

Art, Fountains Abound in Rome, Florence

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is another in a series of dispatches to The Eccentric from Dennis and his wife Margaret as they make a seven-month trip around the world. Dennis teaches art at Bloomfield Hills High School; his wife is a visiting teacher in the same school system. The following letter was written in Italy about their stay in Rome and in Florence.

After three years, our return to Italy has been quite a revelation. From the minute that we crossed the border, prosperity was immediately evident. The amount of traffic on the road was double and most of the automobiles seemed to be of the 1960 to 1963 vintage.

THE ITALIANS are taking to the road at an alarming rate, and although a good system of roads is being inaugurated throughout the country, narrow mountain

roads and even narrower city streets are causing a problem. It must be quite a nightmare to the road engineer who is torn between his desire to preserve the quaint roads and monuments of the past and his duty to facilitate the traffic flow. As a matter of self-preservation, we quickly adapted to the traffic etiquette of the Italian driver and proceeded along the seacoast from Pisa to Rome.

THE ART OF ITALY has always been one of the great attractions to tourists from all over the world, and we were no exception. Rome and the Vatican as well as Northern Italy also have added their bit to the scene, and we rambled from one to the other on the way back from Rome to Florence.

IN ROME the fountains and the

Vatican occupied most of our time, with the "Villa de Este" St. Peter's Basilica receiving the biggest share of interest.

In the town of Tivoli, just outside Rome is one of the most interesting water spectacles in the world. Here on the side of a hill is a villa where water has been harnessed to either spray or cascade over rocks, shrubs and sculpture in such a manner as to display fully its aesthetic nature. At night, under special lighting effects, the performance is even more spectacular.

FOR THOSE less inclined to stray from the city, any number of fountains are simply scattered throughout Rome. Most of these are of the Baroque period and much of their design as well as the statues in the Vatican square are attributed either to the master sculpture Bernini or his followers.

Subjects for the fountains may vary from quiet fish to prancing horses, but they all have one common denominator, the ability to

expel torrents of water from their mouths.

ON THE OUTSKIRTS of Rome, on our way to Siena, we were rudely awakened to the dilemma facing many tourists traveling through Europe. Our car, which we left (locked) for about 10 minutes in a parking area, was looted.

We were later informed by the American Consulate and the police that we were victims of an organized ring of thieves who are extremely efficient and well versed in what to look for. Unfortunately, in their haste,

they removed my passport and other documents as well as most of our personal effects.

THIS FORCED US to return to Rome for two days to attempt to re-establish our identity and stop or cancel letters of credit, airline tickets, etc., and apply for re-issuance of these.

It was an unpleasant experience, and in the process of retrieving papers, we were amazed to find we shared this experience with many travelers. In the hour it took to fill out a police report, four more victims (two Americans and two

Swedish) came in with similar stories.

NOW WE ARE visiting Florence, which from our point of view is the richest and most rewarding of all the towns of Italy. Park your car along the Arno River and walk to the Ponte Vecchio Bridge and you are in the heart of the greatest of all the Renaissance cities.

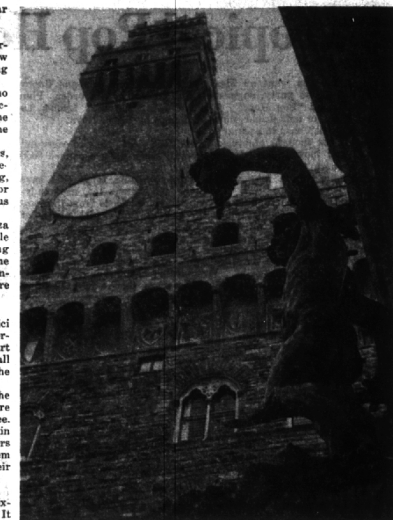
Cut stone walls and buildings, topped by red-orange tile are side-by-side in one continuous string, allowing only narrow roads or walks for moving to the various piazzas or squares. In the main square of the Piazza della Signoria are bronze, marble and stone statues representing some of the greatest of all the sculptors of Italy. Cellina, Giambologna and Michelangelo are everywhere.

THE INFLUENCE of the Medici family on artists has given Florence priceless collections of art treasures that are on display, all within walking distance from the square.

Almost all of the giants of the Italian Renaissance worked here and left their mark for us to see. Architects were at their best in creating the buildings, sculptors and painters in decorating them and writers in describing their inhabitants.

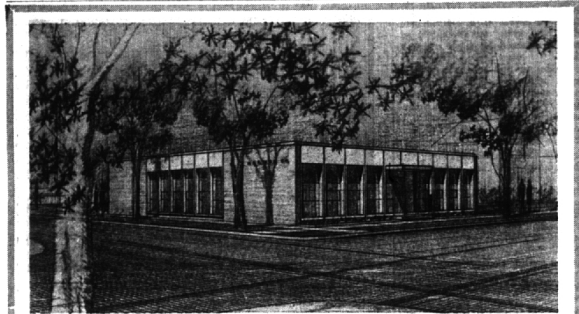
FLORENCE IS A city for extensive exploration and study. It is our hope that the engineers of improvement overlook this bit of the past and leave it as it is.

The treasures of the Renaissance and the color are in perfect harmony in this center of the rebirth of learning, the city of Michelangelo and Lorenzo de Medici.



JUST ONE of the works by "old masters" in the Piazza della Signoria in Florence is this statue by Benvenuto Cellini. Artists and craftsmen of the Renaissance found a haven in Florence under the patronage of the famous Medici family.

6-D THE BIRMINGHAM (MICH.) ECCENTRIC August 1, 1963



Now At Our New Location . . .
484 Pierce St., Birmingham

INVESTMENT CONVENTIONAL
PROPERTY MORTGAGE
SALES FINANCING

AUSTIN C. HARMON, President STEPHEN C. MILLER, Vice Pres. & Treas. T. WALDO THOMPSON, Secretary

C. M. HARMON COMPANY

REALTORS AND MORTGAGE BANKERS

484 PIERCE STREET
BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

Midwest 4-7700

Mortgage Loan Correspondent

Provident Mutual Life Insurance Company of Philadelphia
State Mutual Life Assurance Company of America

SHUTTERS! TOP QUALITY-LOW PRICES!

FOR INTERIOR WINDOWS

H	Width	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
20	1.10	1.35	1.50	1.68	1.88	1.98	2.19	
24	1.50	1.75	1.93	2.09	2.25	2.38	2.48	
E	28	1.60	1.94	2.09	2.24	2.40	2.49	2.84
I	32	1.92	2.10	2.44	2.77	2.92	2.98	3.29
G	36	2.26	2.56	2.85	3.16	3.40	3.55	3.76
H	40	3.50	3.60	3.71	3.78	4.04	4.19	4.32
T								

FOR EXTERIOR WINDOWS
STOCK 1 1/2 BLINDS — PRICED PER PAIR

14x35 1/2—\$5.95	14x51 1/2—\$7.35	18x35 1/2—\$6.30	18x51 1/2—\$7.90
14x39 1/2—\$6.30	14x55 1/2—\$7.60	18x39 1/2—\$6.65	18x55 1/2—\$8.45
14x43 1/2—\$6.55	14x59 1/2—\$8.10	18x43 1/2—\$7.05	18x59 1/2—\$8.70
14x47 1/2—\$6.85	14x63 1/2—\$8.45	18x47 1/2—\$7.55	18x63 1/2—\$9.20
	14x67 1/2—\$8.70		18x67 1/2—\$9.65

WE WILL HELP YOU DO IT YOURSELF, OR RECOMMEND A QUALIFIED CONTRACTOR

BIRMINGHAM LUMBER & SUPPLY CO.

1025 HAYNES STR. — MI 4-3636

Between Adams & Hunter—5 Blocks South of Maple (East of Greenfield's)
Hours: Mon. Thru Fri. 7:30 to 5:30 P.M.—Sat. 7:30 to 4 P.M.

Richard Burton, Jack Lemmon, Cary Grant and all you exciting fellows: get out of Potpourri's life! You've been replaced by John Colicos.

The ole pipeline has been up to Stratford, Ontario, to see "Troilus and Cressida." We saw enough of John Colicos as Hector in the Shakespearean play to know we want to see lots more. Which won't be too hard. He's playing the lead in two other Stratford productions, "Cyrano de Bergerac" and "Timon of Athens."

Of course, anyone who saw "Troilus" has already seen plenty of Colicos and all the other Grecian Age soldiers in the play, thanks to the bikini-like battle costumes they wore in those days.

Colicos is not only a fine figure of a man; he can act, which is even more important. I guess.

WE WEEKENDED at Stratford with former Birmingham residents, the Keith Cunninghams. They came all the way from Dayton for the Stratford Festival, and they say it was worth it. Along with Potpourri, they were delighted with the evening performance of "The Mikado," staged and performed superbly at the little Avon Theatre in Stratford.

If you're lucky enough to get tickets for Stratford performances (and it isn't easy), check on good eating places and refreshment stands in the town beforehand. There are some, but they seem to keep their exteriors camouflaged so the tourists can't spot them.

ALMOST FORGOT to mention that there were women in "Troilus and Cressida." Despite John Colicos and all those Greek gods, we couldn't help but notice Martha Henry, a former drama student at Will-O-Way Apprentice Theatre in Bloomfield Hills. She played Cressida at Stratford.

She's beautiful, which helps. But best of all she's poised, graceful, convincing and appealing.

She is spending her second summer at Stratford. Her winters are filled with stage and TV work, mostly in Canada where she lives since her marriage to a citizen of that nation. Recently she flew to New York to appear in a Shakespeare program specially arranged for NBC.

INTERESTING side effects of the Shakespearean festival are cropping up at Stratford.

As we went into the Avon Theatre Saturday night, we were handed a sheet bidding us "After the theatre drop around to ye old Elizabethan espresso shoppe. The Black Swan is Stratford's oldest, nay the original Stratford coffeehouse, steeped in a tradition of . . . controversy and confusion.

"In a decidedly different atmosphere of peace, the Black Swan presents Canada's most exciting young folk artist, Cedric Smith, whose repertoire includes folk songs, work songs, songs of protest, ballads and madrigals."

They even advertised a selection of sandwiches, pastries and "disaffiliates." We couldn't stretch the pipeline to The Black Swan and I can't find disaffiliates in the dictionary, so I don't know what they are. But they don't sound very appetizing.

We'll check that out when we go back to see John Colicos.

IMAGINE ROBIN Turner's surprise when her French teacher from Bloomfield Country Day School dropped in unexpectedly the other day.

She was even more surprised when she learned the reason for Madame Roy's visit.

Madame Roy had been driving past Will-O-Way, Robin's home at 775 W. Long Lake Road, when a driverless car backed across the road ahead of her.

There was no accident, but it was a shock to Madame Roy. After dodging the empty car which circled across the road and back again, she went into the house to tell the owners.

Seems a garage attendant had returned the Turner automobile and left it on a sloping drive without putting the brake on.

The car ended up unharmed on the shoulder of the road. How 15-year-old Robin's grade in French will end up next year, we don't know.

UNIQUE . . .

best describes this nearly new five-bedroom home.

• Custom built • Three full baths • Two fireplaces

• Intriguing family room • Tastefully designed and decorated, including many shuttered windows,

• Carpeting • Stainless kitchen equipment

• All for just—

\$47,500

Direct access to Orange Lake
right across the street, too!

BEYOND DESCRIPTION!

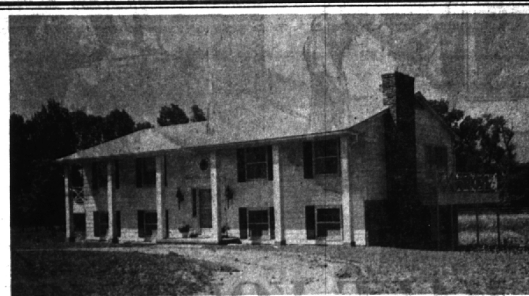


Please! do not ask us to describe this home. It can't be done but we will be glad to show it to you. Lake Angelus mansion, 1000 ft. of sand beach, 9 Bedrooms, 8 baths, Exquisitely furnished. Full price with everything, \$85,000.

Max BROOCK Inc.

300 S. Woodward

MI 4-6700



3380 Chickering

Lighting your way to better living

BENJAMIN & BISHOP, INC. REALTORS

259 S. Woodward, Birmingham, Michigan

MI 4-3232 — JO 4-5728