

Picking Carelessly Kills Fragile Plants

By LYDIA KING FREHSE

Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

With the coming of spring's first warm days, the city dweller gets into his car and takes to the nearby woods and parks. These little excursions often represent for him a much needed escape from his all too crowded urban life.

It is only natural, therefore, that he and his family, arriving at some likely wood-lot covered with spring beauty and adder's tongue, should enjoy picking a little bouquet to brighten their living room. But spring flowers as a group are fragile of stem and petal, and soon will wither into a pathetic handful. Long before the chairless pickers reach home, these blooms have lost their delicate beauty and are left to shrivel on the car seat.

Only a few of our spring flowers, such as the violet, are abundant enough to be safely picked. So many, including the trillium and all of the lilies slipper, have no separate flower stem, so that when we pick the flower, we usually ruin the entire plant.

WHEN THE LEAVES are destroyed, the food supply is cut off and the plant dies. The delicate spring beauty, adder's tongue, the palnea, and the tiny fragile mitrewort, its blossom so like a snowflake, are not well suited to the confines of a vase.

Many of the earliest varieties, such as twinleaf and bloodroot bloom for only a few days. They drop their petals at the slightest touch and often a grasping hand is left holding no other reward than a jacked stem.

There is left, crossing diagonally over the southeast corner of Oakland county, a strip of beech-nut forest which represents the climax of plant communities for this area. Its original outlines followed those of the ancient glacial beaches, passed through what is now Farmington, Franklin Hills, Berkeley and Birmingham.

THE REMNANTS of this nature forest with its large trees, grow on our richest soils, but their shade will not admit our most varied ground cover of wild flowers.

Our old-growth forest of hickory is best shaded area. There are also represented many stages in the progression between these two forests and in all there is a varied and beautiful carpet of wild flowers.

Heralding the spring parade are such old favorites as hepatica, squirrel corn, adder's tongue, spring beauty, bloodroot, spring cross, tooth wort, twin-leaf and wood and rue anemone. Only a pace behind are Jack-in-the-pulpit, tri-

lum, mitrewort, blue phlox and wild ginger.

These lead on to the full tide of spring bloom including May-apple, Solomon's seal, with geranium and saxifraga. In addition to these and many other well-known varieties, one of the county's rarest wild orchids can be found within a stone-throw of the roadway. All need our protection.

IF YOU MUST pick wild flowers, wait until summer spills color all over waste fields and meadows. Then make for yourself a bouquet of Queen Anne's lace, black-eyed Susan and bouncing Bet.

Or follow some stream or the margin of a small marsh where Joe-Pye weed, homestead and the wild froth of virginia bower can spare you some of their bloom. And when Indian summer's lavish with her showy compounds family, you may gather a handful of asters, goldenrod and blazing star. But pick carefully. Do not injure the plant. Remember as you pick, that you are destroying next year's crop of seeds.

As you read this, the full tide of spring wild flower bloom will be just around the corner. Make a promise to take your family for a little excursion to enjoy all the little things. Better still, plan to visit any of the new areas being developed by the Huron-Clinton authority. These include Kensington, Lower Huron, Metropolitan

Poppleton Pupils To Tour Village

Students who have offered a helping hand at Poppleton school during the past school year will be rewarded with a trip to Greenfield Village today.

Members of the school's safety patrol, service squad, library and other fifth and sixth grade activities were to leave by chartered bus for a tour of the historical collection accompanied by Mary Pruitt, and Mrs. Myrtle Bro, school principal.

Rain Not Welcome

Another attempt will be made by the Birmingham YMCA to start its archery, softball and out-of-door games program Saturday, May 9, on the Y grounds. Members may register for these activities by presenting their 'Y' cards. Instruction and supervision will be furnished by members of the Y's full and part-time staff.

soft carpet of moss, the delicate tracery of fern, the shape of a lady's slipper—defying all description—these are at their best only when seen in their native haunts where they are played upon by the dappled lights and shades of the spring wood-land.

10 Oakland Communities Top Red Cross Quotas; Drive Remains Active

Ten communities have passed their goal marks in this year's Oakland county chapter, American Red Cross campaign to raise \$178,362.

Car A. Sweezy of Royal Oak, chapter chairman, reported county residents have donated directly and through "United Fund" a total of \$138,984. "People of Oakland Gardens put their arms at 270 per cent of goal by donating \$560; Royal Oak township, 210 per cent, \$1,201; Waterford, 377 per cent, \$4,008; Pleasant Ridge, 318 per cent—roughly—with \$13,569 and \$5,883, respectively.

Other high-scoring areas are Birmingham, which raised 107 per cent of its goal of \$1,000; Franklyn, 100 per cent, \$1,737 and Huntington Woods, 101 per cent, \$4,528. All campaign chairman did an excellent job," Sweezy said. "Our particular thanks go to these door-to-door canvassers who trocked through all kinds of weather to make collections." The local campaign has not officially closed as the National Red Cross has extended its drive until its \$50,000,000 goal is reached.



END OF THE RAINBOW?

Michigan's fishing world has been shocked and shaken by the unexpected lack of steelhead (lake rainbow trout) in our streams as the season opened April 15th. This year a tremendous crowd of anglers greeted the opening on scores of rivers emptying into the Great Lakes. Advance publicity in newspapers, national magazines and on television, based on angling statistics in the past three years, brought out thousands of new, eager fishermen. The chance at 13 and 14 second rainbow trout is not to be overlooked!

But it turned out to be a thousand to one gamble on worst. Never in the memory of this reporter has there been a more disappointing opening for any fishing season in Michigan. I had everybody's asking "Why?" and

Sea Lamprey To Blame? Some point the finger of blame at the sea lamprey, the predator responsible for the disappearance of lake trout in Lake Huron and Lake Michigan. Many a big steelhead has been taken in the last couple of years severely scarred by lamprey attacks. Is it possible that the past year has seen such a large increase in lamprey population that the big rainbows have gone the way of the Mackinac's?

Human Predators Suspected. Or is the human enemy of the

steelhead to blame? Evidence points to both. On the opening of the season April 15th, the portions of the Platte River above the village of Honor constituted protected waters for rainbow spawning. Inspection of this area revealed dozens of freshly cleaned spawning beds in crystal clear water scarcely a foot deep. The beds, with few exceptions, were barren. Spawning had not been completed, yet the fish were gone in a section closed to fishing. Well-founded rumor whispered of illegal seining on these beds. A local conservation officer pointed the presence of considerable seining in the area, and advised it would take an enforcement army to put a stop to this type of poaching.

The Platte is just a single river subject to such human predation in Michigan—predation that seems to be mounting rapidly. Teenagers have charged with most of the violation, and it is so widespread that conservation officers can apprehend but a small percentage of the offenders.

A Community Problem. This, apparently, is a project for local sportsmen's clubs and parents, for youngsters can ruin a resource which has sufficient lure to know that this practice perpetrated by youngsters can ruin a very valuable sports fishing resource. The removal of which could be a \$100,000,000 economic blow to a community shrouded in fishermen.

A former Birmingham resident, Milt Nett's "Michigan Outdoors" television show appears every Thursday at 7:00 p.m. over station WWJ-TV.

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