

County Red Cross Heads Planning Nov. 6 Meeting
 A Nov. 6 meeting at Christ Church Cranbrook is scheduled for Oakland county Red Cross leaders to review the home service program, its policies and how it operates.
 Elizabeth Olson of St. Louis, Mo., will explain the program in her talk on "Service at Home to Servicemen Overseas".
 Serving on the executive committee with Dr. Robert Kelso, chairman, are George William Averill and Mrs. Sheldon R. Noble of Birmingham. The home service committee includes Dr. J. S. Lambie and Mrs. G. W. McCormick.

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STUDENTS AT CRANBROOK'S ACADEMY OF ART hesitate momentarily for the photographer as the gala celebration feting the art academy's Cranberry Bowl football game goes on about them. Each year the student body dons various costumes and puts on a zany show as a take-off of the College bowl games. A parade preceded a touch football game on the school grounds.

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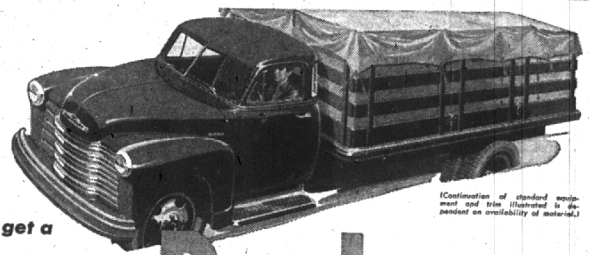
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NATURE NOW
 By LYDIA KING FREHSE

Man's first interest in plants was a utilitarian one. His eye was turned to survival. Will this plant feed or clothe me, will it nourish me or cure my ills? Through all the years of testing by the costly trial and error method, he slowly learned which plants to cultivate and trust; which to fear and avoid.

Mushrooms he must soon have placed in this latter class. How- ever by Roman times these plants had been sufficiently studied by epicures to warrant the inclusion of several varieties in their/stately feasts. One species still bears the name of the great Julius Caesar (Amanita caesarea) because it was so relished by him. Many a brave Roman must have fallen dead from tasting this generally poisonous family before the edibility of even this one genus was determined.

Many superstitions still cling to these ancient plants, and there are many rules abroad to tell what distinguishes an edible from a poisonous mushroom. But there is no safe single rule to follow.

After long practice in the field one learns to recognize an edible by leaving its particular characteristics and habits of growth. Poisonous mushrooms do not blanch silver, their virulent poisons are not destroyed by boiling, and it is not true that the color of edible varieties "peel" readily like others do not.

THE TWO FAMILIES most often confused are represented by the poisonous destroying angel (Amanita virosa) and the edible meadow mushroom (Agaricus campestris).

The former has white spores and a membranous ring, a long stem and springs from a cup often hidden in the ground.

The latter has gills which are first pale flesh-colored but turn dark as the purple spores ripen, a less pronounced ring, shorter stem and no cup. Anyone who learns for a certainty how to distinguish between these two families could then eliminate most deadly fungi. However, there are left several other dangerous ones and many whose reputations are questionable.

The poisonous members of the Amanita family are, for the most part, dwellers in woods and evergreen forests, while the edible Agaricus varieties grow in meadows, lawns and on roadsides. However, let me caution you strongly against following this rule as a final determinant for collecting for the table.

Phallin, the same poison which is found in rattlesnake venom, is the deadly ingredient which kills all who eat Amanita verna or vicia. It acts directly upon the blood capillaries, destroying them. As yet, no antidote has been found. Anyone who is so unfortunate as to eat it is in the hospital slowly but surely unless the stomach is immediately emptied of its contents.

IT IS ONE of the most beautifully textured and symmetrical of all plants, and because its pure whiteness it is known as "the destroying angel."

Many of you are familiar with another deadly member of this same family, the fly amanita (Amanita muscaria), so named because it kills the flies that sip its juices and then lie dead on its bright yellow saucer-like cap, decorated with white warts. It likes best to dwell in the deep recesses of pine and spruce forests where it grows to a diameter of six to ten inches. Its deadly ingredient is muscarine, which paralyzes the nerves controlling the action of the heart.

The drug atropine is an antidote if promptly administered.

It is true that many people who recognize only one or two species of mushrooms have safely eaten these over the years. It is also true that experienced mycologists have been victims of their own intelligent studies.

As a final caution, do not eat any gill or pore mushroom unless you are an experienced collector. Otherwise stick to puffballs, which are always safe as long as they are firm and white throughout, and morels or sponge mushrooms

which grow in thin woods, old orchards and fence rows in springtime. All members of these families are easily recognized and are perfectly safe for the table.

MUSHROOMS ARE 70 TO 90 per cent water and have little food value. However, they are used extensively as a source of food in the Central European countries where they are gathered by the peasants and sold in large quantities in the public markets. When they appear on our tables, they add flavor and variety to many dishes and are usually purchased from the grocer.

The species most often cultivated is Agaricus campestris, the common meadow mushroom mentioned above. These are grown in especially prepared cellars from "spawn", soil impregnated with a growth underground and comprise the mushroom plant. The stem and cap we eat is only the spore bearing mechanism and takes the place of a flower.

Fungus plants have no chlorophyll and therefore cannot make their own food. They must then be either parasites, drawing their substance from some living plant or animal, or saprophytes, using up the discarded refuse of our world.

Fungi belong to the small things of earth. They are a rewarding study for anyone who enjoys perfecting of detail, color and form. For the most part, they are the scavengers of the earth, clearing out death to make room for life.

Building Permits Issued LAST WEEK

TOTAL VALUATION	Number	Valuation
Residences	3	53,000
Two-family	1	14,000
Business	1	1,000
Garages	6	2,950
Alterations		
Residences	3	1,350
Business	2	7,500

Mo. Permits	1951	1952	Per- mits
Jan.	1,974	2,254	82
Feb.	1,882	2,100	82
Mar.	1,882	2,100	82
Apr.	742,745	746,018	84
May	110	84,810	84
June	72	786,046	110
July	191	842,242	84
Aug.	159	842,242	84
Sept.	112	1,146,318	282,799

Re-elected Directors Of Community Service

At a recent meeting of the United Community Service, three persons from this area were re-elected to the board of directors. Serving again will be Mrs. Nell C. McMath and John Bugas from Bloomfield Hills and Franklin Fricke of Franklin.

House Plant Class Ends Studies with Field Trip

A field trip and picnic lunch at the Glenhurst home of the instructor, Mrs. William H. Bunting, closed activities of the house plant class last week. The group is one of the several sponsored by the adult education program of the Community House.

At the home of Mrs. E. E. Murray, Balmoral drive, the group was able to examine the fluorescent lighted table on which she keeps her African violets and the orchids, which are her main hobby.

From there the class went to the W. A. P. John home for a tour of his greenhouse. Another orchid enthusiast, John also grows large-leaved begonias. The greenhouse is equipped with special controls for light, heat, ventilation and humidity.

At the Burlingame home members had the opportunity to see the fluorescent greenhouse in the basement and see a demonstration of a portable greenhouse, designed for hospital patients.

Honors At Denison

Two Birmingham sophomores at Denison University, Granville, Ohio, have been placed on the 1951-52 Dean's list for scholastic honors. They are Mary Drake, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Drake, 716 Fleming; and Claire Shinnick, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Graham Shinnick, 945 Poppleton.

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