



BLOOMFIELD HILLS will be represented every time Pontiac Zonta club meets next year because Mrs. Fotis Takis (left) is the recently elected president. She is shown chatting with Mrs. Ardash Irsh, Pontiac, retiring president, at the June breakfast held recently. The Pontiac group, a Dist. 5 unit, tied with Cincinnati in the "Fill the Hive in '55" membership contest and greeted new Zontians at the Rotunda Inn meeting.

Teen-age Seamstresses Aim For Sewing Machine Prizes

What the teenage dressmaker can stitch up in summer free hours stresses who would like to take a short course in sewing is being offered, with \$85,000 in prizes as "stimulation for entries."

Ease in making dresses, play outfits, and other simple garments will be featured in the courses, aimed to give confidence with the needle and sewing machine.

SUITS and COATS, considered too advanced for beginners, are not eligible in the contest, according to Robert Baker, local manager of the Singer store.

Two age ranges are named in contest rules—13 to 15 years, in the junior, and 16 to 17 in the senior group.

The contest requires clothes made in Singer courses, held twice a week, in four-week periods at the local store. Youngsters from the entire area may enroll in the classes, next of which starts the first week of July. The series and contest ends on August 21, when judges will pick the local winner. Judging will be made successively on local, regional and national levels.

HERE, THE WINNER will be given a slant needed portable machine, and second prize winner a feather-weight portable, both with the firm's newly developed automatic zigzagger.

The prizes will be same in both junior and senior contests, except first prize in senior division will include a \$300 one-year scholarship if she enters or is attending an accredited college teaching home economics.

Senior winner nationally wins a thousand dollars, and other prizes are in lesser amounts. Judges will be high school sewing teachers or experts in the fashion field, chosen at a later date from this community.

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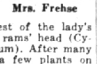
Orchid, Woodland Aristocrat

By LYDIA KING FRESH
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

When naturalists gather for trips afield no bog is too inaccessible, no cedar swamp is too mosquito-infested, if within its confines it harbors an orchid. For among all our native flora these are our wild-flower aristocrats.

During our years of camping in the Higgins Lake area we shared the secret haunts of many members of the orchid family. Within protected areas we watched several plants of the stemless lady's slipper (Cypripedium acaule) multiply to sizeable colonies.

This species is the most cosmopolitan of its kind and each year we plan to see it unfold its curious rose-colored pouch in the scrub oak and jack pine barrens of the north woods.



Mrs. Frahe

In contrast we searched long for the rarest of the lady's slippers, the tiny ram's head (Cypripedium arietinum). After many years we found a few plants on a Decoration Day holiday, growing a stone's throw from an old-travelled path.

NO PLANT is more protectively colored. Its tiny pouch is veined with deep magenta and its rounded opening covered with furry white. Viewed in profile the shape of the flower resembles a ram's head.

We have found both the large and the small yellow lady's slipper growing in restricted areas all the way from Haven Hill to Wilderness Park.

These flowers, their waxy pouches striped with madder purple are always a treasured discovery. This year we saw beautiful colonies of the large yellow in bloom along the west arm of Lake Charlevoix and bordering the lake shore drive to Wilderness Park.

Most botanists agree that the showy lady's slipper is the most beautiful of all our native orchids. Its species name "reginae" describes it well for it is a truly regal plant.

WE LEARNED to know it early growing at the fringe of cool deep swamps of cedar and tamarac along the Au Sable River. Here its tall well-leaved stems, its white and shell-like pouch streaked with purple-pink "as if wine had overflowed its cup and trickled down the sides", make of it a picture to remember.

Over the years we have followed the trail of the orchid in many places and seasons. Arctostaphylos at Proud Lake on our wedding anniversary, purple-fringed orchids along the Au Sable, grass pinks on the marshy western shore of the Bruce peninsula, snake mouth in the marshes along the Maine coast, twayblades in bogs of the Ojibwe State forest, coral root in the dim forest isles of the Cascades, ladies' tresses in Yellowstone and the tall green bog orchids in Glacier Park; these are a few of the orchids we have enjoyed.

OF THE 10,000 known species of orchids, 146 are native to the United States and Canada. Of these Marjorie Bingham in her "Orchids of Michigan" lists 53 species known to our state.

All Michigan orchids are terrestrial. They resemble these saprophytic coral roots make their own food.

Most tropical members of the family are epiphytic tree dwellers, absorbing their moisture by means of aerial roots but self-sustaining.

In their floral structure orchids represent an advanced type of plant evolution. They are descended from the lilies and resemble these ancestors in their fibrous, fleshy or bulbous roots, herbaceous stems, parallel-veined leaves and their habit of arranging their flower parts in threes.

ORCHIDS are insect pollinated and the flower has become so highly adapted to its pollinating agent that many, particularly the tway-blades, have grown to look like insects with spidery petals and sepals and variegated "bodies" which are the lips of the flower.

There are three petals and three petal-like sepals, one of which has become a conspicuous lip or pouch with the special function of secreting nectar and attracting insects.

sects. The fused structure of the three petals to form a central column distinguishes the orchid family from all others.

Orchids have little commercial value except one tropical species (Vanilla fragrans) whose seed pod is the source of our much-used vanilla flavoring.

As a group orchids are very selective of habitat and are not readily transplantable. All appear on Michigan's list of protected plants. It is best to satisfy one's taste for the unusual by visiting these flowers in their native haunts where an added share of their beauty is resident in their natural surroundings.

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Mrs. John St. Clair will be hostess to a tea honoring four Finnish girls who will be spending four of their eight weeks in this country in South Oakland county.

The girls, who will be staying in Royal Oak homes, will be meeting members of the Birmingham district, of which Mrs. St. Clair is district chairman, at the tea.

They will arrive July 28, and be set for July 29, with Mrs. James Kerne being chairman of the event.

Birthdays, anniversaries, guests, parties are all new—the society editor about them.

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