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Ground-Breaking for Music Pavilion

Mrs. Howard C. Baldwin turns a spadeful of earth at ground-breaking ceremonies for the \$200,000 pavilion that will be completed by the start of the Meadow Brook Music Festival July 23. Mrs. Baldwin is the widow of the civic leader and Kresge Foundation trustee whose name the pavilion will carry. The site is the Oakland University campus in Rochester.

NATURE NOW

By Lydia King Frehe
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Food Stored to Sustain Life

In last week's column we wrote about our spore-bearing plants which reached their climax in the ancient coal-bearing swamps. A seed, unlike a spore, contains a complete embryonic plant surrounded by a varying amount of stored food which will sustain the new shoot until it can grow a root and leaf system which will enable it to sustain its own life. The efficacy of the seed is further enhanced by a protective coat and in many species by a clever dispersal mechanism which will carry it far from the parent plant. It is evident that such a seed has a tremendous advantage over the primitive spore, as a sustainer and carrier of life.



Mrs. Frehe

THE LIFE OF A seed begins when the pollen or male agent of a flowering plant fertilizes an ovum or the female component of the same species. After fertilization, the ovary develops to become a fruit, a vegetable, a nut, a pod or whatever seed vessel the species pattern dictates. During this period of growth, the embryo is surrounded by food

and water-conveying tissues. Each species uses this provided nourishment in varying amounts until the seed is "ripe" when it reaches a stage of dormancy. It may then be dispersed by natural agents or it may lie fallow for an indefinite period. If man enters the scene he may harvest, store or sow the seed as he chooses, thereby greatly aiding nature in the selection of superior strains or in the hybridization of new strains.

THE FATTY MEAT of a nut, the sweet starchy kernel of a grain or the protein of a pea or bean is left-over embryonic food which remains stored in the seed to be used by the young plant if and when the seed is planted. Man may and does interrupt the life cycle, by using these seed-nutrients.

If a seed is planted, all it needs to become an independent plant is to find the necessary growing conditions. If these occur in nature or are provided by man through cultivation, the plant completes its life cycle as predetermined by each species.

SUCH IS AN abbreviated account of the formation and growth of the seed, the origin of which is hidden in obscurity. The earliest recognizable fossils of oval-like structures reach back into Devonian coal formations that were deposited as much as 400 million years ago.

Scientists believe the ancient seed ferns, inhabitants of the Carboniferous swamps of some 275 millions of years ago, were typical of the plants which produced the first seed-like structures as we know them today.

Closely related to the seed ferns were the ancient cycads, of which a few remaining species like the Sago palm can be found in the tropics.

OTHER PRIMITIVE plants of this group included the Ginkgo, of which a single native species still grows in restricted mountain areas in Asia but which is widely cultivated.

Telescope Viewing Offered to Public at Science Institute

Cranbrook Institute of Science has announced nine dates when the public may view the heavens through the six-inch refractor telescope. They are 8 p.m. March 19, 20 and April 16, 17; 8:30 p.m. May 15, 20 and 21; and 9 p.m. June 15 and 16. Since the eyepiece will accommodate but one person at a time only a small number of persons may be booked for an evening.

USE OF the telescope is free to members. There is a charge for non-members. Bookings must be made in advance by calling the institute in Bloomfield Hills. The observatory is available for exclusive use by groups of not more than 15 persons.

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Population To Be Topic Of Speaker

"United Nations and the World Population" is the subject of a talk by Prof. Richard L. Meier of the University of Michigan at 8 p.m. March 19 at The Community House, Bates and Townsend, Birmingham.

The meeting is cosponsored by the American Association for the United Nations, Oakland County Chapter, and the Planned Parenthood League of Oakland County. Meier is associate professor of resources planning, Department of Conservation, School of Natural Resources, at U-M.

HE OBTAINED a Ph.D. degree in organic chemistry at UCLA in 1944. He is the author of several books, the most recent entitled "Modern Science and the Human Fertility Problem" (1958).

In that book he was concerned with the human and social implications of new drugs and the technology of birth control. Professor Meier has worked in Great Britain, Puerto Rico, Greece and Venezuela on problems of economic development and urban growth.

Pierce Open House Show Pupils' Work

Students of Pierce School have issued an invitation to their families and friends for an open house on March 18. Students have the opportunity to show their classrooms, current work, and projects in progress from 8:30 to 8 p.m.

The library and other departments will also be open so that visitors may see the facilities for the children outside of the classroom. The open house takes the place of the P.T.A. meeting for March.

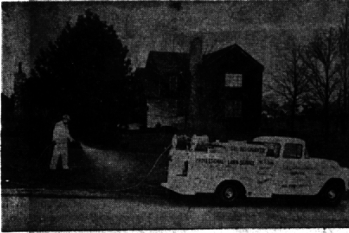
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