

NATURE NOW

By LYDIA KING FRENSE

Now that the first frosts have chased some of the ground cover plants, the more primitive lichens, fungi and mosses stand out. These are remnants of the first land plants, which left their home in the ancient seas to colonize a world of bare rock and furnish the soil which gradually developed to support all the diverse flora of modern times.

Among these plants the fungi are of interest to botanists because of their structure and their place in the ecology of all living things. They are of interest to the layman because of the color and variety they add to the landscape and to the euphoric because of the flavor they lend to his bill-of-fare. Of this latter emphasis I shall write in next week's column.

Most people think of fungus plants in popular terms as toadstools (poisonous) or mushrooms

(edible). But the orange rust on the underside of a blackberry leaf, the tiny birds nest fungus scarcely visible on a dead twig, the puffball which children delight to squeeze to see it "smoke", the mould on a piece of stale bread and the stinkhorn whose odor like carrion—these are all members in good standing of this little known and understood group of plants.

STINKHORNS BEAR their spores atop a stem which springs from an egg-like cup, and some varieties are decorated with a lace-like veil. The whole is topped with an ill-smelling jelly-like mass to attract certain varieties of carrion flies which aid in disseminating the spores.

As a reward for a half day's collecting, I have spread out before me some 50 varieties of these grotesques of the plant world. They are cast into molds of every shape and hue.

There are little red and yellow parasites; black and tan spores and clubs; pink and creamy corals; shells of lavender, orange and white; ruffles of shagreened and edged with brown and black; puffballs large and small; brackets that make shelves on tree trunks and fallen logs; little jelly-like cups of orange and an exciting array of fleshy toadstools and mushrooms in rainbow colors.

Fungi have simple bodies, lacking true tissues or organs, and reproduce by spores. A giant puffball has been computed to contain as many as seven trillion of these tiny bodies which take the place of seeds in all lower forms of plant life. The air is laden with this microscopic powder which can find a foothold in cracks and crevices, in living bark or dead wood, on plants or animals.

A SPORE PRINT of any mushroom can be made by cutting off the stem and placing the cap (gill or spore side down) on a piece of paper and covering the whole with a glass or bowl. After several hours the spores will have fallen and can then be examined under a microscope for size and shape.

It is from these spores, colored white, brown, ochre, salmon, pink, purple or black, that botanists have made a key for identification of the various genera. There are some 80,000 named species and many more await classification in all parts of the world.

Fungi have been divided into three great groups, Class I, (Phycomycetes) includes many microscopic species, some of which cause disease to both plants and animals. Many rots and mildews and the mould you see on bread belong here.

Among the diseases which affect

man, are ringworm, impetigo and athlete's foot. Some moulds attack flies, others caterpillars, and yet another kills many thousands of salmon each year. Rots and mildews are constantly at work returning to the soil dead plants and animals which would otherwise clutter up the world for the living. From the standpoint of their observance in the woods, this group is almost invisible.

About half of all known varieties belong to Class II, (Ascomycetes). Many of these, too, are insectivorous, like the yeast plant, which raises our bread and rolls by giving off carbon dioxide as it feeds and multiplies. This principle is also employed in the fermenting of alcoholic beverages.

HERE BELONG the destructive chestnut and elm blights which have caused the death of so many priceless shade trees. Truffles, a food delicacy, the cup-like Pezizae, and the delicious morels or sponge mushrooms, also belong to this group.

Class III, (Basidiomycetes) includes our rusts and smuts, the pouch fungi, the puffballs and earthstars, the gelatinous fungi, the stinkhorns, the Clavarias or Corals, the Hydnum which have teeth instead of gills and the large group of pore fungi, the Polypori and Boleti. Rots and smuts are the most destructive of this group, causing millions of dollars worth of damage each year.

In the United States and Canada alone the loss from the wheat rust in a single year reached the gigantic total of 280 million bushels of grain, just enough to feed two hosts to complete their life cycle.

The blister rust on white pine, which alternates with currants and gooseberries, is an example. Apple rust uses cedar as its host. Stem rust attacks cereals and uses barberry as an alternating host.

However, the best known members of this group are included in the large family of gill mushrooms, which are so conspicuous at this season, and to which all our commercial mushrooms belong. If one were to take a walk in the woods on any autumn afternoon the greatest number of fungi seen by the casual observer would belong to this group.

Historical Novel Has European Background

Announcement has been made of the publication of "In the Crescent's Dark Shadow," by John H. Crabb of 1022 Raynale.

Crabb, currently serving with the armed forces, is stationed at Fort Riley, Kan. He is the son of James M. Crabb of the Raynale address.

His historical novel deals with the defying of the invading Turkish army by Albania, during the 15th century, and the military career of Young Aetius after he was taken as a child and drafted into the grim Janissary corps.

John Crabb, the author, enlisted the aid of his brother, James M. Crabb, Jr., a talented artist, who drew the cover picture for the book.

To buy or sell a used automobile, read and use Eccentric Classified Ads.

START YOUR SET OF EKO TOOLS NOW!

GUARANTEED FOR 15 Years!

8" DIA. **75¢**

Skillet with Cover 8 inch \$5.75 10 inch \$7.00

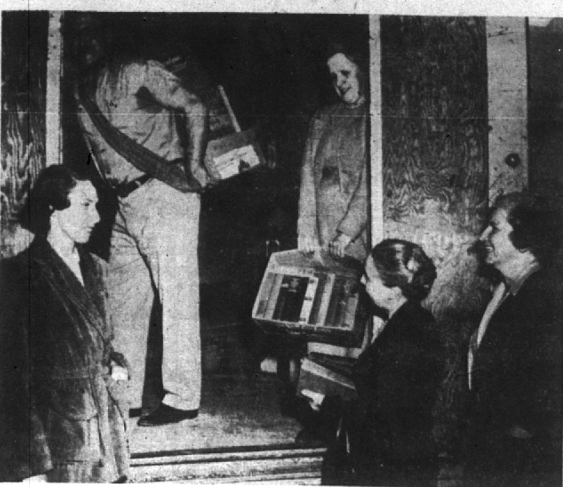
"West Bend" Electric Corn Popper \$6.95

the PERFECT GIFT for MOM and BABY

Sunbeam AUTOMATIC BABY BOTTLE WARMER

Now, a scientific, automatic baby bottle warmer that's an ideal gift for the new "pride and joy." Heats milk to the correct feeding temperature every time and shuts off automatically. The Sunbeam can't miss because it's thermostatically controlled. No guesswork or bother for Mom or Dad. Come in and see it. **\$12.75**

For Quality Merchandise and courteous service Shop Our Store



MEMBERS OF THE AAUW help movers load the huge van with books Monday for the annual AAUW book sale while Baldwin Librarian Jeanne Lloyd (far right) smiles approvingly. The Birmingham Moving and Cottage company moved part of the expected 10,000 books that will go on sale at the Birmingham Edison building, October 20, starting at 8 a.m. Others in the picture, from left to right, are Mrs. Richard Hatch, Elmer Wagner, Mrs. Gilbert Gove, and Mrs. Ralph Beebe. (Eccentric Staff Photo)

New Books at the Baldwin Library

October 4, 1952

FICTION
 Benson—The Man from the Tunnel
 Carey—Mating Heres
 Huxley—Antle Hay
 Irish—The Book That You
 Newbery—Far Country
 Rimer—Lopok
 Steele—The Town
 Stubbins—How to Make Your Own
 Rinko—The Book for You

PSYCHOLOGY—PHILOSOPHY
 Deeds—The Book of Entropy
 Finkler—How to Make Your Own
 Rinko—The Book for You

RELIGION
 Surgen—Catholic Speaks His Mind
 on America's Religious Conflict

SOCIAL SCIENCES
 Ellwood—Methods in Sociology
 Kelly—Successful Human Relations
 Castro—Geography of Hunger
 Palmer—British Socialism in France
 Patisson—Sociological Economics
 Kellogg—The Book of Entropy
 Goddard—The Book of Entropy
 Mullen—You've Got It Coming to You: A Guide for Families, Servicemen, Veterans

SCIENCE—USEFUL ARTS
 Hays—The Book of Entropy
 Fine Arts—Sports—Amusement
 Kamm—A Second Two Hundred Part
 Glass Pitchers
 Braden—The Big Top
 Zerk—Puppets and Marionettes
 Kenney—Wrestling

LITERATURE
 Lindy—Placarium and Originality
 Ishman—The Book of Entropy
 Ishman—The Book of Entropy
 Lerner—Paint Your Wagon
 Adams—Chief pre-Shakespearean
 Drama
 Howe—Horare and the Satriata
 Description—Travel
 Shiver—Miserable Journey
 Le Fond—How, When and Where to
 Your Memo
 Osborne—Williamsburg in Colonial
 Time

BIOGRAPHY
 Trimble—Vogel Barra
 Casey—Give the Man Room

Vice President Of Ross Roy, Inc.

Announcement of the election of Robert A. Dearth of 422 Sheridan, Beverly Hills, to the office of vice president of Ross Roy, Inc., Detroit, Chicago, New York and Hollywood advertising agency, has been announced by Ross Roy, president.

Dearth came to the agency three years ago from the Cleveland office of McCann-Erickson. His vice presidential duties will be account supervisor for the Serval air conditioning division and the home appliance division of the Murray Corp. of America.

Dearth has been associated with the U.S. Department of Commerce as a statistical analyst and was chief economic officer in the office of censorship from 1941-42, when he went on active duty with Naval intelligence. He served as a PT boat commander while with the navy.

Since coming to Detroit he has been active in many civic affairs, including the Torch drive.

Debart—Alexander Pope
 Busch—Adal W. Stevenson of Illinois
 Juvenile Non Fiction
 Morgan—First Electrical Book for Boys
 Bennett—Famous Hymns
 Horowitz—Girl's Handbook of Play Ideas and Things to Do
 Berner—Germany
 Juvenile Fiction
 Brown—Mick and Max, the Perkins Pups

STERNAL'S
 for RCA Television
 Radios and Record Players
 FREE CUSTOMER PARKING
 In Rear of Store

POTTER
 Moving & Storage Co.
 136 Brownell
 Phone MI 4-4612

no. 1 specialist in packing!

agent for ALLIED LINES

No. 1 on U. S. Highways—No. 1 in Service—No. 1 in Your Community

SAVE \$1.98 ON THESE 3 ITEMS
 Usual Price \$1.95 each

Hamburger Turner 1.29

Slotted Mixing Spoon 1.29

6 Place Wall Rack Stainless 1.29

BUY ALL 3 PIECES AND SAVE \$1.98

It's **WEAR-EVER** ALUMINUM

Cake Pan with Cutter

8" DIA. **75¢**

You can bake a better cake with this new Wear-Ever cake pan of gleaming aluminum. And it's so easy! The slender cutter loosens the cake from the pan in a jiffy and the layers come out in perfect condition, with every golden crumb in place. You'll want several for your layer cakes!

"West Bend" Electric Corn Popper \$6.95

A complete line of fine Case Cutlery Look for the Brand Names Here!

SAMPSON CARD TABLES
 Tough — Sturdy — Durable
 from \$6.95 up

the McBRIDE HARDWARE COMPANY

Birmingham's Largest Hardware
 154 S. Woodward WE DEPT. MI 4-3010
 OPEN 8:00 TO 5:30 DAILY
 CLOSED WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS
 WE GIVE S & H GREEN STAMPS

Partners again, in one great campaign

The UNITED FOUNDATION and The RED CROSS

Two GREAT ORGANIZATIONS, both dedicated to the work of saving lives, have joined forces again in an urgent appeal for help. They ask you to Give Once for All!

This year, the need is greater than ever before. Rising costs have affected the work of mercy carried on by your United Foundation, just as they have everything else. The demands on your Red Cross have soared because of major disasters during the past year, and the growing numbers of servicemen in our armed forces.

To provide the help the Red Cross has been called upon to give during the coming year, there will be one great fundraising drive covering businesses and factories allowing just one "in-plan" solicitation during the year.

When you give to the United Foundation Torch Drive under this plan, you will be helping the Red Cross to save lives—for a part of your gift is shared by the Red Cross.

Next Spring, as required by its charter, the Detroit Chapter of the American Red Cross will join the National Red Cross Organization in its annual fund raising campaign. At that time it will ask the help of those who did not contribute at their place of employment.

Of course, should a major disaster strike, the Red Cross may ask additional funds so that it may do its part in bringing relief to those afflicted.

Detroit has always opened its heart warmly, and its purse generously, to give its full share so that no one need be denied lifesaving help. We are sure that you will do so again.

YOUR BLOOD IS NEEDED TO SAVE LIVES

Thousands of soldiers wounded in Korea owe their lives to the generous blood donations of the people of Detroit. Last year the Detroit Regional Blood Center obtained 103,507 bottles of blood, of which 57,210% was for the Armed Forces. Collecting blood is a major job of your Red Cross. It is a job that must not fail. Your blood is needed.

YOUR DOLLARS ARE NEEDED TO SAVE LIVES

Your Red Cross dollars give emergency aid wherever it is needed by servicemen's families, to bring comfort and cheer to servicemen in hospitals, to send Red Cross men with our armed forces in combat. When fire, flood, tornado or explosion strikes, your Red Cross is on the spot to give life saving help. Give—and give generously!

GIVE TO THE TORCH DRIVE AND YOU GIVE TO THE RED CROSS

The American Red Cross—Oakland County Chapter
 53 1/2 West Huron Street, Pontiac

THE UNITED FOUNDATION OF METROPOLITAN DETROIT
 222 East Torch Drive (Maple), Birmingham

We are glad to sponsor this message as a service to a worthy cause.

MAX BROOCK INC.