Calendar of Cultural Events

Thurs., Jan. 23

BIRMINGHAM THEATRE — "The Prize," starring Paul Newman, Elke Sommer and Edward G. Robinson. Also, "Password Is Courage," with Dirk Bogarde.

BLOOMFIELD ART ASSOCIATION — "The Artist in His Studio: An Exhibition of Photographs by Alexander Liberman." Through Jan. 23. Open daily except Mondays from 2 to 5 p.m. at Birmingham Art Center, 1516 S. Cranbrook Road.

BLOOMFIELD THEATRE — "The Ceremony," with Laurence Harvey and Sarah Miles, plus "Stolen Hours," in color, with Susan Hayward and Michael Craig.

BRIDGE — Birmingham Duplicate Bridge Club will meet at 7:45 p.m. at the Birmingham YMCA, 400 E. Lincoln. Open to the public.

CRANBROOK GALLERIES — Exhibition of "Folk Art and Textiles," designed and/or selected by Alexander Girard. Through Feb. 16 at Cranbrook Academy of Art Galleries, Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills. Hours are 2-5 p.m. daily except Mondays.

HISTORY IN THE MAKING—Dr. David C. Potter of Oakland University discusses India at 9:30 a.m. in six-week lecture series at Village Woman's Club, 190 E. Long Lake Road, Bloomfield. Admission charge.

LITTLE GALLERY — Exhibition of oils by Sam Kaner. Through Feb. 15. Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday at 915 E. Maple, Birmingham.

NORTHLAND CENTER DOME — Exhibition of art form that blends painting and sculpture at Hylozoist Arts Festival. Through Jan. 23. Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday through Saturday in Southfield.

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY — Exhibition of German Expressionist graphic works. Through Jan. 24. Open to the public weekdays from 12 noon to 4 p.m. at Oakland University, Rochester. No admission charge.

RAVEN GALLERY — Bob Simpson and Mary Ann Tomas, folk singing in the ethnic style, at The Raven, 136 Brownell, Birmingham, at 9:30 p.m. Admission charge.

Fri., Jan. 24

RAVEN GALLERY—The Topsiders, folk music, at The Raven, 136 Brownell, Birmingham, at 9:30 p.m. Admission charge.

Sat., Jan. 25

RAVEN GALLERY—The Topsiders, folk music, at The Raven, 136 Brownell, Birmingham; at 9:30 p.m. Admission charge.

Sun., Jan. 26

CONCERT — Another in the series of concerts by the faculty of the Birmingham Conservatory of Music at The Community House, Birmingham, at 3:30 p.m. Featured will be Jack Pitt, guitarist. Admission charge.

RAVEN GALLERY — Hootenanny with The Topsiders folk music, at The Raven, 136 Brownell, Birmingham, at 9:30 p.m. Admission charge.

Mon., Jan. 27

BRIDGE — Community House Duplicate Bridge Club will meet at 7:45 p.m. at 380 S. Bates, Birmingham. Open to the public.

Tues., Jan. 28

BLOOMFIELD ART ASSOCIATION — Discussion of 13th century art by painter Clifford West at 7 p.m. at Birmingham Art Center, 1516 S. Cranbrook. Admission by series or individual ticket.

BRIDGE — Birmingham Duplicate Bridge Club will meet at 12:30 p.m. in the home of Mrs. Stuart Murphy, 2424 Manchester, Birmingham. Open to the public.

CRANBROOK MUSIC GUILD —Concert by the Knudsen String Quartet at 8:30 p.m. at Cranbrook House, Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills. Admission by membership card.

HONG KONG FILM—A coffee hour and movies of Hong Kong at 7:30 p.m. at Devon Cables, Bloomfield Hills. Program is sponsored by "Ask Mr. Foster" travel bureau for persons interested in tour of Orient this spring.

RAVEN GALLERY — Bob Simpson and Mary Ann Tomas, folk singing in the ethnic style, at The Raven, 136 Brownell, Birmingham, at 9:30 p.m. Admission charge.

Wed., Jan. 29

BRIDGE—Birmingham - Bloomfield-area Bridge Club meets at 7:45 p.m. at the Birmingham YMCA, 400 E. Lincoln. Open to the public.

OVERTURE TO OPERA—Program of excerpts from four operas at 8:15 p.m. at Bloomfield Hills High School, 4200 Andover Blvd. Open to the public.

RAVEN GALLERY — Bob Simpson and Mary Ann Tomas, folk singing in the ethnic style, at The Raven, 136 Brownell, Birmingham, at 9:30 p.m. Admission charge.

Thurs., Jan. 30

BRIDGE — Birmingham Duplicate Bridge Club will meet at 7:45 p.m. at the Birmingham YMCA, 400 E. Lincoln. Open to the public.

HISTORY IN THE MAKING—Dr. Alfred G. Meyer of Michigan State University discusses Soviet Union in six-week lecture series at 9:30 a.m. at Village Woman's Club, 190 E. Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills. Admission charge.

RAVEN GALLERY — Bob Simpson and Mary Ann Tomas, folk singing in the ethnic style, at The Raven, 136 Brownell, Birmingham, at 9:30 p.m. Admission charge.

TOWN HALL — Television reporter Pauline Frederick will speak on the UN at 11 a.m. at The Birmingham Theatre. Admission by season ticket only.

Fri., Jan. 31

RAVEN GALLERY—The Topsiders, folk music, at The Raven, 136 Brownell, Birmingham, at 9:30 p.m. Admission charge.

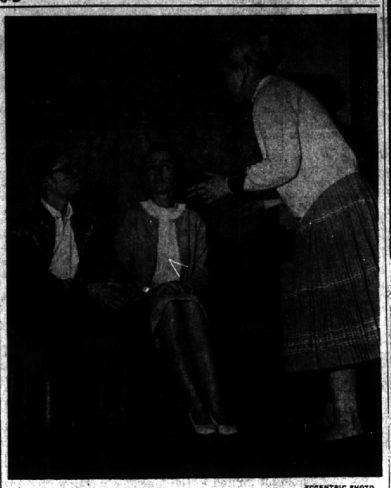
TOWN HALL — Television reporter Pauline Frederick will speak on the UN at 11 a.m. at The Birmingham Theatre. Admission by season ticket only.

Sat., Feb. 1

RAVEN GALLERY—The Top siders, folk music, at The Raven, 136 Brownell, Birmingham, at 9:30 p.m. Admission charge.

Sun., Feb. 2

RAVEN GALLERY — Hootenanny with The Topsiders, folk musicians, at The Raven, 136 Brownell, Birmingham, at 9:30 p.m. Admission charge.



ECCENTRIC PHOTO

REHEARSING FOR the play, "The Green Blackboard," presented before the Quarton PTA, are (from left) Bud Schribner, Mrs. James Page and Mrs. Earl E. Weston.

Quarton PTA Sees Drama On Children

Members of St. Dunstan's Guild and Robert J. Janes, executive director of the Family Service Association of Oakland County, presented a play and discussion program to the Quarton School PTA Jan. 13.

Mrs. Earl E. Weston directed a 30-minute presentation of "The Green Blackboard," by Nora Stirling, a play showing the effect of too much pressure on young children to perform beyond their capacities.

ST. DUNSTAN players in the cast included Mr. and Mrs. James Page and Martin Strandbergh, all of Birmingham, and Bud Scribner of Rochester. Lynda Weston acted as prompter.

Following the performance, Janes conducted a discussion of the play and the problems it dramatized.

"The Green Blackboard" is one in a series of plays written and produced by Plays for Living of the Family Service Association of America.

Schedules Reunion

Kingswood School Day Camp will hold its first reunion from 4 to 6 p.m. Jan. 31 at the school in Bloomfield Hills. Movies and slides of last years camp activities will be shown. Mrs. Peter Slader, camp director, expects 125 persons to attend.

His own death was for primitive man certainly just as unimaginable and unreal as it is for us today.

FREUD from Thoughts on War and Death

FROM THE BOOKCASE:

Letters from Africa Spell Hilarity

AFRICAN CREEKS I HAVE BEEN UP by Sue Spencer; David McKay Company, Inc.; New York; 1963; 212 pp. $3.95.

Reviewed by
LUCY LIGHTBODY

No matter how many African creeks one has been up—and few of us have paddled any other than the celluloid one made famous by Bogart and Hepburn in the "African Queen" a few years back—we are sure there could be no more antic autobiography of life in an English colony in Africa than this by an American woman, Sue Spencer.

While husband Bob, a mining engineer, digs for rutile, a black sand used for making paint pigment and titanium metal, Sue keeps the home fires cooling in thatched huts and aluminum prefab houses provided for them in Sierra Leone, the tiny province north of Liberia and south of French Guinea.

"MY BOOK IS a simple story of a harassed housewife trying to bring up, at the same time, two-fifths of her children in America and three-fifths in the African bush. The material in the book is taken from letters that I have written to my daughters during the six years that I have been in Africa," she says.

"I was born in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, in 1919. This is a terrible address for anyone to have who goes to Africa. In Africa, all Alabamians are under suspicion. My children went to an integrated boarding school in Africa so I am looked on with suspicion in Alabama, too."

The Spencers' life in this colony about the size of West Virginia with but 2,000,000 inhabitants, most of them Moslem, parallels that of many missionaries. Sierra Leone was once known and feared as "the white man's grave" but has improved through modern methods and medication.

PENICILLIN IS the great panacea, and the proportion of blacks to whites is enormous. However, this is no humdrum recounting of dusty facts. The story is told with great humor.

In the village of Kabati, for instance, where no white people had ever lived before, young children were terrified at the Spencers' pale faces. "Think how awful a white face must look the first time you see one!"

Mrs. Spencer steps off the plane at Dakar with a motley variety of articles including Bob's fishing poles—"The only place they fit was standing up in the ladies' room".

She is used to the Yankee variety of bugs and rodents at Bugtussle, the family home in north Florida but refuses to be overwhelmed by the common disasters of everyday life and entymology in Africa.

WINGED ANTS in clumps tennis-ball thick descend during the night to consume all other house pests. They nip human feet and draw blood. The natives eat these as delicacies—"pure protein"—and in time Sue, too, is brave enough to sample them with salt.

Shortly after arriving she adopts a mongoose as a pet. What a handy - dandy snake killer! Her only complaint is that it sleeps in her only hat, and clothes, heaven knows, are hard enough to come by in darkest Africa.

In time her family acquires a genet cat which eats nothing but raw meat, "preferably fingers;" a baby galago, a lemur but two inches long with almost human hands; and a whydah bird.

And whydah they call it that, one is tempted to ask, catching the mood of Mrs. Spencer's pen!

NATIVE SERVANTS—and she has some 10 to 12—are not much help for each has but one precise, invariable duty. One makes the beds; another sweeps out the tarantulas; one is the "sanitary engineer"—he empties the toilet cans.

The first week she was in Gbangbama ("... where the nearest motel is 3,000 miles away ...") she found the servant who washed for her beating a pale pink dacron dress over a granite boulder.

"She uses lots of detergent and rinses lightly so that in the rainy weather when Bob walks along with wet socks, foam rolls out over the tops of his shoes." Another helper washed her electric iron in a bucket of water, cord and all.

MRS. SPENCER IS fascinated with the mores of Africa. "African babies are housebroken as soon as kittens," she says. Ladies may not show their legs there but can be bare from the waist up.

Bosoms of so many sizes and description she has never seen and wonders on the "wizardry" of brassiere manufacturers in making civilized women look more or less alike. She is also repelled by some of the primitive customs.

Natives are occasionally murdered so that their spleens may be used by witch doctors to make medicine.

Nearly every chapter ends with the sentence, "I have so much to learn." But learn she does, and at the end advises, "To live in Africa with equanimity one must follow a simple rule: don't worry about things! Plan to be wet in the wet season and dry in the dry season and don't fight the bugs. Peaceful coexistence, that's the philosophy."

The University of Michigan was first to offer a summer institute on thermo-nuclear fusion sponsored by the Atomic Energy Commission, 1960.

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