

Shades of Blue Mark Fall's Approach

By LYDIA KING FREHSE
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Once more autumn's frost has blighted the last of the season's wild flowers.

Beginning with the pussy toes of late April and ending with the gentians they have marched across the woodlots, roadsides and meadows in a slow moving parade embracing every color of the spectrum.

Generally speaking, flowers of the tropical and sub-tropical zones are intense in hue. They favor the yellows, oranges, scarlets and reds. As a group our flowers of the north temperate zone are more likely to be magenta, purple, violet or blue.

The early spring flowers in shaded woodlands are mostly white or pale colored. As the leaves appear on the trees and the flower parade moves to the meadow, the brightness of the summer sun calls out the strongest yellows and reds. With autumn's approach, the lavenders and blues and purples come into their own.

By season's end we have seen displayed all the seven principal colors of Newton, including green in the shape of the several species of wood orchids. Present, too, was every gradation of the spectrum that falls between them.

COLOR IS one of the least known and least understood of

sunshine, they open broadly to receive the light.

THE COLOR of the gentian is not to be described. One can only say that it has a misty quality, that it never quite reveals itself in two flowers and that it varies from pale to deep blue-violet. If strongly exposed to the sun it may show a rusty tinge. Growing in the shade the blooms are paler, more like the blue of a morning sky.

Poets wax eloquent over this late flower. One such saw it "looking through its fringes to the sky." Emily Dickenson called it "a purple creature, that ravished all the hill." The fringed gentian is a biennial requiring two years to complete its life-cycle. Therefore, one may be disappointed to return to the scene of its last year's blooming to find no flowers present.

It is pollinated by the bumble bees who nuzzle their strong bodies into the depths of its corolla.

THE RANGE of this gentian is from Maine to Iowa and south to Georgia. In our own state I have seen it in the most luxuriant growth in Wilderness State Park on that finger of land which reaches far out into Lake Michigan.

It is pollinated by the bumble bees who nuzzle their strong bodies into the depths of its corolla. Also growing within our range is the fringed gentian's less famed sister, the bottle gentian. We look for it through September and October along the moist roadsides and thickets. It never opens its deep blue and bottle shaped corolla whose tip is finely pleated and rimmed with a narrow band of furry white.

Here the soil is moorly and the water seeps through and often covers the land. Here it mingles with such plants as purple gerardia, butterwort, creeping thyme and bladderwort to make a carpet of wild beauty stretching as far as the eye can see to the very water's edge.

THE HUMBLE BEE'S body neatly fits this shape. Some botanists hold that he is the only



Mrs. Frehse

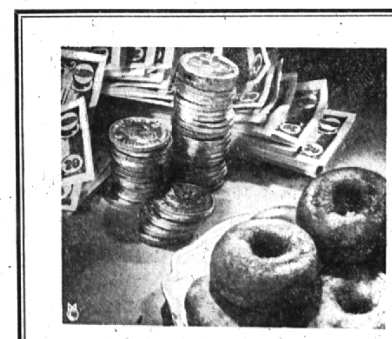
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18 From Area Goes to Colgate Are Pledges

Peter Thomas, son of the Joseph T. Thomas of 5865 Lahser, is among the 372 members of the freshman class at Colgate university at Hamilton, N. Y. He is a 1954 graduate of Birmingham high school.

Pledges to University of Michigan's 18 sororities have included 16 girls from Birmingham and 3 from Bloomfield Hills.

The 412 co-eds will be initiated this winter after attaining a scholastic average and completing a training period to learn the ideals and traditions of their own groups.

Birmingham pledges are Sally Jo Arnold, 24275 14 Mile Rd., Alpha Phi; Susan Bergdahl, 712 Fairfax, Alpha Phi; Pat Boone, 19435 Saratoga, Kappa Kappa Gamma; E. Marlene Crawford, 359 W. Brown, Alpha Delta Pi; Margaret Davis, 1132 Buckingham, Alpha Omicron Pi; Susan Doherty, 1011 Kennewick, Kappa Alpha Theta; Cheryl Harris, 1017 Pilgrim, Delta Gamma, Carol Klein, 1072 Ridgeland, Collegiate Sorority; Mary LaWall Knecht, 239 Pilgrim Rd., Kappa Kappa Gamma; Genevieve Leland, 423 Tiltbury, Collegiate Sorority; Nancy McCombe, 647 Lakeview, Pi Beta Phi; Ann McDonald, 1184 Dorchester, Delta Gamma; Dorothy Ojala, 947 Ann, Alpha Chi Omega; Beverly Jane Seales, 314 Westwood Dr., Delta Delta Delta; Nancy Waters, 250 Safford, Gamma Phi Beta.

Those from Bloomfield Hills are: Ann Carey, 25 Havenhill, Delta Delta Delta; Kate Moun, Lone Pine Rd., Collegiate Sorority; Mildred Zeller, Orchard Ridge Rd., Alpha Phi.

ALL THE LOVE THAT A GIFT CAN HOLD in a PORTRAIT By bill williams Photographer

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