

FROM THE BOOKCASE

# Biography Tells Dilettante's Life

BURTON: A Biography of Sir Richard Francis Burton by Byron Farwell. Holt, Rinehart & Winston, Inc. New York: 1964. 431 pp. \$5.95.

Reviewed by MARIAN TRINOR

He had all talents but one. He lacked the talent of make use of his many talents.

He was a Victorian dilettante with a passion for facts that led him into fantastic adventures in many inaccessible parts of the world, but while his contemporaries collected information about botany, zoology and mineralogy, Burton dived himself with what was considered in his age, trivia.

It is too bad that he did not take time out from his discursive writings, however, to write his autobiography. When he was asked why he did not write of his ventures into dangerous and forbidden places, he answered that he could not because he would have to speak of too many people in an unfavorable light.

IN 1853 disguised as a Moslem pilgrim, he visited the Arabian holy cities. In 1854, again disguised, he entered Ethiopia Harar. In 1858, he explored Lake Tanganyika in a search for the sources of the Nile. He served England in Brazil, Damascus and Trieste.

He was an eccentric with a taste for the exotic. He was also an anthropologist, an expert swordsman, a collector of erotica, a student of religion and a linguist able to converse in 19 different dialects.

He was a tireless worker. After his death, his wife burned some 40 books of his manuscripts, including his translation of "The Scented Garden," his "Magnus opus."

Happily, she spared his translation of "The Arabian Nights," for his version contains thousands of words and phrases of great beauty. He tried to write "as the Arab would have written in English." The result is a work of great charm.

A MAN OF adventure, nevertheless when he came to marry, he chose a plain, prosaic wife whose name was Elizabeth.

(See BIOGRAPHY, 7-D)

Byron Farwell, author of "Burton: A Biography of Sir Richard Francis Burton," is a former resident of Birmingham.

His professional life and curiosity have taken him to 84 countries. Although born and raised in the Midwest, he now lives in Geneva, Switzerland, where he speaks French, Italian and Arabic, and makes yearly trips through Europe, Asia and Africa.

Farwell's career of second-hand book stores for years, Farwell was in a Detroit book store one day in September of 1949 when he noticed a book labeled "The Darkest Africa" by Henry M. Stanley.

HIS FASCINATION led him to further research until what had begun as a brief magazine article became "The Man Who Presumed" which was well-received by the critics when it was published by Holt in 1957.

Farwell's enthusiasm for exploration has also resulted in the creation of a book for children, "Let's Take a Trip."

He is a fellow of the Royal Geographic Society and is currently at work on a book on the Sudan.

**Puppet Show, Cartoons Set For Summer**

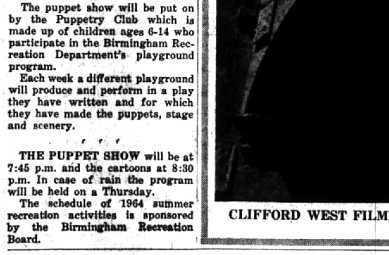
A puppet show and cartoon movies for the family are scheduled for Wednesday evening, June 24 and July 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 at the west tennis courts in Eton Park.

The puppet show will be put on by the Puppetry Club which is made up of children ages 6-14 who participate in the Birmingham Recreation Department's playground program.

Each week a different playground will produce and perform in a play they have written and for which they have made the puppets, stage and scenery.

THE PUPPET SHOW will be at 7:45 p.m. and the cartoons at 8:30 p.m. In case of rain the program will be held on a Thursday.

The schedule of 1964 summer recreation activities is sponsored by the Birmingham Recreation Board.



CLIFFORD WEST FILMING INSTITUTE SERIES

## B'ham Antique Buffs Organize Quest

By ANN CONNOR  
Special Writer

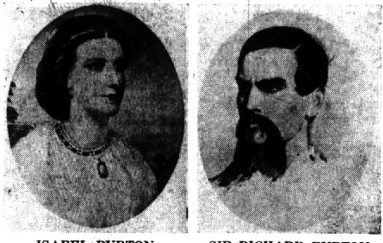
Where we to look in on the homes of many of today's Birmingham residents, we would find innumerable rooms not too different from those of 100 years ago when the establishment of Elijah Willis as Birmingham's pioneer—occupied the southeast corner at what is now Maple and Woodward Avenues.

For Birmingham has its share of antique buffs—collectors of all sorts of items, particularly furniture and householders. Their interests range over a broad spectrum of periods including the Colonial, Revolutionary, Civil War and Victorian eras.

Some of them formalize their activity by joining The Questors, national organization for antique collectors. There are two chapters in Birmingham—Beverly Hills and Elijah Willis.

OUR ANCESTORS would beam with understandable pride at the appreciation of "things old" treasured by today's antiquers whose homes are furnished in what are called "primitives"—pieces now serving a function other than their originally intended use. For instance, Grandmother's dry-sink—where she spent long hours of washing stacks of dishes—now has an honored place in the dining area as a serving buffet, or better yet is used in the family room as father's bar. The dough box, formerly used for the rising of grandma's bread, now becomes a side table. The sugar bin for "Ya Old Country Store" hides the hi-fi components; the carpenter chest holds magazines, while the foot bin stores extra blankets in the guest room.

The water bench, which held cans of milk or water on the back porch, now houses powder and/or pottery collections, or even books. The antique pie safe, with its perforated tin front, was a storage point for treats. Charles. Now it holds family clothing or children's games and toys. The springer board (cookie board) has become another popular collector's item. Its unusual shapes and designs make interesting wall groupings wherever careful selection avoids the pitfalls of reproduction and "new" old imports.



ISABEL BURTON SIR RICHARD BURTON

## Visitor Discovers Old and the New In Today's Tahiti

By LUCY LIGHTBODY  
Special Writer

Do you have an extension telephone in your bathroom? They have 'em in Tahiti!

So reports Betty Roberts, who just returned from a "pilot" tour of the South Pacific and the Orient. Which shows that accommodation can be ultra-modern even in the tiniest of bungalow where she stayed.

In Tahiti, Betty visited the resort area known as Ball Ha! where Hollywood filmed scenes for "South Pacific." Arriving at this Shangri-La by boat, guests are crowned with wild jasmine and tuberose. Native food is prepared by steaming it over hot stones covered with palm fronds.

"The Tahitian women are most adept at carving for their long black hair," says Betty. "But when the noon heat becomes too warm, they twist it firmly with long-toothed Spanish-type combs—tucking in a flower. The Tahitian men stick hibiscus blossom or yellow trumpet flower behind their ears."

FROM THIS ISLAND paradise to Singapore, crossroads of the East, consists of two islands. A most awesome sight on the North Island was the Glowworm Grotto at Watomoto.

The source of light within the caves comes from a tiny worm which attaches itself to the ceiling and gives a constant glow in the dark. Multiply the light of one glowworm by thousands and what do you have? Magnificence!

The countryside of New Zealand was one of pastoral beauty with sheep stations, bowers of flowers and jagged red-capped peaks.

From here, Betty flew over the Tasman Sea to Australia, then on to Singapore, crossroads of the Orient and favorite setting of writers of mystery stories. In Bangkok—"the star-studded city of Thailand"—she found that "in everywhere in southeast Asia, there is the great struggle to modernize to provide the best in hotels and entertainment for the countless tourists who come and go."

"HONG KONG," she says, "continues its prodigious task of removing mountains to provide level land for more and more apartment dwellings for the hordes of refugees. There is an explosion of new hotels and new shops but little of the begging by children that tourists of a few years ago remember. (See VISITOR, 7-D)

MEMBERS OF Detroit art circles issued sincere praise and respect for these outstanding films, on view for the first time at the Detroit Institute of Arts May 13.

"It certainly looked better than when I saw that piece of sculpture," stated one art teacher. "It was so dim and

treasures, Clifford West of Bloomfield Hills, well-known teacher and painter, has begun a series of documentary art films that provide unparalleled opportunities to explore the works of the Renaissance greats.

## Marine Band Gives a Fine Performance

See photograph of the Marine Band on 7-D.  
Reviewed by DAVID GAGE

Birmingham's centennial celebration began May 13 at Seaholm High School gymnasium with a delightful concert by the colonel's Marine Band of Quantico, Va.

On hand to welcome the band were Mayor Charles W. Renfrew, Miss Armed Forces Diane Cennate, her court of princesses and a near-capacity audience.

Excellence of the band's preparation was proven not only in the traditional band marches, "Semper Fidelis," "Beguine" for band and Robinson's "Grand Entry." It shone well among highlights from the Broadway productions, "Mister Wonderful," "The Unsinkable Molly Brown" and "LIT Abner."

JAZZ EARNED a place in the concert program with Errol Garner's "Misty," which included a fine saxophone solo, and a clever return by the band to "beguine" rhythm.

Drill exhibitions were presented during band intermission, by the Tars and Rifles Drill Team of Grosse Ile Naval Air Station and the Saltfords Air Force Base's Ambassadors in Blue Drill Team.

Perhaps their bayonets made it desperately necessary, but the Tars and Rifles appeared closest to perfection of their drills.

# Window on the Centennial

By ETHEL SIMMONS  
Arts Editor

You'll have to plan several trips up and down the streets of the Birmingham shopping area to see all the window displays the stores are featuring for the centennial.

I made my first tour Friday and was able to visit the windows of all the shops on W. Maple—from Wilson's Drug to Jacobson's and the same distance the other side of the street.

I also managed to take in a few views on Merrill where I proceeded right after strolling through the park and stopping for a turquoise cotton candy.

I TRIED TO complete the rest of the circuit by car, hoping to slow down long enough to look and take a few notes when I spotted a window display, but quickly discovered this was impossible.

Too heavy traffic—and too sore feet to go back to my walking tour—brought an end to window-watching that day.

I had started out in the middle of Maple at Mchues where I'd just had lunch. The display there is part of the black iron "widow's walk" from the original home of the Bloomfield Art Association.

This is exhibited in a setting of grass, white grillwork and lavender and purple lilacs. Also shown is a photograph of the BAA's old home that had originally belonged to Ray D. Baker.

AT RAY BAUM I saw the first of many windows featuring women's fashions of yesteryear. A mannequin gowned in a soft beige dress is set off by a red-flocked background.

"A Kay Baum Salute . . . Birmingham's 100th Anniversary" reads the window card.

At B. Siegel, one of Birmingham's most famous early citizens, Martha Baldwin, is feted. The display, chiefly in black, brown and beige, features a paisley shawl Miss Baldwin had inherited from her grandmother, Hannah Campbell Baldwin; her husband made of a material from one of her dresses; and a dress skirt.

These are shown along with a spinning wheel, butter churn, old

Featured in Play  
Cheryl Hindle, daughter of Mrs. A. C. Hindle, 2883 Colonial Way, Bloomfield Hills, was featured in the Adrinia College Players production of "The Glass Menagerie" May 14-16. As Laura, she portrayed a sensitive girl who plays with her collection of glass animals all day.



AMONG CELEBRATION WINDOWS IS CHUDIK'S SALUTE TO RUTH SHAIN

## 'Blue Racer' Snake Common To Part of Lower Michigan

By LYDIA KING FRESHE  
Special Writer

On a recent drive between Rochester and Mt. Vernon, we just missed running over a snake commonly known as the "blue racer."

This is a species of black snake which often reaches a length of six feet. This one which crossed our path would have measured about five feet. Its upper surface was a dull bluish-green but it may vary toward an olive shade.

Black shows in the temporal region and the end of the muzzle tends toward a brownish color. The ventral surface is generally a greenish or bluish white, sometimes tinged with yellow.

The young are often confused with those of the milk snake since they are blotched with black or brown.

The blue racer is common in the southern half of our lower peninsula. It frequents dry open situations near woodlots or thickets. A good climber, it is often found hidden in bushes.

SEVERAL YEARS ago we were standing under a densely leaved tree at the edge of a pond at Haven Hill when a blue racer jumped into the water from a limb overhead. We have also seen this snake several times in the Rochester area sunning itself on a stone pile or an old foundation.

The blue racer is graceful and agile and often eludes its captor. If cornered, its small teeth could do no more than puncture the skin.

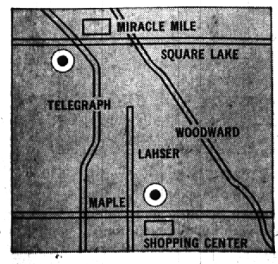
Among all living creatures, none are so maligned as are the snakes. They are remnants of the once great reptilian horde which dominated the world more than a million years ago. In addition to the



Mrs. Freshe

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