as a protection to the uninformed against wrong interpretations and false conclusions.

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Duplication price, The COLUMBIA—\$32,900



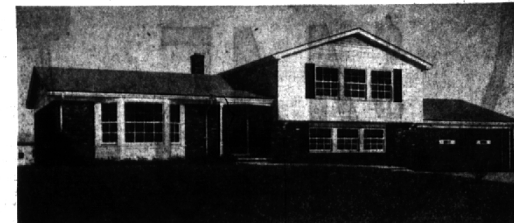
L-SHAPED TRI-LEVEL — A unique and appealing home featuring a fifth bedroom with adjacent lavatory on the lower level as well as a spacious family room and secluded laundry room. Master bedroom suite and three more bedrooms plus two full baths on the upper level. Huge living room, dining room, "family lounge" and kitchen on grade level. Nearby the spacious kitchen is an adjacent pantry and storage room and convenient half-bath. Includes base price lot of your choice.

Duplication price, The GREENWOOD—\$34,350



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Duplication price, The LEXINGTON—\$34,400



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