

**Red Cross Has Received \$3,304 to Aid Flint's Many Tornado Victims**

Voluntary contributions have brought \$3,304 into Oakland County chapter, American Red Cross, for relief of Flint's tornado victims.

Harold B. Egler of Pontiac, chapter chairman, said contributions, which came from schools, busi-

ness, clubs and individuals, ranged from \$1 to \$500.

"We're holding the fund open for a while longer in case more contributions come in," Egler said. "We're very grateful—and we're sure those homeless Flint folks are too—to everyone who has donated to the relief fund."

Contributions may be mailed or brought to the county's chapter office at 53 1/2 West Huron street, Pontiac, and 315 West Sixth street, Royal Oak.

**NATURE NOW**

**Mid-Summer Shower, Nature's Finest Gift**

By LYDIA KING FRETSE  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccestric

No gift from Nature's hand is more welcome than a sudden shower of summer rain. It comes to wash the dusty leaf, to clear the heavy air that oppresses man and beast alike.

In mid-afternoon on such a day the men on the farm sought refuge on the east porch of the "Big House." All morning, under threatening storm clouds, they had battled the stifling heat in a mad race to bring in the last load of hay.

Now the thunder and lightning has spent itself and they can watch the rain slide off the roof in dripping sheets. It makes a watery screen of the old purple flowering clematis vine and a blur of the grasses before the cattle are headed under the "big" shed.

"Rain is one of the best gifts of the sky," says the old farmer who looks like a giant wheel, makes his eyes sparkle, and says "looney" from earth to sky to catch it.

As sunlight falls on the ocean's surface it is heated and rises into the air much as the steam rises out of a tea kettle. This process of evaporation goes on over all the earth's varied topography. It rises from inland lakes and waterfalls, from rushing rivers and quiet ponds, from all the varied greenery of every plant that grows and from the damp earth itself.

NOW WHAT IS it that causes this moisture-laden air to fall from the clouds back to the thirsty earth?

The amount of rainfall in any given area is due to such factors as moist air, something to cool it, dust to condense the droplets and vertical circulation to make it rain.

The Mohave desert is dry because the air has already lost most of its moisture on the ocean-side of the barrier made by the coastar ranges.

There at Eureka, Calif., we have a low at 59 inches of rainfall per year. In the lush rain forest of the Olympic peninsula, surrounded by water and warm moisture-laden ocean currents, we have a high of 140 inches per year. Our Detroit area has a medium rainfall of 31.7 inches.

"GIVE US FOOD or we perish" is the most compelling of all human cries. Because food in the last analysis is dependent upon vegetation which in turn is withered by droughts and ruined by floods, mankind throughout all the ages has sought to regulate rainfall. He has tried to do this by magic, by religious rites and now by scientific research.

Whether or not his latest success of artificial rain-making will add to the sum total of man's good has yet to be proven. In this, as in all things, he has not been able to alter nature's principles, but only to fit his ideas and necessities to her demands.

back on the east porch of the "Big House" the rain has stopped as suddenly as it began. The women, their sewing in their hands, have come out to the porch. The common gossip of the neighborhood, stories of foon and rabbit hunts, of fairs and weddings, have filled this short hour's respite from the hard labor of the day.

NOW IT IS time to do the evening chores. From the summer house chimney a thin column of wood smoke is rising and grandmother is already busy making a pot of delicious potato soup.

Homemade cheese and bread and pickles are ready to be brought up from the cellar and a raspberry pie is cooling on the flagstone floor of the spring house.

There is just time before supper for a little girl to wade in the pool which the sun rain has made in the hollow between the orchard and the high bank of the barn. There is time for a little moment of wonder when she can feel the water between her bare toes and lift up her face to see the dome of the sky, a clearing blue overhead.

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**Heads Workshop Of Horticultural Therapy Classes**

Alex Wessels Burlingame, 370 S. Glenhurst, is presiding this week as director of the Workshop of Horticultural Therapy, being held at Michigan State college.

The Workshop opened Monday, to continue through July 1.

Mrs. Burlingame, who has been doing horticultural therapy in Michigan hospitals and institutions for some time will lead a discussion on "Introducing Horticultural Therapy to Home Patients."

In her work, especially in mental institutions and children's hospitals, she has proven that many persons can be given a renewed interest in life through working with flowers and plants.

She will also present a discussion on "The Making of Dish Gardens."

On the closing day of the MSC Workshop, she will have charge of a session on "Public Relations and Community Participation."

MRS. BURLINGAME is a graduate of Michigan State, where she studied horticulture, specializing in greenhouse production. An enthusiastic dirt gardener, she is a member of the J. I. Hudson speaker's bureau and author of a weekly column, "Down to Earth" for The Eccestric.

The Workshop will present several well known staff members of MSC, representatives of garden clubs and other prominent speakers.

Field trips, to introduce members to plants adaptable for horticultural therapy, visits to green houses, laboratory sessions, films and the general field of plant life will be included in the several divisions of the Workshop.

Are you thinking of buying a new home? Then read the "For Sale—Houses" columns on the Classified Ad page of this week's Eccestric.

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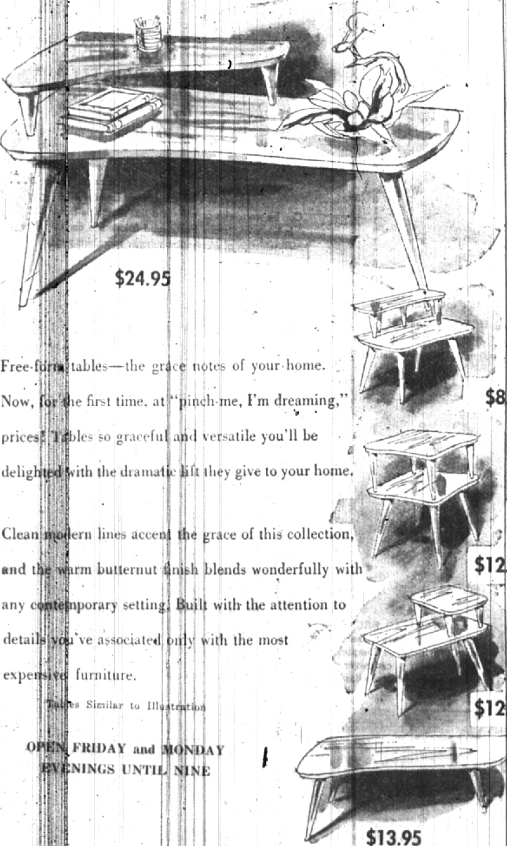
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