

# Layer of Living Things Tells Secrets of the Forest Floor

Those of you who keep a rendezvous with spring will want to snatch a few hours now, to walk among last year's dead leaves in some favorite woodlot.

## Collection Chairmen Named for Auction

Area chairmen have been announced by Mrs. William Dornan, parent-coordinator for the benefit auction May 23 at the Detroit Country Day School's Spring Fair. Included are Mrs. William H. Bagley, Jr., Birmingham; Mrs. Elwood P. Engel, Bloomfield Hills; and Mrs. Allen Slozko, Franklin. The chairmen will direct collection of antiques to be auctioned off by Duane Upton, with all proceeds going for completion of the school's athletic fields.

water's bonds which such a tramp affords, there is much to learn about what takes place above and in and under the apparent litter of the forest floor. For here is a special kind of habitat, one rich in organic food lying moist under its cover of dead leaves.

The complexity of this type of life-association is fittingly presented in a new diorama at the American Museum of Natural History which your scribe observed on a recent trip to New York City.



Mrs. Freshé

constructed in profile to a depth of two feet, that which at first glance might appear to be a trash heap is seen to be a most densely-populated layer of living things.

Thus presented, an acorn appears as large as a basketball, with a weevil hole in its shell; a millipede magnified to a 24-inch length has the girth of your wrist; a daddy longlegs tottles on 12-inch jointed legs. Snails, beetles and insect larvae are thus made conspicuous.

But even so magnified, many of the life-forms here supported are still invisible, including thousands of protozoa, bacteria, algae and fungi.

**ALSO UNSEEN** by the walker amidst the forest debris are minute protozoa which live in the water surrounding particles of soil or in the water-filled spaces between the litter. Here dwell certain species of mites which spend their entire life underground. They look like grains of sand with eight tiny legs. Here, too, live the ancient millipede, feasting on the moist underlayer of leaf-litter. Some species of the age-old springtails spend their entire existence underground, in sluggish movement among the soil grains where they live on pollen and fungus spores. Fungi are the most widespread

microorganisms of the forest floor. They bear the burden of decomposing vast amounts of dead wood and leaves, thus making much of the humus present.

**CERTAIN SPECIES** of this huge plant-family penetrate living roots, causing a structural modification called a mycorrhiza. These live in a mutually beneficial relationship with beech trees and certain species of the orchid and heath families.

Many insect larvae are present in the soil profile. Those of the 17 years underground, do much to aerate and fertilize the soil.

Animals like earthworms, moles

and the ravenous little shrew dig passageways that condition the soil and serve as tunnels and reservoirs for water. Their burrowing and excrement also add organic material to the soil.

**AMONG THE** dominant mammals on the forest floor are the little white-footed mice which scorn all weather, returning quantities of nuts and seeds to the living cycle. They also serve as food for flesh-eating birds and larger predators. Squirrels, woodchucks and chipmunks are predator prey, and since he is the food for many carnivores, the defenseless cottontail rabbit is one of the most important links in life's food chain.

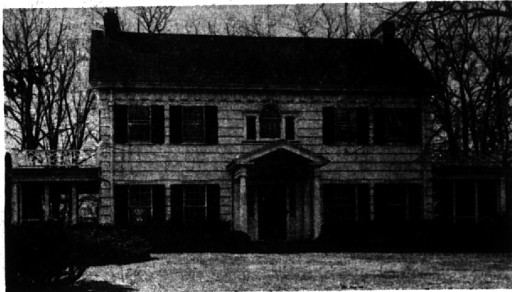
## Residents Exhibit At Garden Forum

And so as you walk among the dead leaves of the forest floor, you can be a witness to the wonder of life which represents a continuum from birth through life, past death and decay and back to life renewed.

To clean the smoked areas on brick or stone fireplaces, cover with a paste made of concentrated ammonia and powdered pumice. Let remain on for about two hours, then scrub off with hot water and soap, rinse with clear water, and let dry.

Five Birmingham women are among garden club members exhibiting flower arrangements in decorative arts settings at the third annual Clara B. Ford Garden Forum.

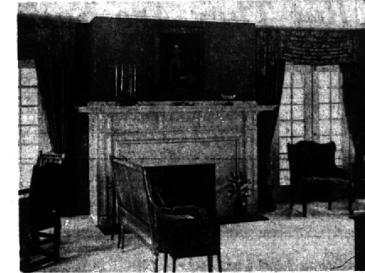
The three-day forum is being held through Friday at the Henry Ford Museum, Greenfield Village. The localities are Mrs. Seth B. Slavson, Mrs. A. H. Mayer, Mrs. William Dehm, Mrs. George W. Chesley and Mrs. Hobart D. Andrews.



## AUTHENTIC

Some things are timeless and enduring, transcending change and temporary fashion because of pure beauty and grace.

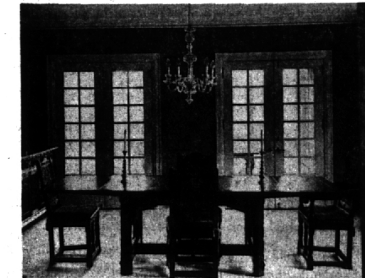
SUCH is this classic center-hall Colonial on a large (1.45 acres) Bloomfield site with beautiful landscaping and mature trees with special emphasis on the magnificent pines.



Handsome living room (25x16) with marble fireplace, brocade silk wallpaper and elegant millwork. Lush new carpeting is included.

Entire house has been recently redecorated, including modern kitchen equipment.

Two huge screened Porches grace either end of the house, opening from Dining room and Living room respectively to add enormous space for summer entertaining and quiet outdoor family enjoyment.



Can't you see joyous holiday dinners and festive celebrations in the Dining room?

The house is an exact copy of the Sir Christopher Wren mansion in New England and a whisper of crinolines still lingers.

NEVERTHELESS this is a sturdy home and well equipped for modern family living and lavish entertaining.

A newly rebuilt SEPARATE BUILDING can be either a Guest House or a Family recreation area.



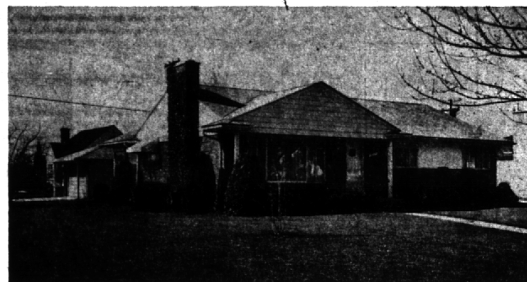
The most beautiful central hall we have seen with gold and white brocade wallpaper, mahogany rail and lovely white spindles.

At the landing a glimpse of a charming TV center or ideal for tea and knitting while enjoying the view of woods below.

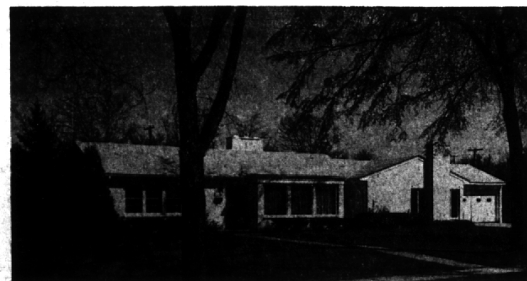
There are 3 Bedrooms on the 2nd floor including the master suite with its own dressing room and bath. The 3rd floor has 2 Bedrooms, and full Bath. Altogether there are 3 full Baths and 2 Lav.



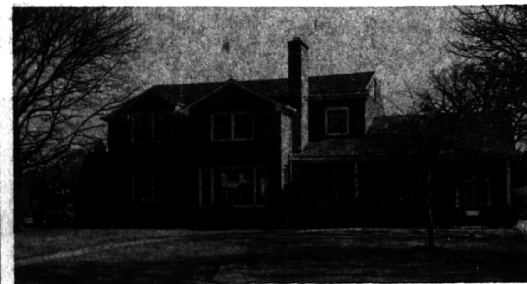
- Large finished area on lower level has many uses: office, fourth bedroom, game room—
- Excellently planned kitchen and 1st floor laundry.
- For added ease of living—central air conditioning, garage door openers. \$79,500.



- Beautifully maintained, inside and out and larger than it looks.
- Three sizeable bedrooms—tile bath and lav.
- Sunny kitchen with breakfast space.
- Glassed and screened porch (could be family room).
- Attractive covered patio.
- Fully tiled basement with large cedar closet.
- Large lot 80x125 with excellent lawn and shrubs. \$25,900.



- On tree-lined street in Birmingham and with a 125x160 ft. site.
- Not for a large family, for the third bedroom is small, but ideal for small family.
- Recently decorated in excellent taste, the living room draws comments of "lovely".
- The large paneled family room with its inviting fireplace is complemented by a superb screened porch.
- A most inviting home in a top location and priced to sell. \$29,000.



- In the Village, a flexible plan that has first floor bedroom and bath.
- Three excellent bedrooms and bath up (two are exceptionally large)
- Sizeable glassed and screened porch could become family room.
- Step-saving kitchen with breakfast area (stove and refrigerator included)
- Good closets (one on second floor is huge walk-in)
- Beautifully landscaped site with automatic sprinkling system. \$40,750.

TO SEE THIS HOME IS A MUST!! AND TO SEE IT IS TO FALL IN LOVE!!

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