

POTPOURRI

'Bird Seed' Grows Into Giant Blooms

By ETHEL SIMMONS
Arts Editor

Sunflowers from 12 to 14 feet high are growing up past the roof of the porch at the Charles Guilford residence, 566 Pilgrim, Birmingham.

Said Mrs. Guilford: "We didn't even plant them. The seeds fell out of the bird feeder we had on the porch. We just pulled out the tiny ones."



"They're most spectacular from the ground. It makes you feel like Alice in Wonderland to stand out and look at them."

SON TOM, 17, who will be a senior at Seaholm High School in the fall, calls them his flowers and had tied up the ones that started to bend. His biology teacher, Lucille (Mrs. George) Cooch, has spurred his botanical interest, according to Mrs. Guilford.

Last week in the Arts of Living section, a photograph appeared of an eight-foot sunflower at the home of R. L. Denison, 931 Ruffner, Birmingham. Mrs. Guilford called The Eccentric the morning the paper came out.

Eccentric Photos by Bill Thom
MAMMOTH SUNFLOWERS
With Tom Guilford, 17

A MUSEUM for dolls has been established at The Doll Hospital in Berkeley, owned by Mrs. Roger Parish (known as "Dr. Kay" to young browsers and buyers), who resides at 30255 Woodhaven, Birmingham.

The museum is centered in an addition to the store and has a separate entrance. Mrs. Parish is holding open house at the museum through Saturday; a feature segment was shot by a WXYZ-TV film crew Friday and scheduled to be shown last Monday on Ed McKenzie's show.

Mrs. Parish started The Doll Hospital more than 12 years ago. She makes her own porcelain, arms, legs and heads for antique dolls, but "there was no room to show them" until she created the museum.

"DR. KAY" also makes sawdust bodies and, when she has time, weaves wigs out of human hair. "I dress every kind of doll, too," she said. "I make more than 1,000 dresses a year myself."

The doll doctor buys antique dolls, individually or whole collections. She does "all kinds of labor" on dolls, many of which are sent from different parts of the U.S.

Doll houses, miniatures and furniture also are part of The Doll Hospital's stock.

Examples of Mrs. Parish's workmanship and her collections are shown in glassed-in cases in the museum. Special displays include antique doll heads, (See BLOOMS, 3-D)

DOLLS FOR NEW MUSEUM
Arranged by 'Dr. Kay'

State Residents Boost Interlochen Festival

A grass roots network of citizens' groups is forming in many Michigan cities in advance of the first Interlochen Arts Festival. Dr. Joseph E. Maddy, originator of the festival and founder-president of the National Music Camp, said recently that more than 400 Michigan residents have agreed to marshal support for the 10-day festival within their communities.

"This is one of the most encouraging developments I can imagine," Dr. Maddy said, "and it shows that this festival, which will draw such artists as Van Cliburn, Eugene Ormandy and the Philadelphia Orchestra under Ormandy, two appearances by Cliburn, performances by other musicians, dance programs, conferences and art exhibits.

MRS. MARK F. Osterlin of Tra-



AN ACROBATIC ANDROcles TAKES A FALL
Darryl Mazur, 2463 Derby Road, B'ham

Ehrling Will Conduct, Perform on Keyboard

Sixteen Ehrling will serve as both piano soloist and conductor for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra's concert at 8:30 p.m. today, Friday and Saturday in the Howard C. Baldwin Memorial Pavilion of Oakland University, Rochester.

Ehrling will conduct from the keyboard Hindemith's "The Four Temperaments" at all three performances.

His program tonight and Friday will include Berlioz's Overture to "Benvenuto Cellini" and Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 in A major.

Saturday's program will include Rossini's Overture to "Sembramide" and Rimsky-Korsakov's "Scherzazade."

THE NEW Meadow Brook Music Festival has attracted capacity crowds for the first two weeks of performances.

Harold C. Schonberg, New York Times music critic, wrote in a special story in his paper dated July 25, "The setting is handsome. The pavilion is in a natural amphitheatre, surrounded by trees.

"At the opening concert (July 23) everything seemed to be on the festival's side. The weather was perfect, a full moon rose shortly after the concert started, and the acoustics of the new building were unusually good."

Extra seats have been added to the pavilion, and tickets will be available at the university for all remaining performances.

FROM THE BOOKCASE

'Julian' Recounts Emperor's Life, Era

JULIAN by Gore Vidal. Little Brown & Co., Boston, 328 pp., \$4.95

Reviewed by MARIAN TRAINOR

In this, his first novel in 10 years, Gore Vidal recounts the life of fourth century Roman Emperor Julian the Apostate.

It is a remarkable study of a brilliant youth who was philosopher, essayist and military genius. It is also a brilliant panorama of a century in jeopardy, Christianity versus Hellenism, palace intrigue and wars in France and Persia.

With fire and grace, Vidal depicts the man and his age as he brings them into contemporary focus.

THE STORY IS told from three viewpoints: Julian's, in the form of a journal which gives us an intimate view of him; and comments by Pricus and Libanus, his former teachers. Thus, we have the motif of the Greek drama, the epic hero and a chorus providing background.

For Julian is boldly cast in the proportions of an epic character.

After his father is murdered by the Christian Constantine, Julian secretly resolves to one day return the gods to Rome although he is then but a young student whose own life is in jeopardy.

For a while he is diverted by the study of philosophy even to a point where he seriously considers devoting his life to scholarly pursuits. But circumstances decree otherwise, and he is designated Caesar of Gaul.

Julian is popular with the people. So popular that he begins to have dreams of vast conquests.

IN THE DELINEATION of a quiet, scholarly Julian who becomes a vain, ambitious despot determined to become emperor of Rome, Vidal achieves a truly laudable piece of characterization.

Like all classic heroes, Julian has

his vulnerable spot. In his determination to restore the old religion, he trusts in charlatans like Maximus who leads him to his downfall with his false prophecies and assurances that Julian is Alexander resurrected.

Yet even in his weakness, Julian is noble. He never persecutes the Christians. He made up his mind that he would be a true philosopher. He would win through argument

and example. When he errs it is in complete sincerity. He truly believes that his gods are the true ones.

BECAUSE of his stature Julian's downfall is particularly tragic. Like many great men, he does not fall in glorious combat. He falls at the hand of an inferior, one of his own men who runs him through with a spear as they charge into battle against the enemy.

Just as he lives, so does Julian die with epic grandeur. Vidal lets out all stops in the description of the death scene. The result is writing in the classical tradition.

This novel can be valued from many viewpoints, its historical background which is accurately presented, its colorful descriptions of court life (something here for the readers of erotica), nuances of (See RECOUNT, 4-D)

Area Painters Exhibiting in Regional Show

Eight Birmingham - Bloomfield area painters are showing works in the 12th annual Michigan Regional Art Exhibition which opened July 29 at the Backham galleries in Ann Arbor.

They include Carolyn Hall, 20730 Kennoway Circle, Birmingham; Art for Art's Sake, columnist for The Birmingham Eccentric, whose painting is "The Shattered Cat"; Sally Parsons, 1836 Willow Lane, Birmingham; "Flora in Bloom."

SHARI BRUSH, 1371 Cedar Bend Drive, Bloomfield Hills, "23rd Psalm"; Eve Salley, 159 Nantucket Drive, Bloomfield Hills, "Julius"; Arthur C. Hays, 27221 Apple Tree, Franklin, "Washington Boulevard"; Maxine Toy Johnson, 1170 Woodlake, Troy, "Golden Apples"; Irene Foukes of Orchard Lake, untitled; and Margaret Serratorri of Orchard Lake, "Starling Birds."

'Androcles' at Will-O-Way Is Good Theatre and Fun

Reviewed by LUCY LIGHTBODY

"Androcles and the Lion" opened at Will-O-Way Apprentice Theatre Friday night with a large festive atmosphere.

But the wisp of an audience grewle inwardly. Why don't more people, who live in this so-called culture area, take more time to attend the efforts of student actors who present good theatre and good fun in the good old summertime? And all near the shade of the magnificent Long Lake Road trees, with cider thrown in at intermission for summer theatre atmosphere?

"Androcles" is a story of the Roman persecutions of the early Christians.

It is a classic farce by George Bernard Shaw, who based it on the true story of a slave who removed the thorn from the paw of an injured lion and was later saved by the same animal from becoming soup stein in the Coliseum. Cat food, that is.

With TONGUE in cheek, Shaw presented Androcles and the other martyrs as the martyrs of all time, each with different enthusiasms which they accept as the same religion, simply because it involves them in the common opposition to the official religion, and, consequently, assigns them to a common doom.

With his acrid pen, Shaw was poking fun not only at the lay

pacifists of his time but at their leaders, the men of the cloth who pulpitated against war and yet hate everyone who did not share their hatred.

Darryl Mazur of Birmingham was an adequate Androcles, the Greek tailor and animal lover. His wife, Mezgera, was Barbara Crockett of Troy, a shrew with a view that was hardly Christian. With a solid right arm and an apple tongue, she delivered some of the best slapstick comedy of the show.

And all near the shade of the magnificent Long Lake Road trees, with cider thrown in at intermission for summer theatre atmosphere?

JIM CUNNINGHAM, also of Birmingham, played the lion, a difficult part for an amateur, let alone a professional. He was touching in his agony, and delightful as he waltzed with Androcles to the strains of a Viennese waltz when the thorn had been removed from his paw.

He and the latter made a clever final exit, doing a sort of grapevine step across the stage, with his long tail a-wagging.

A refreshing young actress, Connie Bennett of Birmingham, delivered her lines with the conviction of a zealot. Without a fluff, she played Lavinia, the brilliant martyr who refused to compromise her love for Christianity or her attraction to the handsome captain, Michael Norris.

The latter began his lines woefully but improved as the action progressed.

Taking the part of the centurion

was Charles Kehoe, also of this area, one of the most natural-acting characters of the play. He was properly nonchalant and derivative.

But it was Caesar, he of the Charles Laughton-type face and effeminate manner, who stole the show. Plucking grapes with gay abandon, or delivering ineane decisions to the crowd, he was a comedian of the first order. Mike Kelly had the role and played it like a veteran.

The ferocious Ferrovius, a martyr who loved Mars more than Christ, and thus ended up with commission in the Praetorian guard, was done with maturity by Don McKenzie, who belted his lines with the ferocity of an angered Zeus.

Rule Johnson, as the pallid ne-

rotic, Spintho, was so properly shaky in his part one could see Parkinson's disease written all over him.

A GOOD BIT part was done by Jean D'Haem as the beggar.

A large cast was required to stage this production. "That was one of the reasons we chose this play," said Celia Merrill Turner, director. "It gave many of our students a chance to act. Primarily, of course, we wanted a farce, something to contrast with the last play we presented, which was serious. And we wanted a good classic."

Duane Peck was the technical director, who designed the fine sets and deserves special mention.

Opera Star Arrives, Gives with Girl-Talk

By ETHEL SIMMONS

"You don't care if I don't pay any attention to you?" said blonde and beautiful opera star Mary Costa in a Tennessee drawl, addressing a newspaper photographer getting ready to snap her picture.

The photographer assured her he didn't mind if she didn't mind his going ahead and shooting pictures while she talked.

This was just fine with Miss Costa, who was surrounded by three gal reporters at last Thursday's Detroit Symphony rehearsal for her performance with the orchestra at Meadow Brook Music Festival that night.

Miss Costa swept the newspapermen into her confidence, casually, as she chatted about the details of her arrival in Birmingham.



MARY COSTA
HER ACCOMMODATIONS at a Birmingham motel, she explained, were more lavish than any she'd had elsewhere. And her hairdo, at a local beauty salon, was just about the best she'd had lately, too. An appearance once in another town took her to a (See STAR, 4-D)

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OAKLAND COUNTY'S ONLY BANK OPEN 'TIL 4:30... INCLUDING SATURDAY

B'ham Man Leads Park Band Series

Birmingham bandsman Jack Gerard is leading one of two Detroit Federation of Musicians' concert band contingents in free performances in Detroit parks this week.

The programs, presented in cooperation with the Detroit Dept. of Parks and Recreation, feature a combination of Broadway show tunes, popular airs, classical selections and marches.

Gerard, who lives at 1389 Fairway Drive, is a former member of several dance bands as well as the Detroit Symphony.

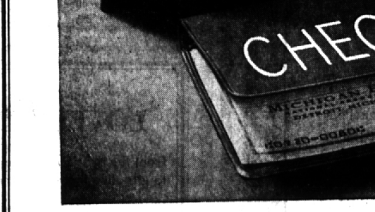
His concerts will be held at 8 p.m. today at Stuepel Park No. 1 and Friday at Palmer Park. Gerard led the band Monday through Wednesday at O'Shea Recreation Center, Lafayette Park and Peterson Park.

SELECTIONS ARE "Independence" by Farrar, "Outdoor Overture" by Copeland, "Die Nacht" by Strauss, "American Rhapsody" by Goodman, "Spiritual" by Gillis.

"La Gatta Ladra" by Rossini, "Montmartre" by Wood, Selections from Kern (vocals: William DeMaris, baritone); "Mamin Zeen" by Wood, "Tambo" by Chavez and "March Electrique" by Creators.

Performances are financed through the Music Performance Trust Fund of the Recording Industries under recommendation of the Detroit Federation of Musicians, Howard P. Greene, president.

The other contingent for free concerts is led by Ulysses S. (Jeep) Smith, associate director of the Center District Orchestra, instrumental instructor in the public schools and, a former U.S. Army bandsman.



JACK GERARD