

# Where Do Pastors Confer on Problems?

By EVELINE OEN  
Arts Editor

Where can a minister go when he is frustrated and in need of a new perspective? Where can he search for answers to questions about his life and his work that never occurred to him when he was still in training for the ministry?

For many—about 1,320 over the past six years—the place has been the Institute for Advanced Pastoral Studies in Bloomfield Hills.

About 24 ministers come for each of the Institute's thirteen 10-day seminar sessions per year.

Those who attend are invited to do so; they are usually recommended and must have had at least three years experience in the ministry since finishing seminary.

WITH QUARTERS in the major portion of the second and third floors of Cranbrook House, the Institute for Advanced Pastoral Studies is headed by Dr. Reuel Howe. He is assisted by Rev. R. Lewis Johnson and Rev. Paul Nicely.

"The purposes of the Institute were originally two-fold," explained Dr. Howe. "The first was education; to give the ministers an opportunity to learn from their own and each other's experiences."

"The second was ecumenical; to formally, as well as informally, live, to talk and to work together so that they could see what the real differences were between them

—and underneath, to see what they really had in common."

TWO ADDITIONAL functions have been added—consultative services and a research program. "Schools and denominations are interested in what we're learning about the effectiveness of their training of ministers; they are interested in us in a consultative capacity," said Dr. Howe.

"In order to do this responsibly we must know what we are talking about, so we have developed a research program to study our data—information which clergymen bring here about themselves, their work, their ministry."

THE CLERGY'S greatest frustration is in the field of communication, says Dr. Howe, who has recently written a book, "The Miracle of Dialogue" (Seabury Press), on this concern. In it he emphasizes the two-way nature of communication—and its results—and proceeds to develop the idea theologically.

"Often," said Dr. Howe of ministers who come to the Institute, "they don't know what to make of the world, they're overwhelmed. They misperceive the role of the church in the world."

## Local Girl Wins Prize for Poetry

Miss Barbara L. Morgan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Morgan of 1343 Brookwood, Birmingham, was one of the prize winners honored by the New England Poetry Society at its annual meeting at the Harvard Faculty Club in Cambridge, Mass., June 3. Miss Morgan is a member of the class of '62 at Mount Holyoke College.

She received third prize of \$50 in the Joyce Kilmer competition for her sonnet, "Icon," which she read at the meeting.

A graduate of Kingswood School, Miss Morgan has been editor this year of the Mount Holyoke literary magazine, "Pegasus." In May this year, she received second prize in the Ada P. Snell poetry contest.

"THEY OFTEN feel it is the task of the church to tell the world what is wrong with it or tell the world its questions—left unanswered—instead of being aware of a responsibility to know and understand the world so that they might speak to it and answer its questions," he said.

"Another common attitude is that they think of the church as isolated and separated from the world instead of dispersed in the world, and of the ministry of the church as being within the church instead of within the world."

WHAT IS THE response of the ministers to their stay at the Institute? The following is a letter to Dr. Howe from one of them.

"I am afraid I am a convert! The experiences in all the conference dialogues, that we do not have to carry the load or to communicate the word of God to a situation. He speaks to us as we together listen in the context of our conversation."

DR. HOWE'S work at the Institute (which he together with local laymen founded) grew out of concerns he had had as to the effectiveness of seminary training programs during 20 years of teaching—first at the Divinity School in Philadelphia and then at the Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Va.—and convictions concerning "the miracle of dialogue."

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dialogue, that we do not have to carry the load or to communicate the word of God to a situation. He speaks to us as we together listen in the context of our conversation."

"This is a terribly difficult confession to make! And I would be less than honest if I were to claim that a methodology makes all this difference."

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"The Institute is supported entirely by contributions from private foundations, individuals and others. (It costs \$250 per minister

per conference, of which the minister or the organization sponsoring him pays \$100, leaving \$150 for the Institute to cover.)"

Dr. Howe said he had been surprised by the "enthusiastic overall response" to his venture.

"I didn't know it would be so amazingly successful. There is apparently a need and we seem to have hit upon a way to meet that need."

## B'ham Coin Club Has Auction at Its Next Meeting

The Birmingham, Bloomfield Coin Club will hold an auction Wednesday 7:30 p.m., at the Birmingham Community House, 380 S. Bates.

The auction is open to the public and many key and semi-key coins are being offered. Post-Quatro will be conducting the affair.

The club has elected new officers. Mr. Bob Worth is president; Mr. Robert French, vice president; Mrs. Charlotte Lucadobe, secretary; Mr. Robert Sauer, Jr., treasurer; Board members include Mr. William D. Singleton, chairman; Mr. Tom Williams; and Mr. John Lane.

## Seaholm Student Wins Scholarship To Theater School

Bill Thygeson, Seaholm High School senior, will attend the 1963 session of the Cranbrook Summer Theater School on one of the annual scholarships granted each summer.

Bill, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Thygeson, of 3195 E. Breckenridge, is a National Merit Scholarship finalist as well as a participant in recent products of Seaholm's dramatic society, Proscenium. He is one of the 200 to 250 young men granted scholarships by the Theatre School during the past 21 seasons.

The Cranbrook Summer Theatre School opens Monday for its 22nd season under the direction of Carl and Annetta Womberger.



COMING TO the Institute for Advanced Pastoral Studies in Bloomfield Hills are ministers from all over the U. S. and abroad of more than 40 faiths from 47 states and 10 foreign countries including Australia, Brazil, Canada, England, Formosa, India, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand and the Philippines. Crossing the bridge is Rev. Dave Ernsberger of Cincinnati, O.



WITH THE BEAUTIFUL Cranbrook grounds surrounding the Institute, which takes up most of the second and third floors of Cranbrook House, who wouldn't have their gab sessions outdoors—in the summer, that is? One of the primary purposes of the Institute is to provide an opportunity for

## ST. DUNSTAN'S PERFORMS

### Staging Bedevils Dramatized Novel

Reviewed by E. M. BRONER

Few plays adapted from books have the vigor of plays written directly for the theater. Adapted plays were not conceived dramatically or visually and usually ended up talky and lifeless.

"The Devil's Advocate," from the novel by Morris L. West, adapted for the theater by Dore Schary, is no exception. The St. Dunstan's Guild of Cranbrook has a static script with which to work. This, combined with the lack of ability on the part of the actresses to conceive large, passionate characters, causes the play to founder.

However, "The Devil's Advocate" is an ambitious project and certainly preferable to the romantic comedies community theaters feel compelled to present. It is a timely play, occurring when there is much interest in Rome and the proposed church reforms.

## BAA Elects Officers For the Coming Year

The Bloomfield Art Association elected officers at their annual meeting. Eliot Robinson was re-elected president. Other officers of the association elected were Edward H. Lercher, first vice president; Mrs. Max Frucht, second vice president; Eugene S. Brown, treasurer; and Mrs. Don E. Ahrens, secretary.

Re-elected to the Board of Trustees were Mrs. Mrs. Fruchauf, and Paul West. New trustees elected were Mrs. Louis J. Colombo, Jr.; John S. Coppin; Mrs. George O. Cutler; and Robert F. McLean. Continuing trustees are Merrill Bates; Robert B. Bender; Coin H. John; Ann Smith; and Clifford B. West.

practicing ministers to get together to talk over their problems, both formally and informally, as at the Rev. Robert Dewey of Grinnell, Ia., formerly of the Birmingham Congregational Church; Anderson Clark of Beloit, Wis.; and Francis Geddes of San Francisco, Calif.

## Kirk-in-the-Hills Carillon to Ring For Recital Sunday

Dr. Phillip Steinhuis will play a recital on the world's largest carillon at the Kirk-in-the-Hills on Sunday at 4 p.m. Steinhuis is a carillonneur at the Kirk as well as its organist and choirmaster.

The recital is open to the public and can be best heard from the Kirk grounds, at 1340 West Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills.

Other prominent carillonneurs will present recitals in July, August and September at 4 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month.

that adds to the reality of the warm climate of Italy in a summer night. It is beginning increasingly difficult to criticize the play when one is persuaded otherwise by the fragrance of flowers and the surrounding silhouettes of tall trees.

THE PLAY is an investigation and discussion of who killed a man saintly like and who proposed saintly the one and only, Giacomone Nerone. It is a controversial figure. It is up to the school, optimistic Monsignor where in the hysteria of the cult that has grown up since the martyrdom of Nerone, the truth. Nerone was loved and feared by the villagers, hated after by the Contessa, opposed by Il Lupo, the Communist leader, envied and befriended by the Jewish doctor, Aldo Meyer.

Nerone is a man, purposefully obscure in origin, a stranger in the land who loves, begets a child from his woman and does not marry her. In contrast, he feels always the responsibility of the village of his woman, of his relationship to God. Is this enough to make a saint?

AS WITH MOST spiritual codex, even those with sturdiest today, the technique of the mystery writer is used. Why is the Contessa so interested in Nerone's son? What is it Nina, Nerone's woman, is hiding? Why is Dr. Meyer so anxious to unburden his guilt to the Monsignor?

The absence and asceticism of the church is contrasted by the boldness of the artist, Nicholas Black, and the nymphomaniac, the Contessa. It is a rare combination of intellect and the spiritual.

IMPLICIT IN the book and a further weakness of the script is the lack of full, complex characters. It seems easier to simplify and caricature than to develop a character. Where there was a character and where the actor enriched the role, was the Monsignor Blaise Meredith, acted professionally by Franklyn Donegan.

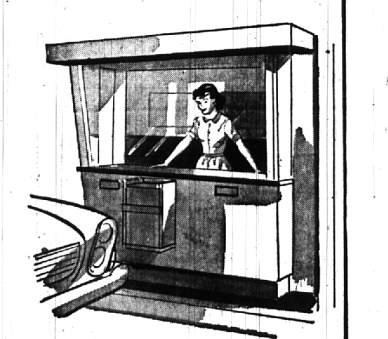
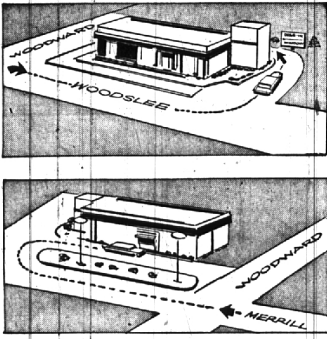
THE BULK of time at the Institute is spent in seminars. Questionnaires are sent back to the invited ministers before they arrive and a program is tailor-made to their concern. On Sundays they attend area churches, later hearing taped discussions by laymen of

the Sunday sermon. Listening to a play back are (from left) Rev. Robert McClermon of Charlotte, N. C.; Rev. John J. Yamada of Kyoto, Japan; Dr. Reuel Howe, director of the Institute, and Rev. R. Lewis Johnson and Rev. Paul Nicely, his assistants.

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