

Will-O-Way Theatre Does 'Golden River'

Pontiac City Panhellenic will sponsor a play for elementary pupils entitled "King of the Golden River," presented by the Will-O-Way Apprentice Theatre of Bloomfield Hills, Saturday at 1:30 p.m. in Pontiac Northern High School auditorium.

Several children from Birmingham and the surrounding area will be featured in the play: Laura Derr, 2010 Redding Road; Pamela Heck, 6477 Sunningdale; Leslie Jeffe, 1180 Northover; Lynn VanderKnot, 7100 Wing Lake Road; Jane Linder, 1290 Chesterfield; David Merrill, 775 W. Long Lake Road; Kenny Turner, 775 W. Long Lake Road; Shari and Vicki Lightstone, 5693 Dunmore; Nancy Gibb, 50125 Woodside; Karen Haise, 26701 Carol; and Donald Merchberger, 2835 E. Maple Road.

by John Ruskin in 1850 have been set to music and rhyme by Celia Merrill Turner, director of the Will-O-Way Apprentice Theatre. It is the story of a young boy and his two older evil brothers. All live in a rich valley, but when famine comes the older brothers refuse to share their wealth with others.

Proceeds from the performance will go to aid Panhellenic's annual Scholarship Award. This year's winner was Frances Hoopinger, elementary education sophomore at Eastern Michigan University.

Tickets will be on sale at the door the day of the performance. Advanced tickets may be purchased in the Birmingham area at Will-O-Way Theatre on W. Long Lake Road or by calling Panhellenic members: Mrs. Wayne Patterson of Busted Road, Bloomfield Hills, or Mrs. W. H. Buehler of Loch U.S.D., Birmingham.

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Potpourri

by JULIE CANDLER
Special Writer



An ancient ruin is to the S. M. Vasses what a Yogi Berra beach ball is to a three-year-old.

Their favorite sport is to go digging for clues to mysteries of bygone civilizations in places like Yucatan in Mexico.

The Vasses, 817 Pilgrim, Birmingham, spent a glorious spring vacation enjoying the jungled ruins southwest of Vera Cruz.

There they saw ruins left by the Mayans after the Great Depression of 500 B.C. They're even older than the ruins around Yucatan.

"They haven't really cleared the jungle away from them yet," says Marion Vass. "There's so much that hasn't been touched down there it's just unbelievable!"

"The Vasses even see ruins in their future.

"I'm going to be an archaeologist if it takes me 25 years!" says Marion Vass.

She and her husband are studying anthropology and all those complicated subjects archaeologists must master before they can do active research.

Eventually, when Sev Vass retires, they plan to move to Mexico. There they can use all the book-learning about ruins they're getting at the University of Michigan and Wayne State University.

And if Sev takes his well-synoposed drums to Mexico, there's going to be a lot of tiggging going on!

THE POETRY lovers have been meeting spasmodically ever since they put on a delightful evening of poetry at the 1961 Birmingham Arts Festival.

"They have been an ardent little group," says Mrs. Willy's P. Wagner of Franklin, whose readings would make an ardent poetry fan out of an orangoutang. She made an ardent Wagner fan out of this reporter (only distantly related to an orangoutang).

Another who put passion into his poetry readings at that Arts Festival program was red-headed Garvin Bawden of Gordon Lane. He can make E. E. Cummings (I capitalized it, and I'm GLAD) come out full of meaning. No one could read the crazy Cummings punctuation. But Gar Bawden infers it.

Jeanne Wagner, Gar Bawden, Dean Coffin and the rest of their devoted band still meet in their homes and read poetry aloud on an occasional Friday night.

POTPOURRI recommends: The singing of Irene Williams, wife of newspaper reporter Bill Matney. The attractive vocalist, who appeared at the Detroit Press Club recently, once alternated with Leontyne Price in the role of Bess in a European "Porgy and..."

The clever and imaginative sets, dances, staging and timing of "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying."

IT WAS for a good reason that Popular Photography asked Bob Osborn of Birmingham Camera for the negative of his photo contest entry. Last week Bob learned the picture rated an honorable mention and will be run in an upcoming issue of the magazine.

An honorable mention, in case you're interested, involves more than honors.

It's \$50. And that's worth mentioning.

NATURE NOW

Ever Wonder How and Why Birds Fly?

By Lydia King Frehse
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Once more it is Maytime and our winged friends the birds are returning.

They often come in flocks at night so that we are not always aware of their arrival. But each day we see and hear more species and so we miss the progress of the season with "Today I saw my first red-wing" or "Yesterday I heard the white-throat sing."

The ability of a bird to make its long and strenuous migration trips is due to its singular skill in flight. The mechanics involved in this performance are too intricate to be here detailed but all of us can appreciate some facts about flight.

A BIRD IS made to fly. It uses its strong back muscles to lift itself aloft as does an airplane. Its wings, its body shape and structure are all tuned to aid its movement through the atmosphere.

The mystery of flight is demonstrated in the supreme control of its body in relation to the air which flows around it when it moves.

Birds evolved from their reptilian ancestors, the forefathers gradually became winged. However, the fossil record shows that for some time these appendages retained a claw which enabled these creatures to climb into trees. This equipped their first attempt at flight may have been little more than a glide from a branch to earth.

IT HAS TAKEN as much as 140 million years to develop the skill of a bird like our Arctic tern which makes a round trip migratory flight of some 25,000 miles each year.

During the long ages required for this transformation from reptile to bird, many changes occurred to facilitate flight. Scales became feathers, the long and bony tail was abandoned while the present feathery tail became a steering and balancing tool.

The body was streamlined and the heavy bones became light and hollow. Also the latter are connected with air sacs fed by the lungs so that they fill as the bird breathes.

NO MATTER how long or how fast a bird flies it never becomes breathless as do we when we exerted too strenuously. The wings are attached to the skeleton so

that any movement in flight helps the lungs to expand. Thus they act as a kind of air pump so that the more the bird flies the more easily it breathes.

The cold reptilian body has also become warm blooded with a very rapid rate of metabolism which provides for high intake, quick consumption and economic utilization of food. The wings, wonderfully designed to meet the flying demands of each species, are equipped with special flight muscles and act as propellers through the air.

NOT ALL birds fly like. Some species like the pheasants, ducks and swallows develop considerable initial speed by rapidly flapping their wings and then going into a long glide.

The majority of birds fly by flapping their wings, but this is simple up and down movement for it must not only keep the bird aloft, it must also send it forward. To accomplish this there are many variations of movements which are possible because the flight feathers as well as the different parts of the wing can be moved independently.

Birds like hawks, ospreys and gulls often soar through the air

which is accomplished by alternating flapping and gliding. To do this they use updrafts and air currents so expertly that they can soar for long periods without moving their wings.

THE SPEED of a bird's flight is not easy to measure because it is modified by the speed of the air. However it is estimated that most garden birds like the thrushes and sparrows fly at speeds of 25 to 35 miles per hour while the swallow may reach a rate of 60 to 100 miles per hour.

Coming down from a height an eagle or hawk has been known to reach a speed of 200 miles per hour.

As you watch a flock of gulls flying into the wind, one humming bird as it moves backward and forward hovering above bright blossoms or the familiar formation of migrating geese against the moon, you are seeing remarkable performance by one of nature's best loved creatures.

Restoration of the Wayside Inn in Massachusetts was one of Henry Ford's favorite projects. When he sought to buy its famous old sign the owner would deal only with Ford personally. So Ford went to Boston and bought the sign from the gratified owner—for one cent.

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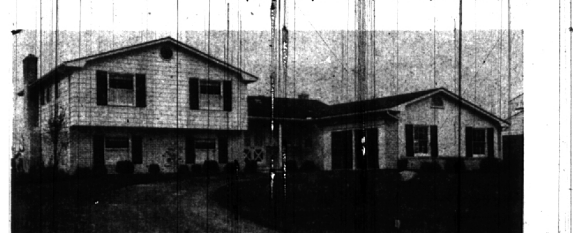
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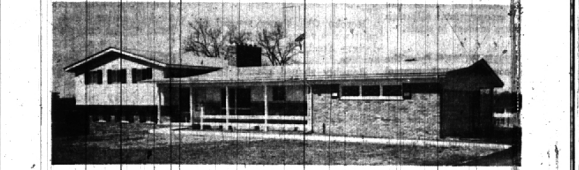
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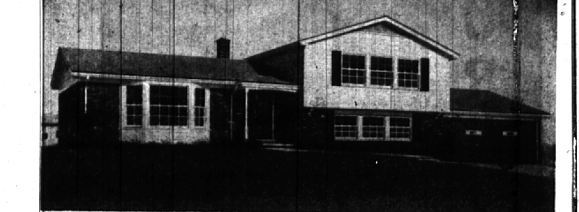
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