

# Snow Means Less Winter Damage

The team of gardeners who follow this column should be very happy with the extensive snow we have had this year. Snow is truly a good blanket for our choice plants. Lots of snow will mean less winter damage than usual, and a higher water table for our benefit during the inevitable dry summer cycles.

The amount of water in snow is much less than in rain. A rainfall of one inch is equal to a snowfall of about 10 inches. With a few days of warm weather there will be many telephone calls from our gardeners disturbed because their bulbs "are showing too much." Don't let this fact worry you, because this performance has been going on for years and the Nature ends up by giving a pretty good performance.

THIS IS A GOOD time of year to do some positive planning if you are going to install a tree on your property. Unless a tree is be-

ing placed to create a shadow to give you protection against the sun or is being placed to obstruct a view, remember it should always complement your home architecture. In the front of the structure it should provide a frame for the house.



Mrs. Burlingame is placed close to a terrace or on

## HE THOUGHT HE WAS RIGHT



"What am I supposed to do, think for other drivers?" Tom wailed as he viewed the smashed front of his car.

He'd been peacefully driving down the through street when it happened. He wasn't speeding, but he certainly didn't slow down for the side streets. Tom figured that the yellow stop signs lining the through street gave him protection enough. It was up to the other drivers to heed and obey them.

HE COULD see that high bushes obstructed his vision when he approached the intersection, but Tom felt he had the right of way, so he calmly sped along the outside lane. When the other car swooped out from behind the bushes, Tom swerved and braked, but he was going just a little too fast to avoid the collision. Tom berated the other driver, but deep down inside, he knew that he should have anticipated that a

car might have to nose out into his lane to allow the driver to see around those bushes.

HE KNEW he should have slowed down, just in case. But Tom placed too much reliance on his technically correct actions. He left safety entirely up to the other driver. Result: a bad scare, a lot of discomfort and inconvenience, and several hundred dollars' worth of damage.

## Who'll Volunteer?

The Volunteer Bureau needs additions to its staff. Training will be given for interviewing, publicity and office administration. If one of these fields interests you, phone the Southern Oakland Volunteer Bureau, LI 7-1501, a United Community Services agency serving from 8 Mile road thru Birmingham-Bloomfield.



Says the Barrister

You frequently met under orders from General Henry M. Robert of the U.S. Army without even realizing it.

Whether it's the nomination of a presidential candidate at one of the national political conventions this summer, or the monthly meeting of your neighborhood P.T.A., the rules compiled 80 years ago by an almost-forgotten Army General have much to do with the way the business is conducted.

You've probably heard of "Robert's Rules of Order" which was first published in 1876. General Robert ordered only 1,000 of its original edition, but since that time almost 1,500,000 copies have been printed. The rules have been modernized from time to time, but the revisions have been slight.

ACTUALLY the rules for conducting a meeting go way back to the early days of the English Parliament, although General Robert based his upon the rules and practice of the U.S. Congress. Robert's Rules come close to being "law of the land." They are given added, legal status by the fact that the charter, constitution, or by-laws of almost every organization you can name—your wife's literary society, your labor union, or the corporation you work for—where that, all meetings will be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

Special rules may be made by any organization contrary to Robert's, but if such provisions are not in the by-laws his little book—where incorporated in such by-laws—re-

mains the "bible" to be followed strictly.

ALL THIS means, in effect, that if a serious question arises over the legality of action taken by an organization, a court might have to consider General Robert's rules with the same care as it does the law to determine whether the action in question was proper.

If you're going to take an active part in church, school, civic or fraternal organizations, some knowledge of Robert's Rules is important.

At your lodge meeting, for example, things go much smoother if both the chairman and the members on the floor follow Robert and stick to the business at hand. That way you'll get home before the wee, small hours, and still have time for some relaxation after the business session.

There are many simple grades to Robert that will help, and unless you are chairman of a large or important meeting it probably isn't necessary to know all the details in the whole book.

Now, I move to adjourn until next week—a motion which General Robert says takes precedent over everything else.

OTTO TO ATTEND FLORIDA MEETING  
C. Carroll Otto, 490 Lake Park Birmingham, general agent in Detroit of The Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company, Newark, N.J., will participate in a three-day meeting the first week in March, at the Boca Raton Hotel and Club in Boca Raton, Fla.

THE MEETING is the annual conference of the company's general agents gathered from all parts of the nation to discuss agency management activities. Otto will confer with company officers in addition to round-table and panel discussions with other general agents on the various aspects of the life insurance business.

# WHY?



## Do We Laugh?

When we see someone slip on a banana peel we laugh instinctively because, safe on our own feet, we feel relieved and superior. From vaudeville through television we've laughed at jokes about pop-eyes, bulbous or skinless, baggy eyes, noses and misshapen feet.

If we had any of these peculiarities ourselves, we would be sensitively concerned about them, we couldn't enjoy the discomfort of the "comedians" because we could not feel superior to them. We laugh at "situation" comedies because we are relieved and happy not to be in the comedian's predicament.

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The blind may be able to "see" by hearing, with an "audible vision probe." The instrument, designed by the late Dr. Clifford W. Herbert, blind M.I.T. physicist, translates light and shade into varying pitches of sound.

In Upper 10% Cadet James R. Walter is on the headmaster's list at Castle Heights military academy, Lebanon, Tenn. James is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Walter, 1671 Yosemite, Birmingham.



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