



Holiday Plumage

The NBC peacock never looked this pretty before. Barbara Harmed wore the plumage in "Christmas Humbug," a review presented by the Birmingham Village Players preceding its Christmas party Saturday. Also photographed offstage at dress rehearsal were Ann Ryan as Nell and Mark Farrell as a farmer.

FROM THE BOOKCASE

'Magic' Touch in Suspense Is Evident

THIS ROUGH MAGIC by Mary Stewart. William Morrow & Co., Inc., New York, 1964. 356 pp., \$4.95.

Reviewed by EUGENIA BISTRITZKY

Mary Stewart, author of "The Moon-Spinners," has spun it again—another brilliant web of suspense. This story is about a young English actress involved in mystery, murder and Communist intrigue on the island of Corfu. Lucy Waring, on vacation at her sister's villa on the dream-like Greek isle, is just settling down to enjoy its pine-scented hills and beautifully blue bay when suspense and plot (starting with shots into the bay at a tame dolphin) soon sweep away any ideas of rest and quiet pleasure.

By the time she has made her second trespassing visit to the forbidden Castello del Fiori on the hill and met its singular occupants—Sir Julian Gale and his surly son Max—she is tensely trapped in a strange, unsettling string of events on the island.

A BODY washed ashore, a boy lost at sea, Max Gale's suspicious behavior soon lure her into trespassing on grounds more dangerous than the old Castello.

From its first brisk bright pages, the story whips and sparkles its way to the end.

Threaded through the plot is the story of Sir Julian, the actor-recluse, his rigorously guarded seclusion and his fascination with the idea that Corfu was the actual scene of the events of Shakespeare's "Tempest."

There are signs on the ground reading "Trespassers Will Be Shot" and many cryptic allusions to his "condition" by his neighbors.

MISS STEWART'S skill is masterly. Her writing is sensitive, clear and vivid. An example is how she has made the dolphin come sportively alive in the book.

It flashes out of the sea first to frighten, then charm the heroine, and finally to save her life, and in the process becomes probably the most sympathetic character in the story to many readers.

Further, she brings the scene on sight of the Greek island keenly to life and makes the tense events of the story sharply felt. Her threading out of suspense in a mastery of the art of that delightful torture sought by readers of mysteries.

HER SUSTAINED tension is relieved by a civilized humor and delicately controlled sentiment. Lucy's accidental encounter

Early Deadlines Next 2 Issues

Offices of The Birmingham Eccentric will be closed on Christmas Day, Dec. 25; Saturday, Dec. 26, and on New Year's Day, Jan. 1. They will be open, however, on Saturday, Jan. 2.

Because of the holidays early deadlines will be observed.

Therefore, all advertisers and news contributors are asked to submit their copy as early as possible for the Dec. 31 and Jan. 7 issues.

The Birmingham Eccentric extends the greetings of the season to everyone.

with her idol, Sir Julian, is vivid and moving.

The description of the Greek islanders' proud and lavish generosity to a stranger is an emotional high point in the book, as are the love scenes, strangely enough, Lucy's romance glows only faintly

Homemaker from Germany Builds Gingerbread House

By ETHEL SIMMONS

There it was—a real gingerbread house—everything edible except the curl of smoke made of white cotton—but the four-year-old boy declared:

"That's not a gingerbread house." His mother, Mrs. Heinz Dieter Sievertsen, who had made the decoration for Christmas, had to explain:

"He knows it as a Pfefferkuchen House."

The Sievertsens are a German family who live at 1511 Stanley, Birmingham. Both little Axel and his two-year-old sister, Ingrid, were talking in German one minute and in English the next.

Mrs. (Ingrid) Sievertsen spoke to her two little blue-eyed blondes—they looked like Hansel and Gretel

in the general brilliance of other events.

And the long-awaited revelation of Sir Julian's shameful affliction is less stunning than we had been allowed to expect, for there is little attempt at serious characterization here. The people don't change

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or grow (except as their disguises slip away).

THEY ARE servants of the precisely woven, complex plot, and their various natures (charming, wicked or good, etc.) are gradually

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B'ham Boy, Lathrup Girl Win Top Coloring Prizes

By ETHEL SIMMONS
Arts Editor

"What! Impossible!" cried Todd MacIntosh, 9, over the telephone when he learned that he was a first-prize winner in the third annual Christmas Coloring Contest sponsored by The Eccentric.

"Oh, man! I'm thrilled to death!" he continued, in a display that could only delight the contest judge on the other end of the line.

Todd, who is a fourth grader at City and Country School of Bloomfield Hills, received a Schwinn bicycle for his best coloring in the fourth to sixth grade contest division.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas P. MacIntosh, 17311 Beechwood, Birmingham.

WINNER OF a duplicate Schwinn bicycle prize in the first through third grade division is Bridget Lynn Herley, 7, a second grader at St. Bede's in Southfield. "I think it's wonderful," she said sweetly when she heard the news.

Her mother, Mrs. George P. Herley, 17350 Cambridge Blvd., Lathrup Village, had to do most of the talking.

"This is the third year that she entered. She got an honorable mention the first year but nothing last

year and was just a little discouraged about entering.

"She colors so beautifully and so delicately. She always has, even in kindergarten."

Bridget's entry was in pastel colors, with unusual detailing in the sky and snow background.

THE SECOND prize-winner in grades three to six is Clifton Page, 10, a fifth grader at Walnut Lake School. Like Todd he was very excited.

And—like Bridget—it turns out he was recipient of an honorable mention two years ago, according to his mother, Mrs. Stephen Page, 1944 Cragin Drive, Bloomfield Hills.

Second prize was a shockproof wrist watch.

Three judges have chosen the winners each year. Prize categories have varied according to the rules, and no honorable mentions were part of the competition this year.

"THANK YOU," said eight-year-old Kathleen Stratton, briefly and modestly, after being told she was the second prize winner in the grades one to three contest division. She is a third grader at Harlan School and the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Donald Stratton, 4928 Orchard Hill, Bloomfield Hills.

The contest, which began Nov. 19, closed Dec. 12. The judges made their decision Dec. 15, and the win-



WINNERS OF SCHWINN BIKES, FIRST PRIZE
Bridget Herley, 7; Todd MacIntosh, 9

ners were notified by phone late that afternoon.

In all four instances, the mothers answered the telephone, were told the news and asked the judge to reveal the surprise to the child.

ABOUT 400 entries were received in the Christmas Coloring Contest. Many of the contestants gave the lead reindeer a shiny-red Rudolph's nose—including two of the four winners, one of whom even colored a glowing effect.

Both boys winners revealed a similarity in interests when they were interviewed.

Todd, asked about his hobbies, said, "I collect stamps, coins and rocks."

Clifton said: "I collect stones, stamps and coins."

Both boys have had some recognition of their artistic abilities by being enrolled at times in art classes.

TODD SAID he took a five-week course at the Bloomfield Art Association about a year ago. Now

he has regular art classes in school.

Clifton said, "Dad's an architect. I have been taking art classes for two years on Saturday mornings at Bloomfield Hills Junior High School."

Bridget's mother told of her daughter's interests: "Bridget is a Brownie, she ice skates well, has had dancing lessons and is an honor student."

Kathleen's pastimes were noted by her mother: "She takes piano lessons and likes to read."

THE WINNING entries will be displayed in the lobby of The Eccentric, 1225 Bowers. A box of eight Fray crayons, available to all entrants, can be picked up at the switchboard desk.

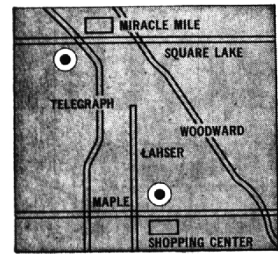
Judges for this year's contest were Ethel Simmons, Birmingham Eccentric arts editor; Clark E. Maddock, vice president and executive art director of MacManus John & Adams; and Wally Downey, Averill Press art director, who has designed the contest coloring each year.



THEY GET WRIST WATCHES, SECOND PRIZE
Kathleen Stratton, 8; Clifton Page, 10

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GINGERBREAD HOUSE IS DECORATIVE AND WOULD BE TASTY, TOO
Mrs. Heinz Dieter Sievertsen and Axel, 4, view her creation