

# Bee Reveals 'Constant Urge of Life'

By LYDIA KING FRESH, Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Now, in early May we have come to spend a day—a whole beautiful day—in the country.

Struggling with the usual crowded city schedule this is something not easily come by. It is therefore the more precious.

The morning we spent in a purposeful flight. Zig-zagging, hovering, circling, peering as it about her business of selecting a nest-site. And an important business it is. With her feet she is all that is left of last year's colony.



Mrs. Fresh has been investigating during these first warm days, hundreds of possible sites.

It is that life can never stand still, that it is forever about its business of renewing itself? An ancient philosopher wrote, "I can never put my finger in the same stream twice."

IT IS EARLY afternoon and I rest on the slope of the old apple orchard while my eyes follow the doings of a fuzzy, black and yellow bumble bee. There is no uncertainty in nature and here is

pile, probing under an old board half hidden in the dead grass, buzzing about a rock pile and exploring the possibilities of a rotting stump flanked by a drift of dry leaves.

SO SHE WILL continue her search, investigating during these first warm days, hundreds of possible sites.

Often the underground home of meadow mouse is her final choice. Here she begins the new colony by spreading out on the dried grass a layer of pollen. On this she fashions a thimble-like pot made of wax exuded from her own body and fills it with honey.

She now begins to construct the brooding cells which also are made of wax and placed close together on the layer of pollen. When these are ready, she deposits an egg in each, sealing each with a lid of wax. She now incubates the little colony of cells, eating, in inclement weather, from her prepared honey pot.

AS EACH EGG hatches into a larva it will devour the pollen mattress upon which it rests. From time to time the mother will pierce the waxy lid to admit this diet with a meal of chewed-up honey and pollen.

Within two weeks the mature larvae will spin their own cocoons to emerge after another two weeks as the first workers.

These will at once relieve the queen of any further household duties so that she can be free to lay eggs during the rest of the season.

They tend and feed the young, clean and enlarge the nest so that by midsummer it will contain the queen and a large number of workers of various sizes, as well as eggs and larvae in all stages of development.

The young queens and males are born until late summer. When winter comes only a few fertilized females remain alive. These hibernate in some protected spot, to emerge in early May, each to begin all over again, the cycle of her kind.

Are you thinking of buying a new home? Then read the "For Sale—Houses" columns on the Classified Ad page of this week's Eccentric.

items as you can put in the freezer or store safely.

IF YOU CAN possibly afford it, get in some help for cleaning, dish-washing, or laundry-bending. Serve as many meals as possible, picnic-style, and take the guests out to dinner once or twice. Let the guests help. They'll want to and will feel better for doing so.

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FROM THE SUNNY marsh nearby, the frog chorus reaches a new crescendo. The red-wings are in a frenzy of courtship and early nest building. A whewink call.

Along the fence rows the willow catkins have ripened into fuzzy little beads. Maple and poplar sift their weight of pollen on the wind. A flock of sheep graze on the little hills beyond. It must have been Maytime when the psalmist wrote—"I will lift up mine eyes."

## COMMUTER'S WIFE

# Houseguest Time Can Be Pleasant If Well Planned

By HELEN BRUNSON, Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

The time for houseguests is approaching and sometimes when mother thinks of it, she heaves a great sigh. To herself, of course.

The last thing she'd want anyone to believe is that her home is other than a haven of hospitality—open to old friends and their families and to relatives from far and near.

She really does enjoy seeing people she's known and liked in the past. And relatives, whether she likes them or not, are an obligation, and will likely come to visit, no matter what.

It's responsibility for the comfort of several more people, added to her own load, that weighs heavily, and the physical work involved in providing for it.

MEALS MUST be a bit better and more complete than the day-to-day fare for the family, and they have to be served three times a day. There is no period of respite at noon, for example, when she's alone and can find the makings of a sandwich in the refrigerator.

There are mountains of dishes to do. This can't be done after the guests and laundry have been taken care of.

Another in-plan ahead, if you get enough notice. Buy extra linens if the supply won't last through the visit. Plan menus and buy enough food at one marketing to last through the visit if possible. Cook and bake as many extra

WHEN STRANGE children come to visit her children, she often finds that her takes the occasion to act his worst. When he sees his mothers full attention on the guests instead of him, he may throw a fit in order to direct it back to himself.

Since he's not yet educated in being self-effacing with guests, he may fight with the visiting small ones all the time they are there. Talking, during the visit, may wear mother out too. Anxious to catch up on all the news, she often finds herself conducting a talk-marathon for several days running and it takes energy to talk.

TAKING GUESTS sight-seeing through miles and miles of traffic in summer heat can make her want to go lie down somewhere and stay there.

There are a few things that can make having guests more pleasant. One is to have the children trained to help with the work.

There are many other factors that make houseguests a chore for mother.

Mrs. Brunson



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## Ford Ribbons Won By Local Garden Fans

Ribbon winners of the Ford Rotunda flower show were Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, and Magnolia garden club members.

In the Spring Sunshine class, Mrs. C. R. Obermeyer, of the Birmingham branch, Woman's National Farm and Garden association, won a yellow ribbon, as well as a blue ribbon in Golek Moments.

Also in that category, Mrs. William A. Hyland and Mrs. Thomas Chester of the Birmingham group won red ribbons.

MRS. FRANK WEBB, of the unit won a red ribbon in Purple Shadows, and Mrs. Seth Slavson, a blue ribbon in Break of Dawn.

Blue ribbon in Sunshine Breakfast went to Mrs. Frances Duffy of the Bloomfield Hills branch of the association, and red ribbons to Mrs. R. E. Hayward and Mrs. A. B. Post of the Magnolia Community club.

Franklin WNEGA members who took awards were Mrs. George Catlin and Mrs. Paul Knold, yellow in the Golden Moments class.

Mrs. Henry J. Bam of the Birmingham unit won a blue ribbon in the April Showers class.

IN A LATER judging, blue, red and yellow ribbons, respectively went to Mrs. George Goodwin, Mrs. Leslie Green, and Mrs. Donald James, all of the Bloomfield group for Spring Sunshine displays.

Mrs. George Cutter of the Birmingham group took a red ribbon in the Break of Dawn unit.

Society deadline is 3 p.m. each Tuesday.

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