

**Resident Creates Christmas Fantasy At Detroit Museum**

The Detroit Historical Museum donned her festive holiday dress Sunday when Detroit Historical Society Guild members and their families gathered for the traditional hanging of the greens.

Every crook and cranny of the museum had a subcommittee making its area a picture of Christmas wonder.

Mrs. Robert W. Brandon, 2874 Pine Hill Drive, Birmingham, is responsible for bringing a bit of Detroit Christmas fantasy to the stairway descending to the Old Detroit Streets.

**FROM THE BOOKCASE**

**Carrying Out of His Destiny Is Told in 'Reminiscences'**

REMINISCENCES by Douglas MacArthur. Methuen-Hill Book Co., New York, 1964. 426 pp., \$6.95. (Presented to first place in the contest list of Publishers' Weekly.)

Reviewed by **MARIAN TRAINER**

When it was revealed that 83-year-old Gen. Douglas MacArthur was finally writing his autobiography, the news was greeted as an event of the first magnitude.

Life magazine paid the general an undisclosed sum for the rights to serialize the memoir. The reading public, along with MacArthur's admirers and enemies, impatiently waited for the first press run.

At 250,000 words of the period prose were written over a four of six months in the general's own hand on 14-inch lined yellow pads.

ACTUALLY, "Reminiscences" adds very little to the innumerable

volumes already written about the old campaigner.

It does, however, provide fascinating glimpses and insights into the man himself.

His strong personality, flamboyant style, great moral and physical courage, high sense of patriotism and duty, and profound belief in his own destiny ring out past after pages. These are the qualities which caused men to follow him, fight for him and die violently for him.

Also evident is the enormous ego, the sensitivity to criticism, the conviction of his own rightness and the tendency to place himself in the center of affairs. These are the traits which caused other men to attack and revile his very name.

"REMINISCENCES," then, far from settling the controversies which surround the general throughout his life, will add fresh fuel to the fire. Loyalties will be some more stubborn, hatreds more intense.

One of the outstanding military strategists of all time, MacArthur stamped his character and achievement on a full half-century of history. He had a certain indefinable quality about him, a personal magnetism which is given to few people, and then to only the truly great such as Winston Churchill or John F. Kennedy.

He was born in 1880, the son of a career army officer who had won the medal of honor fighting in the Civil War under the command of General Sherman.

HE ENTERED West Point at 19 and graduated with the highest scholastic average ever attained by a cadet. From then on, outstanding performance of duty and conspicuous leadership marked his career which included service as chief of staff and commander of the Rainbow Division in World War I, superintendent of West Point, chief of staff of the U.S. Army from 1930 to 1935, commander of the forces which liberated the Philippines in World War II, supreme commander of the allied Powers in Japan and commander of the United Nations forces in Korea.

In "Reminiscences," he tells with zest the high points of his youthful heroics.

On his first assignment in the Philippines, he reports that he was waylaid by a pair of desperados.

"Like all frontiersmen, I was expert with a pistol. I dropped them both dead in their tracks, but not before one had blazed away at me with his antiquated rifle. The slug tore through the top of my campaign hat."

WHEN THE MARINES were occupying Vera Cruz in 1913, he went out alone on an unauthorized patrol about a railroad hardside. Shooting his way out of a series of ambushes, he arrived back in Vera Cruz with four bullet holes in his shirt, but unscathed.

As leader of the famous Rainbow Division in World War I he personally led his men into battle and was wounded twice and gassed once.

MacArthur loved the men who served under him and his best writing is about them. Of the men who fought against overwhelming odds in Bataan in the first days of World War II, he writes:

"They died hard—those savage men—not gently like a stricken dove folding its wings in peaceful passing, but like a wounded wolf at bay, with lips curled back in sneering menace, and always a nerveless hand reaching for that long sharp machete knife which long ago they had substituted for the bayonet. And around their necks, as we buried them, would be a thread of dirty string with its dangling crucifix. They were filthy, and they were lousy and they stank. And I loved them."

ON APRIL 11, 1951, President Truman relieved MacArthur of his Korean command because he felt the general was "unable to give his wholehearted support to the policies of the administration and the United Nations."

That is how MacArthur's long military career came to its dramatic but unhappy end.

Concerning his dismissal, MacArthur wrote, "No office boy, no charwoman, no servant of any sort would have been dismissed with such callous disregard for the ordinary decency."

On April 6, 1964, General MacArthur died. Thus passed on the last of the truly romantic military figures.

His name, his achievements, his feuds, his failures will all be documented in a thousand history books. The world is indeed fortunate that before he died he was able to tell his side of the story.

One charming custom in Italy is the children's Christmas letter which they write to their parents, promising to improve and thanking them for all their kindnesses. The letter is slipped under Papa's plate, to be read by him after dinner with much appreciation.



**Christmas in India**

A Sikh from India told about the holidays in his country at a "Christmas Around the World" party Friday at the West Bloomfield Township Library. Joginder Singh Rekhi is currently on a four-year tour of the United States. He has traveled 74,000 miles in this country, and his story and photos of his travels appeared in the October 1964 issue of National Geographic. Rekhi is researching and writing a book on Abraham Lincoln which will be published in late 1965.

**Designer of OU Pavilion Doing New York Shell**

Christopher Jaffe, designer of the Meadow Brook Music Festival in the new sary equipment, by trailers from Howard C. Baldwin Pavilion, Oakland University, Rochester, has received an assignment to design an outdoor symphonic shell for the New York Philharmonic and New York Philharmonic Orchestra. Jaffe maintains his own consulting service in musical acoustics and theater design and also serves as head of the acoustical consultation and theater design staff of the Stagecraft Corp., both located in Norwalk, Conn.

A trailerized stage and concert shell, complete with full sound reinforcement system, will be designed by Jaffe and will be used by the New York Philharmonic for a series of five concerts in four New York City parks next summer.

THE STAGE-SHELL will be portable, making it possible to move the whole unit, including dressing rooms, generators and other necessary equipment, by trailers from one sight to another overnight.

Mayor Robert F. Wagner has announced the series of concerts by the New York Philharmonic, and the allocation of funds by the City of New York for the trailer-stage and shell.

Jaffe has worked with the Philharmonic before, when one of his shells was constructed by the Stagecraft Corp. and flown out to Monterey, Calif., for a concert at the Fairgrounds last year.

THE PHILHARMONIC project marks the second major symphonic assignment for Jaffe this year. Collaborating with Architects O'Dell, Hewlett & Luchenbach, 650 N. Hunter, Birmingham, he designed the acoustical shell for a new pavilion at the Meadow Brook

Musical Festival, summer home of the Detroit Symphony.

The shell was premiered last August with accolades from N. Y. Theater art McCormick Place in Chicago, the Mexican National Symphony and the Pittsburgh Civic Arena.

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