

By LYDIA KING FRESHE  
Special Writer

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Lacquers

GRAND PIANOS

# Potpourri

(Continued from 1-D)

our local scribes and enjoy the moods of our poetry groups. Revel at The Raven.

WE'VE HAD A BALL writing about all these things, but it wouldn't have been possible without you. For without the loyal lovers of the arts who work and slave to sponsor these projects, and the enthusiastic audiences who make them worth the trouble, we wouldn't have such a delightful way of life in our towns.

Many thanks to all the supporters of the good life who give Potpourri so much news to report. Long may they continue.

# Woods-and-Bog Destination Filled with Variety of Ferns

Recently we enjoyed a foray attended by the Detroit Botany Club and the Michigan Natural Areas Council.

Our destination: a 150-acre tract of woods and bog called Sharon Woods which is located 16 miles west of Ann Arbor. Here we found a rich and varied ground cover which affords sanctuary to many species of native plants and animals.

Conspicuous at this season were many varieties of ferns, a plant family whose lush abundance dominated our Coel Age swamps of some 265 millions of years ago. Only a dwarfed remnant of their kind has survived the intervening ages to grace today's flora.

which measured almost 2 cm. in diameter, branched in crude dichotomous (fork-veined) fashion. Small oval fruit dots were born on the tips of some of its fronds. It also has been reported from the late upper Devonian, Portage shales of New York and the New Albany shale of Kentucky.

Throughout the millennium that separate this first known genus from the climax of its kind in the Coal Age swamps, are hundreds of named fossil species as well as many that must remain forever unknown. For any fossil plant or animal is the result of particular circumstances and therefore, is almost an accidental occurrence.

THE FORMER is a close relative of the giant ferns of the Coal Age swamps, and the latter bears unexpected thorns on its tough stems.

IN CARRYING out their life-cycle, those ferns which reproduce sexually most often ripen their spores in small variously shaped fruit dots (sori) on the underside of the pinnae.

When these are mature, their covering membrane (indusium) ruptures and the microscopic spores are wind-borne to many diverse places.

IN A FEW species like the cinnamon and catfish ferns, the spores appear on special fronds which grow from the center of the clump. Others like the bullet bladder and the walking fern reproduce asexually as well as sexually, the former by growing small vegetative "bulbs" on the underside of the pinnae which produce a new plant when they touch the ground.

The walking fern forms a new plant whenever the tip of its sharp fronds reach the earth and take root.

out the world, except in the Arctic and severe desert regions. Of an estimated 6,000 described species, about 250 grow on our continent north of Mexico. The common bracken, with its tall three-parted fronds so abundant in Northern Michigan, is of world-wide distribution.

Remembering their ancient heritage, today's ferns are yet most prevalent in the hot and moist areas of the tropics. In Puerto Rico and Jamaica your scribe has enjoyed seeing such varied species as 30-foot tree ferns and an unusual species named "Odontosoria aculeata."

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Birmingham - Bloomfield area residents made a clean sweep into office at a recent meeting of the board of the Detroit Association of Contributors to the Archives of American Art.

Elected were Milka Icoromoff, 425 Hanna, Birmingham, president; Stanford C. Stoddard, 2620 Edna-leigh Drive, Bloomfield Township, vice president; Mrs. Henry C. Johnson, 3000 Quarten Road, Bloomfield Hills, recording secretary; Mrs. Robert Vanderkloot, 1200 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills, corresponding secretary; and Jack M. Slean, 1336 Juniper Lane, Bloomfield Hills, treasurer.

Wives are wild about husbands who use The Birmingham Eccentric Classified Ads to get Extra Cash... Dial Midwest 4-1100 today for cash results.

When the above spores alight in a favorable growing space, a small flat thalium plant (prothallium) is produced. On its underside will then develop two sets of cells, the male and the female, which, if sufficient moisture is present, will unite to produce the familiar fern plant or sporophyte.

ALTHOUGH FERNS bear no flowers, they are of great importance as pioneers in soil building because they can survive in less demanding habitats than can flowering plants. Our common polypoid is a good example of a species which can live in rock crevices or on cliffsides.

Thoreau, the prophet of Walden, who unlike some of today's scientists was not averse to acknowledging the beauty of our natural world, wrote thus:

"If I were required to know the position of the fruit dots or the character of the indusium, nothing could be easier than to ascertain it, but if it is required that you be affected by ferns, that they signify anything to you, that they be another sacred scripture to you, this end is not so easily accomplished."

## Eagle School Holds Door Wide Open to Summer Bookworms

The Eagle School PTA is sponsoring a summer library program at the school. A volunteer committee will staff

the library, and all children seven and older and under seven with parents, whether in public or parochial schools, will be eligible to take two books out a week.

The library will be open June 22-Aug. 3 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Mondays only. There is no charge for registration.

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IN A SHORT afternoon your scribe counted 20 species of ferns in the above area.

Very abundant was the narrow-leaved spleenwort, a species which is present throughout our State, but is most frequent in the southern half of our Lower Peninsula. Its tall and tender green fronds, newly uncurled, made great patches of beauty on the forest floor.

Also abundant and even more spectacular, were the displays of Goldie's fern, a tall species with a broad frond, whose range tallies approximately with that of the above spleenwort.

More infrequent was the well-known maidenhair with its lacy, graceful fronds and shiny black stems. This is usually conceded to be our most beautiful and delicate fern.

PALAEONTOLOGISTS have named the oldest known fossil fern "Cladoxylon scoparium". It dates back some 300 million years to mid-Devonian times. Its stems,



Mrs. Frehe

## Hero

(Continued from 1-D)

(a). With a husband who conveniently works at night she's an "Any-time Annie" like Jerry.

THEIR ILLICIT relationship doesn't pretend to be more than a physical one. So Jerry's preoccupation with guilt at a later date somehow doesn't come through.

Monica, one gathers, is supposed to be his love of his life, but there is barely more evidence of genuine feeling than there was with Theresa.

The author tells us in Book One that Jerry loves Monica and repeats this in Book Two. This is not enough to convince the reader, any more than the two passionate encounters of Monica and Jerry constitute a meaningful relationship.

The fact that Monica has a son by him seems to affect Jerry only because the boy more nearly resembles him in spirit than does his legitimate son, Ronnie.

JERRY'S WIFE, Shirley, is an ineffectual, unkind voice in a tormented marriage. Her effort to communicate with her husband, even when it concerns their son, fails. She cannot find his philosophy of life nor his set of values compatible with hers.

Certainly this is a personal tragedy. But it is not the central theme of the book. The title of the novel points to it, but the author sees at variance with this as a major plot line.

Ironically, Jerry's concepts of life work at cross purposes. He feels master of his own fate by sheer drive and determination but at the same time believes in the law of probability and chance.

HE IS successful materially but not in his personal life. He follows the plan he has made for himself until the suicide of his son shocks him into a state of doubt.

Which of these is the theme? Not even the author seems sure. As an optometrist himself he wants to find a place for the man. He speaks through his lead character when Jerry is challenged by a physician to defend optometry.

"The majority of the most recent developments in the fields of refraction and nonmedical optics has been the work of optometrists. Pathology and surgery are by qualification and training the oculist's and ophthalmologist's specialties. "When the patient needs eye glasses, eye exercises, or contact lenses, or any other phase of refraction this work is performed by the optometrist, who is specifically trained for it."

"MEDICINE HAS always jealously guarded against whatever that might be regarded as an intrusion on its total domination of the health care field. Remember how many years medicine fought dentistry?"

"Yet, nowadays who would go to a physician for his dental work? "Strangely enough, after introducing the fictional cases of the little girl with crossed eyes who could be helped with association, and the boy with distorted vision whose sight could be saved by contact lenses, they are dropped without further development."

Here is a chance to illustrate his point, but the author is singularly apathetic.

LEON FIRESTONE handles dialogue well and has a talent for telling a story. It is not his "strength" that is his "weakness." It is an abundance of adjectives and adverbs which slow the movement of his writing.

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