NATURE NOW

Each in His Way Prepares for Winter

By LYDIA KING FREHSE
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

With the coming of February winter tightens its grip on our land. Accordingly life's tempo slackens but its rhythms do not cease.

Each living creature meets the accompanying threat of cold in its own way. Man, having both memory and anticipation, is aware of his needs in advance and prepares accordingly.

Since the changing seasons were established some 150 millions of years ago, nature has developed many protective devices to see both plants and animals through the danger of extinction by winter's cold.

Mrs. Frehse

Most adult insects die with the first frosts. But the species is preserved in the hidden egg, the buried larva or the quiescent pupa. A few species like the monarch butterfly migrate to a warmer climate; a few like the mourning cloak hibernate to appear again floating overhead in the early spring woods.

YET OTHERS, like the wasps, depend solely on the hibernating and already fertilized female safely to carry over the pattern of her kind.

Winter's threat has reduced our northern reptiles to snakes, turtles and a few lizards. These being ill-equipped to meet the cold, hibernate early and remain late within the protection of earth or rotting wood, rock pile or crevice.

Winter birds depend for protection on their high rate of metabolism and their insulating feathers.

However, most species solve this problem by taking a southern vacation. Some like the arctic tern fly 11,000 miles to the antarctic, a journey of several months duration.

Mammals are equipped for cold weather by warm blood and protective fur. Predators like the weasel, fox and wolf, never far from hunger's threat, are abroad all winter seeking whom they may destroy. A few like the muskrat and beaver build ingenious winter houses where they store up food and bear their young.

MANY FUR-BEARING animals bridge the season's cold by hibernating. In some species like the bear, this winter sleep is so deep that even the birth of the young is accomplished without sleep being broken. Others like the raccoon and the woodchuck are more fitful sleepers and come out during mild weather to feed and explore.

Plants may be divided into annuals and perennials, depending upon their reaction to winter's cold.

Individual plants belonging to the first group are killed by frost while the perennial has developed a structure immune to cold or else its growth has retreated to the protection of underground rootstalk or stem.

Our trees and shrubs are perennial plants whose woody growth is not injured by frost. In a recent column we mentioned both the conifer and the broadleaf tree as examples of plants whose structures and manner of growth are shaped to meet the demands of the changing seasons.

IN OTHER perennials frost erases each season's growth while the life of the plant is maintained underground. Members of the large grass and mint families are good examples of this method of survival.

Some underground stems take the form of tubers such as those grown by the potato and the artichoke. These develop minute scale buds or "eyes" from which the new plant springs.

Others like squirrel-corn and Jack-in-the-pulpit grow from corms which are fleshy stems bearing buds at their summit. Many, such as the lilies, grow from bulbs which are short thick stems covered by layers of closely folded and fleshy leaves. In each instance there is also enclosed a sufficient food store to launch the new growth in the spring.

THE EVENTUAL fate of any species of seed plant rests with the seed itself. As an embryonic plant it carries over the pattern of its kind not only for one season but in many instances for as many years as are necessary for it to meet proper growing conditions.

Fertile lotus seeds have been found dating back to the early Chinese dynasties and the seeds of desert plants often carry over for many seasons until there is sufficient moisture for their germination.

Those of you who dread the grip of winter may take heart in the measure of man's ability to control his environment. In this he is unique among all living things.

While man is conspiring with

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Three Musical Youths Plan Trip With University Band

A Franklin and two Birmingham students at University of Michigan are among members of the university's symphony band readying for the band tour to four towns the middle of February.

The band will visit Sturgis, Des Plains, Ill., and Elkhart and South Bend, Ind.

Susan Fricker of Wellington road in Franklin, Joan Gassaway, 3545 Woodlake court, and Robert J. Reynolds, of 31702 Auburn drive, Beverly Hills, are among those chosen from student musicals to play in the band.

Joan plays an oboe, Robert, a french horn, and Susan, a trombone.

THE BAND, FORMED by director William D. Revelli of students of superior musical talent, gives many concerts in Ann Arbor and takes several tours during school vacations.

The Symphony Band, one of three U-M bands directed by Professor Revelli, is the main concert unit. Combining many unusual instruments with the basic elements in a symphony band, this group affords many interesting variations in the arrangements.

Original music is incorporated into the well-known repertoire of band music to enlighten the students as future music educators as well as professional musicians.

In addition to rehearsal time, some students act as librarian and business and equipment managers to gain knowledge of the backstage workings of large musical groups.

Newcomers' Board Plans Schedules For Next Period

Retiring and new board members of the Birmingham Newcomers Club met at the home of Mrs. William Scherer, 1255 Chesterfield, Jan. 27 at 1 p.m.

Mrs. Lon King, newly installed president, presided. The club's agenda for the forthcoming five months was discussed.

Board members and their duties are Mrs. Allen Otto, Jr., past president, advisor; Mrs. Richard Haviland, vice president; Mrs. Robert Stansberry, secretary; Mrs. Oliver Rodgers, treasurer; Mrs. Robert Gill, program.

Mrs. Jesse Williams, hospitality; Mrs. Perry Brunk, calling; Mrs. John Greve, membership; Mrs. Philip Cartwright, publicity; Mrs. John Joyner, nominating; Mrs. John Schumann, golf; Mrs. Stanley Meyer and Mrs. E. J. Danziger, bowling.

MRS. LESTER HOLT and Mrs. R. H. Butler, evening bridge; Mrs. Fennell and Mrs. John Miller, afternoon bridge; Mrs. Harold Bickner, decorations and Mrs. William Cooper, name tags.

An invitations to all newcomers of Birmingham and its outlying areas is extended by the club for the afternoon dessert bridge, Feb. 3, at 12:30 at the Community House. Hostesses will be Mesdames Verne Kilby, James Stewart, Wayne Brooks, Bernadotte Lester and Walter Riley.

New Books at the Baldwin Library

FICTION
FORD—Invitation to Murder
GARDNER—Case of the Restless Redhead

REFERENCE BOOKS
U. S. FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY—Education Directory, 1954
DARROLL—Schirmer's Guide to Books on Music

GENERAL
TAUBER—Technical Services in Libraries

RELIGION
GOLDBERG—Judaism in America

SOCIAL SCIENCES
LEGAL AID BUREAU, DETROIT—American Citizenship
CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION STUDY—Schools & the Development of Good Citizens

SCIENCES & THE USEFUL ARTS
LEET—Physical Geology
GREEN—Aircraft of the World
HEADSTROM—Garden Friends and Foes
NELSON—Slimcote Cut Book
KIRK—What's Cooking
BETTER—How I Multiplied My Income in Selling

FINE ARTS—SPORTS—AMUSEMENTS
ALLEN—The Farmer and Wildlife
KETCHAM—Dennis the Menace
KETCHAM—Paint It Yourself
ZERBY—Richard Wagner Dictionary
LOESSER—Men, Women and Pianos
HALEY—Basketball in Action
ANDERSON—The Smashers

LITERATURE
GASSNER—Masters of the Drama, 3rd ed.
THOMAS—In Country Sleep & Other Poems

TRAVEL — HISTORY — BIOGRAPHY
REYNOLDS—Parent of Italy
Wonderful Copenhagen
REDDING—An American in India
LEONOWENS—English Governess at the Siamese Court
ANDREWS—Beyond Adventure
WINSTRON—Charlemagne
VAN DEUSEN—Horace Greeley
ROSE—Rebel Rose
SCHIAPARELLI—Shocking Life
NOTESTEIN—English People on the Eve of Colonization
COVARRUBIAS—The Eagle, the Jaguar and the Serpent
VALENTINE—Age of Conformity
HORAN—Pictorial History of the Wild West

YOUNG MODERNS COLLECTION
BENARY-ISBERT—Beware, Farm
BRODERICK—Your Place in TV
GILBERTSON—Rollo Tries

JUVENILE FICTION
BLACKBURN—Bells of Carmel
LENSKI—We Live in the City
CHILD STUDY ASSOC.—Road to Your Story Book

JUVENILE NON-FICTION
McCLUNG—Life the Story of a Toad
KETTLEKAMP—Magic Made Easy
HOKE—Jokes, Jokes, Jokes
RIPPER—Bats
PODENDORF—True Book of Pets

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Receives Degree At Western State

Dr. John A. Hannah was speaker at the Western Michigan College graduation exercises at which Alfred B. Worde, of 380 Catalpa, received his bachelor of science degree. Worde also received an elementary education certificate.

Youth Graduates

Ronald Clark was among 109 students at Bowling Green State university, Bowling Green, Ohio, receiving degrees in commencement exercises on Jan. 28. Clark is son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl C. Clark, 1302 Cedar drive, and his degree is a bachelor of science in education.

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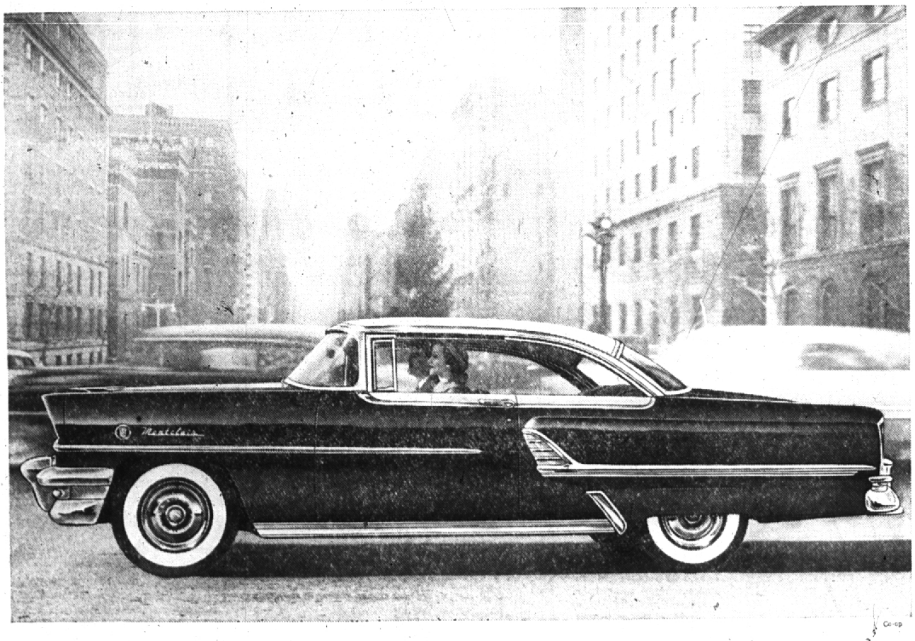
How the 1955 Mercury makes sense out of high horsepower



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3. High-compression spark plugs—a revolutionary new design—for peak performance at *all* speeds without overheating or fouling. *Only Mercury has them in its field.*

They all add up to a new kind of high-horsepower performance by Mercury—the car that's always used V-8 engines—built over 2,000,000 of them. We invite you to try the new 198-hp Montclairs, the 188-hp Monterreys and Customs. Just stop in at our showrooms.

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FEBRUARY FUMBLES

Fumbles are errors of commission and (in this day and age) errors of omission also.

We humbly but earnestly, in this insignificant effort, endeavor to make life easier and more enjoyable for you by calling your attention to and by helping you to correct your fumbles.

1. Obviously (from the size of our stock) you have failed to equip yourself with a good aluminum or steel snow remover—pusher or shovel.

2. If you planted tulips or daffs last fall in pots they should be dugup and brought into the hut. (We did ours last Wednesday and broke two out of three so be careful).

3. One or two of you did not cover flower beds with marsh hay when the ground froze. Well, you better cover them now and nothing can equal PEAT MOSS for this purpose. (We are out of marsh hay). The peat will prevent early thawing and later can be dugin to the benefit of all concerned.

4. We nearly broke our astragalus while making a delivery at your home because you had no ICE REM or CALCIUM CHLORIDE or SALT on your walks.

5. Let's be soft. Cut sprigs of forsythia, apple, ornamental quince and pussy willow (well, gee, ya gotta prune 'em sometime) and dunk them—we mean immerse them in deep water in a warm room to force the bloomin blooms to bloom indoors. We think the following sounds silly but, quote: The nearer the approach to spring the more readily they force. Pussy willows can be forced readily. Unquote. Do you agree?

6. In a couple of weeks you will be in-between on BEGONIAS and GLOXINIAS. Start them now for indoor enjoyabilitivity but wait about four weeks before starting them for outdoor enjoyabilitivity.

7. Be in style—get the pip—20 cents each (while they last)—a Denmark import—imagine what your friends will say; She got them from DENmark. Really, they are simply little pips that will, in three weeks, grow into tall, handsome, exquisite, fragrant lilies-of-the-valley. We don't see how you can afford to be without them. Do you? A potful for a piddling buck (we sell pots also) (and potting soil) (and trowels) (you see how it goes?).

8. AT LAST! A GIVE-AWAY. (No, Herb, not Old Golds). These are HYACINTH BULBS. You don't have to buy a carton (114 packages) of Popple Crack or Sunny South Sorghum Silage to earn this nostril nuisance, this rib cracking gift that produces beauty and plenty of that naughty, naughty fragrance in one fell swoop. You ONLY have to buy one PURE, CLEAR, TRANSPARENT, GLASS HYACINTH JAR for ONLY 65 cents in order to receive FREE one clean, perfect HYACINTH BULB (worth 29 cents) and a trip to the ZUYDER ZEE if you buy it on the right day (the day has already passed Ha, ha. This is a secret the non readers of The Eccentric don't know).

9. Pretty soon we will have to get sérious. It won't be as much fun but the progress in the field of planting, fertilizing, etc, is so great that we must not keep you in ignorance too long. (How about one free distribution of The Eccentric this spring to the 55,000 persons in our shopping area? Huh?)

*ASTRAGALUS: Ankle bone.

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