

Fall's Harvest Paves Way for Spring Life

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Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

With the ripening of the harvest, the promise of spring's blooming is fulfilled. Bins and storerooms overflow with grain. Vegetables and fruits have been gathered and are processed against the hunger and cold of winter.

All our grain and fruits have their beginning in a blossom. Every true fruit is a ripened flower ovary containing seeds, which are the ripened ovules. The flower blooms and wits, the ovary swells and grows and finally matures into the fruit.

If we will become fit in the fall, we must eat the fruit of the fall. If the result of the ripening of the fruit is known as a pod, it is known as a pod, it is a capsule or a nut. If it is in its growth the cells take in water so that it assumes a soft and succulent consistency, a juicy fruit is formed. Botanically speaking, the result in both instances is a fruit, although we do not usually place a pod or a nut in this category.

The classification of fruits is a long and confusing routine for any except the botanist and will be attempted here, except to follow the distinction already made between a dry and a fleshy fruit.

IN GENERAL, nuts and grains and such pod vegetables as peas and beans and peanuts are dry fruits. In these it is the seed which is used as food. All together these dry fruits constitute our most important single food crop, with the grains leading.

Our fleshy fruits may be one or many-seeded, but in the former case the seeds are discarded and the succulent pulp is the edible portion. One-seeded fruits include such varieties as plums, peaches, cherries, apricots and dates. Our berries belong to the many-seeded group and present a varied and interesting pattern of development.

A true berry is a fleshy fruit with numerous seeds imbedded within its pulp. Here belong currants, gooseberries, cranberries, grapes, oranges, grapefruit and lemons.

The banana is also a true berry. Its bunch of fruit ripens from a single large flower cluster. However the seeds scattered through the pulp are so small that they go unnoticed and it is generally un-berry like in appearance. Another contradiction is that many true berries are ordinarily thought of as vegetables. These include tomatoes, egg-plant, peppers, melons, pumpkin, squash and cucumbers.

MANY OF OUR so-called berries are not true berries because they have their seeds outside the pulp. Raspberries, blueberries and loganberries are formed of an aggregate of ripened fruits called drupelets.

Likewise, a strawberry is not a true berry. Its many seeds are cushioned on the surface of the juicy pulp. Each berry develops from a single flower and each seed is the ripened ovary of one of its numerous ovaries. Botanists call this group "achenes."

Another group called collective or multiple fruits ripen their flower clusters into what appears to be a single fruit. The mulberry and the pineapple are examples.

Another important group of fleshy fruits called pomes includes apples, pears and quinces. Each of these ripens from a single flower. The pulp is formed of the enlarged stem-end or receptacle upon which the flower rests and the core which encloses the seeds is the inner part of the ovary. Fruits are low in actual food

what I have here put down. Rather I remember dewy mornings in June when I filled my small pail with ripe red strawberries growing wild on a southern gravelly slope and the way the jam tasted at supper time on a "heal" of grandma's freshly baked bread.

I remember late summer afternoons when we journeyed to the blackberry patch in the east woods, our arms encased in long black stockings to cushion the thorns. I remember strong hands busy over the old wooden sink in the summer house, crushing the dark ripe fruit with a generous measure of sugar added.

I remember how those hands moved over the big bowl crumbling a half loaf of bread into the rich juice and finally covering the whole with dippers of sweet cream from the crocks cooling in the spring house.

I remember soft autumn afternoons when my grandmother allowed me to ride the empty "express" wagon on a trip to the truck patch. Together we gathered a load of apples and tomatoes, squash and peppers, cucumbers and cantaloup, and if we had too much that was ripe she filled her voluminous calico apron with the overflow.

These are the things I remember first about fruit, and they happened long before I knew there was a science called botany.

1953-54 Great Books Programs Are Planned

Registration opened today at Baldwin public library for the 1953-54 season of Birmingham's Great Books group. The first meeting is scheduled for 8 p.m., Sept. 23, at the library. Sessions will be planned for alternate weeks from that date until May.

Miss Jeanne Lloyd, librarian, said the group operates on a plan of fast paced discussions on the great classics of literature. Throughout the country many such groups have been formed since the original group started in Chicago in 1947.

Number about 20 or 30 per group, the members read and discuss the works of some of the world's most famous writers, Plato, Shakespeare and Jonathan Swift. Books of all ages, from the Bible to Freud come up for discussion.

MISS LLOYD pointed out that many of the old classics deal with problems as important today as when they were written—justice, happiness, immorality, government and the nature of man.

Regular reading assignments are given, thus affording many an opportunity and reason to read books they have always wanted

Participants may supply their own books, borrow from the library or friends or purchase books through the Great Books Foundation at a modest cost.

"The Foundation believes that education does not end with formal schooling and feels that this program is one of the most stimulating ways to further education that can be found today," Miss Lloyd concluded.

Descriptive literature of the group and the books for the year is available at the library.

Attendance Soars At Holy Name

The classroom squeeze, evident in every school system in the area, has grown just as acute at Holy Name school.

First week's registration found school enrollment over the 700 mark, making an increase of 100 students over last June's figures.

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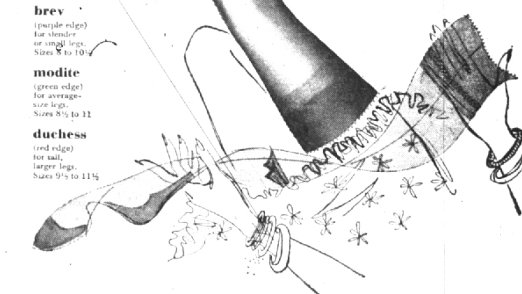
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