

Weep Not for Suburbia?

By RUTH VOGT
Special Writer

It was unfortunate that Catharine Marshall's article "What's Happening to our Suburban Home-makers" appeared in the Suburbia Today magazine the very week that William Stringfellow's book, "My People Is the Enemy," was being read.

Even though Miss Marshall wrote a well-balanced piece on the problems facing women who inhabit our hinterlands, no one could be shed over her fate because the heart was too much involved in what William Stringfellow experienced in his year's stay in Harlem.

This Episcopalian layman and lawyer—who visited Cranbrook a month ago and whose works have been followed faithfully ever since he started to write—went down into Harlem to see for himself the exact conditions he listed in his latest book.

HIS REFLECTIONS, cupped in stark and vivid style of journalistic writing, showed the suburban tiny problems of boredom and "trying to find out who she is" right out of the mind.

Do any of us share one room with "eight other people"? Do any of us have to share bathroom facilities with a dozen other tenants? Are any of our schools inhibited by big fat rats that scurry across

the stage just as the mayor is making a speech that he's going to investigate conditions as reported in complaints?

BOREDOM! THERE'S quite a bit of it in our stunts when the streets are the only playground for restless growing children.

We women in suburbia might miss our men-folk when they have to leave us daily to find their living in the city, but what about the housewives depicted by Stringfellow whose mates "go out day after day to try to find work" but because of lack of training or from automation, return with nothing? What about our sky, our flowers, our good fresh air we experience each summer day? Take them away, take away our roomy houses, our pay checks, our beauty parlors and our playgrounds and we would have some excuse to ask for pity.

OF COURSE, each one of us carry around our own little heartaches. But isn't it because we've been sold the weird bill of goods, via advertisements, etc. that the minute one signs a name to a plot of ground out in suburbia, all headaches, sorrows, heartaches and human misery just naturally evaporates?

That's not true. Behind the gulping of pills (and how many actually do this or nip from the bottle?) maybe the illusion that life can be utterly better.

lful suburbia has caught too many.

THE DESIRE to conform ran as undercurrent through Miss Marshall's words. For every 10 who saddle themselves with this infantile yoke around their necks, there're two dozen suburban housewives who don't follow the Jones. For every set of parents who bite their fingernails over whether their children will get accepted in the best schools and best crowd, there're far more who refuse to push John or Jane.

And there's a great number of suburbanites who are worried over what all our William Stringfellow are writing these days than can be counted. I know. I talk with 'em. It's encouraging. We don't want to live isolated lives. Most of us don't.

MSU Student Sent To AF Officers' Training Center

Charles R. Chadwick of Birmingham, rode a jet aircraft as part of his summer Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) training at Edwards-Gebaur AFB, Mo.

Cadet Chadwick, a member of the AFROTC unit at Michigan State University, is observing and taking an active part in writing and support phases of operations at this Air Defense Command base during the month-long encampment period.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Chadwick of 948 Wakefield, Birmingham. The cadet will be eligible for a commission as an Air Force second lieutenant upon completion of AFROTC training and graduation from college.

6-CC THE BIRMINGHAM (MICH.) ECCENTRIC July 16, 1964

Area Survey Set For Next Week

Three area residents are among census bureau interviewers for the U.S. Department of Commerce who will visit local households during the week of July 19.

They are Carol Barry and Pearl McCallil of Southfield, and Mary Heck of Franklin.

In April of this year, 8.9 families out of every hundred were planning to buy a new car within a year, and 71 families had intentions of buying a major household appliance within six months. In both cases, this was a higher percentage than a year ago April.

However, the number of families intending to buy new homes during the next year, 1.8 in one hundred, had dropped slightly since April 1963.

SUCH DATA on consumer buying intentions are gathered quarterly by the U. S. Bureau of the Census as a part of its monthly current population survey.

Questions which will provide comparable information for the month of July are included in this month's survey, according to Director Robert A. Yorkley, of the census bureau regional office at Detroit. These inquiries are in addition to the regular monthly ones on employment and unemployment.

Families included in the current population survey here and in 256 other areas of the country are scientifically chosen to provide a representative sample of the nation's population.

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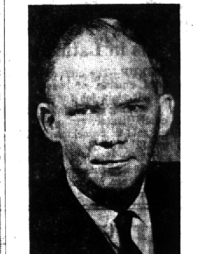
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Do any of us share one room with "eight other people"? Do any of us have to share bathroom facilities with a dozen other tenants? Are any of our schools inhibited by big fat rats that scurry across



Lansing Judge Seeks Appeals Seat in 2nd

Municipal Judge Charles N. Murphy of Lansing is a candidate for the new State Court of Appeals in the second district which includes this county.

Born in Lansing, he was graduated from St. Mary High School there. He attended the University of Notre Dame and received his A.B. and law degrees from the University of Michigan.

During World War II, he served in Europe with the 76th and Second Infantry Divisions.

JUDGE MURPHY practiced law in Lansing for over seven years until his election as Municipal Judge in 1955. He was reelected in 1959. In 1955 he was elected a member of the Lansing Charter Commission.

He is a member and past-president of the Michigan Association of Municipal Judges, a member of the Ingham County Bar Association, and of the Richard Council No. 788, Knights of Columbus.

The giraffe is the tallest mammal now in existence. Specimens up to eighteen feet in height have been recorded.

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