

Parents Announce Daughter's Troth

Mr. and Mrs. Brooks C. Reeder of Merritt Lane announce the engagement of their daughter, Barbara Ann, to Robert V. Jordan, son of the Charles V. Jordans of Lansing.

Miss Reeder attended Ohio University, Athens, Ohio. The prospective bridegroom is attending Michigan State University.

A summer wedding is being planned.



BARBARA REEDER

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.

NATURE NOW

Fall, Season of Preparation

By LYDIA KING FRETSE
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Now, in the season of "mists and mellow fruitfulness," the roads, woods and fields fill up with the sight-seer, the nature lover, the hunter. Each, guided by his own incinations, is bent on one last rendezvous with autumn.

In the far Northern marshes the Indian guides his canoe along the shallow, lapping out the wild rice as it bends overhead. Later the hulls are removed from the grain by the ancient process of "treading."

In northern Ontario wild rice is now harvested and sold commercially. A kind of harvester with a revolving paddle is mounted on a flat boat, and the grains of the lush beaten from their stalks and scooped from a shelf-like extension on the side of the boat.

WILD RICE (Zizania aquatica) belongs to another species and has quite a different flavor from the usual white rice. It would be nice to have some on hand to serve with the pheasant your husband is promised to bring home shortly.

In our modern city life, man's need to have nice food and fuel for the winter has been reduced to a minimum.

But the fox squirrels in our suburb still practice preparation on a grand scale. Throughout the autumn they have gathered more acorns than they could eat in several winters. In their enthusiasm they chew off the green and bushy end of more branches than they can possibly use to make their comports nests, leaving the rest to be picked up by the already overworked gardener.

BECAUSE the food supply is largely responsible for setting population limits, nature has adapted the stomach of animals to digest many foods rejected by man. We have fox, snake and squirrel eat the deadly amanita, the latter moving the mushrooms in great quantities to the crates and lines of trees there to dry in preparation for winter storage.

It can be a humbling thought to man that nature has endowed his so-called "lesser" companions with one power superior to his own. It is a well accepted fact that many species of insects have a social organization far more efficient than any devised by man. Their compound eye registers an image with a thousand facets while we must be content with one.

Scientists who study the subject believe that because he lives in a less protective environment, an animal's senses are more keenly attuned to his needs than are our own. And a man can only stand earth-bound to stare at a bird beginning an 11,000-mile migration flight.

THIS LAST month we have watched the robins, grackles, starlings and white-throated sparrows gather in the yard and wildflower garden to feed in preparation for their southward migration.

The hermit thrush, which we first saw on September 12, made a stop-over visit and lingered on for several weeks. As I write I have been observing two white throats scaling the fence among the morning glory vines picking seeds still held within the ripening pods, while I listened to the fragmentary and muted song of another group across the hedge-row.

In autumn northern Ohio is clothed in a rich brocade of maple and sassafras of woodbine and sumac. How fair are the hills and valleys called home!

WE CANNOT resist the "mellow fruitfulness" displayed on pine trunks. No last week we come away as usual with the car trunk filled with grapes and toasting nuts. How fair are the hills and valleys called home!

These last we made into a pie reminiscent of those which my grandmother used to set out to cool on the flagstone floor of the old spring-house. In her garden the ground cherry was a self-seeding weed but enough stalks were spared to provide us with this odd fruit which is not a cherry but the berry of a variety of nightshade.

Stripping the pale and papery membrane from the yellow-green fruit, one easily detects its resemblance to its cousin, the tomato. The family also includes such varied species as the Irish potato, egg plant, red pepper, the decorative hibernian sweet of autumn hedgerows and the petunia which borders our flower beds.

OTHER MEMBERS of the family are known for their narcotic and poisonous properties and include jimson weed, deadly nightshade and tobacco.

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Alpha Chis Hear Talk on Pride

Founders' Day dinner of the Alpha Chi Omega alumnae group featured a talk by Mrs. Clark Johnson, of Grand Rapids, national altruistic chairman, on "Pride in our Achievements."

The dinner was at Devon Gables Tuesday with about 60 attending. Among projects nationally of the alumnae, Mrs. Johnson explained, 14,000 self-help toys for cerebral palsy children have been made and 20 scholarships have been given in two years for training in therapy of the stricken.

Red carnations and green candles carried out sorority colors for the event planned by general chairman Mrs. Donald V. Kogge.

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October 14, 1955

The Michigan Financial Responsibility Act is being amended on this date to provide that Automobile Bodily Injury Liability be—

\$10,000 EACH PERSON and \$20,000 EACH ACCIDENT

The former limits of \$5,000 Each Person and \$10,000 each Accident will not comply with the Amended Act.

The Birmingham Association of Insurance Agents recommend that all Michigan residents review their Automobile Policies to determine if a change of coverage is in order in view of this increase.

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