

THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC, BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN AUGUST 8, 1963 SEC. D

History of St. Dunstan's Has Many Changes of Scene

By EVELINE ONEN
Arts Editor
Lone Pine Road is slightly lone some at this time of year. Why? Because it misses the normal bustle of activity in St. Dunstan's Playhouse which is now quiet during the summer months.

The playhouse and the Cranbrook Outdoor Greek Theater have "set the scene" for St. Dunstan's Guild performances for many years. But it was not always thus.

THE FIRST performance was given in 1932 in the "Meeting House," that section of Brookside School which is closest to the corner of Lone Pine and Cranbrook roads.

It was not until 1946 that the group had its first show in the playhouse.

In the meantime a schedule of two and three performances a year made the rounds from Brookside School to the Greek Theater to the Cranbrook School and back.

THE GUILD WAS formed in February, 1952, during the Depression. Membership was limited to 100 and dues were set at \$1 per year. The current membership quota is \$75 and dues, like the cost of living, have also risen.

It wasn't until 1936 that the Guild finally did its first full-length play indoors. It was titled, ironically, "Outward Bound."

AS IN ANY other theater, when a new show is not "on the ground," the past has its presence, recalled by a sort of trophy case of old play-bills.

For older members, the memories are deep and close. For others, the remnants seem no more than curiosities.

THE PLAYHOUSE structure was born of a conflict between the arts and nature—a cloudburst in the middle of one of the first performances in the outdoor Greek Theater (built in 1917).

At first it was simply a large, sheltering life roof supported by a series of columns, open on all sides. Later it was glassed in and used for afternoon teas and other social gatherings.

THEN, IN the '30s, the Art Academy used it for a gallery. Eilid Saarinen did the design for the remodeling. Solid walls were constructed between the columns, sharp eyes and imaginative minds can see the handwork.

The Guild did not move in until 1946. Their first performance there was an "in the round" production of "Bibite Spiriti." Since then, the group has improved and adapted the building to its purposes as it had the need, the time, the funds and the inclination.

act as bonding agents perhaps as much as the shared love of the theater.

Topping the list are the annual summer picnic held around the George Wellington Smith pool on Franklin, the Carol Sing at Christmas time (members carol from the choir stalls of Christ Church Cranbrook, later move to the playhouse for "holiday cheer") and a January dinner-dance.

New MEMBERS of the board of directors and officers are traditionally chosen on May 19, the birthday of the Guild's patron saint.

New president is Mrs. Orson C. Crocker of 3440 Bradley Blvd., Birmingham. Other officers are Stephen Booth, 1295 Lake Park, vice president; Mrs. Richard Page,



"OH, YOU'RE KIDDING!" SAYS MRS. MAURICE SMITH (LEFT) TO MRS. DEAN (WINNIE) COFFIN AT ANNUAL ST. DUNSTAN PICNIC.

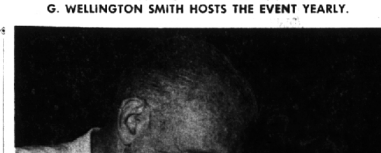
20655 Glenhill Court, secretary; Al Remington, 6383 Wing Lake, treasurer; and Mrs. Jervis McMechan, 551 Pilgrim, all of Birmingham.

Other board members are William Saunders, 685 Pierce; Mrs. Fred Hendrick, Jr., 4016 Blackthorn Court; and Fred Bahr, 540 Berwyn, also of Birmingham.

GIVING BENEDECTION to all the group's activities is the lively spirit of St. Dunstan, patron saint of the arts. Lines from a group skit, written many years ago by the late Sheldon Noble outline in rhyme one of the major misunderstandings that the organization suffers:

"The worst thing about it, it's named for a saint.
But don't think it's holy, 'cause it certainly ain't."

THE SHOW, with a few exceptions, falls into three categories: etchings, texture imprints and paintings. The etchings bear no resemblance to what father bought in Paris 30 years ago.



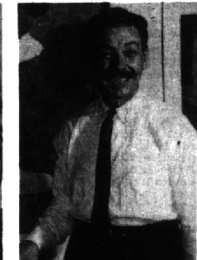
BRONER'S EMPHASIS is on color and form rather than line.

MOST OF these prints are the artist's proofs or the number one print from an edition of 25, and each one is printed, approved and signed by the artist, in contrast to the practice of many European print makers from whose plates an unscrupulous printer may turn out as many as 5,000 prints, none of which has even been seen, much less approved by the artist.

BRONER'S TEXTURE imprints are wonderful. Each piece in this group is unique, hence the higher prices. Here a recognizable subject is given a new look of mystery or humor by the artist's very personal way of overlapping planes of translucent color and



ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF THOSE ATTENDING THE CROWDED OPENING OF THE RAVEN GALLERY LAST THURSDAY WERE TEEN-AGERS.



OWNER-DIRECTOR HERB COHEN WAS ALL SMILES.



ARTIST-CRITIC ROBERT BRONER DISCUSSES HIS WORK WITH ONE OF THE GUESTS.

Raven's Opening Show 'Refreshing'

Reviewed by KATHERINE SMITH
The art of Robert Broner, on exhibition at the newly opened Raven Gallery, 136 Brownell St., is a real mid-summer refresher.

The show, with a few exceptions, falls into three categories: etchings, texture imprints and paintings. The etchings bear no resemblance to what father bought in Paris 30 years ago.

In "Constellations" and "Stepping Stones" there is a feeling of natural forces at work. In "Stone Age," the relative sizes and positions of the red and blue "stones" packs an odd emotional wallop, a feeling of disorientation in space.

"Stonescapes," "Quarry" and "Nightskapes" are especially Bronerish in form, and interesting to compare with his opaque acrylic paintings, "No Horizon," "Red Sand" and "White Moons."

Of the found form etchings — three stars for "Embrace" which creates excitement with a thin dark line and a large white mass.

ART FOR ART'S SAKE By CAROLYN HALL
The art of Robert Broner, on exhibition at the newly opened Raven Gallery, 136 Brownell St., is a real mid-summer refresher.

"Eastland" is night magic. "Girl in Waves" has marvelous shifting planes of color.

What's new in "Under the Sun"? Broner's hot flaring disc in a purple sky.

TWO OTHER pieces should be mentioned. "The Sign of the Fish" is a wood block print pulled from an intricate carving of a Biblical figure which Mr. Broner cut into a fish-shaped block of wood made by his children. They must have been delighted to have their handwork combined with his.

The one piece of sculpture or assemblage built around a bowling pin this viewer couldn't take seriously.

Camera Ability Wins Awards for Three from Area

Expertise with a camera brought awards in U. S. Camera's 1963 Photography Contest to three area residents: Harvey Croze, Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills; H. G. Ross, 25319 Stonyvallet, Southfield; and Larry Winchell, 24423 Bloomington Drive, Franklin.

Over 30,000 color and black-and-white photographs were entered; 450 prizes offered. Entries came from all over the world, with winners in 18 countries and 40 states.

Croze won sixth prize in both the black and white and the color division; Ross, sixth prize in the color division; Winchell, sixth prize in the black and white division.

Two on 'Today' Appearing on the Today Show (NBC) this week, being broadcast from Mackinac Island, are two local residents — Governor Romney and sculptor Marshall Fredericks.

Artists—Are They Unconventional? Beat? Even Human?

An artist is a bushy-bearded, eager-eyed, sandal-footed, fierce and fiery lover who paints nubile nudes and sips absinth.

Girl artists are sloe-eyed, goffy-carbed, tangle-tressed, loose-living dolls who wear frayed finery and wild welding torches.

Well, at least the stereotypes are. And there's enough truth to the image to make you wonder, "What's with these artists anyway?"

THE TRADITIONAL "artistic temperament" run rampant in some of the modern masters gives rise to this picture: Paul Gauguin left his wife and children to flee to a South Sea island to paint. Van Gogh cut off his ear in a fit of anguish and Maurice Utrillo "lived" in the bistros and bars of Paris.

THE UNCONVENTIONAL lives led by these men produced some great paintings. But it is hard to untangle the man from his art. Many young artists feel that to become as great as their mentors they must emulate every aspect of his life. (Voilà! It's the gay life for me.)

Student from Troy Wins Drama Award

A Troy high school student has been awarded high honors for proficiency in theater at the 1963 Communication Arts Institute at Michigan State University.

The youth is Douglas Cruce of 2412 Virginia St., Troy, a student at Warren High School. A total of 204 students participated in the third session July 15-26. The Institute, now in its fifth year, is sponsored by the MSU College of Communication Arts.

Local Artists Asked To Enter Work in Park Arts Festival

Members of the Bloomfield Art Association and other area artists have been invited to submit works for a three-day arts festival to be held in Russell Park, in Detroit Aug. 16 through 18.

The show will be juried. Categories include painting and drawing, prints, crafts, sculpture. There is a limit of four entries per person. Awards will be made.

Further information may be had by contacting R. S. McGhee, Jr., of Detroit, who is festival chairman.

History of Ford Co. Is Vividly Recounted

FROM THE BOOKCASE
FORD, DECLINE AND REBIRTH 1902-1962, by Allan Nevins and Frank Rowell. New York, N. Y.: Doubt, 1962. \$9.95.

Reviewed by MARIAN TRAINOR
In his speech before the Detroit Press Club July 27, Allan Nevins termed this, the last book in his trilogy on the Ford Motor Company, a melodrama. "It possesses the same suspense as East Lynne," he asserted.

"We have the villain in the person of Harry Bennett about to seize control of the Ford Motor Company and we have the hero in Henry Ford arriving on the scene just in time to rescue the property."

FOR METROPOLITAN Detroiters, industrial historian and prize-winning biographer Nevins' book is something more.

It is an exciting book because it brings history so close. The events are men of our time. We have read and read their names in the black type of newspaper headlines almost every day.

IN THE beginning there were Henry Ford, Alexander Malcolmson, John Gray and James Couzens. There were Sorenson, Bricker, the J. Robinson, Edsel Ford, A. M. White, Sheldrick, Roscoe Smith, Van Rensselaer and Logan Miller. Later came John Bogaas, Davis, Brech, Crouse, Harder Dykstra, McNamara, Ben Mills Wright, Arjay Miller, Duffy, Yontema, Bamson Ford and William Clay Ford.

These and others fashions the Ford Motor Co. and in doing so contributed to the history of the world.

NOT ONLY industrial history but world history was made by innovations such as the assembly line, for with Ford's assembly line began mass production and the rise of the middle-class whose affluence became the backbone of modern economy.

In world affairs, the Willow Run, River Rouge and Highland Park Ford plants contributed immensely to World Wars I and II.

In human affairs, hundreds of philanthropies and research projects have been made possible by the Ford Foundation.

All over the world and in almost every state of the union, thousands earn their livelihood in Ford plants.

IN THE FIRST volume of the trilogy, "Ford, the Times and the Man, the Company" (1954), Nevins told of the contributions made by the creation of a cheap but durable car, the Model T, by the inauguration of the complex and revolutionary system of industrial activity called mass production and by the establishment of the five-dollar-day in 1913-1914.

The further revolutionary progress of the Ford Motor Co. was recounted in the second volume, "Ford: Expansion and Challenge, 1915-1927."

In these books Henry Ford was the hero.

IN THE THIRD book he becomes a tragic figure.

We see him in his declining years. (See FORD, 4-D)

One-Act Plays Scheduled at Raven Gallery

Two one-act plays, a monologue and excerpts from a full-length play by E. M. Broner will be presented at the new Raven Gallery, 136 Brownell, Birmingham.

The plays will be professionally performed by the Raven Readers Theater Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday starting at 9:30 p.m. There will be an admission charge.

DIRECTING the performance is Morton Zieve, WXYZ-TV director for 10 years.

The cast features Mariette Schwartz, who has appeared in Eastern summer stock productions; Paul Skolarsky, who plays Jerry in both the Stables and Wayne State University theater productions of "The Zoo Story"; Paul Albee's "The Zoo Story"; Paul Winter, WXYZ disc jockey; and Mary Lou Zieve, who has been starring in Vanguard Children's Theater shows.

LIVELY EXPRESSIONS REFLECT A LIVELY PARTY. G. WELLINGTON SMITH HOSTS THE EVENT YEARLY.

THERMOS JUGS AND CATSUP BOTTLES ARE ALWAYS HARD TO OPEN. JOHN COPPIN (LEFT) AND G. WELLINGTON SMITH HELP OUT NEW ST. DUNSTAN PRESIDENT MRS. ORSON CROCKER.